

MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP

Form S-3

August 22, 2012

[Table of Contents](#)

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 22, 2012

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**Form S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

*UNDER*

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS L.P. \***  
**MARTIN MIDSTREAM FINANCE CORP.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

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

**05-0527861**  
**76-0712100**  
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

**4200 Stone Road**

**Kilgore, Texas 75662**

**(903) 983-6200**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrants principal executive offices)

**Ruben S. Martin**

**Martin Midstream Partners L.P.**

**4200 Stone Road**

**Kilgore, Texas 75662**

**(903) 983-6200**

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

*Copy to:*

**David F. Taylor**

**Locke Lord LLP**

**600 Travis Street, Suite 2800**

**Houston, TX 77002**

**Telephone: (713) 226-1200**

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

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

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

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

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

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

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

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

**Table of Contents**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  **p**  
 Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company  **..**

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered     | Amount to be Registered(1) | Proposed               | Proposed                                  | Amount of Registration Fee(3) |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  |                            | Maximum Offering Price | Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)(3) |                               |
|  |                            | Per Unit(1)            |   |                               |
| Primary Offering                                       |                            |                        |   |                               |
| Common Units representing limited partner interests(4) |                            |                        |   |                               |
| Debt Securities(4)(5)(6)                               |                            |                        |   |                               |
| Guarantees of Debt Securities(4)(5)(6)                 |                            |                        |   |                               |
| Total Primary Offering                                 |                            |                        | \$750,000,000                             | \$61,113(3)                   |
| Secondary Offering                                     |                            |                        |   |                               |
| Common Units representing limited partner interests    | 6,593,267                  | \$33.56(7)             | \$221,270,041(7)                          | \$25,358(7)                   |
| Total  |                            |                        | \$971,270,041                             | \$86,471                      |

- (1) Rule 457(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), permits the registration fee to be calculated on the basis of the maximum offering price of all the securities listed and, therefore, with respect to the primary offering, the table does not specify by each class information as to the amount to be registered or the proposed maximum offering price per security. In no event will the aggregate initial offering price of all securities offered from time to time in the primary offering exceed \$750,000,000. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. The indeterminate aggregate amount or number also includes such securities as may, from time to time, be issued upon conversion or exchange of securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible into or exchangeable for other securities.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o).
- (3) Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, the securities registered pursuant to this registration statement include \$353,714,500 of unsold securities previously registered on Martin Midstream Partners Registration Statement on Form S-3 (dated December 7, 2010, Registration No. 333-171028) (the Prior Registration Statement). The amount of the registration fee associated with such securities that was previously paid with the Prior Registration Statement was \$35,109, of which \$24,837 is remaining, which amount will be used to offset the \$85,950 that is to be paid in connection with the primary offering pursuant to this registration statement. Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, the offering of the unsold securities registered under the Prior Registration Statement will be deemed terminated as of the date of effectiveness of this Registration Statement.
- (4) Subject to notes (1) and (3) above, there are being registered hereunder a presently indeterminate number of common units and an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities and guarantees of debt securities.
- (5) If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$750,000,000 less the dollar amount of any registered securities previously issued.
- (6)

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

If a series of debt securities of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. is guaranteed, the Subsidiary Guarantors listed on Schedule A hereto may irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the debt securities of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. Pursuant to Rule 457(n) no separate fee is payable with respect to the guarantees of the debt securities being registered.

- (7) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act, the offering price and registration fee are computed based on the average of the high and low prices reported for our common units on the Nasdaq National Market on August 21, 2012 of \$33.56.
- \* Includes certain subsidiaries of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. identified on Schedule A hereto.

**Each Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

**Table of Contents****SCHEDULE A****SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS**

| <b>Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter*</b> | <b>State or Other<br/>Jurisdiction of<br/>Incorporation or<br/>Organization</b> | <b>I.R.S. Employer<br/>Identification<br/>No</b> |
|--|---|--|
| Martin Operating GP LLC                                      | Delaware  | 76-0712101                                       |
| Martin Operating Partnership, L.P.                           | Delaware  | 76-0712100                                       |
| Prism Gas Systems I, L.P.                                    | Texas   | 20-1995429                                       |
| Prism Gas Systems GP, L.L.C.                                 | Texas   | 20-1995342                                       |
| Prism Gulf Coast Systems, L.L.C.                             | Texas   | 20-1995457                                       |
| McLeod Gas Gathering and Processing Company, L.L.C.          | Louisiana   | 72-1437080                                       |
| Woodlawn Pipeline Co., Inc.                                  | Texas   | 75-2596945                                       |
| Prism Liquids Pipeline LLC                                   | Texas   | 26-1548825                                       |

\* The address for each registrant's principal executive office is 4200 Stone Road, Kilgore, Texas 75662 and the telephone number for each registrant's principal executive office is (903) 983-6200.

**Table of Contents**

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

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED AUGUST 22, 2012**

PROSPECTUS

**Martin Midstream Partners L.P.**  
**Martin Midstream Finance Corp.**  
**\$750,000,000**  
**COMMON UNITS**  
**DEBT SECURITIES**  
**6,593,267 COMMON UNITS**  
**OFFERED BY THE SELLING UNITHOLDERS**

The following securities may be offered in one or more offerings under this prospectus:

Common units representing limited partner interests in Martin Midstream Partners L.P.; and

Debt securities of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. and Martin Midstream Finance Corp. Martin Midstream Finance Corp. may act as co-issuer of the debt securities, and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. may guarantee the debt securities.

The aggregate initial offering price of the securities that we offer by this prospectus will not exceed \$750,000,000. We will offer the securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of our offerings.

In addition, the selling unitholders may offer and sell, from time to time, under this prospectus up to an aggregate of 6,593,267 common units. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of our units by the selling unitholders.

This prospectus describes only the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we or the selling unitholders may offer the securities. The specific terms of any securities we or the selling unitholders may offer will be included in a supplement to this prospectus. The

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

prospectus supplement will describe the specific manner in which we or the selling unitholders will offer the securities and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. The common units are traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol MMLP.

You should read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in any of our securities. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

**Investing in our securities involves risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors described under Risk Factors beginning on page 5 of this prospectus before you make any investment in our securities.**

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

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2012



**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>                           | 1  |
| <u>MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS L.P.</u>                  | 2  |
| <u>THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS</u>                       | 4  |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u>                                    | 5  |
| <u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>                      | 5  |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>                                 | 6  |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>              | 7  |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES</u>              | 7  |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS</u>                 | 17 |
| <u>CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY</u>                        | 19 |
| <u>THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</u>                       | 26 |
| <u>SELLING UNITHOLDERS</u>                             | 38 |
| <u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u> | 41 |
| <u>INVESTMENT IN US BY BENEFIT PLANS</u>               | 58 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>                            | 61 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>                                   | 62 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u>   | 62 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>             | 63 |
| <u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>                      | 63 |

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone else to give you different information. We are not offering these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents. We will disclose any material changes in our affairs in an amendment to this prospectus, a prospectus supplement or a future filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell, in one or more offerings, up to \$750,000,000 in total aggregate initial offering price of securities described in this prospectus. The selling unitholders may, from time to time, use this process to sell in one or more offering transactions an aggregate of up to 6,593,267 common units. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of units by the selling unitholders.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the securities offered under this prospectus. Each time we or the selling unitholders sell securities under this prospectus, we or the selling unitholders will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement also may add to, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

As used in this prospectus, **Martin Midstream Partners**, **we**, **us**, and **our** and similar terms mean Martin Midstream Partners L.P., and its subsidiaries. References to **Martin Midstream Partners Predecessor**, **we**, **ours**, **us**, or like terms when used in a historical context for periods prior to November 2002 refer to the assets and operations of Martin Resource Management Corporation's businesses that were contributed to us in connection with the closing of our initial public offering in November 2002. References in this prospectus to **Martin Resource Management** refer to Martin Resource Management Corporation and its direct and indirect consolidated and unconsolidated subsidiaries.

## **Table of Contents**

### **MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS L.P.**

#### **Overview**

We are a publicly traded limited partnership with a diverse set of operations focused primarily in the United States Gulf Coast region. Our four primary business lines include:

Terminalling and storage services for petroleum products and by-products;

Natural gas services;

Sulfur and sulfur-based products processing, manufacturing, marketing and distribution; and

Marine transportation services for petroleum products and by-products.

The petroleum products and by-products we gather, process, transport, store and market are produced primarily by major and independent oil and gas companies who often turn to third parties, such as us, for the transportation and disposition of these products. In addition to these major and independent oil and gas companies, our primary customers include independent refiners, large chemical companies, fertilizer manufacturers and other wholesale purchasers of these products. We generate the majority of our cash flow from fee-based contracts with these customers. Our location in the Gulf Coast region of the United States provides us strategic access to a major hub for petroleum refining, natural gas gathering and processing and support services for the exploration and production industry.

We were formed in 2002 by Martin Resource Management Corporation ( Martin Resource Management ), a privately-held company whose initial predecessor was incorporated in 1951 as a supplier of products and services to drilling rig contractors. Since then, Martin Resource Management has expanded its operations through acquisitions and internal expansion initiatives as its management identified and capitalized on the needs of producers and purchasers of hydrocarbon products and by-products and other bulk liquids. Martin Resource Management indirectly owns an approximate 28.5% limited partnership interest in us. Furthermore, it owns and controls our general partner, which owns a 2.0% general partner interest and incentive distribution rights in us.

The historical operation of our business segments by Martin Resource Management provides us with several decades of experience and a demonstrated track record of customer service across our operations. Our current lines of business have been developed and systematically integrated over this period of more than 50 years, including natural gas services (1950s); sulfur (1960s); marine transportation (late 1980s) and terminalling and storage (early 1990s). This development of a diversified and integrated set of assets and operations has produced a complementary portfolio of midstream services that facilitates the maintenance of long-term customer relationships and encourages the development of new customer relationships.

#### **Primary Business Segments**

Our primary business segments can be generally described as follows:

*Terminalling and Storage.* We own or operate 27 marine shore based terminal facilities and 12 specialty terminal facilities located in the United States Gulf Coast region that provide storage, processing and handling services for producers and suppliers of petroleum products and by-products, lubricants and other liquids, including the refining of various grades and quantities of naphthenic lubricants and related products. Our facilities and resources provide us with the ability to handle various products that require specialized treatment, such as molten sulfur and asphalt. We also provide land rental to oil and gas companies along with storage and handling services for lubricants and fuel oil. We provide these terminalling and storage services on a fee basis primarily under long-term contracts. A significant portion of the contracts in this segment provide for minimum fee arrangements that are not based on the volumes handled.



---

**Table of Contents**

*Natural Gas Services.* We distribute natural gas liquids or, NGLs. We purchase NGLs primarily from natural gas processors. We store NGLs in our supply and storage facilities for wholesale deliveries to propane retailers, refineries and industrial NGL users in Texas and the Southeastern United States. We own an NGL pipeline which spans approximately 200 miles running from Kilgore to Beaumont, Texas. We own three NGL supply and storage facilities with an aggregate above-ground storage capacity of approximately 3,000 barrels and we lease approximately 2.6 million barrels of underground storage capacity for NGLs. Additionally, through our ownership interests in Redbird Gas Storage, LLC ( Redbird ), we are partners in a joint venture, Cardinal Gas Storage Partners, LLC ( Cardinal ), which is focused on the development, construction, operation and management of natural gas storage facilities across North America. We previously engaged in the natural gas processing business, which was facilitated through acquisitions of our subsidiaries, Prism Gas Systems I, L.P. ( Prism Gas ) and Woodlawn Pipeline Co., Inc. ( Woodlawn ), and acquisitions of the Darco Gathering System, the Harrison Gathering System and the East Harrison Pipeline System. The East Texas and Northwest Louisiana natural gas gathering and processing assets owned by Prism Gas, which included Woodlawn, the Darco Gathering System, the Harrison Gathering System and the East Harrison Pipeline System (the Prism Assets ), and certain other natural gas gathering and processing assets owned by us were sold on July 31, 2012 to a subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy Inc. (NYSE: CNP), ( CenterPoint ) for net cash proceeds of \$273.3 million.

*Sulfur Services.* We have developed an integrated system of transportation assets and facilities relating to sulfur services over the last 30 years. We process and distribute sulfur predominantly produced by oil refineries primarily located in the United States Gulf Coast region. We handle molten sulfur on contracts that are tied to sulfur indices and tend to provide stable margins. We process molten sulfur into prilled or pelletized sulfur on take or pay fee contracts at our facilities in Port of Stockton, California and Beaumont, Texas. The sulfur we process and handle is primarily used in the production of fertilizers and industrial chemicals. We own and operate six sulfur-based fertilizer production plants and one emulsified sulfur blending plant that manufacture primarily sulfur-based fertilizer products for wholesale distributors and industrial users. These plants are located in Illinois, Texas and Utah. In October 2007, we completed the construction of a sulfuric acid production plant in Plainview, Texas which processes molten sulfur into sulfuric acid. In March 2011, we completed the construction of an ammonium sulfate product production plant in Plainview, Texas which takes sulfuric acid from our sulfuric acid plant and processes it into ammonium sulfate. Demand for our sulfur products exists in both the domestic and foreign markets, and we believe our asset base provides us with additional opportunities to handle increases in U.S. supply and access to foreign demand.

*Marine Transportation.* We own a fleet of 41 inland marine tank barges, 20 inland push boats and four offshore tug barge units that transport petroleum products and by-products largely in the United States Gulf Coast region. We provide these transportation services on a fee basis primarily under annual contracts and many of our customers have long standing contractual relationships with us. Over the past several years, we have focused on modernizing our fleet. As a result, the average age of our vessels has decreased from 33 years in 2006 to 16 years as of March 5, 2012. This modernized asset base is attractive both to our existing customers as well as potential new customers. In addition, our fleet contains several vessels that reflect our focus on specialty products. For example, we are one of a very limited number of companies that can transport molten sulfur.

Our principal executive offices are located at 4200 Stone Road, Kilgore, Texas 75662, our phone number is (903) 983-6200, and our web site is [www.martinmidstream.com](http://www.martinmidstream.com).

**Our Relationship with Martin Resource Management**

We were formed in 2002 by Martin Resource Management, a privately-held company whose initial predecessor was incorporated in 1951 as a supplier of products and services to drilling rig contractors. Since then, Martin Resource Management has expanded its operations through acquisitions and internal expansion

**Table of Contents**

initiatives as its management identified and capitalized on the needs of producers and purchasers of hydrocarbon products and by-products and other bulk liquids. Martin Resource Management owns an approximate 28.5% limited partnership interest in us. Furthermore, it owns and controls our general partner, which owns a 2.0% general partner interest and incentive distribution rights in us. Martin Resource Management directs our business operations through its ownership and control of our general partner. In addition, under the terms of an omnibus agreement with Martin Resource Management, the employees of Martin Resource Management are responsible for conducting our business and operating our assets. Martin Resource Management is also an important supplier and customer of ours.

**THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS**

Our general partner, Martin Midstream GP LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company. Martin Resource Management Corporation, a Delaware corporation, owns and controls Martin Midstream GP LLC, such that it has ultimate responsibility for conducting our business and managing our operations.

We own 100% of Martin Midstream Finance Corp. Martin Midstream Finance Corp. was organized for the purpose of co-issuing our debt securities and has no material assets or liabilities, other than as co-issuer of our debt securities. Its activities will be limited to co-issuing our debt securities and engaging in activities thereto.

Martin Operating GP LLC, Martin Operating Partnership L.P., Prism Gas Systems I, L.P., Prism Gas Systems GP, L.L.C., Prism Gulf Coast Systems, L.L.C., McLeod Gas Gathering and Processing Company, L.L.C., Woodlawn Pipeline Co., Inc. and Prism Liquids Pipeline LLC may unconditionally guarantee any series of debt securities of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. and Martin Midstream Finance Corp. offered by this prospectus, as set forth in a related prospectus supplement. As used in this prospectus, the term **Subsidiary Guarantors** means the subsidiaries that unconditionally guarantee any such series of debt securities.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*, as well as the risks included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the risk factors incorporated by reference herein from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common units or debt securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment. When we offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we may include additional risk factors relevant to such securities in the prospectus supplement.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the *Exchange Act*). Statements included in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference that are not historical facts (including any statements concerning plans and objectives of management for future operations or economic performance, or assumptions or forecasts related thereto), are forward-looking statements. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology including *forecast*, *may*, *believe*, *will*, *expect*, *anticipate*, *estimate*, *continue* or other similar words. These statements and expectations, contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition or state other forward-looking information. We and our representatives may from time to time make other oral or written statements that are also forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are made based upon management's current plans, expectations, estimates, assumptions and beliefs concerning future events impacting us and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

Because these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements for a number of important reasons, including, but not limited to, the matters discussed under *Risk Factors* and elsewhere in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference herein. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize (or the consequences of such a development changes), or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual outcomes may vary materially from those forecasted or expected. We undertake no responsibility to update forward-looking statements for changes related to these or any other factors that may occur subsequent to this filing for any reason.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we specify otherwise in any prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds (after the payment of offering expenses and underwriting discounts and commissions) from the sale of securities offered hereby for general partnership purposes, which may include, among other things:

paying or refinancing all or a portion of our indebtedness outstanding at the time, including indebtedness incurred in connection with acquisitions; and

funding working capital, capital expenditures or acquisitions.

The actual application of proceeds from the sale of any particular offering of securities using this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such offering. The precise amount and timing of the application of these proceeds will depend upon our funding requirements and the availability and cost of other funds.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common units by the selling unitholders.



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

The table below sets forth the Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges for us for each of the periods indicated.

|                                    | Fiscal Year Ended December 31, |      |      |      |      | Six Months Ended |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
|                                    | 2007                           | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | June 30,<br>2012 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 2.25                           | 2.00 | 1.81 | 1.23 | 1.49 | 1.75             |

Earnings included in the calculation of this ratio consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before minority interest and equity in earnings of the partnership, fixed charges and amortization of capitalized interest less capitalized interest. Fixed charges included in the calculation of this ratio consist of fixed charges interest expense, capitalized interest and estimated interest element of rentals.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES**

Martin Midstream Partners and Martin Midstream Finance Corp. may issue senior debt securities under an indenture among them, the Subsidiary Guarantors, if any, and a trustee that we will name in the related prospectus supplement. We refer to this indenture as the Martin Midstream Partners senior indenture. The issuers may also issue subordinated debt securities under an indenture to be entered into among them, the Subsidiary Guarantors, if any, and a trustee that we will name in the related prospectus supplement. We refer to this indenture as the Martin Midstream Partners subordinated indenture. We refer to the Martin Midstream Partners senior indenture and the Martin Midstream Partners subordinated indenture collectively as the indentures. The debt securities will be governed by the provisions of the related indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

We have summarized material provisions of the indentures, the debt securities and the guarantees below. This summary is not complete. We have filed the form of senior indentures and the form of subordinated indentures with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and you should read the indentures for provisions that may be important to you.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this Description of the Debt Securities to we, us and our mean Martin Midstream Partners and Martin Midstream Finance Corp. and references herein to an indenture refer to the particular indenture under which we issue a series of debt securities.

**Provisions Applicable to Each Indenture**

*General.* Any series of debt securities:

will be general obligations of the issuer;

will be general obligations of the Subsidiary Guarantors if they are guaranteed by the Subsidiary Guarantors; and

may be subordinated to the Senior Indebtedness (as defined below) of the issuers and the Subsidiary Guarantors.

The indentures do not limit the amount of debt securities that may be issued under any indenture, and do not limit the amount of other indebtedness or securities that we may issue. We may issue debt securities under the indentures from time to time in one or more series, each in an amount authorized prior to issuance.

