

MARINER ENERGY INC

Form 424B3

December 20, 2006

**Table of Contents**

**Filed pursuant to 424(b)(3)  
Registration No. 333-124858  
462(b) Registration No. 333-134506**

**PROSPECTUS**

**35,615,400 Shares  
Common Stock**

This prospectus relates to up to 35,615,400 shares of the common stock of Mariner Energy, Inc., which may be offered for sale by the selling stockholders named in this prospectus. The selling stockholders acquired the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus in private equity placements. We are registering the offer and sale of the shares of common stock to satisfy registration rights we have granted.

We are not selling any shares of common stock under this prospectus and will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common stock by the selling stockholders. The shares of common stock to which this prospectus relates may be offered and sold from time to time directly from the selling stockholders or alternatively through underwriters or broker-dealers or agents. The shares of common stock may be sold in one or more transactions, at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. Because all of the shares being offered under this prospectus are being offered by selling stockholders, we cannot currently determine the price or prices at which our shares of common stock may be sold under this prospectus. Shares of our common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ME. On December 19, 2006, the closing price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange was \$19.72 per share. Please read Plan of Distribution.

**Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should read the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 18 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, which is incorporated by reference herein, for a discussion of certain risk factors that you should consider before investing in our common stock.**

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or amendment. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) 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 December 20, 2006.

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	(i)
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	(ii)
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>DILUTION</u>	8
<u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	8
<u>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</u>	9
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	20
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	22
<u>REGISTRATION RIGHTS</u>	26
<u>EXPERTS</u>	28
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	28
<u>GLOSSARY OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TERMS</u>	29

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), a registration statement on Form S-1 with respect to the common stock offered by this prospectus. This prospectus, which constitutes part of the registration statement, does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement or the exhibits and schedules which are part of the registration statement, portions of which are omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. Statements made in this prospectus regarding the contents of any contract or other documents are summaries of the material terms of the contract or document. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. Any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference. With respect to each contract or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, reference is made to the corresponding exhibit. For further information pertaining to us and to the common stock offered by this prospectus, reference is made to the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules thereto, copies of which may be inspected without charge at the public reference facilities of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of all or any portion of the registration statement may be obtained from the SEC at prescribed rates. Information on the public reference facilities may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information that is filed electronically with the SEC. The web site can be accessed at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Upon completion of this offering, we will be required to comply with the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and, accordingly, will file current reports on Form 8-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, annual reports on Form 10-K, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Those reports, proxy statements and other information will be available for inspection and copying at the public reference facilities and internet site of the SEC referred to above.

We have elected to incorporate by reference certain information into this prospectus, which means we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus. Please read "Incorporation by Reference." You should only rely on the information contained in this prospectus and incorporated by reference in it. We have not authorized anyone to

provide you with any additional information.

(i)

---

**Table of Contents**

**INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

We are incorporating by reference into this prospectus the following documents filed with the SEC (excluding any portions of such documents that have been furnished but not filed for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended):

Our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2006, except for (i) the consolidated financial statements of Mariner Energy, Inc. as of December 31, 2005, December 31, 2004 (Post-2004 Merger), December 31, 2003 (Pre-2004 Merger) and for the period from January 1, 2004 through March 2, 2004 (Pre-2004 Merger), for the period from March 3, 2004 through December 31, 2004 (Post-2004 Merger), and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2003 which are superseded by the consolidated financial statements of Mariner Energy, Inc. as of December 31, 2005, December 31, 2004 (Post-2004 Merger), December 31, 2003 (Pre-2004 Merger) and for the period from January 1, 2004 through March 2, 2004 (Pre-2004 Merger), for the period from March 3, 2004 through December 31, 2004 (Post-2004 Merger), and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2003 contained in this prospectus, and (ii) the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP dated March 30, 2006 relating to such financial statements which is superseded by the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP dated March 30, 2006 (September 18, 2006 as to Note 13) contained in this prospectus;

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006, filed with the SEC on May 12, 2006;

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2006, filed with the SEC on August 11, 2006;

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2006, filed with the SEC on November 13, 2006; and

Our current report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on March 31, 2006 and our current reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 4, 2006, April 13, 2006, April 25, 2006, May 3, 2006, May 10, 2006, June 9, 2006, June 29, 2006, July 18, 2006, August 7, 2006, August 17, 2006, October 4, 2006, October 11, 2006, October 18, 2006 and November 16, 2006, except Exhibit 99.3 thereto (Transcript of Earnings Conference Call held November 10, 2006).

