# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM S-3 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

## COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

1311

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number) 94-1667468 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500 Frisco, Texas 75034 (972) 668-8800

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

M. Jay Allison Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer Comstock Resources, Inc. 5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500 Frisco, Texas 75034 (972) 668-8800

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

Copies to:

Jack E. Jacobsen Locke Lord LLP 2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800 Dallas, Texas 75201 (214) 740-8000

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public**: From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

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

If any of the securities 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

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.  $\Box$ 

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.

<del>_</del>	adment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. $\Box$	l to register additional securities or ad	lditional
,	e registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated f " "accelerated filer", "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company"		
Large accelerated filer		Accelerated filer	
Non-Accelerated filer	$\square$ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	$\boxtimes$
Emerging growth company			
0 0 0 0 1 1	licate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transitive led pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of Securities Act. $\Box$	on period for comply with any new or	revised
	CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE		

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(5)
Common Stock, par value \$0.50 per share	(1)(2)	(4)	(4)	N/A
Preferred Stock, par value \$10.00 per share	(1)(2)	(4)	(4)	N/A
Debt Securities	(1)(2)	(4)	(4)	N/A
Guarantees of Debt Securities	(3)	(3)	(3)	N/A
Warrants	(1)(2)	(4)	(4)	N/A
Units	(1)(2)	(4)	(4)	N/A
Total			\$750,000,000	\$86,925

- There is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number or amount of common stock and preferred stock, principal amount of debt securities, warrants to purchase common stock or debt securities, or units consisting of combinations of any of the foregoing as shall have an aggregate offering price not to exceed \$750,000,000. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$750,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. The proposed maximum initial offering price per unit will be determined, from time to time, by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder. Pursuant to Rule 457(i), the securities registered also include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock and amount of debt securities as may be issued upon conversion of or exchange for preferred stock or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange, upon exercise of warrants or rights or pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions of any such securities.
- Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement also registers a currently indeterminate number of additional shares of our common stock that may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- Includes certain subsidiaries of Comstock Resources, Inc. identified in the "Table of Additional Subsidiary Guarantor Registrants", which may be guarantors of some or all of the debt securities registered hereunder and, as such, have been listed as co-registrants for the purpose of providing guarantees, if any. Pursuant to Rule 457(n) under the Securities Act, no registration fee is payable with respect to any such guarantees.
- (4) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act
- (5)Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.

The registrants hereby amend 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 of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

## TABLE OF ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIARY GUARANTOR REGISTRANTS

Exact Name of Additional Registrant as Specified in its Charter	State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization	I.R.S. Employer Identification No.
Comstock Oil & Gas, LP	Nevada	75-2272352
Comstock Oil & Gas-Louisiana, LLC	Nevada	26-0012430
Comstock Oil & Gas GP, LLC	Nevada	(not applicable)
Comstock Oil & Gas Investments, LLC	Nevada	90-0155903
Comstock Oil & Gas Holdings, Inc.	Nevada	75-2968982

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not complete the offering and issue these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. The prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities nor a solicitation of an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer and sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated April 25, 2017

**Prospectus** 



## Comstock Resources, Inc.

\$750,000,000

DEBT SECURITIES COMMON STOCK PREFERRED STOCK WARRANTS UNITS

We may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more offerings in one or more classes or series up to \$750,000,000 of our:

- shares of common stock;
- · shares of preferred stock;
- debt securities;
- warrants; and/or
- units consisting of combinations of any of the foregoing.

Our debt securities may be guaranteed by Comstock Oil & Gas, LP, Comstock Oil & Gas-Louisiana, LLC, Comstock Oil & Gas GP, LLC, Comstock Oil & Gas Investments, LLC, or Comstock Oil & Gas Holdings, Inc., each a wholly-owned subsidiary of Comstock Resources, Inc.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of these securities. Each time we will offer and sell them, we will provide their specific terms in a supplement to this prospectus. Such prospectus supplement may add, update, or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, as well as all documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, carefully before you invest in our securities. This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell securities, unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may offer the securities directly, through agents designated from time to time, to or through underwriters or dealers, or through a combination of these methods. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. For more information on this topic, please see "Plan of Distribution."

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CRK."