**Table of Contents**

No indenture contains any covenants or other provisions designed to protect holders of the debt securities in the event we participate in a highly leveraged transaction or upon a change of control. The indentures also do not contain provisions that give holders the right to require us to repurchase their securities in the event of a decline in our credit ratings for any reason, including as a result of a takeover, recapitalization or similar restructuring or otherwise.

*Terms.* We will prepare a prospectus supplement and either a supplemental indenture, or authorizing resolutions of the board of directors of our general partner, accompanied by an officers certificate, relating to any series of debt securities that we offer, which will include specific terms relating to some or all of the following:

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt securities;

the form and title of the debt securities of that series;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured;

the total principal amount of the debt securities of that series;

whether the debt securities will be issued in individual certificates to each holder or in the form of temporary or permanent global securities held by a depository on behalf of holders;

the date or dates on which the principal of and any premium on the debt securities of that series will be payable;

any interest rate which the debt securities of that series will bear, the date from which interest will accrue, interest payment dates and record dates for interest payments;

any right to extend or defer the interest payment periods and the duration of the extension;

whether and under what circumstances any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities will be payable;

whether the debt securities are entitled to the benefit of any guarantee by any Subsidiary Guarantor;

the place or places where payments on the debt securities of that series will be payable;

any provisions for optional redemption or early repayment;

any provisions that would require the redemption, purchase or repayment of debt securities;

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued;

whether payments on the debt securities will be payable in foreign currency or currency units or another form and whether payments will be payable by reference to any index or formula;

the portion of the principal amount of debt securities that will be payable if the maturity is accelerated, if other than the entire principal amount;

any additional means of defeasance of the debt securities, any additional conditions or limitations to defeasance of the debt securities or any changes to those conditions or limitations;

any changes or additions to the events of default or covenants described in this prospectus;

any restrictions or other provisions relating to the transfer or exchange of debt securities;

any terms for the conversion or exchange of the debt securities for our other securities or securities of any other entity;

whether the securities are to constitute Rule 144A securities;

any changes to the subordination provisions for the subordinated debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities of that series.

## Table of Contents

This description of debt securities will be deemed modified, amended or supplemented by any description of any series of debt securities set forth in a prospectus supplement related to that series.

We may sell the debt securities at a discount, which may be substantial, below their stated principal amount. These debt securities may bear no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates. If we sell these debt securities, we will describe in the prospectus supplement any material United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations.

If we sell any of the debt securities for any foreign currency or currency unit or if payments on the debt securities are payable in any foreign currency or currency unit, we will describe in the prospectus supplement the restrictions, elections, tax consequences, specific terms and other information relating to those debt securities and the foreign currency or currency unit.

*The Subsidiary Guarantees.* The Subsidiary Guarantors may fully, unconditionally and absolutely guarantee on an unsecured basis all series of debt securities of the issuers and may execute a notation of guarantee as further evidence of such guarantee. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any such guarantee by the Subsidiary Guarantors.

If a series of senior debt securities is so guaranteed, the Subsidiary Guarantors' guarantee of the senior debt securities will be the Subsidiary Guarantors' unsecured and unsubordinated general obligation, and will rank on a parity with all of the Subsidiary Guarantors' other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. If a series of subordinated debt securities is so guaranteed, the Subsidiary Guarantors' guarantee of the subordinated debt securities will be the Subsidiary Guarantors' unsecured general obligation and will be subordinated to all of the Subsidiary Guarantors' other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

The obligations of each Subsidiary Guarantor under its guarantee of the debt securities will be limited to the maximum amount that will not result in the obligations of the Subsidiary Guarantor under the guarantee constituting a fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer under federal or state law, after giving effect to:

all other contingent and fixed liabilities of the Subsidiary Guarantor; and

any collections from or payments made by or on behalf of any other Subsidiary Guarantor in respect of the obligations of the Subsidiary Guarantor under its guarantee.

The guarantee of any Subsidiary Guarantor may be released under certain circumstances. If we exercise our legal or covenant defeasance option with respect to debt securities of a particular series as described below in *Defeasance*, then any Subsidiary Guarantor will be released with respect to that series. Further, if no default has occurred and is continuing under the indentures, and to the extent not otherwise prohibited by the indentures, a Subsidiary Guarantor will be unconditionally released and discharged from the guarantee:

automatically upon any sale, exchange or transfer, whether by way of merger or otherwise, to any person that is not our affiliate, of all of our direct or indirect limited partnership or other equity interests in the Subsidiary Guarantor;

automatically upon the merger of the Subsidiary Guarantor into us or the liquidation and dissolution of the Subsidiary Guarantor; or

following delivery of a written notice by us to the trustee, upon the release of all guarantees by the Subsidiary Guarantor of any debt of ours for borrowed money for a purchase money obligation or for a guarantee of either, except for any series of debt securities.

*Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets.* The indentures generally permit a consolidation or merger involving the issuer or the Subsidiary Guarantors. They also permit the issuers or the Subsidiary Guarantors, as applicable, to lease, assign, transfer or dispose of all or substantially all of their assets. Each of the issuers and the



**Table of Contents**

Subsidiary Guarantors has agreed, however, that it will not consolidate with or merge into any entity (other than one of the issuers or a Subsidiary Guarantor, as applicable) or lease, transfer or dispose of all or substantially all of its assets to any entity (other than one of the issuers or a Subsidiary Guarantor, as applicable) unless:

it is the continuing entity; or

if it is not the continuing entity, the resulting entity or transferee is organized and existing under the laws of any United States jurisdiction and assumes the performance of its covenants and obligations under the indentures; and

in either case, immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default would occur and be continuing or would result from the transaction.

Upon any such consolidation, merger or asset lease, transfer or disposition involving the issuers or the Subsidiary Guarantors, the resulting entity or transferee will be substituted for the issuers or the Subsidiary Guarantors, as applicable, under the applicable indenture and debt securities. In the case of an asset transfer or disposition other than a lease, the issuers or the Subsidiary Guarantors, as applicable, will be released from the applicable indenture.

*Events of Default.* Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following are events of default with respect to a series of debt securities:

failure to pay interest or any additional amounts on that series of debt securities when due that continue for 30 days;

default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, on any debt securities of that series when due at its stated maturity, upon redemption, upon required repurchase or otherwise;

default in the payment of any sinking fund payment on any debt securities of that series when due;

failure by the issuers or, if the series of debt securities is guaranteed by the Subsidiary Guarantor, by such Subsidiary Guarantor, to comply for 60 days with the other agreements contained in the indentures, any supplement to the indentures or any board resolution authorizing the issuance of that series after written notice by the trustee or by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities issued under that indenture that are affected by that failure;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the issuer or, if the series of debt securities is guaranteed by the Subsidiary Guarantor, of the Subsidiary Guarantor;

if the series is guaranteed by the Subsidiary Guarantor;

any of the guarantees ceases to be in full force and effect, except as otherwise provided in the indentures;

any of the guarantees is declared null and void in a judicial proceeding; or

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

the Subsidiary Guarantor denies or disaffirms its obligations under the indentures or its guarantee; and

any other event of default provided for in that series of debt securities.

A default under one series of debt securities will not necessarily be a default under another series. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of the debt securities of any default or event of default (except in any payment on the debt securities) if the trustee considers it in the interest of the holders of the debt securities to do so.

If an event of default for any series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series affected by the default (or, in some cases, 25% in principal amount of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may declare the principal of and all accrued and unpaid interest on those debt securities to be

**Table of Contents**

due and payable. If an event of default relating to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occurs, the principal of and interest on all the debt securities issued under the applicable indenture will become immediately due and payable without any action on the part of the trustee or any holder. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series affected by the default (or, in some cases, of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may in some cases rescind this accelerated payment requirement.

A holder of a debt security of any series issued under each indenture may pursue any remedy under that indenture only if:

the holder gives the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default for that series;

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series make a written request to the trustee to pursue the remedy;

the holders offer to the trustee indemnity satisfactory to the trustee;

the trustee fails to act for a period of 60 days after receipt of the request and offer of indemnity; and

during that 60-day period, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series do not give the trustee a direction inconsistent with the request.

This provision does not, however, affect the right of a holder of a debt security to sue for enforcement of any overdue payment.

In most cases, holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series (or of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; and

exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee relating to or arising as a result of an event of default.

The issuer is required to file each year with the trustee a written statement as to its compliance with the covenants contained in the applicable indenture.

*Modification and Waiver.* Each indenture may be amended or supplemented if the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series issued under that indenture that are affected by the amendment or supplement (acting as one class) consent to it. Without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected, however, no modification may:

reduce the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, a supplement or a waiver;

reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest on the debt security;

reduce the principal of, and any premium on or any mandatory sinking fund payment with respect to, the debt security or change its stated maturity or reduce the portion of the principal amount of debt securities that will be payable if the maturity is accelerated;



reduce any premium payable on the redemption of the debt security or change the time at which the debt security may or must be redeemed;

change any obligation to pay additional amounts on the debt security;

make payments on the debt security payable in currency other than as originally stated in the debt security;

impair the holder's right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the debt security;

**Table of Contents**

make any change in the percentage of principal amount of debt securities necessary to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to make any change in the provision related to modification;

modify the provisions relating to the subordination of any subordinated debt security in a manner adverse to the holder of that security;

waive a continuing default or event of default regarding any payment on the debt securities; or

release the Subsidiary Guarantor, or modify the guarantee of the Subsidiary Guarantor in any manner adverse to the holders. Each indenture may be amended or supplemented or any provision of that indenture may be waived without the consent of any holders of debt securities issued under that indenture:

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

to provide for the assumption of the issuer's obligations under the indentures by a successor upon any merger, consolidation or asset transfer permitted under the indenture;

to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities or to provide for bearer debt securities;

to provide any security for, any guarantees of or any additional obligors on any series of debt securities or, with respect to the senior indentures, the related guarantees;

to comply with any requirement to effect or maintain the qualification of that indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939;

to add covenants that would benefit the holders of any debt securities or to surrender any rights the issuer has under the indentures;

to add events of default with respect to any debt securities;

to make any change that does not adversely affect any outstanding debt securities of any series issued under that indenture in any material respect;

to establish the form or terms of securities of any series;

to supplement any of the provisions necessary to permit or facilitate defeasance and discharge; and

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee and to modify provisions necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of trusts by more than one trustee.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series (or, in some cases, of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may waive any existing or past default or event of default with respect to those debt securities. Those holders may not, however, waive any default or event of default in any payment on any debt security or compliance with a provision that cannot be amended or supplemented without the consent of each holder affected.

*Defeasance.* When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under the indentures. If any combination of funds or government securities are deposited with the trustee under an indenture sufficient to make payments on the debt securities of a series issued under that indenture on the dates those payments are due and payable, then, at our option, either of the following will occur:

we will be discharged from our or their obligations with respect to the debt securities of that series and, if applicable, the related guarantees ( legal defeasance ); or

we will no longer have any obligation to comply with the restrictive covenants, the merger covenant and other specified covenants under the applicable indenture, and the related events of default will no longer apply ( covenant defeasance ).

---

**Table of Contents**

If a series of debt securities is defeased, the holders of the debt securities of the series affected will not be entitled to the benefits of the applicable indenture, except for obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities or maintain paying agencies and hold moneys for payment in trust. In the case of covenant defeasance, our obligation to pay principal, premium and interest on the debt securities and, if applicable, guarantees of the payments will also survive.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will be required to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance would not cause the holders of the debt securities to recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or a change in law to that effect.

*No Personal Liability of General Partner.* Martin Midstream GP LLC, the general partner of Martin Midstream Partners, and its directors, managers, officers, employees and members, in such capacity, will not be liable for the obligations of Martin Midstream Partners, Martin Midstream Finance Corp. or the Subsidiary Guarantors under the debt securities, the indentures or the guarantees or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. By accepting a debt security, each holder of that debt security will have agreed to this provision and waived and released any such liability on the part of Martin Midstream GP LLC, Martin Midstream Finance Corp. and their directors, managers, officers, employees and members. This waiver and release are part of the consideration for our issuance of the debt securities. It is the view of the SEC that a waiver of liabilities under the federal securities laws is against public policy and unenforceable.

*Governing Law.* New York law will govern the indentures and the debt securities.

*Trustee.* We may appoint a separate trustee for any series of debt securities. We use the term trustee to refer to the trustee appointed with respect to any such series of debt securities. We may maintain banking and other commercial relationships with the trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business, and the trustee may own debt securities.

*Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer.* The debt securities will be issued in registered form, without interest coupons. There will be no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt securities. However, payment of any transfer tax or similar governmental charge payable for that registration may be required.

Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, the same total principal amount and the same terms but in different authorized denominations in accordance with the applicable indenture. Holders may present debt securities for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or any transfer agent we designate. The security registrar or transfer agent will effect the transfer or exchange if its requirements and the requirements of the applicable indenture are met.

The trustee will be appointed as security registrar for the debt securities. If a prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agent we initially designate, we may at any time rescind that designation or approve a change in the location through which any transfer agent acts. We are required to maintain an office or agency for transfers and exchanges in each place of payment. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents for any series of debt securities.

In the case of any redemption, we will not be required to register the transfer or exchange of:

any debt security during a period beginning 15 business days prior to the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption and ending on the close of business on the day of mailing of such notice; or

any debt security that has been called for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

---

**Table of Contents**

*Payment and Paying Agents.* Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, payments on the debt securities will be made in U.S. dollars at the office of the trustee or any paying agent. At our option, however, payments may be made by wire transfer for global debt securities or by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to the payment as it appears in the security register. Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, interest payments may be made to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest payment.

Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the trustee under the applicable indenture will be designated as the paying agent for payments on debt securities issued under that indenture. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts.

If the principal of or any premium or interest on debt securities of a series is payable on a day that is not a business day, the payment will be made on the following business day. For these purposes, unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, a business day is any day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in New York, New York or a place of payment on the debt securities of that series is authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to remain closed.

Subject to the requirements of any applicable abandoned property laws, the trustee and paying agent will pay to us upon written request any money held by them for payments on the debt securities that remains unclaimed for two years after the date upon which that payment has become due. After payment to us, holders entitled to the money must look to us for payment. In that case, all liability of the trustee or paying agent with respect to that money will cease.

*Book-Entry Debt Securities.* The debt securities of a series may be issued in the form of one or more global debt securities that would be deposited with a depository or its nominee identified in the prospectus supplement. Global debt securities may be issued in either temporary or permanent form. We will describe in the prospectus supplement the terms of any depository arrangement and the rights and limitations of owners of beneficial interests in any global debt security.

**Provisions Applicable Solely to the Subordinated Indenture**

*Subordination.* Debt securities of a series may be subordinated to the issuer's Senior Indebtedness, which is defined generally to include any obligation created or assumed by the issuer (or, if the series is guaranteed, the Subsidiary Guarantor) for the repayment of borrowed money, any purchase money obligation created or assumed by the issuer, and any guarantee therefor, whether outstanding or hereafter issued, unless, by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing such obligation, it is provided that such obligation is subordinate or not superior in right of payment to the debt securities (or, if the series is guaranteed, the guarantee of the Subsidiary Guarantor), or to other obligations which are pari passu with or subordinated to the debt securities (or, if the series is guaranteed, the guarantee of the Subsidiary Guarantor) and any modifications, refunding, deferrals, renewals or extensions of any such debt or securities, notes or other evidence of debt issued in exchange for such debt. Subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the subordinated indentures and the prospectus supplement relating to such series, to the prior payment of all of the issuer's indebtedness and that of the Subsidiary Guarantor that is designated as Senior Indebtedness with respect to the series.

The holders of Senior Indebtedness of the issuer or, if applicable, the Subsidiary Guarantor, will receive payment in full of the Senior Indebtedness before holders of subordinated debt securities will receive any payment of principal, premium or interest with respect to the subordinated debt securities upon any payment or distribution of our assets or, if applicable to any series of outstanding debt securities, the Subsidiary Guarantors' assets, to creditors:

upon a liquidation or dissolution of the issuer or, if applicable to any series of outstanding debt securities, the Subsidiary Guarantor; or

**Table of Contents**

in a bankruptcy, receivership or similar proceeding relating to the issuer or, if applicable to any series of outstanding debt securities, to the Subsidiary Guarantor.

Until the Senior Indebtedness is paid in full, any distribution to which holders of subordinated debt securities would otherwise be entitled will be made to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, except that the holders of subordinated debt securities may receive units representing limited partner interests and any debt securities that are subordinated to Senior Indebtedness to at least the same extent as the subordinated debt securities.

If the issuer does not pay any principal, premium or interest with respect to Senior Indebtedness within any applicable grace period (including at maturity), or any other default on Senior Indebtedness occurs and the maturity of the Senior Indebtedness is accelerated in accordance with its terms, the issuer may not:

make any payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest with respect to subordinated debt securities;

make any deposit for the purpose of defeasance of the subordinated debt securities; or

repurchase, redeem or otherwise retire any subordinated debt securities, except that in the case of subordinated debt securities that provide for a mandatory sinking fund, the issuer may deliver subordinated debt securities to the trustee in satisfaction of our sinking fund obligation, unless, in either case,

the default has been cured or waived and any declaration of acceleration has been rescinded;

the Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full in cash; or

the issuer and the trustee receive written notice approving the payment from the representatives of each issue of Designated Senior Indebtedness.

Generally, Designated Senior Indebtedness will include:

any specified issue of Senior Indebtedness of at least \$100.0 million; and

any other Senior Indebtedness that we may designate in respect of any series of subordinated debt securities.

During the continuance of any default, other than a default described in the immediately preceding paragraph, that may cause the maturity of any Designated Senior Indebtedness to be accelerated immediately without further notice, other than any notice required to effect such acceleration, or the expiration of any applicable grace periods, the issuer may not pay the subordinated debt securities for a period called the Payment Blockage Period. A Payment Blockage Period will commence on the receipt by the issuer and the trustee of written notice of the default, called a Blockage Notice, from the representative of any Designated Senior Indebtedness specifying an election to effect a Payment Blockage Period and will end 179 days thereafter.

The Payment Blockage Period may be terminated before its expiration:

by written notice from the person or persons who gave the Blockage Notice;

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

by repayment in full in cash of the Designated Senior Indebtedness with respect to which the Blockage Notice was given; or

if the default giving rise to the Payment Blockage Period is no longer continuing.

Unless the holders of the Designated Senior Indebtedness have accelerated the maturity of the Designated Senior Indebtedness, we may resume payments on the subordinated debt securities after the expiration of the Payment Blockage Period.

Generally, not more than one Blockage Notice may be given in any period of 360 consecutive days. The total number of days during which any one or more Payment Blockage Periods are in effect, however, may not exceed an aggregate of 179 days during any period of 360 consecutive days.

**Table of Contents**

After all Senior Indebtedness is paid in full and until the subordinated debt securities are paid in full, holders of the subordinated debt securities shall be subrogated to the rights of holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive distributions applicable to Senior Indebtedness.

As a result of the subordination provisions described above, in the event of insolvency, the holders of Senior Indebtedness, as well as certain of our general creditors, may recover more, ratably, than the holders of the subordinated debt securities.



## **Table of Contents**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS**

Our common units represent limited partner interests that entitle the holders to participate in our partnership distributions and to exercise the rights and privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. For a description of the relative rights and preferences of holders of common units and our general partner in and to partnership distributions, see Cash Distribution Policy. For a general discussion of the expected federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of common units, see Material Tax Considerations. References in this Description of the Common Units to we, us and our mean Martin Midstream Partners L.P.

#### **Number of Units**

We currently have 23,116,776 common units outstanding, 16,523,509 of which are held by the public, 5,703,823 are held by Martin Resource LLC and 889,444 are held by Cross Oil Refining and Marketing Inc. ( Cross ), each a subsidiary of Martin Resource Management. The common units represent an aggregate 98.0% limited partner interest. Our general partner owns an aggregate 2.0% general partner interest in us.