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

The documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are available from us upon request. We will provide a copy of any and all of the information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus to any person, without charge, upon written or oral request. Requests for such copies should be directed to the following:

Mariner Energy, Inc.  
One BriarLake Plaza, Suite 2000  
2000 West Sam Houston Parkway South

Edgar Filing: MARINER ENERGY INC - Form 424B3

Houston, Texas 77042  
Telephone Number: (713) 954-5500  
Attention: General Counsel

(ii)

---

**Table of Contents**

**SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights information contained herein and incorporated by reference in this prospectus. It is not complete and does not contain all of the information you may wish to consider before investing in the shares. We urge you to read this entire prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference carefully, including the Risk Factors beginning on page 18 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, which is incorporated by reference herein and the financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus. References to Mariner, the Company, we, us, and our refer to Mariner Energy, Inc. The estimates of our proved reserves as of December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus are based on reserve reports prepared by Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent petroleum engineers ( Ryder Scott ). We have provided definitions for some of the industry terms used in this prospectus in the Glossary of Oil and Natural Gas Terms beginning on page 29 of this prospectus. References to pro forma and on a pro forma basis mean on a pro forma basis, giving effect to our merger with Forest Energy Resources, Inc. which was completed on March 2, 2006, as if this merger had occurred on the applicable date of determination or on the first day of the applicable period. The unaudited pro forma information incorporated by reference in this prospectus has been derived from and should be read together with the historical consolidated financial statements of Mariner and the statements of revenues and direct operating expenses of the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations. The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses of the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations do not include all of the costs of doing business. The pro forma information is for illustrative purposes only. The financial results may have been different had the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations been an independent company and had the companies always been combined. You should not rely on the pro forma financial information as being the historical results that would have been achieved had the merger occurred in the past or the future financial results that Mariner will achieve after the merger.*

**Our Company**

Mariner Energy, Inc. is an independent oil and gas exploration, development and production company with principal operations in the Gulf of Mexico, both shelf and deepwater, and in West Texas. Our management has significant expertise and a successful operating track record in these areas. In the three-year period ended December 31, 2005, we added approximately 280 Bcfe of proved reserves and produced approximately 100 Bcfe, while deploying approximately \$475 million of capital on acquisitions, exploration and development.

Our primary operating strategy is to generate high-quality exploration and development projects, which enables us to add value through the drill bit. Our expertise in project generation also facilitates our participation in high-quality projects generated by other operators. We will also pursue acquisitions of producing assets that have the potential to provide acceptable risk-adjusted rates of return and further reserve additions through exploration, exploitation, and development opportunities. We target a balanced exposure to development, exploitation and exploration opportunities, both offshore and onshore and seek to maintain a moderate risk profile.

On March 2, 2006, we completed a merger transaction with Forest Energy Resources, Inc., which we refer to as Forest Energy Resources. As a result of this merger, we acquired the offshore Gulf of Mexico operations of Forest Oil Corporation (NYSE: FST), which we refer to as the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations. We refer to Forest Oil Corporation as Forest.

As of December 31, 2005, we had 338 Bcfe of estimated proved reserves, of which approximately 62% were natural gas and 38% were oil and condensate, and 50% of which were proved developed. Pro forma for the merger transaction, as of December 31, 2005, we had 644 Bcfe of estimated proved reserves, of which approximately 68%



were natural gas and 32% were oil and condensate, and 56% of which were proved developed. Our production for 2005 was approximately 29 Bcfe, or 80 MMcfe per day on average, and 95 Bcfe, or 260 MMcfe per day on average, pro forma for the merger.

**Table of Contents**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our estimated proved reserves, production and acreage by geographic area as of December 31, 2005. Reserve volumes and values were determined under the method prescribed by the SEC which requires the application of period-end prices and costs held constant throughout the projected reserve life. Proved reserve estimates do not include any value for probable or possible reserves which may exist, nor do they include any value for undeveloped acreage. The proved reserve estimates represent our net revenue interest in our properties. The reserve information for Mariner as of December 31, 2005 is based on estimates made in a reserve report prepared by Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent petroleum engineers ( Ryder Scott ).