Investing in any of our securities involves a high degree of risk. Please see the "Risk Factors" sections beginning on page 4 of this prospectus, in the applicable prospectus supplement, and in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is , 2017

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS	1
CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	2
COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.	3
RISK FACTORS	4
USE OF PROCEEDS	4
RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES	4
DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK	5
DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES	10
DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS	18
DESCRIPTION OF UNITS	18
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION	19
LEGAL MATTERS	21
<u>EXPERTS</u>	21
INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE	21
WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	22

#### ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or "SEC," utilizing what is commonly referred to as a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities offered by us in that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update, or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information provided in the prospectus supplement. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. The registration statement filed with the SEC includes exhibits that provide more details about the matters discussed in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, the related exhibits filed with the SEC, and any prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described below under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely only on the information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer of the securities covered by this prospectus in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, and any other document incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of the respective document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Under no circumstances should the delivery of this prospectus to you create any implication that the information contained in this prospectus is correct as of any time after the date of this prospectus.

Unless otherwise indicated, or unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to "Comstock," "we," "us," and "our" mean Comstock Resources, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries. In this prospectus, we sometimes refer to the shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, and units consisting of combinations of any of the foregoing collectively as the "securities."

#### CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information contained in this prospectus includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements are identified by their use of terms such as "expect," "estimate," "anticipate," "project," "plan," "intend," "believe" and similar terms. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this prospectus are forward-looking statements, including statements regarding:

- amount and timing of future production of oil and natural gas;
- amount, nature and timing of capital expenditures;
- the number of anticipated wells to be drilled after the date hereof;
- the availability of exploration and development opportunities;
- our financial or operating results;
- our cash flow and anticipated liquidity;
- operating costs including lease operating expenses, administrative costs and other expenses;
- finding and development costs;
- · our business strategy; and
- other plans and objectives for future operations.

Any or all of our forward-looking statements in this prospectus may turn out to be incorrect. They can be affected by a number of factors, including, among others:

- the risks described in "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement;
- the volatility of prices and supply of, and demand for, oil and natural gas;
- the timing and success of our drilling activities;
- the numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of oil and natural gas reserves and actual future production rates and associated costs;
- our ability to successfully identify, execute or effectively integrate future acquisitions;
- the usual hazards associated with the oil and natural gas industry, including fires, well blowouts, pipe failure, spills, explosions and other unforeseen hazards;
- our ability to effectively market our oil and natural gas;
- the availability of rigs, equipment, supplies and personnel;
- our ability to discover or acquire additional reserves;
- our ability to satisfy future capital requirements;
- · changes in regulatory requirements;
- · general economic conditions, status of the financial markets and competitive conditions; and
- our ability to retain key members of our senior management and key employees.

## COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CRK," and we are engaged in the acquisition, development, production, and exploration of oil and natural gas. Our executive offices are located at 5300 Town and Country Boulevard, Suite 500, Frisco, Texas 75034, and our telephone number is (972) 668-8800.

#### RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before deciding to purchase any of our securities, you should carefully consider the discussion of risks and uncertainties:

- under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2016, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus;
- under this heading or similar headings, such as "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk," in our subsequently filed quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual reports on Form 10-K; and
- in any other place in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement as well as in any document that is incorporated by reference in this
  prospectus.

See the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties we discuss in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are those we currently believe may materially affect us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us, or that we currently believe are immaterial, also may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

#### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus:

- to refinance certain existing indebtedness;
- · to finance acquisitions and the development and exploration of our properties; and
- for general corporate purposes.

We may invest funds not required immediately for these purposes in marketable securities and short-term investments. 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 have not determined the amounts we plan to spend on the areas listed above or the timing of these expenditures. As a result, our management will have broad discretion to allocate the net proceeds of any offering.

#### RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges on a consolidated basis for the periods shown. You should read these ratios in connection with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes to those statements, incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

		Yea	rs Ended December	31,	
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges					

The ratios were computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. "Earnings" consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges less capitalized interest. "Fixed charges" consists of interest expense, capitalized interest expense, preferred stock dividends, and that portion of non-capitalized rental expense deemed to be the equivalent of interest. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges. The coverage deficiency was \$165.1 million, \$165.6 million, \$92.0 million, \$1.2 billion and \$128.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. See the "Computation of Earnings to Fixed Charges Ratio" that is filed as Exhibit 12.1 to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of 75,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.50 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$10.00 per share. At April 25, 2017, we had approximately 15,376,987 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding. At that date, we also had warrants outstanding to purchase 415,775 shares of our common stock and performance share units equivalent to up to 626,496 shares of our common stock that would be issuable based on achievement of the performance criteria under the terms of our performance share unit awards.