#### **Listing**

Our outstanding common units are traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol MMLP. Any additional common units that we issue also will be traded on the Nasdaq National Market.

#### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

*Duties.* Mellon Investor Services LLC serves as transfer agent and registrar for our common units. We will pay all fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units, except the following must be paid by unitholders:

surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes and other governmental charges;

special charges for services requested by a holder of a common unit; and

other similar fees or charges.

We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their stockholders, directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses that may arise out of acts performed or omitted in that capacity, except for any liability due to any gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

*Resignation or Removal.* The transfer agent may resign, by notice to us, or be removed by us. The resignation or removal of the transfer agent will become effective upon our appointment of a successor transfer agent and registrar and its acceptance of the appointment. If no successor has been appointed and accepted the appointment within 30 days after notice of the resignation or removal, our general partner may act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

#### **Transfer of Common Units**

Each purchaser of common units offered by this prospectus must execute a transfer application. Any subsequent transfers of a common unit will not be recorded by the transfer agent or recognized by us unless the transferee executes and delivers a transfer application. By executing and delivering a transfer application, the transferee of common units:

becomes the record holder of the common units and is an assignee until admitted into our partnership as a substituted limited partner;

automatically requests admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership;

**Table of Contents**

agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of, and executes, our partnership agreement;

represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to enter into our partnership agreement;

grants powers of attorney to officers of our general partner and any liquidator of us as specified in our partnership agreement; and

makes the consents and waivers contained in our partnership agreement.

An assignee will become a substituted limited partner of our partnership for the transferred common units upon the consent of our general partner and the recording of the name of the assignee on our books and records. Our general partner may withhold its consent in its sole discretion.

A transferee's broker, agent or nominee may complete, execute and deliver a transfer application. We are entitled to treat the record holder of a common unit as the absolute owner. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the record holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the record holder.

Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfer of securities. In addition to other rights acquired upon transfer, the transferor gives the transferee the right to request admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership for the transferred common units. A purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application obtains only:

the right to assign the common unit to a purchaser or other transferee; and

the right to transfer the right to seek admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership for the transferred common units. Thus, a purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application:

will not receive cash distributions, unless the common units are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application; and

may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units.

Our partnership agreement requires that a transferor of common units must provide the transferee with all information that may be necessary to transfer the common units. The transferor is not required to insure the execution of the transfer application by the transferee and has no liability or responsibility if the transferee neglects or chooses not to execute and forward the transfer application to the transfer agent. Please read "The Partnership Agreement - Status as Limited Partner or Assignee."

Until a common unit has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder of the unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or applicable stock exchange regulations.

**Voting**

Each holder of common units is entitled to the voting rights specified under "The Partnership Agreement - Voting Rights" below.

---

**Table of Contents**

**CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY**

**Distributions of Available Cash**

*General.* Within 45 days after the end of each quarter, Martin Midstream Partners will distribute all of our available cash to unitholders of record on the applicable record date.

*Available Cash.* Available Cash generally means, for each fiscal quarter, all cash on hand at the end of the quarter less the amount of cash reserves our general partner determines in its reasonable discretion is necessary or appropriate to:

provide for the proper conduct of our business;

comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments, or other agreements; or

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders and to our general partner for any one or more of the next four quarters.

Cash on hand includes cash on hand on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter. Working capital borrowings are borrowings that are made under our revolving credit facility or other arrangement requiring all borrowings thereunder to be reduced to a relatively small amount each year for an economically meaningful period of time and in all cases are used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to partners. Our general partner may not establish cash reserves for distributions on the subordinated units unless our general partner has determined that the establishment of such reserves will not prevent the distribution of the minimum quarterly distribution on all common units and any cumulative common unit arrearages thereon for the next four quarters. Common unit arrearage is defined as the amount by which the minimum quarterly distribution for a quarter during the subordination period exceeds the distribution of available cash from operating surplus actually made for that quarter on a common unit, cumulative for that quarter and all prior quarters during the subordination period.

*Intent to Distribute the Minimum Quarterly Distribution.* We intend to distribute to the holders of common units and subordinated units on a quarterly basis at least the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.50 per unit, or \$2.00 per year, to the extent we have sufficient cash from our operations after the establishment of cash reserves and payment of expenses, including payments to our general partner. There is no guarantee, however, that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units in any quarter, and we will be prohibited from making any distributions to unitholders if it would cause an event of default, or an event of default is existing, under our revolving credit facility.

*Restrictions on Our Ability to Distribute Available Cash Contained in Our Credit Agreement.* Our ability to distribute available cash is contractually restricted by the terms of our credit agreement. Our credit agreement contains covenants requiring us to maintain certain financial ratios. We are prohibited from making any distributions to unitholders if the distribution would cause an event of default, or an event of default is existing, under our credit agreement.

**Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus**

*General.* All cash distributed to unitholders will be characterized as either operating surplus or capital surplus. We distribute available cash from operating surplus differently than available cash from capital surplus.

*Operating Surplus.* Operating Surplus generally means:

our cash balance at the closing of our initial public offering; plus

\$8.5 million (as described below); plus

Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

all of our cash receipts since our initial public offering, excluding cash from borrowings that are not working capital borrowings, sales of equity and debt securities and sales or other dispositions of assets outside the ordinary course of business; plus

**Table of Contents**

working capital borrowings made after the end of a quarter but before the date of determination of operating surplus for the quarter;  
less

all of our operating expenditures since our initial public offering, including the repayment of working capital borrowings, but not the repayment of other borrowings, and including maintenance capital expenditures; less

the amount of cash reserves our general partner deems necessary or advisable to provide funds for future operating expenditures. Operating Expenditures generally means all expenditures of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. and its subsidiaries, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursements of Martin Midstream GP LLC, repayment of working capital borrowings, debt service payments and capital expenditures. Payments (including prepayments) of principal of and premium on indebtedness, other than working capital borrowings will not constitute operating expenditures. Operating expenditures will not include:

capital expenditures made for acquisitions or for capital improvements;

payment of transaction expenses relating to interim capital transactions; or

distributions to partners.

Interim Capital Transactions include the following transactions if they occur prior to liquidation:

borrowings, refinancings or refundings of indebtedness and sales of debt securities (other than for working capital borrowings and other than for items purchased on open account in the ordinary course of business) by Martin Midstream Partners L.P. or any of its subsidiaries;

sales of equity interests by Martin Midstream Partners L.P. or any of its subsidiaries;

sales or other voluntary or involuntary dispositions of any assets of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. or any of its subsidiaries (other than sales or other dispositions of inventory, accounts receivable and other assets in the ordinary course of business, and sales or other dispositions of assets as a part of normal retirements or replacements).

*Capital Surplus.* Capital Surplus will generally be generated only by:

borrowings other than working capital borrowings;

sales of debt and equity securities; and

sales or other disposition of assets for cash, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other current assets sold in the ordinary course of business or as part of normal retirements or replacements of assets.

*Characterization of Cash Distributions.* We will treat all available cash distributed as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since we began operations equals the operating surplus as of the most recent date of determination of available cash. We will treat any amount distributed in excess of operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. As reflected above, operating

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

surplus includes \$8.5 million in addition to our cash balance at the closing of our initial public offering, cash receipts from our operations and cash from working capital borrowings. This amount does not reflect actual cash on hand at the closing of our initial public offering that was available for distribution to our unitholders. Rather, it is a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to \$8.5 million of cash we receive in the future from non-operating sources, such as asset sales, issuances of securities and long-term borrowings, that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. While we do not currently anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus in the near term, we may determine that the sale or disposition of an asset or business owned or acquired by us may be beneficial to our unitholders. If we distribute to you the equity we own in a subsidiary or the proceeds from the sale of one of our businesses, such a distribution would be characterized as a distribution from capital surplus.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Subordination Period**

On November 25, 2009, the Partnership issued 889,444 subordinated units to a subsidiary of Martin Resource Management in connection with the acquisition of certain specialty lubricants processing assets from Cross. These subordinated units had no distribution rights. On November 25, 2011, the subordinated units automatically converted to common units having the same distribution rights as existing common units.

### **Incentive Distribution Rights**

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13%, 23% and 48%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels (as detailed below) have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in our partnership agreement.

If for any quarter:

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus on each common unit and subordinated unit in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution; and

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus on each outstanding common unit in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution.  
then we will distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and our general partner (assuming our general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights) in the following manner:

*First*, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.55 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution );

*Second*, 85% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.625 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution );

*Third*, 75% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.75 per unit for that quarter (the third target distribution );

*Thereafter*, 50% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50% to our general partner.

In each case, the amount of the target distribution set forth above is exclusive of any distributions to common unitholders to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution. The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains its 2% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.



**Table of Contents****Percentage Allocations of Available Cash from Operating Surplus**

The following table illustrates the percentage allocations of the additional available cash from operating surplus between the unitholders and our general partner up to various target distribution levels. The amounts set forth under **Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions** are the percentage interests of our general partner and the unitholders in any available cash from operating surplus we distribute up to and including the corresponding amount in the column **Total Quarterly Distribution Target Amount**, until available cash from operating surplus we distribute reaches the next target distribution level, if any. The percentage interests shown for the unitholders and our general partner for the minimum quarterly distribution are also applicable to quarterly distribution amounts that are less than the minimum quarterly distribution. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include its 2% general partner interest and assumes the general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

|                                | Total Quarterly<br>Distribution Per Unit<br>Target Amount | Marginal Percentage Interest<br>in Distributions |                 |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
|                                |   | Unitholder                                       | General Partner |
| Minimum Quarterly Distribution | \$0.50  | 98%  | 2%              |
| First Target Distribution      | up to \$0.55  | 98%  | 2%              |
| Second Target Distribution     | above \$0.55 up to \$0.625                                | 85%  | 15%             |
| Third Target Distribution      | above \$0.625 up to \$0.75                                | 75%  | 25%             |
| Thereafter                     | above \$0.75  | 50%  | 50%             |

**Distributions from Capital Surplus**

*How Distributions from Capital Surplus Will Be Made.* We will make distributions of available cash from capital surplus, if any, in the following manner:

*First*, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until we distribute for each common unit that was issued in our initial public offering an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to the initial public offering price;

*Second*, 98% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until we distribute for each common unit an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units; and

*Thereafter*, we will make all distributions of available cash from capital surplus as if they were from operating surplus.

*Effect of a Distribution from Capital Surplus.* Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus as the repayment of the initial unit price from the initial public offering, which is a return of capital. The initial public offering price less any distributions of capital surplus per unit is referred to as the unrecovered initial unit price. Each time a distribution of capital surplus is made, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced in the same proportion as the corresponding reduction in the unrecovered initial unit price. Because distributions of capital surplus will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution, after any of these distributions are made, it may be easier for our general partner to receive incentive distributions and for the subordinated units to convert into common units. Any distribution of capital surplus before the unrecovered initial unit price is reduced to zero, however, cannot be applied to the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution or any arrearages.

Once we distribute capital surplus on a unit in an amount equal to the initial unit price, we will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels to zero. We will then make all future distributions from operating surplus, with 50% being paid to the holders of units, 48% to the holders of the incentive distribution rights and 2% to our general partner (assuming our general partner maintains its 2% general partner interest).

## **Table of Contents**

### **Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels**

In addition to adjusting the minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels to reflect a distribution of capital surplus, if we combine our units into fewer units or subdivide our units into a greater number of units, we will proportionately adjust:

the minimum quarterly distribution;

target distribution levels; and

unrecovered initial unit price.

For example, if a two-for-one split of the common units should occur, the minimum quarterly distribution, the target distribution levels and the unrecovered initial unit price would each be reduced to 50% of its initial level. We will not make any adjustment by reason of the issuance of additional units for cash or property.

In addition, if legislation is enacted or if existing law is modified or interpreted in a manner that causes us to become taxable as a corporation or otherwise subject to taxation as an entity for federal, state or local income tax purposes, we will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels by multiplying the same by one minus the sum of the highest marginal federal corporate income tax rate that could apply and any increase in the effective overall state and local income tax rates. For example, if we became subject to a maximum marginal federal and effective state and local income tax rate of 38%, then the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distributions levels would each be reduced to 62% of their previous levels.

### **Distributions of Cash upon Liquidation**

If we dissolve in accordance with our partnership agreement, we will sell or otherwise dispose of our assets in a process called liquidation. We will first apply the proceeds of liquidation to the payment of our creditors. We will distribute any remaining proceeds to the unitholders and our general partner, in accordance with their capital account balances, as adjusted to reflect any gain or loss upon the sale or other disposition of our assets in liquidation. The capital account of a partner for a common unit, a subordinated unit, an incentive distribution right or any other partnership interest will be the amount which that capital account would be if that common unit, subordinated unit, incentive distribution right or other partnership interest were the only interest in us held by a partner.

The allocations of gain and loss upon liquidation are intended, to the extent possible, to entitle the holders of outstanding common units to a preference over the holders of outstanding subordinated units upon our liquidation, to the extent required to permit common unitholders to receive their unrecovered initial unit price plus the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which liquidation occurs plus any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units. However, there may not be sufficient gain upon our liquidation to enable the holders of common units to fully recover all of these amounts, even though there may be cash available for distribution to the holders of subordinated units. Any further net gain recognized upon liquidation will be allocated in a manner that takes into account the incentive distribution rights of our general partner.

*Manner of Adjustments for Gain.* The manner of the adjustment for gain is set forth in our partnership agreement. If our liquidation occurs before the end of a subordination period, we will allocate any gain to the partners in the following manner:

*First*, to our general partner and the holders of units who have negative balances in their capital accounts to the extent of and in proportion to those negative balances;

*Second*, 98% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the sum of:

(1) the unrecovered initial unit price; plus



**Table of Contents**

- (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs; plus
- (3) any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution;

*Third*, 98% to the subordinated unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner until the capital account for each subordinated unit is equal to the sum of:

- (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and
- (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

*Fourth*, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to:

- (1) the sum of the excess of the first target distribution per unit over the minimum quarterly distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; less
- (2) the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit that we distributed 98% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, for each quarter of our existence;

*Fifth*, 85% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner, pro rata, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to:

- (1) the sum of the excess of the second target distribution per unit over the first target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; less
- (2) the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit that we distributed 85% to the units, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner, pro rata, for each quarter of our existence;

*Sixth*, 75% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to:

- (1) the sum of the excess of the third target distribution per unit over the second target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; less
- (2) the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the first target distribution per unit that we distributed 75% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner for each quarter of our existence;

*Thereafter*, 50% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50% to our general partner.

The percentage interest set forth above for our general partner assume that our general partner maintains its 2% general partner interest and has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

If the liquidation occurs after the end of a subordination period, the distinction between common units and subordinated units will disappear, so that clause (3) of the second bullet point above and all of the third bullet point above will no longer be applicable.

*Manner of Adjustments for Losses.* Upon our liquidation, we will generally allocate any loss to our general partner and the unitholders in the following manner:

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

*First*, 98% to holders of subordinated units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts and 2% to our general partner until the capital accounts of the subordinated unitholders have been reduced to zero;

*Second*, 98% to the holders of common units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts and 2% to our general partner until the capital accounts of the common unitholders have been reduced to zero; and

**Table of Contents**

Thereafter, 100% to our general partner.

If the liquidation occurs after the end of the subordination period, the distinction between common units and subordinated units will disappear, so that all of the first priority above will no longer be applicable.

*Adjustments to Capital Accounts.* We will make adjustments to capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units. In doing so, we will allocate any unrealized and, for tax purposes, unrecognized gain or loss resulting from the adjustments to the unitholders and our general partner in the same manner as we allocate gain or loss upon liquidation. In the event that we make positive adjustments to the capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units, we will allocate any later negative adjustments to the capital accounts resulting from the issuance of additional units or upon our liquidation in a manner that results, to the extent possible, in the general partner's capital account balances equaling the amount that they would have been if no earlier positive adjustments to the capital accounts had been made.

## **Table of Contents**

### **THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

The following is a summary of the material provisions of our partnership agreement. A copy of our partnership agreement has been filed with the SEC and is incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We summarize the following provisions of our partnership agreement elsewhere in this prospectus:

With regard to distributions of available cash, please read **Cash Distribution Policy**.

With regard to the transfer of common units, please read **Description of the Common Units** **Transfer of Common Units**.

With regard to allocations of taxable income and taxable loss, please read **Material Tax Considerations**.

#### **Organization and Duration**

We were organized in June 2002 and have a perpetual existence.

#### **Purpose**

Our purposes under our partnership agreement are limited to owning the equity of the general partner of our operating partnership, serving as the limited partner of our operating partnership and engaging in any business activities that may be engaged in by our operating partnership or that are approved by our general partner. The partnership agreement of our operating partnership provides that our operating partnership may, directly or indirectly, engage in:

its operations as conducted immediately after our initial public offering;

any other activity approved by our general partner but only to the extent that our general partner reasonably determines that, as of the date of the acquisition or commencement of the activity, the activity generates **qualifying income** as this term is defined in Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code; or

any activity that enhances the operations of an activity that is described in either of the two preceding clauses.

Although our general partner has the ability to cause us and our operating partnership to engage in activities other than those described in this prospectus, our general partner has no current plans to do so. Our general partner is authorized in general to perform all acts as it may deem, in its sole discretion, necessary to carry out our purposes and to conduct our business.

#### **Power of Attorney**

Each limited partner, and each person who acquires a unit from a unitholder and executes and delivers a transfer application, grants to our general partner and, if appointed, a liquidator, a power of attorney to, among other things, execute and file documents required for our qualification, continuance or dissolution. The power of attorney also grants our general partner the authority to amend, and to make consents and waivers under, our partnership agreement.

#### **Capital Contributions**

Unitholders are not obligated to make additional capital contributions, except as described under **Limited Liability**.





---

## **Table of Contents**

### **Limited Liability**

Assuming that a limited partner does not participate in the control of our business within the meaning of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act, or the Delaware Act, and that he otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of our partnership agreement, his liability under the Delaware Act will be limited, subject to possible exceptions, to the amount of capital he is obligated to contribute to us for his common units plus his share of any undistributed profits and assets. If it were determined, however, that the right, or exercise of the right, by the limited partners as a group:

to remove or replace our general partner;

to approve some amendments to our partnership agreement; or

to take other action under our partnership agreement;

constituted participation in the control of our business for the purposes of the Delaware Act, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the laws of Delaware, to the same extent as our general partner. This liability would extend to persons who transact business with us who reasonably believe that the limited partner is a general partner. Neither our partnership agreement nor the Delaware Act specifically provides for legal recourse against our general partner if a limited partner were to lose limited liability through any fault of our general partner. While this does not mean that a limited partner could not seek legal recourse, we know of no precedent for this type of a claim in Delaware case law.

Under the Delaware Act, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner if, after the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is limited to specific property of the partnership, would exceed the fair value of the assets of the limited partnership. For the purpose of determining the fair value of the assets of a limited partnership, the Delaware Act provides that the fair value of property subject to liability for which recourse of creditors is limited shall be included in the assets of the limited partnership only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds that liability. The Delaware Act provides that a limited partner who receives a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution was in violation of the Delaware Act is liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years. Under the Delaware Act, unless otherwise agreed, an assignee who becomes a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of his assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except the assignee is not obligated for liabilities unknown to him at the time he became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from our partnership agreement.