<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Estimated Proved Reserve Quantities</b>			<b>Total Net Acreage</b>	<b>Production for Year Ended December 31, 2005 (Natural Gas Equivalent (Bcfe))</b>
	<b>Oil (MMbbls)</b>	<b>Natural Gas (Bcf)</b>	<b>Total (Bcfe)</b>		
West Texas Permian Basin	16.7	105.5	205.5	31,199	6.6
Gulf of Mexico Deepwater(1)	4.7	83.2	111.1	185,271	11.8
Gulf of Mexico Shelf(2)	0.3	19.0	21.0	124,180	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>207.7</b>	<b>337.6</b>	<b>340,650</b>	<b>29.1</b>
Proved Developed Reserves	9.6	110.0	167.4		

- (1) Deepwater refers to water depths greater than 1,300 feet (the approximate depth of deepwater designation for royalty purposes by the U.S. Minerals Management Service).
- (2) Shelf refers to water depths less than 1,300 feet and includes an insignificant amount of Gulf Coast onshore properties.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our pro forma estimated proved reserves, production and acreage by geographic area as of December 31, 2005. The reserve information as of December 31, 2005 for the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations is based on estimates made by internal staff engineers of Forest, which estimates were audited by Ryder Scott. This information is presented on a pro forma basis, giving effect to our merger with Forest Energy Resources as though it had been consummated on December 31, 2005. We consummated the merger on March 2, 2006.

<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Pro Forma Estimated Proved Reserve Quantities</b>			<b>Pro Forma Total Net Acreage</b>	<b>Pro Forma Production for Year Ended December 31, 2005 (Natural Gas Equivalent (Bcfe))</b>
	<b>Oil (MMbbls)</b>	<b>Natural Gas (Bcf)</b>	<b>Total (Bcfe)</b>		
West Texas Permian Basin	16.7	105.5	205.5	31,199	6.6

Edgar Filing: MARINER ENERGY INC - Form 424B3

Gulf of Mexico Deepwater(1)	4.8	95.7	124.5	241,320	14.0
Gulf of Mexico Shelf(2)	12.7	237.6	313.7	652,086	74.3
Total	34.2	438.8	643.7	924,605	94.9
Proved Developed Reserves	18.4	252.1	362.3		

- (1) Deepwater refers to water depths greater than 1,300 feet (the approximate depth of deepwater designation for royalty purposes by the U.S. Minerals Management Service).
- (2) Shelf refers to water depths less than 1,300 feet and includes an insignificant amount of Gulf Coast onshore properties.

**Table of Contents**

**Our Strategy and Our Competitive Strengths**

**Our Strategy**

The principal elements of our operating strategy include:

*Generate and pursue high-quality prospects.* We expect to continue our strategy of growth through the drill bit by continuing to identify and develop high-impact shelf, deep shelf and deepwater projects in the Gulf of Mexico. Our technical team has significant expertise in, and a successful track record of achieving growth by, generating prospects internally and selectively participating in prospects generated by other operators. We believe the Gulf of Mexico is an area that offers substantial growth opportunities, and our acquisition of the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations has more than doubled our existing undeveloped acreage position in the Gulf, providing numerous additional exploration, exploitation and development opportunities.

*Maintain a moderate risk profile.* We seek to manage our risk profile by targeting a balanced exposure to development, exploitation and exploration opportunities. For example, we intend to continue to develop and seek to expand our West Texas asset base which contributes stable cash flows and long-lived reserves to our portfolio as a counterbalance to our high-impact, high-production Gulf of Mexico assets. We also seek to mitigate and diversify our risk in drilling projects by selling partial or entire interests in projects to industry partners or by entering into arrangements with industry partners in which they agree to pay a disproportionate share of drilling costs and compensate us for expenses incurred in prospect generation. We also enter into trades or farm-in transactions whereby we acquire interests in third-party generated prospects, thereby gaining exposure to a greater number of prospects. We expect more opportunities to participate in these prospects in the future as a result of our larger scale and increased cash flow from the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations.