The following is a summary of the key terms and provisions of our equity securities. You should refer to the applicable provisions of our restated articles of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws and Nevada law for a complete statement of the terms and rights of our capital stock.

#### **Common Stock**

Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote per share. Subject to the rights, if any, of the holders of any series of preferred stock pursuant to applicable law or the provision of the certificate of designation creating that series, all voting rights are vested in the holders of shares of common stock. Holders of shares of common stock have no right to cumulate votes in the election of directors, thus, the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock can elect all of the members of the board of directors standing for election. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable. Any additional common stock we offer and issue under this prospectus, and any related prospectus supplement, will also be fully paid and non-assessable.

Dividends may be paid to the holders of common stock when, as, and if declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for their payment, subject to the rights of the holders of preferred stock, if any. We paid a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock in 2014, resulting in total dividends paid of \$23.8 million. On February 13, 2015, we announced that the dividend was being suspended until oil and natural gas prices improve. Any future determination as to the payment of dividends will depend upon the results of our operations, capital requirements, our financial condition and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant.

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, the holders of common stock will be entitled to share equally, in proportion to the number of shares of common stock held by them, in any of our assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock, if any, have received their liquidation preferences in full. Holders of common stock are not entitled to preemptive purchase rights in future offerings of our common stock. Although our restated articles of incorporation do not specifically deny preemptive rights, pursuant to Nevada law, our stockholders do not have preemptive rights with respect to shares that are registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act and our common stock is so registered.

#### **Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors can, without approval of our stockholders, issue one or more series of preferred stock and determine the number of shares of each series and the rights, preferences, and limitations of each series. The following description of the terms of the preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of our authorized preferred stock. If we offer preferred stock, a more specific description will be filed with the SEC, and the designations and rights of such preferred stock will be described in a prospectus supplement, including the following terms:

- the series, the number of shares offered, and the liquidation value of the preferred stock;
- the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;
- the dividend rate, the dates on which the dividends will be payable, and other terms relating to the payment of dividends on the preferred stock;

- the liquidation preference of the preferred stock;
- the voting rights of the preferred stock;
- whether the preferred stock is redeemable, or subject to a sinking fund, and the terms of any such redemption or sinking fund;
- · whether the preferred stock is convertible, or exchangeable for any other securities, and the terms of any such conversion or exchange; and
- · any additional rights, preferences, qualifications, limitations, and restrictions of the preferred stock.

The description of the terms of the preferred stock that will be set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement will not be complete and will be subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the certificate of designation relating to the applicable series of preferred stock. The registration statement, of which this prospectus forms a part, will include the certificate of designation as an exhibit or incorporate it by reference.

Undesignated preferred stock may enable our board of directors to render more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a tender offer, proxy contest, merger, or otherwise and to thereby protect the continuity of our management. The issuance of shares of preferred stock may adversely affect the rights of the holders of our common stock. For example, any preferred stock issued may:

- rank prior to our common stock as to dividend rights, liquidation preference, or both;
- · have full or limited voting rights; and
- be convertible into shares of common stock.

As a result, the issuance of shares of preferred stock may:

- · discourage bids for our common stock; or
- otherwise adversely affect the market price of our common stock or any then existing preferred stock.

Any preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and non-assessable.

#### **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Our restated articles of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws and Nevada law include certain provisions which may have the effect of delaying or deterring a change in control or in our management or encouraging persons considering unsolicited tender offers or other unilateral takeover proposals to negotiate with our board of directors rather than pursue non-negotiated takeover attempts. These provisions include authorized blank check preferred stock, restrictions on business combinations, and the availability of authorized but unissued common stock. In 2014, our stockholders approved amended and restated bylaws which provided for declassification our board of directors. The entirety of our board of directors will be declassified after the 2017 annual stockholders meeting.