Our operating partnership currently conducts business in 11 states. Maintenance of our limited liability as a limited partner of our operating partnership may require compliance with legal requirements in the jurisdictions in which our operating partnership conducts business, including qualifying our subsidiaries to do business there. Limitations on the liability of limited partners for the obligations of a limited partnership have not been clearly established in many jurisdictions. If, by virtue of our limited partner interest in our operating partnership or otherwise, it were determined that we were conducting business in any state without compliance with the applicable limited partnership or limited liability company statute, or that the right or exercise of the right to remove or replace the general partner of our operating partnership, to approve some amendments to our partnership agreement of our operating partnership, or to take other action under our partnership agreement of our operating partnership constituted participation in the control of its business for purposes of the statutes of any relevant jurisdiction, then we could be held personally liable for the obligations of our operating partnership under the law of that jurisdiction to the same extent as its general partner under the circumstances.

**Table of Contents**

**Voting Rights**

The following matters require the unitholder vote specified below. Matters requiring the approval of a unit majority requires the approval of a majority of the outstanding common units.

| <b><u>Matter</u></b>  | <b><u>Vote Requirement</u></b>  |
|---|---|
| Issuance of additional units  | No approval rights.   |
| Amendment of the partnership agreement  | Certain amendments may be made by the general partner without the approval of the unitholders. Other amendments generally require the approval of a unit majority. Please read Amendment of the Partnership Agreement.  |
| Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets | Unit majority. Please read Merger, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets.   |
| Dissolution of our partnership  | Unit majority. Please read Termination and Dissolution.   |
| Reconstitution of our partnership upon dissolution                              | Unit majority.  |
| Withdrawal of the general partner   | The approval of a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by the general partner and its affiliates, is required for the withdrawal of the general partner prior to September 30, 2012 in a manner which would cause a dissolution of our partnership. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.  |
| Removal of the general partner  | Not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding units, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.   |
| Transfer of ownership interests in the general partner                          | Our general partner may transfer its general partner interest without a vote of our unitholders in connection with the general partner's merger or consolidation with or into, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to, a third person. Our general partner may also transfer all of its general partner interest to an affiliate without a vote of our unitholders. The approval of a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by the general partner and its affiliates, is required in other circumstances for a transfer of the general partner interest to a third party prior to September 30, 2012. Please read Transfer of General Partner Interests and Incentive Distribution Rights. |
| Transfer of incentive distribution rights                                       | Except for transfers to an affiliate or another person as part of the general partner's merger or consolidation with or into, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to, such  |

Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

affiliate or person, the approval of a majority of the outstanding common units is required in most circumstances for a transfer of the incentive distribution rights to a third party prior to September 30, 2012. Please read [Transfer of General Partner Interests and Incentive Distribution Rights](#).

Transfer of ownership interests in the general partner No approval required at any time. Please read [Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner](#).

## **Table of Contents**

### **Issuance of Additional Securities**

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional partnership securities and rights to buy partnership securities for the consideration and on the terms and conditions established by our general partner in its sole discretion without the approval of the unitholders.

We may issue an unlimited number of common units as follows:

under employee benefit plans;

upon conversion of the general partner interest and incentive distribution rights as a result of a withdrawal of our general partner;

in the event of a combination or subdivision of common units;

in connection with an acquisition or a capital improvement that increases cash flow from operations per unit on a pro forma basis; or

if the proceeds of the issuance are used exclusively to repay up to \$15 million of certain of our indebtedness.

It is possible that we will fund acquisitions through the issuance of additional common units or other equity securities. Holders of any additional common units we issue will be entitled to share equally with the then-existing holders of common units in our distributions of available cash. In addition, the issuance of additional partnership interests may dilute the value of the interests of the then-existing holders of common units in our net assets.

In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership securities that, in the sole discretion of our general partner, have special voting rights to which the common units are not entitled.

Upon issuance of additional partnership securities, our general partner will be required to make additional capital contributions to the extent necessary to maintain its 2% general partner interest in us. Moreover, our general partner will have the right, which it may from time to time assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates, to purchase common units or other equity securities whenever, and on the same terms that, we issue those securities to persons other than our general partner and its affiliates, to the extent necessary to maintain its percentage interest, including its interest represented by common units, that existed immediately prior to each issuance. The holders of common units will not have preemptive rights to acquire additional common units or other partnership securities.

### **Amendment of the Partnership Agreement**

*General.* Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by or with the consent of our general partner, which consent may be given or withheld in its sole discretion. In order to adopt a proposed amendment, other than the amendments discussed below, our general partner must seek written approval of the holders of the number of units required to approve the amendment or call a meeting of the limited partners to consider and vote upon the proposed amendment. Except as described below, an amendment must be approved by a unit majority.

*Prohibited Amendments.* No amendment may be made that would:

enlarge the obligations of any limited partner without its consent, unless approved by at least a majority of the type or class of limited partner interests so affected;

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

enlarge the obligations of, restrict in any way any action by or rights of, or reduce in any way the amounts distributable, reimbursable or otherwise payable by us to our general partner or any of its affiliates without the consent of our general partner, which may be given or withheld in its sole discretion;

**Table of Contents**

change the duration of our partnership;

provide that our partnership is not dissolved upon an election to dissolve our partnership by our general partner that is approved by a unit majority; or

give any person the right to dissolve our partnership other than our general partner's right to dissolve our partnership with the approval of a unit majority.

The provision of our partnership agreement preventing the amendments having the effects described in any of the clauses above can be amended upon the approval of the holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting together as a single class.

*No Unitholder Approval.* Our general partner may generally make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner or assignee to reflect:

- a. a change in our name, the location of our principal place of business, our registered agent or our registered office;
- b. the admission, substitution, withdrawal, or removal of partners in accordance with our partnership agreement;
- c. change that, in the sole discretion of our general partner, is necessary or advisable for us to qualify or to continue our qualification as a limited partnership or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability under the laws of any state or to ensure that neither we, our operating partnership nor its subsidiaries will be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes;
- e. an amendment changing our fiscal or taxable year and any changes that are necessary as a result of a change in our fiscal or taxable year;
- f. an amendment that is necessary, in the opinion of our counsel, to prevent us or our general partner or its directors, officers, agents, or trustees from in any manner being subjected to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, or plan asset regulations adopted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, whether or not substantially similar to plan asset regulations currently applied or proposed;
- g. subject to the limitations on the issuance of additional partnership securities described above, an amendment that in the discretion of our general partner is necessary or advisable for the authorization of additional partnership securities or rights to acquire partnership securities;
- h. any amendment expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone;
- i. an amendment effected, necessitated or contemplated by a merger agreement that has been approved under the terms of our partnership agreement;
- j. any amendment that, in the sole discretion of our general partner, is necessary or advisable for the formation by us of, or our investment in, any corporation, partnership or other entity, as otherwise permitted by our partnership agreement;

- k. a merger of the partnership or any of its subsidiaries into, or a conveyance of assets to, a newly-created limited liability entity the sole purpose of which is to effect a change in the legal form of the partnership into another limited liability entity; and
- l. the reduction in the vote needed to remove the general partner from not less than  $66\frac{2}{3}\%$  of all outstanding units to a lesser percentage of all outstanding units;
- m. an increase in the percentage of a class of units that a person or group may own without losing their voting rights from 20% to a higher percentage; or
- n. any other amendments substantially similar to any of the matters described in the clauses above.

## **Table of Contents**

In addition, our general partner may make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner or assignee if those amendments, in the sole discretion of our general partner:

do not adversely affect the limited partners (or any particular class of limited partners) in any material respect;

are necessary or advisable to satisfy any requirements, conditions or guidelines contained in any opinion, directive, order, ruling or regulation of any federal or state agency or judicial authority or contained in any federal or state statute;

are necessary or advisable to facilitate the trading of limited partner interests or to comply with any rule, regulation, guideline or requirement of any securities exchange or trading system on which the limited partner interests are or will be listed for trading, compliance with any of which our general partner deems to be in our best interest and the best interest of the limited partners;

are necessary or advisable for any action taken by our general partner relating to splits or combinations of units under the provisions of our partnership agreement; or

are required to effect the intent expressed in this prospectus or the intent of the provisions of our partnership agreement or are otherwise contemplated by our partnership agreement.

*Opinion of Counsel and Unitholder Approval.* Our general partner will not be required to obtain an opinion of counsel that an amendment will not result in a loss of limited liability to the limited partners or result in our being treated as an entity for federal income tax purposes if one of the amendments described above under **No Unitholder Approval** should occur. No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of holders of at least 90% of the units unless we obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment will not affect the limited liability under applicable law of any of our limited partners or cause us, our operating partnership or our subsidiaries to be taxable as a corporation or otherwise to be taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes (to the extent not previously taxed as such).

Any amendment that would have a material adverse effect on the rights or preferences of any type or class of outstanding units in relation to other classes of units will require the approval of at least a majority of the type or class of units so affected. Any amendment that reduces the voting percentage required to take any action must be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners constituting not less than the voting requirement sought to be reduced.

### **Action Relating to our Operating Partnership**

Without the approval of the holders of units representing a unit majority, our general partner is prohibited from consenting on our behalf or on behalf of the general partner of our operating partnership to any amendment to the partnership agreement of our operating partnership or taking any action on our behalf permitted to be taken by a partner of our operating partnership in each case that would adversely affect our limited partners (or any particular class of limited partners) in any material respect.

### **Merger, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets**

Our partnership agreement generally prohibits our general partner, without the prior approval of a unit majority, from causing us to, among other things, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets in a single transaction or a series of related transactions, including by way of merger, consolidation or other combination, or approving on our behalf the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of our subsidiaries. Our general partner may, however, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in all or substantially all of our assets without that approval. Our general partner may also sell all or substantially all of our assets under a foreclosure or other realization upon those encumbrances without that approval.



## **Table of Contents**

If conditions specified in our partnership agreement are satisfied, our general partner may merge us or any of our subsidiaries into, or convey some or all of our assets to, a newly formed entity if the sole purpose of that merger or conveyance is to change our legal form into another limited liability entity. The unitholders are not entitled to dissenters' rights of appraisal under our partnership agreement or applicable Delaware law in the event of a merger or consolidation, a sale of substantially all of our assets or any other transaction or event.

## **Termination and Dissolution**

We will continue as a limited partnership until terminated under our partnership agreement. We will dissolve upon:

the election of our general partner to dissolve us, if approved by a unit majority;

the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets and properties and our subsidiaries;

the entry of a judicial order dissolving us; or

the withdrawal or removal of our general partner or any other event that results in its ceasing to be our general partner other than by reason of a transfer of its general partner interest in accordance with our partnership agreement or withdrawal or removal following approval and admission of a successor.

Upon a dissolution under the last clause, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and subordinated units, voting as separate classes, may also elect, within specific time limitations, to reconstitute us and continue our business on the same terms and conditions described in our partnership agreement by forming a new limited partnership on terms identical to those in our partnership agreement and having as general partner an entity approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and subordinated units, voting as separate classes, subject to our receipt of an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

the action would not result in the loss of limited liability of any limited partner; and

neither our partnership, the reconstituted limited partnership nor our operating partnership would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise be taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes upon the exercise of that right to continue.

## **Liquidation and Distribution of Proceeds**

Upon our dissolution, unless we are reconstituted and continued as a new limited partnership, the liquidator authorized to wind up our affairs will, acting with all of the powers of our general partner that the liquidator deems necessary or desirable in its judgment, liquidate our assets and apply the proceeds of the liquidation as provided in Cash Distribution Policy Distributions of Cash upon Liquidation. The liquidator may defer liquidation of our assets for a reasonable period or distribute assets to partners in kind if it determines that a sale would be impractical or would cause undue loss to the partners.

## **Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner**

Except as described below, our general partner has agreed not to withdraw voluntarily as our general partner prior to September 30, 2012 without obtaining the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates, and furnishing an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. On or after September 30, 2012, our general partner may withdraw as general partner without first obtaining approval of any unitholder by giving 90 days' written notice, and that withdrawal will not constitute a violation of our partnership agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our general partner may withdraw without unitholder approval upon 90 days' notice to the limited partners if at least 50% of the outstanding common units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than our general partner and its affiliates. In addition, our partnership agreement permits our general partner in some instances to sell or otherwise transfer all of its general partner interest in us without the approval of the unitholders.

Please read Transfer of General Partner Interests and Incentive Distribution Rights.

---

**Table of Contents**

Upon the withdrawal of our general partner under any circumstances, other than as a result of a transfer by our general partner of all or a part of its general partner interest in us, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and subordinated units, voting as separate classes, may select a successor to that withdrawing general partner. If a successor is not elected, or is elected but an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters cannot be obtained, we will be dissolved, wound up and liquidated, unless within 180 days after that withdrawal, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and subordinated units, voting as separate classes, agree in writing to continue our business and to appoint a successor general partner.

Our general partner may not be removed unless that removal is approved by the vote of the holders of not less than  $66\frac{2}{3}\%$  of the outstanding units, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates, and we receive an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. Any removal of our general partner is also subject to the approval of a successor general partner by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and subordinated units, voting as separate classes. The ownership of more than  $33\frac{1}{3}\%$  of the outstanding units by our general partner and its affiliates would give it the practical ability to prevent its removal. As of June 30, 2012, affiliates of our general partner owned approximately 28.5% of our outstanding units.

Our partnership agreement also provides that if our general partner is removed under circumstances where cause does not exist and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of that removal:

any existing arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units will be extinguished; and

our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests based on the fair market value of those interests at the time.

In the event of removal of a general partner under circumstances where cause exists or withdrawal of a general partner where that withdrawal violates our partnership agreement, a successor general partner will have the option to purchase the general partner interest and incentive distribution rights of the departing general partner for a cash payment equal to the fair market value of those interests. Under all other circumstances where our general partner withdraws or is removed by the limited partners, the departing general partner will have the option to require the successor general partner to purchase the general partner interest of the departing general partner and its incentive distribution rights for the fair market value. In each case, this fair market value will be determined by agreement between the departing general partner and the successor general partner. If no agreement is reached, an independent investment banking firm or other independent expert selected by the departing general partner and the successor general partner will determine the fair market value. If the departing general partner and the successor general partner cannot agree upon an expert, then an expert chosen by agreement of the experts selected by each of them will determine the fair market value.

If the option described above is not exercised by either the departing general partner or the successor general partner, the departing general partner's general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights will automatically convert into common units equal to the fair market value of those interests as determined by an investment banking firm or other independent expert selected in the manner described in the preceding paragraph.

In addition, we will be required to reimburse the departing general partner for all amounts due the departing general partner, including, without limitation, all employee-related liabilities, including severance liabilities, incurred for the termination of any employees employed by the departing general partner or its affiliates for our benefit.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Transfer of General Partner Interests and Incentive Distribution Rights**

Except for transfer by our general partner of all, but not less than all, of its general partner interest in us or its incentive distribution rights to:

an affiliate of our general partner (other than an individual); or

another entity as part of the merger or consolidation of our general partner with or into another entity or the transfer by our general partner of all or substantially all of its assets to another entity.

Our general partner may not transfer all or any part of its general partner interest in us or its incentive distribution rights to another person prior to September 30, 2012 without the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates. In the case of a transfer by our general partner of its general partner interest in us, as a condition of this transfer, the transferee must, among other things, assume the rights and duties of our general partner, agree to be bound by the provisions of our partnership agreement, furnish an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, and agree to be bound by the provisions of our partnership agreement and the partnership agreement of our operating partnership.

The general partner and its affiliates may at any time transfer units to one or more persons, without unitholder approval, except that they may not transfer subordinated units to us.

### **Transfer of Ownership Interests in General Partner**

At any time, the members of our general partner may sell or transfer all or part of their membership interests in our general partner to an affiliate without the approval of the unitholders.

### **Change of Management Provisions**

Our partnership agreement contains specific provisions that are intended to discourage a person or group from attempting to remove Martin Midstream GP LLC as our general partner or otherwise change management. If any person or group other than our general partner and its affiliates acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units, that person or group loses voting rights on all of its units. The general partner has the discretion to increase, but not subsequently decrease, the ownership percentage at which voting rights are forfeited. This loss of voting rights does not apply to any person or group that acquires the units from our general partner or its affiliates and any transferees of that person or group approved by our general partner or to any person or group who acquires the units with the prior approval of the directors of our general partner.

Our partnership agreement also provides that if our general partner is removed under circumstances where cause does not exist and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of that removal:

the subordination period will end and all outstanding subordinated units will immediately convert into common units on a one-for-one basis;

any existing arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units will be extinguished; and

our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests.

### **Limited Call Right**

If at any time our general partner and its affiliates own more than 80% of the then-issued and outstanding partnership securities of any class, our general partner will have the right, which it may assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates or to us, to acquire all, but not less than all, of

the remaining partnership securities of the

---

## **Table of Contents**

class held by unaffiliated persons as of a record date to be selected by our general partner, on at least ten but not more than 60 days notice. Our general partner may exercise this right in its sole discretion. The purchase price in the event of this purchase will be the greater of:

the highest cash price paid by either of our general partner or any of its affiliates for any partnership securities of the class purchased within the 90 days preceding the date on which our general partner first mails notice of its election to purchase those partnership securities; and

the current market price, which is defined as the average of the daily closing prices for the 20 consecutive trading days immediately prior to that date for any class of units listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange as of any date, as of the date three days before the date the notice is mailed.

As a result of our general partner's right to purchase outstanding partnership securities, a holder of partnership securities may have his partnership securities purchased at an undesirable time or price. The tax consequences to a unitholder of the exercise of this call right are the same as a sale by that unitholder of his common units in the market. Please read [Material Tax Considerations](#) [Disposition of Common Units](#).

## **Meetings and Voting**

Except as described below regarding a person or group owning 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, unitholders or assignees who are record holders of units on the record date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, meetings of our limited partners and to act upon matters for which approvals may be solicited. Common units that are owned by an assignee who is a record holder, but who has not yet been admitted as a limited partner, will be voted by our general partner at the written direction of the record holder. Absent direction of this kind, the common units will not be voted, except that, in the case of common units held by our general partner on behalf of non-citizen assignees, our general partner will distribute the votes on those common units in the same ratios as the votes of limited partners on other units are cast.

Our general partner does not anticipate that any meeting of unitholders will be called in the foreseeable future. Any action that is required or permitted to be taken by the unitholders may be taken either at a meeting of the unitholders or without a meeting if consents in writing describing the action so taken are signed by holders of the number of units necessary to authorize or take that action at a meeting. Meetings of the unitholders may be called by our general partner or, subject to the provision described in the next paragraph, by unitholders owning at least 20% of the outstanding units of the class for which a meeting is proposed. Unitholders may vote either in person or by proxy at meetings. The holders of a majority of the outstanding units of the class or classes for which a meeting has been called, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum unless any action by the unitholders requires approval by holders of a greater percentage of the units, in which case the quorum will be the greater percentage.

Each record holder of a unit has a vote according to his percentage interest in us, although additional limited partner interests having special voting rights could be issued. Please read [Issuance of Additional Securities](#). However, if at any time any person or group, other than our general partner and its affiliates, or a direct or subsequently approved transferee of our general partner or its affiliates, acquires, in the aggregate, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, that person or group will lose voting rights on all of its units and the units may not be voted on any matter and will not be considered to be outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of unitholders, calculating required votes, determining the presence of a quorum or for other similar purposes. Common units held in nominee or street name account will be voted by the broker or other nominee in accordance with the instruction of the beneficial owner unless the arrangement between the beneficial owner and his nominee provides otherwise. Except as our partnership agreement otherwise provides, subordinated units will vote together with common units as a single class.

## **Table of Contents**

Any notice, demand, request, report or proxy material required or permitted to be given or made to record holders of common units under our partnership agreement will be delivered to the record holder by us or by the transfer agent.

### **Status as Limited Partner or Assignee**

Except as described above under Limited Liability, the common units will be fully paid and unitholders will not be required to make additional contributions.