*Pursue opportunistic acquisitions.* Until 2005, we grew our reserves primarily through the drill bit. In 2005 we added significant proved reserves primarily through acquisitions in West Texas and subsequently in March 2006, through the acquisition of the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations. As part of our growth strategy, we will seek to continue to acquire producing assets that have the potential to provide acceptable risk-adjusted rates of return and further reserve additions through exploration, exploitation and development opportunities.

**Our Competitive Strengths**

We believe our core resources and strengths include:

*Our high-quality assets with geographic and geological diversity.* Our assets and operations are diversified among the Gulf of Mexico shelf, deep shelf and deepwater, and West Texas. Our asset portfolio provides a balanced exposure to long-lived West Texas reserves, Gulf of Mexico shelf growth opportunities and high-impact deepwater prospects.

*Our large inventory of prospects.* We believe we have significant potential for growth through the development of our existing asset base. The acquisition of the Forest Gulf of Mexico operations more than doubled our existing undeveloped acreage position in the Gulf of Mexico to approximately 450,000 net acres and increased our total net leasehold acreage offshore to nearly one million acres, providing numerous exploration, exploitation and development opportunities. As of September 30, 2006, we have an inventory of approximately 890 drilling locations in West Texas, which we believe would require approximately six years to drill at our current rate. These include approximately 430 locations pertaining to 98 Bcfe of estimated net proved undeveloped reserves and approximately 460 other locations.

*Our successful track record of finding and developing oil and gas reserves.* We have demonstrated our expertise in finding and developing additional proved reserves. In the three-year period ended December 31, 2005, we deployed approximately \$475 million of capital on acquisitions, exploration and development, while adding approximately 280 Bcfe of proved reserves and producing approximately 100 Bcfe.

*Our depth of operating experience.* Our team of 41 geoscientists, engineers, geologists and other technical professionals and landmen as of September 30, 2006 average more than 22 years of experience in the exploration and production business (including extensive experience in the Gulf of Mexico), much of it with major oil

**Table of Contents**

companies. The addition of experienced Forest personnel to Mariner’s team of technical professionals has further enhanced our ability to generate and maintain an inventory of high-quality drillable prospects and to further develop and exploit our assets. Mariner’s technical team has also proven to be an effective and efficient operator in West Texas, as evidenced by our successful production and reserve growth there in recent years.

*Our technology and production techniques.* Our team of geoscientists currently has access to seismic data from multiple, recent vintage 3-D seismic databases covering more than 7,000 blocks in the Gulf of Mexico that we intend to continue to use to develop prospects on acreage being evaluated for leasing and to develop and further refine prospects on our expanded acreage position. We also have extensive experience and a successful track record in the use of subsea tieback technology to connect offshore wells to existing production facilities. This technology facilitates production from offshore properties without the necessity of fabrication and installation of platforms and top side facilities that typically are more costly and require longer lead times. We believe the use of subsea tiebacks in appropriate projects enables us to bring production online more quickly, makes target prospects more profitable and allows us to exploit reserves that may otherwise be considered non-commercial because of the high cost of infrastructure. In the Gulf of Mexico, in the three years ended December 31, 2005, we were directly involved in 14 projects (five of which we operated) utilizing subsea tieback systems in water depths ranging from 475 feet to more than 6,700 feet. As of September 30, 2006, we had 18 subsea wells in water depths ranging from 450 feet to more than 4,700 feet. These wells were tied back to 13 host production facilities for production processing. An additional nine wells in water depths ranging from 465 feet to more than 6,800 feet were then under development for tieback to five additional host production facilities.

**Corporate Information**

We were incorporated in August 1983 as a Delaware corporation. We have three subsidiaries, Mariner Energy Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation, Mariner LP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and Mariner Energy Texas LP, a Delaware limited partnership. Our principal executive office is located at One BriarLake Plaza, Suite 2000, 2000 West Sam Houston Parkway South, Houston, Texas 77042. Our telephone number is (713) 954-5500.