#### **Combination with Interested Stockholders Statute**

Sections 78.411 to 78.444 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (N.R.S.), which apply to any Nevada corporation subject to the reporting requirements of Section 12 of the Exchange Act, including us, prohibits an "interested stockholder" from entering into a "combination" with the corporation for two years, unless certain conditions are met. A "combination" includes:

• any merger of the corporation or any subsidiary of the corporation with an "interested stockholder," or any other entity, whether or not itself an "interested stockholder," which is, or after and as a result of the merger would be, an affiliate or associate of an "interested stockholder;"

- any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or other disposition in one transaction, or a series of transactions, to or with an "interested stockholder" or any affiliate or associate of an "interested stockholder," of assets of the corporation or any subsidiary:
  - i) having an aggregate market value equal to more than 5% of the aggregate market value of the corporation's assets, determined on a consolidated basis;
  - ii) having an aggregate market value equal to more than 5% of the aggregate market value of all outstanding voting shares of the corporation; or
  - iii) representing more than 10% of the earning power or net income, determined on a consolidated basis, of the corporation; or
- the issuance or transfer by the corporation or any subsidiary, of any shares of the corporation or any subsidiary to an "interested stockholder" or any affiliate or associate of an "interested stockholder," having an aggregate market value equal to 5% or more of the aggregate market value of all of the outstanding voting shares of the corporation, except under the exercise of warrants or rights to purchase shares offered, or a dividend or distribution paid or made, pro rata to all stockholders of the resident domestic corporation;
- the adoption of any plan, or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the corporation, under any agreement, arrangement or understanding, with the "interested stockholder," or any affiliate or associate of the "interested stockholder;"
- if any of the following actions occurs
  - i) a reclassification of the corporation's securities, including, without limitation, any splitting of shares, share dividend, or other distribution of shares with respect to other shares, or any issuance of new shares in exchange for a proportionately greater number of old shares;
  - ii) recapitalization of the corporation;
  - iii) merger or consolidation of the corporation with any subsidiary;
  - iv) or any other transaction, whether or not with or into or otherwise involving the interested stockholder,

under any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing, with the interested stockholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder, which has the immediate and proximate effect of increasing the proportionate share of the outstanding shares of any class or series of voting shares or securities convertible into voting shares of the corporation or any subsidiary of the corporation which is beneficially owned by the interested stockholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder, except as a result of immaterial changes because of adjustments of fractional shares.

• any receipt by an "interested stockholder" or any affiliate or associate of an "interested stockholder," except proportionately as a stockholder of the corporation, of the benefit of any loan, advance, guarantee, pledge or other financial assistance or any tax credit or other tax advantage provided by or through the corporation.

## An "interested stockholder" is a person who is:

- directly or indirectly, the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the outstanding voting shares of the corporation; or
- an affiliate or associate of the corporation, which at any time within two years immediately before the date in question was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10% or more of the voting power of the then outstanding shares of the corporation.

A corporation to which the Combinations with Interested Stockholders Statute applies may not engage in a "combination" within two years after the interested stockholder first became an interested stockholder, unless the combination meets all of the requirements of the corporation's articles of incorporation and (i) the combination or the transaction by which the person first became an interested stockholder is approved by the board of directors before the person first became an interested stockholder, or (ii)(a) the combination is approved by the board of directors and (b) at or after that time, the combination is approved at an annual or special meeting of the stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of the stockholders representing at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding voting power of the corporation not beneficially owned by the interested stockholder or the affiliates or associates of the interested stockholder. If this approval is not obtained, the combination may be consummated after the two year period expires if either (i)(a) the combination or transaction by which the person first became an interested stockholder is approved by the board of directors before such person first became an interested stockholder, (b) the combination is approved by a majority of the outstanding voting power of the corporation not beneficially owned by the interested stockholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder, or (c) the combination otherwise meets the requirements of the Combination with Interested Stockholders statute. Alternatively, a combination with an interested stockholder engaged in more than 2 years after the date the person first became an interested stockholder may be permissible if the aggregate amount of cash and the market value of consideration other than cash to be received by holders of shares of common stock and holders of any other class or series of shares meets the minimum requirements set forth in the statue, and prior to the completion of t

#### **Acquisition of Controlling Interest Statute**

In addition, Nevada's "Acquisition of Controlling Interest Statute," prohibits an acquiror, under certain circumstances, from voting shares of a target corporation's stock after crossing certain threshold ownership percentages, unless the acquiror obtains the approval of the target corporation's stockholders. Sections 78.378 to 78.3793 of the N.R.S. only apply to Nevada corporations with at least 200 stockholders, including at least 100 record stockholders who are Nevada residents, that do business directly or indirectly in Nevada and whose articles of incorporation or bylaws in effect 10 days following the acquisition of a controlling interest by an acquiror do not prohibit its application.