An assignee of a common unit, after executing and delivering a transfer application, but pending its admission as a substituted limited partner, is entitled to an interest equivalent to that of a limited partner for the right to share in allocations and distributions from us, including liquidating distributions. Our general partner will vote and exercise other powers attributable to common units owned by an assignee that has not become a substitute limited partner at the written direction of the assignee. Please read Meetings and Voting. Transferees that do not execute and deliver a transfer application will not be treated as assignees or as record holders of common units, and will not receive cash distributions, federal income tax allocations or reports furnished to holders of common units. Please read Description of the Common Units Transfer of Common Units.

### **Non-citizen Assignees; Redemption**

If we are or become subject to federal, state or local laws or regulations that, in the reasonable determination of our general partner, create either (i) a substantial risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any property in which we have an interest because of the nationality, citizenship or other related status of any limited partner or assignee, or (ii) a substantial risk that we or one or more of our subsidiaries or other entities in which we have at least a 25% equity interest will not be permitted to conduct business as a United States maritime company under the Jones Act and other United States federal statutes based on the status of any limited partner or assignee as a non-United States citizen, we may redeem the units held by any of these limited partners or assignees at the units' current market price. In order to avoid any cancellation or forfeiture, our general partner may require each limited partner or assignee to furnish information about his nationality, citizenship or related status. If a limited partner or assignee fails to furnish information about his nationality, citizenship or other related status within 30 days after a request for the information or if our general partner determines after receipt of the information that the limited partner or assignee is not an eligible citizen, the limited partner or assignee may be treated as a non-citizen assignee. In addition to other limitations on the rights of an assignee that is not a substituted limited partner, a non-citizen assignee does not have the right to direct the voting of his units and may not receive distributions in kind upon our liquidation.

### **Indemnification**

Under our partnership agreement, in most circumstances, we will indemnify the following persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from and against all losses, claims, damages or similar events:

our general partner;

any departing general partner;

any person who is or was an affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner;

any person who is or was a member, partner, officer, director, employee, agent or trustee of our general partner, any departing general partner, or any affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner; or

any person who is or was serving at the request of a general partner or any departing general partner or any affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner, as an officer, director, manager, employee, member, partner, agent or trustee of another person.





## **Table of Contents**

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Our general partner will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or loan funds or assets to us to enable us to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under our partnership agreement.

## **Books and Reports**

Our general partner is required to keep appropriate books of our business at our principal offices. The books will be maintained for both tax and financial reporting purposes on an accrual basis. For tax and fiscal reporting purposes, our fiscal year is the calendar year.

We will furnish or make available to record holders of common units, within 120 days after the close of each fiscal year, an annual report containing audited financial statements and a report on those financial statements by our independent public accountants. Except for our fourth quarter, we will also furnish or make available summary financial information within 90 days after the close of each quarter.

We will furnish each record holder of a unit with information reasonably required for tax reporting purposes within 90 days after the close of each calendar year. This information is expected to be furnished in summary form so that some complex calculations normally required of partners can be avoided. Our ability to furnish this summary information to unitholders will depend on the cooperation of unitholders in supplying us with specific information. Every unitholder will receive information to assist him in determining his federal and state tax liability and filing his federal and state income tax returns, regardless of whether he supplies us with information.

## **Right to Inspect our Books and Records**

Our partnership agreement provides that a limited partner can, for a purpose reasonably related to his interest as a limited partner, upon reasonable demand and at his own expense, have furnished to him:

a current list of the name and last known address of each partner;

a copy of our tax returns;

information as to the amount of cash, and a description and statement of the agreed value of any other property or services, contributed or to be contributed by each partner and the date on which each became a partner;

copies of the partnership agreement, the certificate of limited partnership of the partnership, related amendments and powers of attorney under which they have been executed;

information regarding the status of our business and financial condition; and

any other information regarding our affairs as is just and reasonable.

Our general partner may, and intends to, keep confidential from the limited partners trade secrets or other information the disclosure of which our general partner believes in good faith is not in our best interests or which we are required by law or by agreements with third parties to keep confidential.

## **Registration Rights**

Under our partnership agreement, we have agreed to register for resale under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws any common units, subordinated units or other partnership securities proposed to be sold by our general partner or any of its affiliates or their assignees if an exemption from the registration requirements is not otherwise available. These registration rights continue for two years following any

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

withdrawal or removal of Martin Midstream GP LLC as our general partner. We are obligated to pay all expenses incidental to the registration, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions.

**Table of Contents****SELLING UNITHOLDERS**

The selling unitholders, Martin Resource LLC and Cross Oil Refining and Marketing Inc., may resell the common units that are the subject of this prospectus only in the manner contemplated under the Plan of Distribution. Martin Resource LLC and Cross Oil Refining and Marketing Inc. are each wholly-owned subsidiaries of Martin Resource Management Corporation.

The common units offered by this prospectus may be offered from time to time by the selling unitholders and the selling unitholders may sell some, all or none of their common units. We do not know how long the selling unitholders will hold the common units before selling them. We do not currently have any agreements, arrangements or understandings with the selling unitholders regarding the sale of any of the common units. In making offers and sales pursuant to this prospectus, each of the selling unitholders is deemed to be acting as an underwriter, and their offers and sales are deemed to be made indirectly on our behalf.

The following table sets forth for each selling unitholder:

- (1) the number and percent of common units beneficially owned prior to the offering for resale of the common units under this prospectus;
- (2) the number of common units registered for sale for the account of each unitholder under this prospectus (representing all of the common units that such selling unitholder may offer under this prospectus); and
- (3) the number and percent of common units to be beneficially owned after this offering is completed, assuming all of the unitholder's common units are sold.

|                                       | Number of<br>Common Units<br>Beneficially Owned<br>Prior to the Offering |            | Number of<br>Units<br>Offered | Number of<br>Common Units Beneficially<br>Owned<br>After the Offering |            |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------|---|------------|
|                                       | Number   | Percentage |                               | Number  | Percentage |
|                                       | Martin Resource LLC  | 5,703,823  |                               | 24.7%   | 5,703,823  |
| Cross Oil Refining and Marketing Inc. | 889,444  | 3.8%       | 889,444                       | 0   | 0%         |

**Our Relationship with Martin Resource Management**

Martin Resource Management is engaged in the following principal business activities:

providing land transportation of various liquids using a fleet of trucks and road vehicles and road trailers;

distributing fuel oil, asphalt, sulfuric acid, marine fuel and other liquids;

providing marine bunkering and other shore-based marine services in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas;

operating a small crude oil gathering business in Stephens, Arkansas;

operating a lube oil packaging facility in Smackover, Arkansas;

operating an underground NGL storage facility in Arcadia, Louisiana;

building and marketing of sulfur processing equipment;

developing underground natural gas storage facilities in Arcadia, Louisiana and near Delhi, Louisiana;

supplying employees and services for the operation of our business;

operating, for its account and our account, the docks, roads, loading and unloading facilities and other common use facilities or access routes at our Stanolind terminal; and

operating, solely for our account, our asphalt facilities in Omaha, Nebraska.

## **Table of Contents**

We are and will continue to be closely affiliated with Martin Resource Management as a result of the following relationships.

### ***Ownership***

Martin Resource Management indirectly owns an approximate 28.0% limited partnership interest and a 2.0% general partnership interest in us and all of our incentive distribution rights.

### ***Management***

Martin Resource Management directs our business operations through its ownership and control of our general partner. We benefit from our relationship with Martin Resource Management through access to a significant pool of management expertise and established relationships throughout the energy industry. We do not have employees. Martin Resource Management employees are responsible for conducting our business and operating our assets on our behalf.

### ***Related Party Agreements***

We are a party to an omnibus agreement with Martin Resource Management. The omnibus agreement requires us to reimburse Martin Resource Management for all direct expenses it incurs or payments it makes on our behalf or in connection with the operation of our business. We reimbursed Martin Resource Management for \$27.3 million of direct costs and expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2012 compared to \$20.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2011. We reimbursed Martin Resource Management for \$51.0 million of direct costs and expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2012 compared to \$40.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2011. There is no monetary limitation on the amount we are required to reimburse Martin Resource Management for direct expenses.

In addition to the direct expenses, under the omnibus agreement, we are required to reimburse Martin Resource Management for indirect general and administrative and corporate overhead expenses. Effective October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012, the Conflicts Committee of the board of directors of our general partner (the Conflicts Committee) approved an annual reimbursement amount for indirect expenses of \$6.6 million. We reimbursed Martin Resource Management for \$1.6 and \$1.0 million of indirect expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We reimbursed Martin Resource Management for \$3.3 and \$2.1 million of indirect expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. These indirect expenses covered the centralized corporate functions Martin Resource Management provides for us, such as accounting, treasury, clerical billing, information technology, administration of insurance, general office expenses and employee benefit plans and other general corporate overhead functions we share with Martin Resource Management retained businesses. The omnibus agreement also contains significant non-compete provisions and indemnity obligations. Martin Resource Management also licenses certain of its trademarks and trade names to us under the omnibus agreement.

In addition to the omnibus agreement, we and Martin Resource Management have entered into various other agreements including, but not limited to, a motor carrier agreement, terminal services agreements, marine transportation agreements and other agreements for the provision of various goods and services. Pursuant to the terms of the omnibus agreement, we are prohibited from entering into certain material agreements with Martin Resource Management without the approval of the Conflicts Committee.

For a more comprehensive discussion concerning the omnibus agreement and the other agreements that we have entered into with Martin Resource Management, please refer to Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions - Agreements set forth in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on March 5, 2012.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Commercial***

We have been and anticipate that we will continue to be both a significant customer and supplier of products and services offered by Martin Resource Management. Our motor carrier agreement with Martin Resource Management provides us with access to Martin Resource Management's fleet of road vehicles and road trailers to provide land transportation in the areas served by Martin Resource Management. Our ability to utilize Martin Resource Management's land transportation operations is currently a key component of our integrated distribution network.

We also use the underground storage facilities owned by Martin Resource Management in our natural gas services operations. We lease an underground storage facility from Martin Resource Management in Arcadia, Louisiana with a storage capacity of 2.4 million barrels. Our use of this storage facility gives us greater flexibility in our operations by allowing us to store a sufficient supply of product during times of decreased demand for use when demand increases.

In the aggregate, our purchases of land transportation services, NGL storage services, sulfuric acid and lube oil product purchases and sulfur services payroll reimbursements from Martin Resource Management accounted for approximately 5% and 3% of our total cost of products sold during the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively and approximately 4% and 3% of our total cost of products sold for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We also purchase marine fuel from Martin Resource Management, which we account for as an operating expense.

Correspondingly, Martin Resource Management is one of our significant customers. It primarily uses our terminalling, marine transportation and NGL distribution services for its operations. We provide terminalling and storage services under a terminal services agreement. We provide marine transportation services to Martin Resource Management under a charter agreement on a spot-contract basis at applicable market rates. Our sales to Martin Resource Management accounted for approximately 7% and 8% of our total revenues for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Our sales to Martin Resource Management accounted for approximately 7% and 9% of our total revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We provide terminalling and storage and marine transportation services to Midstream Fuel Service LLC and Midstream Fuel LLC provides terminal services to us to handle lubricants, greases and drilling fluids.

For a more comprehensive discussion concerning the agreements that we have entered into with Martin Resource Management, please refer to Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions - Agreements set forth in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on March 5, 2012.

### ***Approval and Review of Related Party Transactions***

If we contemplate entering into a transaction, other than a routine or in the ordinary course of business transaction, in which a related person will have a direct or indirect material interest, the proposed transaction is submitted for consideration to the board of directors of our general partner or to our management, as appropriate. If the board of directors is involved in the approval process, it determines whether to refer the matter to the Conflicts Committee, as constituted under our limited partnership agreement. Certain related party transactions are required to be submitted to the Conflicts Committee. If a matter is referred to the Conflicts Committee, it obtains information regarding the proposed transaction from management and determines whether to engage independent legal counsel or an independent financial advisor to advise the members of the committee regarding the transaction. If the Conflicts Committee retains such counsel or financial advisor, it considers such advice and, in the case of a financial advisor, such advisor's opinion as to whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to us and to our unitholders.

**Table of Contents**

**MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

This section discusses the material U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to prospective unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and, unless otherwise noted in the following discussion, is the opinion of Locke Lord LLP, counsel to our general partner and us, insofar as it relates to legal conclusions with respect to matters of U.S. federal income tax law. This section is based upon current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code), existing and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code (the Treasury Regulations) and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change. Later changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences described below. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to us or we are references to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.

The following discussion does not comment on all U.S. federal income tax matters affecting us or our unitholders. Moreover, the discussion focuses on unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and has only limited application to corporations, estates, trusts, nonresident aliens or other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt institutions, foreign persons, individual retirement accounts ( IRAs ) and other tax-qualified retirement plans, real estate investment trusts (REITs) or mutual funds. Accordingly, we urge each prospective unitholder to consult, and depend on, his own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local, and foreign tax consequences particular to him of the ownership or disposition of common units.

Except as described in Partnership Status below, no ruling has been or will be requested from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) regarding any matter affecting us or prospective unitholders. Unlike a ruling, an opinion of counsel represents only that counsel's best legal judgment and does not bind the IRS or the courts. Accordingly, the opinions and statements made herein may not be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS. Any contest of this sort with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for our common units and the prices at which the common units trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS, principally legal, accounting and related fees, will result in a reduction in cash available for distribution to our unitholders and our general partner and thus will be borne indirectly by our unitholders and our general partner. Furthermore, the tax treatment of us, or of an investment in us, may be significantly modified by future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions. Any modifications may or may not be retroactively applied.

All statements as to matters of law and legal conclusions, but not as to factual matters, contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, are the opinions of Locke Lord LLP and are based on the accuracy and completeness of facts described herein and representations made by us. Locke Lord LLP has not undertaken any obligation to update its opinions after the date of this prospectus supplement.

For the reasons described below, Locke Lord LLP has not rendered an opinion with respect to the following specific U.S. federal income tax issues:

the treatment of a unitholder whose common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units (Please see Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Treatment of Short Sales );

whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (Please see Disposition of Common Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees );

whether our method for depreciating Section 743 adjustments is sustainable in certain cases (Please see Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election and Uniformity of Units ); and

whether assignees of common units who fail to execute and deliver transfer applications will be treated as partners for federal income tax purposes (please read Limited Partners Status ).

---

## **Table of Contents**

In addition, Locke Lord LLP has not rendered an opinion with respect to the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in us (please read State, Local, Foreign and Other Tax Considerations ).

### **Partnership Status**

A partnership is not a taxable entity and incurs no U.S. federal income tax liability. Instead, each partner of a partnership is required to take into account his share of items of income, gain, loss and deduction of the partnership in computing his U.S. federal income tax liability, regardless of whether cash distributions are made to him by the partnership. Distributions by a partnership to a partner are generally not taxable to the partnership or to the partner unless the amount of cash distributed to him is in excess of the partner's adjusted basis in his partnership interest.

Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code provides that publicly traded partnerships will, as a general rule, be taxed as corporations. However, an exception, referred to as the Qualifying Income Exception, exists with respect to publicly traded partnerships of which 90% or more of the gross income for every taxable year consists of qualifying income. Qualifying income includes income and gains derived from the exploration, development, mining or production, processing, refining, transportation, storage, and marketing of any mineral or natural resource, including crude oil, natural gas and products thereof. Other types of qualifying income include interest (other than from a financial business), dividends, gains from the sale of real property and gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of income that otherwise constitutes qualifying income. Qualifying income does not include rental income from leasing personal property.

Locke Lord LLP has rendered its opinion that, based upon the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, published revenue rulings and court decisions, and the representations and estimate described below, we will be classified as a partnership and the Operating Partnership will be disregarded as an entity separate from us for federal income tax purposes.

In rendering its opinion, Locke Lord LLP has relied on factual representations made by us and our general partner and on an estimate prepared by us that less than 6% of our gross income for 2012 will not be qualifying income; however, this estimate could change from time to time. Among the factual representations made by us and our general partner upon which Locke Lord LLP has relied are:

Neither we nor the Operating Partnership has elected or will elect to be treated as a corporation;

For each taxable year, more than 90% of our gross income has been and will be income that Locke Lord LLP has opined or will opine is qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

Each hedging transaction that we treat as resulting in qualifying income has been and will be appropriately identified as a hedging transaction pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations, and has been and will be associated with oil, gas, or products thereof that are held or to be held by us in activities that Locke Lord LLP has opined or will opine result in qualifying income.

We believe that these representations have been true in the past and expect that these representations will be true in the future.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and that is cured within a reasonable time after discovery (in which case the IRS may also require us to make adjustments with respect to our unitholders or pay other amounts), we will be treated as if we had transferred all of our assets, subject to liabilities, to a newly formed corporation, on the first day of the year in which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, in return for stock in that corporation, and then distributed that stock to the unitholders in liquidation of their interests in us. This deemed contribution and liquidation should be tax-free to unitholders and us so long as we, at that time, do not have liabilities in excess of the tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.



## **Table of Contents**

If we were treated as an association taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, either as a result of a failure to meet the Qualifying Income Exception or otherwise, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be reflected only on our tax return rather than being passed through to our unitholders, and we would owe federal income tax on our income at the corporate tax rate, which is currently a maximum of 35% (and would likely owe state income tax at varying rates). In addition, any distribution made to a unitholder would be treated as either taxable dividend income, to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, or, in the absence of earnings and profits, a nontaxable return of capital, to the extent of the unitholder's tax basis in his common units, or taxable capital gain, after the unitholder's tax basis in his common units is reduced to zero. Accordingly, taxation as a corporation would result in a reduction in the anticipated cash flow and after-tax return to unitholders and therefore would likely result in a reduction of the value of the units.

The discussion below is based on Locke Lord LLP's opinion that we will be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

### **Limited Partner Status**

Unitholders who have become limited partners of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. will be treated as partners of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. for federal income tax purposes. Also, (a) assignees who have executed and delivered transfer applications and are awaiting admission as limited partners, and (b) unitholders whose common units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their common units, will be treated as our partners for federal income tax purposes. A beneficial owner of common units whose units have been transferred to a short seller to complete a short sale would appear to lose his status as a partner with respect to those units for federal income tax purposes. Please see [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) Treatment of Short Sales.

Because there is no direct authority dealing with the status of assignees of common units who are entitled to execute and deliver transfer applications and become entitled to direct the exercise of attendant rights, but who fail to execute and deliver transfer applications, counsel is unable to opine that such persons are partners for federal income tax purposes. If not partners, such persons will not be eligible for the federal income tax treatment described in this discussion. Furthermore, a purchaser or other transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units unless the common units are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application for those common units.

Income, gain, deductions or losses would not appear to be reportable by a unitholder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes, and any cash distributions received by a unitholder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes would therefore appear to be fully taxable as ordinary income. These holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to their tax consequences of holding common units in Martin Midstream Partners L.P.

The references to unitholders in the discussion that follows assume that a unitholder is treated as one of our partners for federal income tax purposes.

### **Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership**

#### *Flow-Through of Taxable Income*

*We do not pay any federal income tax.* Instead, each unitholder will be required to report on his income tax return his share of our income, gains, losses and deductions without regard to whether corresponding cash distributions are received by him. Consequently, we may allocate income to a unitholder even if he has not received a cash distribution. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his allocable share of our income, gains, losses and deductions for our taxable year ending with or within his taxable year. Our taxable year ends on December 31.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### *Treatment of Distributions*

Distributions by us to a unitholder generally will not be taxable to the unitholder for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent the amount of any such cash distribution exceeds his tax basis in his common units immediately before the distribution. Our cash distributions in excess of a unitholder's tax basis generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of our common units, taxable in accordance with the rules described under *Disposition of Common Units*. Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our liabilities for which no partner, including the general partner, bears the economic risk of loss, known as nonrecourse liabilities, will be treated as a distribution by us of cash to that unitholder. To the extent our distributions cause a unitholder's at-risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year, he must recapture any losses deducted in previous years. Please see *Limitations on Deductibility of Losses*.