**The Offering**

Common stock offered by selling stockholders	35,615,400 shares.
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock by the selling stockholders.
Listing	Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ME.
Common stock split	Unless specifically indicated or the context requires otherwise, the share and per share information of this offering gives effect to a 21,556.61594 to 1 stock split, which was effected on March 3, 2005.
Dividend Policy	We do not expect to pay dividends in the near future.

**Risk Factors**

You should carefully consider all of the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus prior to investing in the common stock. In particular, we urge you to carefully consider the information under Risk Factors incorporated by reference into this prospectus so that you understand the risks associated with an investment in our company and the common stock. These risks include the following:

Oil and natural gas prices are volatile, and a decline in oil and natural gas prices would affect significantly our financial results and impede our growth.

**Table of Contents**

Reserve estimates depend on many assumptions that may turn out to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will affect materially the quantities and present value of our reserves.

Unless we replace our oil and natural gas reserves, our reserves and production will decline.

Relatively short production periods or reserve life for Gulf of Mexico properties subject us to higher reserve replacement needs and may impair our ability to replace production during periods of low oil and natural gas prices.



**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Various statements contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including those that express a belief, expectation, or intention, as well as those that are not statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements may include projections and estimates concerning the timing and success of specific projects and our future production, revenues, income and capital spending. Our forward-looking statements are generally accompanied by words such as estimate, project, predict, believe, expect, anticipate, potential, or other words that convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes. The forward-looking statements in this prospectus speak only as of the date of this prospectus; we disclaim any obligation to update these statements unless required by securities law, and we caution you not to rely on them unduly. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and assumptions about future events. While our management considers these expectations and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, regulatory and other risks, contingencies and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control. We disclose important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from our expectations under Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and elsewhere in this prospectus. These risks, contingencies and uncertainties relate to, among other matters, the following:

the volatility of oil and natural gas prices;

discovery, estimation, development and replacement of oil and natural gas reserves;

cash flow, liquidity and financial position;

business strategy;

amount, nature and timing of capital expenditures, including future development costs;

availability and terms of capital;

timing and amount of future production of oil and natural gas;

availability of drilling and production equipment;

operating costs and other expenses;

prospect development and property acquisitions;

risks arising out of our hedging transactions;

marketing of oil and natural gas;

competition in the oil and natural gas industry;

the impact of weather and the occurrence of natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires, floods and other catastrophic events and natural disasters;

governmental regulation of the oil and natural gas industry;

environmental liabilities;

developments in oil-producing and natural gas-producing countries;

uninsured or underinsured losses in our oil and natural gas operations;

risks related to our level of indebtedness;

the merger, including strategic plans, expectations and objectives for future operations, and the realization of expected benefits from the transaction; and

disruption from the merger making it more difficult to manage Mariner's business.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus. Any proceeds from the sale of the shares offered by this prospectus will be received by the selling stockholders.

**Table of Contents****DILUTION**

Our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2006 was \$11.63 per share of common stock. Net tangible book value per share is determined by dividing our tangible net worth (tangible assets less total liabilities) by the 86,269,563 shares of our common stock that were outstanding on September 30, 2006. Investors who purchase our common stock in this offering may pay a price per share that exceeds the net tangible book value per share of our common stock. If you purchase our common stock from the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus, you will experience immediate dilution of \$6.74 in the net tangible book value per share of our common stock assuming a sale price of \$18.37 per share, representing the closing price per share on the New York Stock Exchange on September 29, 2006, the last trading day in September 2006. The following table illustrates the per share dilution to new investors purchasing shares from the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus:

Assumed offering price per share		\$ 18.37
Net tangible book value per share at September 30, 2006	\$ 11.63	
Increase per share attributable to new investors	-0-	
Net tangible book value per share after this offering		11.63
Dilution per share to new investors		6.74

The foregoing discussion and table are based upon the number of shares actually issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2006. As of September 30, 2006, we had options outstanding to purchase an aggregate 818,062 shares of common stock at a weighted average exercise price of approximately \$13.69 per share, 349,377 of which were exercisable as of September 30, 2006. To the extent the market value of our shares is greater than \$13.69 per share and any of these outstanding options are exercised, there may be further dilution to new investors.

**DIVIDEND POLICY**

We do not expect to pay dividends in the near future. Our secured credit facility and senior unsecured notes contain restrictions on the payment of dividends to stockholders.