We do not intend to "do business" in Nevada within the meaning of the Acquisition of Controlling Interest Statute. Therefore, we believe it is unlikely that this statute will apply to us. The statute specifies three thresholds:

- at least one-fifth but less than one-third;
- at least one-third but less than a majority; and
- a majority or more, of the outstanding voting power. Once an acquiror crosses one of these thresholds, shares which it acquired in the transaction taking it over the threshold (or within ninety days preceding the date thereof) become "control shares" which could be deprived of the right to vote until a majority of the disinterested stockholders restore that right.
- A special stockholders' meeting may be called at the request of the acquiror to consider the voting rights of the acquiror's shares. If the acquiror requests a special meeting and gives an undertaking to pay the expenses of said meeting, then the meeting must take place no earlier than 30 days (unless the acquiror requests that the meeting be held sooner) and no more than 50 days (unless the acquiror agrees to a later date) after the delivery by the acquiror to the corporation of an information statement which sets forth the range of voting power that the acquiror has acquired or proposes to acquire and certain other information concerning the acquiror and the proposed control share acquisition.

If no such request for a stockholders' meeting is made, consideration of the voting rights of the acquiror's shares must be taken at the next special or annual stockholders' meeting. If the stockholders fail to restore voting rights

to the acquiror, or if the acquiror fails to timely deliver an information statement to the corporation, then the corporation may, if so provided in its articles of incorporation or bylaws, call certain of the acquiror's shares for redemption at the average price paid for the control shares by the acquiror.

Our restated articles of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws do not currently permit us to redeem an acquiror's shares under these circumstances. The Acquisition of Controlling Interest Statute also provides that in the event the stockholders restore full voting rights to a holder of control shares that owns a majority of the voting stock, then all other stockholders who do not vote in favor of restoring voting rights to the control shares may demand payment for the "fair value" of their shares as determined by a court in dissenters rights proceeding pursuant to Chapter 92A of the N.R.S..

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

## Listing

Our common stock is quoted on the NYSE under the symbol "CRK."

#### DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities which may be offered by us from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt securities offered by such supplement.

We may issue debt securities either separately or together with, or upon the conversion of, or in exchange for, other securities. The debt securities are to be either our senior obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the senior debt securities, or our subordinated obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be our general obligations. Each series of debt securities will be issued under an indenture agreement between us and an independent third party, usually a bank or trust company, known as a trustee, who will be legally obligated to carry out the terms of the indenture. We may issue the debt securities offered hereby under one or more indentures, as one or as separate series, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement(s).

The following statements relating to the debt securities and the indenture are summaries and do not purport to be complete, and are subject in their entirety to the detailed provisions of the indenture.

#### General

The indenture may not limit the amount of debt securities which we may issue. We may issue debt securities up to an aggregate principal amount as we may authorize from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any debt securities being offered, including:

- · the title and aggregate principal amount;
- the date(s) when principal is payable;
- the interest rate, if any, and the method for calculating the interest rate;
- the interest payment dates and the record dates for the interest payments;
- the places where the principal and interest will be payable;
- any mandatory or optional redemption or repurchase terms or prepayment, conversion, sinking fund or exchangeability or convertibility provisions;
- whether such debt securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, the subordination
  provisions and the applicable definition of senior indebtedness;
- additional provisions, if any, relating to the defeasance and covenant defeasance of the debt securities;
- if other than denominations of \$1,000 or multiples of \$1,000, the denominations the debt securities will be issued in;
- · whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of global securities, as discussed below, or certificates;
- · any applicable material federal tax consequences;
- · the dates on which premiums, if any, will be payable;
- · our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of such deferral period;
- · any paying agents, transfer agents, registrars, or trustees (except as provided for herein);
- any listing on a securities exchange;
- if convertible into common stock or preferred stock, the terms on which such debt securities are convertible;

- the terms, if any, of the transfer, mortgage, pledge, or assignment as security for any series of debt securities of any properties, assets, proceeds, securities, or other collateral, including whether certain provisions of the Trust Indenture Act are applicable, and any corresponding changes to provisions of the indenture as then in effect;
- restrictions on the declaration of dividends, if any;
- restrictions on issuing additional debt, if any;
- material limitations or qualifications on the debt securities imposed by the rights of any of our other securities, if any;
- · the initial offering price; and
- · other specific terms, including covenants and any additions or changes to the events of default provided for with respect to the debt securities.