A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional common units will decrease his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, and thus will result in a corresponding deemed distribution of cash to the unitholder. This deemed distribution may constitute a non-pro rata distribution. A non-pro rata distribution of money or property may result in ordinary income to a unitholder, regardless of his tax basis in his common units, if the distribution reduces the unitholder's share of our unrealized receivables, including depreciation recapture, and/or substantially appreciated inventory items, both as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, and collectively, Section 751 Assets. To that extent, the unitholder will be treated as having been distributed his proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and then having exchanged those assets with us in return for the non-pro rata portion of the actual distribution made to him. This latter deemed exchange will generally result in the unitholder's realization of ordinary income, which will equal the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (2) the unitholder's tax basis (generally zero) for the share of Section 751 Assets deemed relinquished in the exchange.

### *Basis of Common Units*

A unitholder's initial tax basis for his common units will be the amount he paid for our common units plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be increased by his share of our income and by any increases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be decreased, but not below zero, by distributions from us, by the unitholder's share of our losses, by any decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and by his share of our expenditures that are not deductible in computing taxable income and are not required to be capitalized. A unitholder will have no share of our debt that is recourse to our general partner, but will have a share, generally based on his share of profits, of our nonrecourse liabilities. Please see *Disposition of Common Units* *Recognition of Gain or Loss*.

### *Limitations on Deductibility of Losses*

The deduction by a unitholder of his share of our losses will be limited to the tax basis in his units and, in the case of an individual unitholder, estate, trust, or corporate unitholder (if more than 50% of the value of the corporate unitholder's stock is owned directly or indirectly by or for five or fewer individuals or some tax-exempt organizations), to the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be at risk with respect to our activities, if that is less than his tax basis. A unitholder subject to these limitations must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions cause his at-risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year. Losses disallowed to a unitholder or recaptured as a result of these limitations will carry forward and will be allowable as a deduction to the extent that his at-risk amount is subsequently increased, provided such losses do not exceed such unitholder's tax basis in his common units. Upon the taxable disposition of a unit, any gain recognized by a unitholder can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at-risk limitation but may not be offset by losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any loss previously suspended by the at-risk limitation in excess of that gain would no longer be utilizable.

In general, a unitholder will be at risk to the extent of the tax basis of his units, excluding any portion of that basis attributable to his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, reduced by (i) any portion of that basis representing

---

## **Table of Contents**

amounts otherwise protected against loss because of a guarantee, stop loss agreement or other similar arrangement and (ii) any amount of money he borrows to acquire or hold his units, if the lender of those borrowed funds owns an interest in us, is related to the unitholder or can look only to the units for repayment. A unitholder's at-risk amount will increase or decrease as the tax basis of the unitholder's units increases or decreases, other than tax basis increases or decreases attributable to increases or decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities.

In addition to the basis and at-risk limitations on the deductibility of losses, the passive loss limitations generally provide that individuals, estates, trusts and some closely-held corporations and personal service corporations can deduct losses from passive activities, which are generally trade or business activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate, only to the extent of the taxpayer's income from those passive activities. The passive loss limitations are applied separately with respect to each publicly traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses we generate will only be available to offset our passive income generated in the future and will not be available to offset income from other passive activities or investments, including our investments or a unitholder's investments in other publicly traded partnerships, or a unitholder's salary or active business income. Passive losses that are not deductible because they exceed a unitholder's share of income we generate may be deducted in full when he disposes of his entire investment in us in a fully taxable transaction with an unrelated party. The passive loss limitations are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions, including the at-risk rules and the basis limitation.

A unitholder's share of our net income may be offset by any of our suspended passive losses, but it may not be offset by any other current or carryover losses from other passive activities, including those attributable to other publicly traded partnerships.

### *Limitations on Interest Deductions*

The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's investment interest expense is generally limited to the amount of that taxpayer's net investment income. Investment interest expense includes:

interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment;

our interest expense attributed to portfolio income; and

the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent attributable to portfolio income.

The computation of a unitholder's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income under the passive loss rules, less deductible expenses, other than interest, directly connected with the production of investment income, but generally does not include gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment or qualified dividend income. The IRS has indicated that the net passive income earned by a publicly traded partnership will be treated as investment income to its unitholders for purposes of the investment interest deduction limitation. In addition, the unitholder's share of our portfolio income will be treated as investment income.

### *Entity-Level Collections*

If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state, local or foreign income tax on behalf of any unitholder or our general partner or any former unitholder, we are authorized to pay those taxes from our funds. That payment, if made, will be treated as a distribution of cash to the unitholder or partner on whose behalf the payment was made. If the payment is made on behalf of a person whose identity cannot be determined, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to all current unitholders. We are authorized to amend our partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units and to adjust later distributions, so that after giving effect to these distributions, the

---

**Table of Contents**

priority and characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under our partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of an individual partner in which event the partner would be required to file a claim in order to obtain a credit or refund.

*Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction*

In general, if we have a net profit, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated among the general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that distributions are made to the common units in excess of distributions to certain other classes of units, or incentive distributions are made to the general partner, gross income will be allocated to the recipients to the extent of these excess distributions or incentive distributions. If we have a net loss for the entire year, that loss generally will be allocated first to the general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us to the extent of their positive capital accounts and, second, to the general partner.

Specified items of our income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated to account for (i) any difference between the tax basis and fair market value of our assets at the time of an offering and (ii) any difference between the tax basis and fair market value of any assets contributed to us that exists at the time of such contribution (the assets described in clauses (i) and (ii) are together referred to in this discussion as the *Contributed Property* ). The effect of these allocations, referred to as *Section 704(c) Allocations*, to a unitholder purchasing common units from us in an offering will be essentially the same as if the tax bases of our assets were equal to their fair market values at the time of such offering. In the event we issue additional common units or engage in certain other transactions in the future, we will make *reverse Section 704(c) Allocations*, similar to the *Section 704(c) Allocations* described above, to all holders of partnership interests immediately prior to such issuance or other transactions to account for the difference between the *book* basis for purposes of maintaining capital accounts and the fair market value of all property held by us at the time of such issuance or future transaction. In addition, items of recapture income will be allocated to the extent possible to the partner who was allocated the deduction giving rise to the treatment of that gain as recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by some unitholders. Finally, although we do not expect that our operations will result in the creation of negative capital accounts, if negative capital accounts nevertheless result, items of our income and gain will be allocated in an amount and manner as is needed to eliminate the negative balance as quickly as possible.

An allocation of items of our income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by the Internal Revenue Code to eliminate the difference between a partner's *book* capital account, credited with the fair market value of *Contributed Property*, and *tax* capital account, credited with the tax basis of *Contributed Property*, referred to in this discussion as the *Book-Tax Disparity*, will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has substantial economic effect. In any other case, a partner's share of an item will be determined on the basis of his interest in us, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including:

his relative contributions to us;

the interests of all the partners in profits and losses;

the interests of all the partners in cash flow; and

the rights of all the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation.

Locke Lord LLP is of the opinion that, with the exception of those issues specified in *Section 754 Election* and *Disposition of Common Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees* on which Locke Lord LLP has not rendered an opinion, allocations under our partnership agreement will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Treatment of Short Sales*

A unitholder whose units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of units may be considered as having disposed of those units. If so, he would no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to those units during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition. As a result, during this period:

any of our income, gain, loss or deduction with respect to those units would not be reportable by the unitholder;

any cash distributions received by the unitholder as to those units would be fully taxable; and

all of these distributions would appear to be ordinary income.

Locke Lord LLP has not rendered an opinion regarding the tax treatment of a unitholder whose common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units; therefore, unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition from a loan to a short seller are urged to modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing and loaning their units. The IRS has announced that it is actively studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. Please also read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

### *Alternative Minimum Tax*

Each unitholder will be required to take into account his distributive share of any items of our income, gain, loss or deduction for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. Prospective unitholders are urged to consult with their tax advisors as to the impact of an investment in units on their liability for the alternative minimum tax.

### *Tax Rates*

Under current law, the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income of individuals is 35% and the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to long-term capital gains (generally, capital gains on certain assets held for more than 12 months) of individuals is 15%. However, absent new legislation extending the current rates, beginning January 1, 2013, the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income and long-term capital gains of individuals will increase to 39.6% and 20%, respectively. Moreover, these rates are subject to change by new legislation at any time.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010, is scheduled to impose a 3.8% Medicare tax on net investment income earned by certain individuals, estates and trusts for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. For these purposes, net investment income generally includes a unitholder's allocable share of our income and gain realized by a unitholder from a sale of units. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) the unitholder's net investment income or (2) the amount by which the unitholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). In the case of an estate or trust, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) undistributed net investment income, or (2) the excess adjusted gross income over the dollar amount at which the highest income tax bracket applicable to an estate or trust begins.

### *Section 754 Election*

We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS. The election generally permits us to adjust a common unit purchaser's tax basis in our assets (inside basis) under Section 743(b) of the Internal Revenue Code to reflect his purchase price. The Section 743(b) adjustment does not apply to a person who purchases common units directly from us, and it belongs only to the purchaser and not to other unitholders. For purposes of this discussion, a unitholder's inside basis in our assets will be considered to have two components: (1) his share of our tax basis in our assets (common basis) and (2) his Section 743(b) adjustment to that basis.



---

**Table of Contents**

Where the remedial allocation method is adopted (which we have generally adopted as to all of our properties), the Treasury Regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code require a portion of the Section 743(b) adjustment that is attributable to recovery property under Section 168 of the Internal Revenue Code whose book basis is in excess of its tax basis to be depreciated over the remaining cost recovery period for the Section 704(c) built-in gain. Under Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to property subject to depreciation under Section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code, rather than cost recovery deductions under Section 168, is generally required to be depreciated using either the straight-line method or the 150% declining balance method. Under our partnership agreement, the general partner is authorized to take a position to preserve the uniformity of units even if that position is not consistent with these and any other Treasury Regulations.

Although Locke Lord LLP is unable to opine as to the validity of this approach because there is no direct or indirect controlling authority on this issue, we intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of Contributed Property, to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the property's unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, or treat that portion as non-amortizable to the extent attributable to property which is not amortizable. This method is consistent with the methods employed by other publicly traded partnerships but is arguably inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), which is not expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets. To the extent this Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, we will apply the rules described in the Treasury Regulations and legislative history. If we determine that this position cannot reasonably be taken, we may take a depreciation or amortization position under which all purchasers acquiring units in the same month would receive depreciation or amortization, whether attributable to common basis or a Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our assets. This kind of aggregate approach may result in lower annual depreciation or amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to some unitholders. Please see [Uniformity of Units](#). A unitholder's tax basis for his common units is reduced by his share of our deductions (whether or not such deductions were claimed on an individual's income tax return) so that any position we take that understates deductions will overstate the common unitholder's basis in his common units, which may cause the unitholder to understate gain or overstate loss on any sale of such units. Please see [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#). The IRS may challenge our position with respect to depreciating or amortizing the Section 743(b) adjustment we take to preserve the uniformity of the units. If such a challenge were sustained, the gain from the sale of units might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions.

A Section 754 election is advantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is higher than the units' share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. In that case, as a result of the election, the transferee would have, among other items, a greater amount of depreciation deductions and his share of any gain or loss on a sale of our assets would be less. Conversely, a Section 754 election is disadvantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is lower than those units' share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. Thus, the fair market value of the units may be affected either favorably or unfavorably by the election. A basis adjustment is required regardless of whether a Section 754 election is made in the case of a transfer of an interest in us if we have a substantial built-in loss immediately after the transfer, or if we distribute property and have a substantial basis reduction. Generally a built-in loss or a basis reduction is substantial if it exceeds \$250,000.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and will be made on the basis of assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. For example, the allocation of the Section 743(b) adjustment among our assets must be made in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS could seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment allocated by us to our tangible assets to goodwill instead. Goodwill, as an intangible asset, is generally nonamortizable or amortizable over a longer period of time or under a less accelerated method than our tangible assets. We cannot assure you that the determinations we make will

---

## **Table of Contents**

not be successfully challenged by the IRS and that the deductions resulting from them will not be reduced or disallowed altogether. Should the IRS require a different basis adjustment to be made, and should, in our opinion, the expense of compliance exceed the benefit of the election, we may seek permission from the IRS to revoke our Section 754 election. If permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of units may be allocated more income than he would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

### **Tax Treatment of Operations**

#### *Accounting Method and Taxable Year*

We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our taxable year ending within or with his taxable year. In addition, a unitholder who has a taxable year ending on a date other than December 31 and who disposes of all of his units following the close of our taxable year but before the close of his taxable year must include his share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for his taxable year, with the result that he will be required to include in income for his taxable year his share of more than one year of our income, gain, loss and deduction. Please see [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees](#).

#### *Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization*

The tax basis of our assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of these assets. The federal income tax burden associated with the difference between the fair market value of our assets and their tax basis immediately prior to an offering will be borne by our unitholders holding interests in us prior to any such offering. Please see [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#).

To the extent allowable, we may elect to use the depreciation and cost recovery methods that will result in the largest deductions being taken in the early years after assets subject to these allowances are placed in service. We may not be entitled to amortization deductions with respect to certain goodwill conveyed to us in future transactions or held at the time of any future offering. Property we subsequently acquire or construct may be depreciated using accelerated methods permitted by the Internal Revenue Code.

If we dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain, determined by reference to the amount of depreciation previously deducted and the nature of the property, may be subject to the recapture rules and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a unitholder who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to property we own will likely be required to recapture some or all of those deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of his interest in us. Please see [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#) and [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

The costs we incur in selling our units (called [syndication expenses](#) ) must be capitalized and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. There are uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized by us, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized by us. The underwriting discounts and commissions we incur will be treated as syndication expenses.

#### *Valuation and Tax Basis of Our Properties*

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of units will depend in part on our estimates of the relative fair market values, and determination of the initial tax bases, of our assets. Although we may from time to time consult with professional appraisers regarding valuation matters, we will make many of the relative fair market value estimates ourselves. These estimates of value and determinations of basis are subject to challenge and will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. If the estimates of fair market value or



## **Table of Contents**

determinations of basis are later found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deductions previously reported by unitholders might change, and unitholders might be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years and incur interest and penalties with respect to those adjustments.

### **Disposition of Common Units**

#### *Recognition of Gain or Loss*

Gain or loss will be recognized on a sale of units equal to the difference between the amount realized and the unitholder's tax basis for the units sold. A unitholder's amount realized will be measured by the sum of the cash or the fair market value of other property received by him plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. Because the amount realized includes a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale of units could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from the sale.

Prior distributions from us in excess of cumulative net taxable income for a common unit that decreased a unitholder's tax basis in that common unit will, in effect, become taxable income if the common unit is sold at a price greater than the unitholder's tax basis in that common unit, even if the price received is less than his original cost.

Except as noted below, gain or loss recognized by a unitholder, other than a dealer in units, on the sale or exchange of a unit will generally be taxable as capital gain or loss. Capital gain recognized by an individual on the sale of units held for more than twelve months will generally be taxed at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 15% through December 31, 2012 and 20% thereafter (absent new legislation extending or adjusting the current rate). However, a portion, which will likely be substantial, of this gain or loss will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Internal Revenue Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other unrealized receivables or to inventory items we own. The term unrealized receivables includes potential recapture items, including depreciation recapture. Ordinary income attributable to unrealized receivables, inventory items and depreciation recapture may exceed net taxable gain realized upon the sale of a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a sale of units. Net capital losses may offset capital gains and no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income, in the case of individuals, and may only be used to offset capital gains in the case of corporations.

The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method, which generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner's tax basis in his entire interest in the partnership as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner's entire interest in the partnership. Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Internal Revenue Code allow a selling unitholder who can identify common units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the common units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling discussed above, a common unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis common units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury Regulations, he may designate specific common units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of common units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchanges of common units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of common units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult his tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the Treasury Regulations.

---

**Table of Contents**

Specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code affect the taxation of some financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an appreciated partnership interest, one in which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, if the taxpayer or related persons enter(s) into:

a short sale;

an offsetting notional principal contract; or

a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold that position if the taxpayer or a related person then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized to issue regulations that treat a taxpayer that enters into transactions or positions that have substantially the same effect as the preceding transactions as having constructively sold the financial position.

*Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees*

In general, our taxable income and losses will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the unitholders in proportion to the number of units owned by each of them as of the opening of the applicable exchange on the first business day of the month, which we refer to below as the Allocation Date. However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets other than in the ordinary course of business will be allocated among the unitholders on the Allocation Date in the month in which that gain or loss is recognized. As a result, a unitholder transferring units may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction realized after the date of transfer.

Although simplifying conventions are contemplated by the Internal Revenue Code and most publicly traded partnerships use similar simplifying conventions, the use of this method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations. The Department of the Treasury and the IRS have issued proposed Treasury Regulations that provide a safe harbor pursuant to which a publicly traded partnership may use a similar monthly simplifying convention to allocate tax items among transferor and transferee unitholders, although such tax items must be prorated on a daily basis. Existing publicly traded partnerships are entitled to rely on these proposed Treasury Regulations; however, they are not binding on the IRS and are subject to change until final Treasury Regulations are issued. Accordingly, Locke Lord LLP is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between transferor and transferee unitholders. If this method is not allowed under the Treasury Regulations, or only applies to transfers of less than all of the unitholder's interest, our taxable income or losses might be reallocated among the unitholders. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferor and transferee unitholders, as well as unitholders whose interests vary during a taxable year, to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A unitholder who owns units at any time during a quarter and who disposes of them prior to the record date set for a cash distribution for that quarter will be allocated items of our income, gain, loss and deductions attributable to that quarter but will not be entitled to receive that cash distribution.

*Notification Requirements*

A unitholder who sells any of his units is generally required to notify us in writing of that sale within 30 days after the sale (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the sale). A purchaser of units who purchases units from another unitholder is also generally required to notify us in writing of that purchase within 30 days after the purchase. Upon receiving such notifications, we are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish specified information to the transferor and transferee. Failure to notify us of a purchase may, in some cases, lead to the imposition of penalties. However, these reporting requirements do not apply to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the United States and who effects the sale or exchange through a broker who satisfies such requirements.

**Table of Contents***Constructive Termination*

We will be considered to have been terminated for tax purposes if there are sales or exchanges that, in the aggregate, constitute 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. For purposes of measuring whether the 50% threshold is reached, multiple sales of the same interest are counted only once. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. A constructive termination occurring on a date other than December 31 will result in us filing two tax returns (and could result in common unitholders receiving two Schedules K-1) for one fiscal year and the cost of the preparation of these returns will be borne by all common unitholders. We would be required to make new tax elections after a termination, including a new election under Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code, and a termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination. The IRS has recently announced a relief procedure whereby if a publicly traded partnership that has technically terminated requests and the IRS grants special relief, among other things, the partnership will be required to provide only a single Schedule K-1 to unitholders for the tax year in which the termination occurs.

**Uniformity of Units**

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units. In the absence of uniformity, we may be unable to completely comply with a number of federal income tax requirements, both statutory and regulatory. A lack of uniformity can result from a literal application of Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6). Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units. Please see [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Section 754 Election](#).