**Table of Contents****SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

This prospectus covers shares currently owned by an affiliate of our former sole stockholder as well as shares sold in our private equity placement in March 2005. Some of the shares sold in the private equity placement were sold directly to accredited investors as defined by Rule 501(a) under the Securities Act pursuant to an exemption from registration provided in Regulation D, Rule 506 under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act. In addition, we and our former sole stockholder sold shares to FBR, who acted as initial purchaser and sole placement agent in the offering. FBR sold the shares it purchased from us and our sole stockholder in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act to persons that it reasonably believed were qualified institutional buyers, as defined by Rule 144A under the Securities Act or to non-U.S. persons pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act. An affiliate of our former sole stockholder, the selling stockholders who purchased shares from us or FBR in the private equity placement and their transferees, pledgees, donees, assignees or successors, may from time to time offer and sell under this prospectus any or all of the shares listed opposite each of their names below. Some of the shares reflected in the following table were issued as restricted stock to our employees pursuant to our Equity Participation Plan.

The following table sets forth information about the number of shares owned by each selling stockholder that may be offered from time to time under this prospectus. Certain selling stockholders may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any profits realized by the selling stockholder may be deemed to be underwriting commissions.

The table below has been prepared based upon the information furnished to us by the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders identified below may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of some or all of their shares since the date on which the information in the following table is presented in transactions exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Information concerning the selling stockholders may change from time to time and, if necessary, we will supplement this prospectus accordingly. We cannot give an estimate as to the amount of shares of common stock that will be held by the selling stockholders upon termination of this offering because the selling stockholders may offer some or all of their common stock under the offering contemplated by this prospectus. The total amount of shares that may be sold hereunder will not exceed the number of shares offered hereby. Please read Plan of Distribution.

Except as noted below, to our knowledge, none of the selling stockholders has, or has had within the past three years, any position, office or other material relationship with us or any of our predecessors or affiliates, other than their ownership of shares described below.

<b>Selling Stockholder</b>	<b>Number of Shares of Common Stock That May Be Sold</b>	<b>Percentage of Common Stock Outstanding</b>
ACON E&P, LLC(1)	394,044	*
ACON Investments LLC(2)	178,627	*
Acorn Overseas Securities Co	2,600	*
Alexander, Leslie	570,000	*

Edgar Filing: MARINER ENERGY INC - Form 424B3

Alexandra Global Master Fund, Ltd	300,000	*
Alexis A. Shehata-Personal Portfolio	1,840	*
Allied Funding, Inc.	17,000	*
America	40,000	*
Anderson, William J.(3)	22,673	*
Anima S.G.R.P.A.	112,000	*
Anita L. Rankin Revocable Trust-U/A DTD 4/28/1995-Anita L. Rankin, TTEE	380	*
Ann K. Miller-Personal Portfolio	6,300	*
Anne Marie Romer-Personal Portfolio	1,290	*
Anthony L. Kremer Revocable Living Trust-U/A DTD 1/27/1998-Anthony L. Kremer TTEE	1,000	*
Anthony L. Kremer-IRA	1,010	*
Atlas (QP), LP	5,550	*
Atlas Capital ID Fund LP	875	*

**Table of Contents**

<b>Selling Stockholder</b>	<b>Number of Shares of Common Stock That May Be Sold</b>	<b>Percentage of Common Stock Outstanding</b>
Atlas Capital (Q.P.), L.P.	50,809	*
Atlas Capital Master Fund Ltd.	107,846	*
Atlas Master Fund	10,920	*
Auto Disposal Systems-401(k)-All Cap Value Account	650	*
Auto Disposal Systems-401(k)-Balanced 60 Account	480	*
Auto Disposal Systems-401(k)-Small Cap Value Account	850	*
Aviation Sales Inc.-401(k) Profit Sharing Plan-Rick J. Penwell TTEE	1,470	*
Axia Offshore Partners, LTD	9,315	*
Axia Partners Qualified, LP	95,739	*
Axia Partners, LP	42,136	*
Baker-Hazel Funeral Home, Inc.-401(k) Plan	550	*
Baker-Hazel Funeral Home-Corporate Investment		