Although Locke Lord LLP is unable to opine as to the validity of this approach because there is no clear authority on the issue, we intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of Contributed Property, to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the property's unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, or treat that portion as nonamortizable, to the extent attributable to property the common basis of which is not amortizable, consistent with the regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code, even though that position may be inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), which is not expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets. Please see [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Section 754 Election](#). To the extent that the Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, we will apply the rules described in the Treasury Regulations and legislative history. If we determine that this position cannot reasonably be taken, we may adopt a depreciation and amortization position under which all purchasers acquiring units in the same month would receive depreciation and amortization deductions, whether attributable to a common basis or Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable methods and lives as if they had purchased a direct interest in our property. If this position is adopted, it may result in lower annual depreciation and amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to some unitholders and risk the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions not taken in the year that these deductions are otherwise allowable. This position will not be adopted if we determine that the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions will have a material adverse effect on the unitholders. If we choose not to utilize this aggregate method, we may use any other reasonable depreciation and amortization method to preserve the uniformity of the intrinsic tax characteristics of any units that would not have a material adverse effect on the unitholders. The IRS may challenge any method of depreciating the Section 743(b) adjustment described in this paragraph. If this challenge were sustained, the uniformity of units might be affected, and the gain from the sale of units might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions. Please see [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

---

## **Table of Contents**

### *Tax-Exempt Organizations, Foreign Unitholders and Other Investors*

Ownership of units by tax-qualified retirement plans, other tax-exempt organizations, non-resident aliens, foreign corporations and other non-U.S. persons raises issues unique to those investors and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax consequences to them. If you are a tax-exempt entity or a non-U.S. person, you should consult your tax advisor before investing in our common units.

Most other organizations exempt from U.S. federal income tax, including IRAs and other tax-qualified retirement plans, are subject to U.S. federal income tax on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of our income allocated to a unitholder that is a tax-exempt organization will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to it.

Non-resident aliens and foreign corporations, trusts or estates that own units will be considered to be engaged in business in the United States because of the ownership of units. As a consequence, they will be required to file U.S. federal tax returns to report their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay U.S. federal income tax at regular rates on their share of our net income or gain. Moreover, under rules applicable to publicly traded partnerships, cash distributions to non-U.S. unitholders will be subject to withholding at the highest applicable effective tax rates. Each non-U.S. unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on a Form W-8BEN or applicable substitute form in order to obtain credit for these withholding taxes. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures.

In addition, because a foreign corporation that owns units will be treated as engaged in a United States trade or business, that corporation may be subject to the U.S. branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, in addition to regular U.S. federal income tax, on its share of our income and gain, as adjusted for changes in the foreign corporation's U.S. net equity, which is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the U.S. and the country in which the foreign corporate unitholder is a qualified resident. In addition, this type of unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Internal Revenue Code.

A foreign unitholder who sells or otherwise disposes of a common unit will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized from the sale or disposition of that unit to the extent the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the foreign unitholder. Under a ruling published by the IRS, a unitholder's gain is considered to be effectively connected income to the extent such gain is attributable to assets of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. which are used in the conduct of a U.S. trade or business. In this regard, substantially all of our assets are used in the conduct of a U.S. trade or business. Moreover, under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, a foreign common unitholder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax upon the sale or disposition of a common unit if (i) he owned (directly or constructively applying certain attribution rules) more than 5% of our common units at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of such disposition and (ii) 50% or more of the fair market value of all of our assets consisted of U.S. real property interests at any time during the shorter of the period during which such unitholder held the common units or the 5-year period ending on the date of disposition. Currently, it is contemplated that more than 50% of our assets will consist of U.S. real property interests and we do not expect that to change in the foreseeable future. Therefore, foreign unitholders may be subject to federal income tax on gain from the sale or disposition of their units.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### *Information Returns and Audit Procedures*

We intend to furnish to each unitholder, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, specific tax information, including a Schedule K-1, which describes his share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will not be reviewed by counsel, we will take various accounting and reporting positions, some of which have been mentioned earlier, to determine each

---

## **Table of Contents**

unitholder's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. We cannot assure you that those positions will in all cases yield a result that conforms to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations or administrative interpretations of the IRS. Neither we nor Locke Lord LLP can assure prospective unitholders that the IRS will not successfully contend in court that those positions are impermissible. Any challenge by the IRS could negatively affect the value of the units.

The IRS may audit our U.S. federal income tax information returns. Adjustments resulting from an IRS audit may require each unitholder to adjust a prior year's tax liability, and possibly may result in an audit of his return. Any audit of a unitholder's return could result in adjustments not related to our returns as well as those related to our returns.

Partnerships generally are treated as separate entities for purposes of federal tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings with the partners. The Internal Revenue Code requires that one partner be designated as the Tax Matters Partner for these purposes. Our partnership agreement names our general partner as our Tax Matters Partner.

The Tax Matters Partner has made and will make some elections on our behalf and on behalf of unitholders. In addition, the Tax Matters Partner can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against unitholders for items in our returns. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a unitholder with less than a 1% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that unitholder elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give that authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review, by which all the unitholders are bound, of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, judicial review may be sought by any unitholder having at least a 1% interest in profits or by any group of unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5% interest in profits. However, only one action for judicial review will go forward, and each unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate.

A unitholder must file a statement with the IRS identifying the treatment of any item on his federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of this consistency requirement may subject a unitholder to substantial penalties.

### *Nominee Reporting*

Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required to furnish to us:

- (1) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee;
- (2) a statement regarding whether the beneficial owner is:
  - (a) a person that is not a U.S. person;
  - (b) a non-U.S. government, an international organization or any wholly owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing; or
  - (c) a tax-exempt entity;
- (3) the amount and description of units held, acquired or transferred for the beneficial owner; and
- (4) specific information including the dates of acquisitions and transfers, means of acquisitions and transfers, and acquisition cost for purchases, as well as the amount of net proceeds from sales.

## Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

Brokers and financial institutions are required to furnish additional information, including whether they are U.S. persons and specific information on units they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$100 per failure, up to a maximum of \$1,500,000 per calendar year, is imposed by the Internal Revenue Code for failure to report that information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

---

**Table of Contents**

*Additional Withholding Requirements.*

Recently enacted legislation imposes a withholding tax of 30% on payments of interest, dividends and other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits and income from sources within the U.S. or gross proceeds from the sale of any property of a type which can produce interest or dividends from sources within the U.S. paid to (i) a foreign financial institution (including foreign broker-dealers, clearing organizations, investment companies, hedge funds and certain other investment entities) or (ii) a non-financial foreign entity that is a beneficial owner of the payment, unless such institution or entity complies with certain reporting or certification requirements regarding its U.S. account holders and owners. The date for implementation of these rules generally was extended by the IRS from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2014 for payments of fixed and determinable annual or periodic income, including interest, and to January 1, 2015 for other withholdable payments, including payments of gross proceeds. Proposed Treasury Regulations have been issued which, if finalized, would confirm the extension of the effective dates for withholding. However, there can be no assurance as to whether or not these proposed Treasury Regulations will be finalized in their current form. You should consult your tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of the legislation described above regarding the purchase and ownership of our units.

*Accuracy-Related Penalties*

An additional tax equal to 20% of the amount of any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to one or more specified causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements, is imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. No penalty will be imposed, however, for any portion of an underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith regarding that portion.

A substantial understatement of income tax in any taxable year exists if the amount of the understatement exceeds the greater of 10% of the tax required to be shown on the return for the taxable year or \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). The amount of any understatement subject to penalty generally is reduced if any portion is attributable to a position adopted on the return:

for which there is, or was, substantial authority; or

as to which there is a reasonable basis and the pertinent facts of that position are disclosed on the return.

If any item of income, gain, loss or deduction included in the distributive shares of unitholders might result in that kind of an understatement of income for which no substantial authority exists, we must disclose the pertinent facts on our return. In addition, we will make a reasonable effort to furnish sufficient information for unitholders to make adequate disclosure on their returns and to take other actions as may be appropriate to permit unitholders to avoid liability for this penalty. More stringent rules apply to tax shelters, which we do not believe includes us or any of our investments, plans or arrangements.

A substantial valuation misstatement exists if (a) the value of any property, or the tax basis of any property, claimed on a tax return is 150% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount of the valuation or tax basis, (b) the price for any property or services (or for the use of property) claimed on any such return with respect to any transaction between persons described in Internal Revenue Code Section 482 is 200% or more (or 50% or less) of the amount determined under Section 482 to be the correct amount of such price, or (c) the net Internal Revenue Code Section 482 transfer price adjustment for the taxable year exceeds the lesser of \$5 million or 10% of the taxpayer's gross receipts. No penalty is imposed unless the portion of the underpayment attributable to a substantial valuation misstatement exceeds \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). The penalty is increased to 40% in the event of a gross valuation misstatement. We do not anticipate making any valuation misstatements.

As a result of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, the 20% accuracy-related penalty also applies to any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to transactions lacking economic

## **Table of Contents**

substance. To the extent that such transactions are not disclosed, the penalty imposed is increased to 40%. Additionally, there is no reasonable cause defense to the imposition of this penalty to such transactions.

### *Reportable Transactions*

If we were to engage in a reportable transaction, we (and possibly you and others) would be required to make a detailed disclosure of the transaction to the IRS. A transaction may be a reportable transaction based upon any of several factors, including the fact that it is a type of tax avoidance transaction publicly identified by the IRS as a listed transaction or that it produces certain kinds of losses for partnerships, individuals, S corporations, and trusts in excess of \$2 million in any single year, or \$4 million in any combination of six successive tax years. Our participation in a reportable transaction could increase the likelihood that our U.S. federal income tax information return (and possibly your tax return) would be audited by the IRS. Please see Information Returns and Audit Procedures.

Moreover, if we were to participate in a reportable transaction with a significant purpose to avoid or evade tax, or in any listed transaction, you may be subject to the following provisions:

accuracy-related penalties with a broader scope, significantly narrower exceptions, and potentially greater amounts than described above at Accuracy-Related Penalties,

for those persons otherwise entitled to deduct interest on federal tax deficiencies, nondeductibility of interest on any resulting tax liability,

in the case of a listed transaction, an extended statute of limitations.

We do not expect to engage in any reportable transactions. However, you are urged to consult with your own tax advisor concerning the application of the reportable transaction rules, including disclosure, to your investment in our common units.

### *Legislative Developments*

The present federal income tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships, including us, or an investment in our common units may be modified by administrative, legislative or judicial interpretation at any time. For example, from time to time, members of the U.S. Congress propose and consider substantive changes to the existing federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. Currently, one such legislative proposal would eliminate the qualifying income exception upon which we rely for our treatment as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We are unable to predict whether any such changes will ultimately be enacted. However, it is possible that a change in law could affect us and may be applied retroactively. Any such changes could negatively impact the value of an investment in our units.

## **State, Local, Foreign And Other Tax Considerations**

In addition to U.S. federal income taxes, you may be subject to other taxes, such as state, local and foreign income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property or in which you are a resident.

Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective unitholder should consider their potential impact on his investment in us. We currently own property and do business in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Kansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Texas and Utah. Moreover, we may also own property or do business in other jurisdictions in the future. Although you may not be required to file a return and pay taxes in some jurisdictions because your income from that jurisdiction falls below the filing and payment requirement, you might be required to file income tax returns and to pay income taxes in other jurisdictions in which we do business or own property, now or in the future, and may be subject to penalties for



## **Table of Contents**

failure to comply with those requirements. In some jurisdictions, tax losses may not produce a tax benefit in the year incurred and may not be available to offset income in subsequent taxable years. Some jurisdictions may require us, or we may elect, to withhold a percentage of income from amounts to be distributed to a unitholder who is not a resident of the jurisdiction. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular unitholder's income tax liability to the jurisdiction, generally does not relieve a nonresident unitholder from the obligation to file an income tax return. Amounts withheld will be treated as if distributed to unitholders for purposes of determining the amounts distributed by us. Please see Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Entity-Level Collections. Based on current law and our estimate of our future operations, the general partner anticipates that any amounts required to be withheld will not be material.

*It is the responsibility of each unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent jurisdictions, of his investment in us. Accordingly, each prospective unitholder is urged to consult, and depend upon, his tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all state, local and foreign, as well as United States federal tax returns, that may be required of him. Locke Lord LLP has not rendered an opinion on the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in us.*

### **Tax Consequences of Ownership of Debt Securities**

A description of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of debt securities will be set forth on the prospectus supplement relating to any offering of debt securities.

**Table of Contents**

**INVESTMENT IN US BY BENEFIT PLANS**

An equity investment in us by a benefit plan may raise certain issues under the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ( ERISA ), and the Internal Revenue Code. Certain of these issues are described below. No attempt is made in this summary to describe issues that may arise under federal, state or local laws that are not preempted by ERISA (for example, any federal, state or local laws applicable to governmental plans or other benefit plans excluded from coverage under ERISA). In addition, this summary does not discuss the laws of any country other than the United States. Prospective investors that may be subject to any such laws should therefore consult their professional advisors with regard to such laws.

**Benefit Plans**

ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code regulate benefit plans, which are broadly defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA as employee benefit plans and Section 4975(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code as plans. For purposes of this summary, the term benefit plan includes, but is not limited to, qualified pension, profit-sharing, and stock bonus plans established by an employer or employer organization (also referred to herein as qualified retirement plans) and IRAs.

**Fiduciaries**

ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of such benefit plans and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of such benefit plans and their fiduciaries or certain parties with an interest in the benefit plans. Under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code, any person who (a) exercises discretionary authority or control over the management of the benefit plan or exercises any authority or control over the management or disposition of the assets of the benefit plan, (b) renders investment advice to the benefit plan for a fee or other compensation, (c) has discretionary authority or responsibility in the administration of the benefit plan, or (d) otherwise is designated to carry out the foregoing, generally is considered to be a fiduciary of the benefit plan.

***Duties of a Fiduciary***

Under ERISA, a benefit plan fiduciary is required to discharge its duties with respect to such benefit plan solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries of the benefit plan, and for the exclusive purpose of (a) providing benefits to participants and beneficiaries, and (b) defraying reasonable expenses of the benefit plan. Such duties must be discharged with such care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing as a prudent person acting in like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a similar character and with similar aims. A fiduciary must also (a) diversify the investments of the benefit plan so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so, and (b) invest assets of the benefit plan in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the benefit plan to the extent such documents and instruments are consistent with the provisions of ERISA.

In considering an investment of a portion of the assets of any benefit plan in us, a benefit plan fiduciary must discharge its duties in accordance with ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. Such duties include, but are not limited to, determining, in light of the risk factors inherent in an investment in us, whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the benefit plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code. For instance, the benefit plan fiduciary should consider whether the investment is permitted by the applicable plan documents and governing instruments and would be considered as prudent under ERISA and whether the benefit plan will satisfy ERISA's diversification rules after the investment is made (the fiduciary rules of ERISA generally do not apply to IRAs but IRAs are subject to the prohibited transaction rules described below and those rules should be evaluated in connection with any contemplated investment in us by an IRA). In addition, a benefit plan fiduciary should consider whether the investment will result in the recognition of unrelated business taxable income by the benefit plan, and the effect such recognition would have on the benefit plan's after tax investment return.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### **Prohibited Transactions**

A prohibited transaction is defined to include most transactions involving plan assets, including (without limitation) the direct or indirect sale of property, lending of money, and provision of services, between a benefit plan and certain persons who have specified relationships with the benefit plan (such persons being a party in interest, and/or disqualified person, as described below). Acts of self-dealing by fiduciaries also constitute prohibited transactions. Unless an statutory, individual or class exemption is available, the Internal Revenue Code imposes an excise tax on such prohibited transactions and may result in a loss of tax-exempt status with respect to an IRA. Accordingly, absent an exemption, a fiduciary of a benefit plan should not invest the assets of any benefit plan in us if our general partner or any of its affiliates is a fiduciary or other party in interest (as defined in ERISA) or disqualified person (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code) with respect to the benefit plan.

### **Plan Assets**

Fiduciary responsibilities and prohibited transaction restrictions generally apply with respect to the assets of a benefit plan, as well as any entity whose assets include such benefit plan's assets. The U.S. Department of Labor has promulgated regulations, 29 C.F.R. Section 2510.3-101 as modified by Section 3(42) of ERISA (the Plan Asset Regulations), which identify a benefit plan's assets when a benefit plan invests in an entity. Under the Plan Asset Regulations, if a benefit plan (or an entity whose assets include such benefit plan's assets, collectively, a benefit plan investor within the meaning of the Plan Asset Regulations) invests in us, unless an exception applies, the benefit plan's assets will include its interest in us and will also include our underlying assets.

There are four exceptions to the rule treating an entity's underlying assets as plan assets. Generally, if a benefit plan invests in an entity, then such benefit plan's assets will include its equity investment in the entity but will not include the entity's underlying assets, so long as the entity is one:

whose security is a publicly offered security (i.e., the equity interests are held by 100 or more investors independent of the issuer and each other, freely transferable within the meaning of the Plan Asset Regulations and registered under certain provisions of the federal securities laws);

whose security is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940;

which is an operating company, including a venture capital operating company or a real estate operating company (i.e., an entity primarily engaged in production of a product or service other than the investment of capital (i.e., an active business), an entity that primarily invests in such active businesses or invests certain real estate that is managed or developed); or

in which equity participation by benefit plan investors is not significant (i.e., benefit plan investors hold less than 25% of the total value of each class of equity interests in the entity).

It is expected that our common units will constitute publicly-offered securities, within the meaning of (a) immediately above. Thus, it is expected that our underlying assets generally will not be considered as plan assets under the Plan Assets Regulation.

### **Plan Asset Consequences**

If our underlying assets were to be deemed to be as plan assets, then, among other things, (a) the prudence and other fiduciary responsibility standards of ERISA would apply to our operations and (b) certain transactions in which we might seek to engage could constitute or involve prohibited transactions under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. If a prohibited transaction occurs for which no exemption is available, the general partner and any other fiduciary that has engaged in the prohibited transaction could be required (a) to restore to the benefit plan any profit realized on the transaction and (b) to reimburse the benefit plan for any losses suffered by the benefit plan as a result of the transaction. In addition, each disqualified person (within the meaning of

**Table of Contents**

Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code) involved could be subject to an excise tax equal to 15% of the amount involved in the prohibited transaction for each year (or portion of the year) the transaction continues and, unless the transaction is corrected (e.g., unwound) within statutorily required periods, to an additional tax of 100% of the amount involved (such taxes are referred to as prohibited transaction excise taxes ). Benefit plan fiduciaries who decide to invest in us could, under certain circumstances, be liable for prohibited transactions or other violations as a result of their investment in us or as co-fiduciaries for actions taken by or on behalf of us or our general partner and/or its affiliates. With respect to IRAs, the occurrence of a prohibited transaction involving the individual who established the IRA, or his or her beneficiaries, would cause the IRA to lose its tax-exempt status. In addition, to the extent someone other than the IRA owner or beneficiary engaged in such prohibited transaction, such person could be subject to prohibited transaction excise taxes. The foregoing discussion is not comprehensive and other significant adverse results could also arise.

**All potential investors should consult with their own legal counsel concerning the potential impact of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code to such potential investor prior to making an investment in us. A benefit plan fiduciary can be personally liable for (a) losses incurred by a benefit plan resulting from a breach of fiduciary duties, (b) a civil penalty, which may be imposed by the U.S. Department of Labor, of as much as 20% of any amount recovered by the benefit plan, and (c) to the extent the benefit plan fiduciary is also a disqualified person within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, prohibited transaction excise taxes. Accordingly, before proceeding with an investment in us, a benefit plan fiduciary, taking into account the facts and circumstances of such benefit plan, should consider any applicable fiduciary standards and any prohibitions imposed against certain transactions under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code, and the permissibility of such investment under the governing documents of the benefit plan. Thus, taking into consideration the information contained herein, the benefit plan fiduciary should give special attention to (a) the Plan Asset Regulations and the impact of such regulations upon the benefit plan fiduciary's decision to invest in us, (b) the prudence of an investment in us, and (c) otherwise applicable provisions of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code, considering all facts and circumstances of the investment which the benefit plan fiduciary knows or should know are relevant to the investment or a series or program of investments of which an investment we are a part.**

**Our general partner and counsel to the general partner make no representations with respect to whether an investment in us would be a suitable investment within any benefit plan's particular investment portfolio.**

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We or the selling unitholders may offer and sell the securities in any one or more of the following ways:

to or through underwriters, brokers or dealers;

directly to one or more other purchasers;

through a block trade in which the broker or dealer engaged to handle the block trade will attempt to sell the securities as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

through agents on a best-efforts basis;

privately negotiated transactions; or

otherwise through a combination of any of the above methods or any other method permitted by law.

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

If we or the selling unitholders utilize any underwriters in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will enter into an underwriting agreement with those underwriters at the time of sale to them. We will set forth the names of these underwriters and the terms of the transaction in the prospectus supplement, which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered to the public. We may indemnify the underwriters under the relevant underwriting agreement to indemnification by us against specific liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The underwriters may also be our customers or may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

If we or the selling unitholders utilize a dealer in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell those securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale. We may indemnify the dealers against specific liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The dealers may also be our customers or may engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Common units and debt securities may also be sold directly by us or the selling unitholders. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may use electronic media, including the Internet, to sell offered securities directly. In addition, a selling unitholder may sell securities covered by this prospectus in private transactions under Rule 144 of the Securities Act rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

If required by applicable law, we will describe in a prospectus supplement the particular terms of the offering of securities, including the specific plan of distribution. The place and time of delivery for the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered are set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities offered in this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Locke Lord LLP. If certain legal matters in connection with an offering of the securities made by this prospectus and a related prospectus supplement are passed on by counsel for the underwriters of such offering, that counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement related to that offering.

**EXPERTS**

The following financial statements and management's assessment have been incorporated in this prospectus by reference in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing: (i) the consolidated financial statements of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, and (ii) the consolidated financial statements of Waskom Gas Processing Company and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011.

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We have filed a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act that registers the securities offered by this prospectus. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow us to omit some information included in the registration statement from this prospectus.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-2521. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room. Our SEC filings are available on the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). We also make available free of charge on our website, at [www.martinmidstream.com](http://www.martinmidstream.com), all materials that we file electronically with the SEC, including our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, Section 16 reports and amendments to these reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such materials are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. Information contained on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

**INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. These other documents contain important information about us, our financial condition and results of operations. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 as filed on March 5, 2012;

our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012;

our current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 13, 2012, January 20, 2012, January 25, 2012, May 8, 2012, May 10, 2012, June 19, 2012, August 21, 2012 and August 21, 2012 (in each case to the extent filed and not furnished); and

all documents filed by us under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act between the date of this prospectus and the termination of the registration statement (excluding any portions thereof that are deemed to be furnished and not filed).

You may obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's web site at the address provided above. You also may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus (including exhibits to those documents specifically incorporated by reference in this document), at no cost, by visiting our internet website at [www.martinmidstream.com](http://www.martinmidstream.com), or by writing or calling us at the following address:

Martin Midstream Partners L.P.

4200 Stone Road

Kilgore, Texas 75662

Attention: Robert D. Bondurant

Telephone: (903) 983-6200





**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

Set forth below are the expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) expected to be incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities registered hereby. With the exception of the Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee, the amounts set forth below are estimates:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee | \$ 86,471* |
| Legal fees and expenses                             | \$         |
| Accounting fees and expenses                        | \$         |
| Printing and engraving expenses                     | \$         |
| Trustee's fees and expenses                         | \$         |
| Miscellaneous                                       | \$         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$</b>  |

- \* Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act and exclusive of accrued interest, distributions and dividends, if any. Estimated expenses are not currently known. The foregoing sets forth the general categories of expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) that we anticipate we will incur in connection with the offering of securities under this registration statement. An estimate of aggregate expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being offered will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers****Martin Midstream Partners L.P.**

Under our partnership agreement, in most circumstances, we will indemnify the following persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from and against all losses, claims, damages or similar events:

our general partner;

any departing general partner;

any person who is or was an affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner;

any person who is or was a member, partner, officer, director, employee, agent or trustee of our general partner, any departing general partner, or any affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner; or

any person who is or was serving at the request of a general partner or any departing general partner or any affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner, as an officer, director, manager, employee, member, partner, agent or trustee of another

person.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Our general partner will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or loan funds or assets to us to enable us to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under our partnership agreement.

Subject to any terms, conditions or restrictions set forth in the Partnership Agreement, Section 17-108 of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act empowers a Delaware limited partnership to indemnify and hold harmless any partner or other person from and against all claims and demands whatsoever.

**Table of Contents**

The partnership agreement of Martin Operating Partnership provides that it will, to the fullest extent permitted by law, indemnify and advance expenses to indemnitees (as defined therein) from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities (joint or several), expenses (including legal fees and expenses), judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts arising from any and all claims, demands, actions, suits or proceedings, civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, in which any indemnitee may be involved, or is threatened to be involved, as a party or otherwise, by reason of its status as an indemnitee, provided that in each case the indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner which such indemnitee reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to the best interests of, the operating company. This indemnification would under certain circumstances include indemnification for liabilities under the Securities Act. In addition, each indemnitee would automatically be entitled to the advancement of expenses in connection with the foregoing indemnification. Any indemnification under these provisions will be only out of the assets of the operating company.

Martin Midstream Partners and Martin Operating Partnership, and their respective general partners, are authorized to purchase (or to reimburse the general partner for the costs of) insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by the persons described in the paragraphs above in connection with their activities, whether or not they would have the power to indemnify such person against such liabilities under the provisions described in the paragraphs above. The general partner of Martin Midstream Partners has purchased insurance, the cost of which is reimbursed by Martin Midstream Partners, covering its officers and directors against liabilities asserted and expenses incurred in connection with their activities as officers and directors of the general partner or any of its direct or indirect subsidiaries including the operating company and the subsidiary guarantors.

Martin Midstream Partners L.P. has entered into indemnification agreements (the Indemnification Agreements ) with its directors and executive officers (collectively, the Indemnitees ). Under the terms of the Indemnification Agreements, the Company has agreed to indemnify each Indemnitee against any expenses to the fullest extent authorized or permitted by law, including, without limitation, expenses incurred by reason of the fact that Indemnitee is or was a director of the Partnership or Martin Operating GP LLC (the Company ), or is or was serving at the request of the Partnership or the Company as a director, officer, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership joint venture, trust, limited liability company or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any predecessor, successor, subsidiary or affiliated entity of the Partnership or the Company, *provided* that the Indemnitee shall not be indemnified and held harmless if there has been a final and non-appealable judgment entered by a court of competent jurisdiction determining that, in respect of the matter for which the Indemnitee is seeking indemnification pursuant to this Agreement, the Indemnitee acted in bad faith or engaged in fraud or willful misconduct or, in the case of a criminal matter, acted with knowledge that the Indemnitee s conduct was unlawful.

In addition, under the terms of the Indemnification Agreements, the Partnership has agreed to pay all reasonable expenses incurred by an Indemnitee in connection with any Proceeding in advance of the final disposition of such Proceeding no later than 30 days after receipt by the Partnership or the Company of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Indemnitee to repay such amount to the extent that it is ultimately determined that Indemnitee is not entitled to be indemnified by the Partnership.

The Indemnification Agreements also include provisions that specify the procedures and presumptions that are to be employed to determine whether an Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification thereunder.

**Martin Operating GP LLC**

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, inter alia, empowers a Delaware corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a

**Table of Contents**

manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. Similar indemnity is authorized for such persons against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of any such threatened, pending or completed action or suit if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and provided further that (unless a court of competent jurisdiction otherwise provides) such person shall not have been adjudged liable to the corporation. Any such indemnification may be made only as authorized in each specific case upon a determination by the stockholders or disinterested directors or by independent legal counsel in a written opinion that indemnification is proper because the indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling our company as set forth above, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

**Martin Midstream Finance Corp.**

Section 145 further authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him under Section 145. Also, Article VI of the bylaws of Martin Midstream Finance Corp. provides for the indemnification of directors and officers of the company and such directors and officers who serve at the request of the company as directors, officers, employees or agents of any other enterprise against certain liabilities under certain circumstances.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling our company as set forth above, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

**Item 16. Exhibits**

(a) *Exhibits.* The following documents are filed as exhibits to this registration:

**Exhibit**

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------|---|
| 1.1*          | Form of Underwriting Agreement.   |
| 3.1           | Certificate of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                       |
| 3.2           | First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated November 6, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed November 19, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                   |
| 3.3           | Amendment No. 1 to First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated November 1, 2007 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed November 2, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 3.4           | Amendment No. 2 to First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated effective January 1, 2007 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed January 19, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).       |

**Table of Contents**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| 3.5    | Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership, dated as of November 25, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Partnership's Amendment to Current Report on Form 8-K/A, filed January 19, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).                   |
| 3.6    | Certificate of Limited Partnership of Martin Operating Partnership L.P., dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.3 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).             |
| 3.7    | Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Operating Partnership L.P., dated November 6, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed November 19, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).               |
| 3.8    | Certificate of Formation of Martin Midstream GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.5 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                                 |
| 3.9    | Limited Liability Company Agreement of Martin Midstream GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.6 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                      |
| 3.10   | Certificate of Formation of Martin Operating GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.7 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                                 |
| 3.11   | Limited Liability Company Agreement of Martin Operating GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.8 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                      |
| 3.12   | Certificate of Incorporation of Martin Midstream Finance Corporation, dated as of March 15, 2010 (filed as Exhibit 3.12 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Reg. No. 333-169408), filed September 16, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 3.13   | Bylaws of Martin Midstream Finance Corporation (filed as Exhibit 3.13 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Reg. No. 333-169408), filed September 16, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).   |
| 4.1    | Specimen Unit Certificate for Common Units (contained in Exhibit 3.2)  |
| 4.2    | Specimen Unit Certificate for Subordinated Units (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 4 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed October 25, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                                  |
| 4.3    | Form of Senior Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Reg. No. 333-117023), filed December 18, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference).   |
| 4.4    | Form of Subordinated Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. (filed as Exhibit 4.4 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Reg. No. 333-117023), filed December 18, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference).                                   |
| 5.1**  | Opinion of Locke Lord LLP as to the legality of the securities registered hereby.  |
| 8.1**  | Opinion of Locke Lord LLP as to tax matters.   |
| 12.1** | Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.   |
| 23.1** | Consent of Locke Lord LLP (included in Exhibits 5.1 and 8.1).  |
| 23.2** | Consent of KPMG LLP relating to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.   |
| 23.3** | Consent of KPMG LLP relating to Waskom Gas Processing Company.   |
| 24.1** | Power of Attorney (contained on signature page).   |

---

**Table of Contents**

- 25.1\* Form T -1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification respecting the Senior Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P.  
25.2\* Form T -1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification respecting the Subordinated Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P.

\* To be filed by a post-effective amendment to this registration statement, as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K or pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

\*\* Filed herewith.

(b) *Financial Statement Schedules*

All schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission are not required under the related instructions, are inapplicable, or the information is included in the consolidated financial statements, and have therefore been omitted.

(c) *Reports, Opinions, and Appraisals*

The following reports, opinions, and appraisals are included herein: None.

**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) Each of the undersigned registrants hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*Provided, however,* that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

---

**Table of Contents**

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) Each undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event

**Table of Contents**

that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of any registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, each registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) Each undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.



**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-4 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Kilgore, State of Texas, on August 22, 2012.

**MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS L.P.**

By: Martin Midstream GP LLC, its General Partner

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

**MARTIN MIDSTREAM FINANCE  
CORPORATION**

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

**MARTIN OPERATING GP LLC**

By: Martin Midstream Partners L.P.,  
its sole Member

By: Martin Midstream GP LLC,  
its General Partner

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

**MARTIN OPERATING PARTNERSHIP, L.P.**

By: Martin Operating GP LLC,  
its General Partner

By: Martin Midstream Partners L.P.,  
its sole member

By: Martin Midstream GP LLC,  
its General Partner

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

**Table of Contents**

**PRISM GAS SYSTEMS I, L.P.**

By: Prism Gas Systems GP, L.L.C.,  
its General Partner

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Vice President and Treasurer

**PRISM GAS SYSTEMS GP, L.L.C.**

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Vice President and Treasurer

**MCLEOD GAS GATHERING AND PROCESSING  
COMPANY, L.L.C.**

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

**PRISM GULF COAST SYSTEMS, L.L.C.**

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Vice President and Treasurer

**WOODLAWN PIPELINE CO., INC.**

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

**PRISM LIQUIDS PIPELINE LLC**

By: /s/ Robert D. Bondurant  
Name: Robert D. Bondurant  
Title: Executive Vice President

**Table of Contents****POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below appoints Ruben S. Martin and Robert D. Bondurant, and each of them, any of whom may act without the joinder of the other, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and any Registration Statement (including any amendment thereto) for this offering that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or would do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in fact and agents or any of them or their or his or her substitute and substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated below.

**MARTIN MIDSTREAM GP LLC, on behalf of MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS L.P. (as its general partner), MARTIN OPERATING GP LLC (as the general partner of its sole member), and MARTIN MIDSTREAM OPERATING PARTNERSHIP L.P. (as the general partner of the sole member of its general partner)**

| <b>Signature</b>             | <b>Title</b>                                 | <b>Date</b>     |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| /s/ Ruben S. Martin          | President, Chief Executive Officer and       | August 22, 2012 |
| Ruben S. Martin              | Director (Principal Executive Officer)       |                 |
| /s/ Robert D. Bondurant      | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial | August 22, 2012 |
| Robert D. Bondurant          | Officer (Principal Financial Officer)        |                 |
| /s/ Wesley M. Skelton        | Executive Vice President, Chief              | August 22, 2012 |
| Wesley M. Skelton            | Administrative Officer, Secretary and        |                 |
|                              | Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)    |                 |
| /s/ C. Scott Massey          | Director                                     | August 22, 2012 |
| C. Scott Massey              |  |                 |
| /s/ Byron Kelley             | Director                                     | August 22, 2012 |
| Byron Kelley                 |  |                 |
| /s/ Joe N. Averett, Jr.      | Director                                     | August 22, 2012 |
| Joe N. Averett, Jr.          |  |                 |
| /s/ Charles Henry Hank Still | Director                                     | August 22, 2012 |

Charles Henry Hank Still  
**MARTIN MIDSTREAM FINANCE CORP.**

Edgar Filing: MARTIN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS LP - Form S-3

|                         |  |                 |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|
| /s/ Ruben S. Martin     | President, Chief Executive Officer and   | August 22, 2012 |
| Ruben S. Martin         | Director (Principal Executive Officer)   |                 |
| /s/ Robert D. Bondurant | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial  | August 22, 2012 |
| Robert D. Bondurant     | Officer and Director (Principal Financial<br>Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) |                 |

**Table of Contents**

**PRISM GAS SYSTEMS GP, L.L.C., on behalf of itself and PRISM GAS SYSTEMS I, L.P. (as its general partner), MCLEOD GAS GATHERING AND PROCESSING COMPANY, L.L.C. (as the general partner of its sole member), and PRISM GULF COAST SYSTEMS, L.L.C. (as the general partner of its sole member)**

|                                    |   |                 |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| /s/ Ruben S. Martin                | President, Chief Executive Officer and Sole   | August 22, 2012 |
| Ruben S. Martin                    | Manager (Principal Executive Officer)         |                 |
| /s/ Robert D. Bondurant            | Vice President and Treasurer (Principal       | August 22, 2012 |
| Robert D. Bondurant                | Financial Officer)                            |                 |
| /s/ Wesley M. Skelton              | Vice President and Assistant Secretary        | August 22, 2012 |
| Wesley M. Skelton                  | (Principal Accounting Officer)                |                 |
| <b>PRISM LIQUIDS PIPELINE LLC</b>  |   |                 |
| /s/ Ruben S. Martin                | President, Chief Executive Officer and Sole   | August 22, 2012 |
| Ruben S. Martin                    | Manager (Principal Executive Officer)         |                 |
| /s/ Robert D. Bondurant            | Executive Vice President (Principal Financial | August 22, 2012 |
| Robert D. Bondurant                | Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)     |                 |
| <b>WOODLAWN PIPELINE CO., INC.</b> |   |                 |
| /s/ Ruben S. Martin                | President, Chief Executive Officer and        | August 22, 2012 |
| Ruben S. Martin                    | Director (Principal Executive Officer)        |                 |
| /s/ Robert D. Bondurant            | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial     | August 22, 2012 |
| Robert D. Bondurant                | Officer and Director (Principal Financial     |                 |
|                                    | Officer)                                      |                 |
| /s/ Wesley M. Skelton              | Executive Vice President and Comptroller      | August 22, 2012 |
| Wesley M. Skelton                  | (Principal Accounting Officer)                |                 |
| /s/ Donald R. Neumeyer             | Executive Vice President, Chief Operating     | August 22, 2012 |
| Donald R. Neumeyer                 | Officer and Director                          |                 |

**Table of Contents****INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

| <b>Exhibit</b> |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Number</b>  | <b>Description</b>  |
| 1.1*           | Form of Underwriting Agreement.   |
| 3.1            | Certificate of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                       |
| 3.2            | First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated November 6, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed November 19, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                   |
| 3.3            | Amendment No. 1 to First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated November 1, 2007 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed November 2, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 3.4            | Amendment No. 2 to First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Midstream Partners L.P., dated effective January 1, 2007 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed January 19, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).       |
| 3.5            | Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership, dated as of November 25, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Partnership's Amendment to Current Report on Form 8-K/A, filed January 19, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).                          |
| 3.6            | Certificate of Limited Partnership of Martin Operating Partnership L.P., dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.3 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                    |
| 3.7            | Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Martin Operating Partnership L.P., dated November 6, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed November 19, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                      |
| 3.8            | Certificate of Formation of Martin Midstream GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.5 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).  |
| 3.9            | Limited Liability Company Agreement of Martin Midstream GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.6 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 33-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                              |
| 3.10           | Certificate of Formation of Martin Operating GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.7 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).  |
| 3.11           | Limited Liability Company Agreement of Martin Operating GP LLC, dated June 21, 2002 (filed as Exhibit 3.8 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed July 1, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference).                             |
| 3.12           | Certificate of Incorporation of Martin Midstream Finance Corporation, dated as of March 15, 2010 (filed as Exhibit 3.12 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Reg. No. 333-169408), filed September 16, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).        |
| 3.13           | Bylaws of Martin Midstream Finance Corporation (filed as Exhibit 3.13 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Reg. No. 333-169408), filed September 16, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference).  |
| 4.1            | Specimen Unit Certificate for Common Units (contained in Exhibit 3.2)   |

---

**Table of Contents**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 4.2    | Specimen Unit Certificate for Subordinated Units (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 4 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-91706), filed October 25, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 4.3    | Form of Senior Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Reg. No. 333-117023), filed December 18, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference).        |
| 4.4    | Form of Subordinated Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P. (filed as Exhibit 4.4 to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Reg. No. 333-117023), filed December 18, 2007, and incorporated herein by reference).  |
| 5.1**  | Opinion of Locke Lord LLP as to the legality of the securities registered hereby.   |
| 8.1**  | Opinion of Locke Lord LLP as to tax matters.  |
| 12.1** | Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.  |
| 23.1** | Consent of Locke Lord LLP (included in Exhibits 5.1 and 8.1).   |
| 23.2** | Consent of KPMG LLP relating to Martin Midstream Partners L.P.  |
| 23.3** | Consent of KPMG LLP relating to Waskom Gas Processing Company.  |
| 24.1** | Power of Attorney (contained on signature page).  |
| 25.1*  | Form T -1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification respecting the Senior Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P.  |
| 25.2*  | Form T -1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification respecting the Subordinated Indenture of Martin Midstream Partners L.P.  |

\* To be filed by a post-effective amendment to this registration statement, as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K or pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

\*\* Filed herewith.