The terms of the debt securities of any series may differ, and without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of any series, we may reopen a previous series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of such series or establish additional terms of such series, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## Non-U.S. Currency

If the purchase price of any debt securities is payable in a currency other than United States dollars ("U.S. dollars") or if principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any of the debt securities is payable in any currency other than U.S. dollars, the specific terms with respect to such debt securities and such foreign currency will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### **Original Issue Discount Securities**

Debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. Original issue discount securities may include "zero coupon" securities that do not pay any cash interest for the entire term of the securities. In the event of an acceleration of the maturity of any original issue discount security, the amount payable to the holder thereof upon such acceleration will be determined in the manner described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Material federal income tax and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### **Covenants**

Under the indenture, we will be required to:

- pay the principal, interest, and any premium on the debt securities when due;
- maintain a place of payment;
- · deliver a report to the trustee at the end of each fiscal year, reviewing our obligations under the indenture; and
- · deposit sufficient funds with any paying agent on or before the due date for any principal, interest, or any premium.

Any additional covenants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Registration and Transfer**

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, each series of debt securities will be issued in registered form only, without coupons, and such registered securities will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof.

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, Comstock will pay interest on the debt securities to the persons who are their registered holders at the close of business on a certain date preceding the respective interest payment date. We will not be required to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of any series during a period beginning 15 days before the mailing of a notice of redemption of or an offer to repurchase debt securities of that series or 15 days before an interest payment date.

#### **Ranking of Debt Securities**

The senior debt securities will be our unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally in right of payment with all other unsubordinated indebtedness of ours. The subordinated debt securities will be obligations of ours and will be subordinated in right of payment to all existing and future senior indebtedness. The prospectus supplement will describe the subordination provisions and set forth the definition of senior indebtedness applicable to the subordinated debt securities, and will set forth the approximate amount of such senior indebtedness outstanding as of a recent date.

#### **Subsidiary Guarantors**

One or more of our subsidiaries may fully and unconditionally guarantee any series of debt securities offered by this prospectus, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. These subsidiaries are sometimes referred to in this prospectus as possible subsidiary guarantors. The term "subsidiary guarantors" with respect to a series of debt securities refers to our subsidiaries that guaranty such series of debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will name the subsidiary guarantors, if any, for that series of debt securities and will describe the terms of the guarantee by the subsidiary guarantors.

#### **Global Securities**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository, such as the Depository Trust Company, identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. Global debt securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for individual certificates evidencing debt securities, a global debt security may not be transferred except as a whole:

- by the depository to a nominee of such depository;
- by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another nominee of such depository; or
- · by such depository, or any such nominee to a successor of such depository, or a nominee of such successor.

The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of global debt securities and certain limitations and restrictions relating to a series of global bearer securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Outstanding Debt Securities**

In determining whether the holders of the requisite principal amount of outstanding debt securities have given any authorization, demand, direction, notice, consent, or waiver under the indenture, the amount of outstanding debt securities will be calculated based on the following:

• the portion of the principal amount of an original issue discount security that shall be deemed to be outstanding for such purposes shall be that portion of the principal amount thereof that could be declared to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration pursuant to the terms of such original issue discount security as of the date of such determination;

- the principal amount of a debt security denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars shall be the U.S. dollar equivalent, determined on the date of original issue of such debt security, of the principal amount of such debt security; and
- any debt security owned by us or any obligor on such debt security or any affiliate of us or such other obligor shall be deemed not to be outstanding.

## **Redemption and Repurchase**

The debt securities may be redeemable at our option, may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, or may be subject to repurchase by us at the option of the holders, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the prices set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### **Conversion and Exchange**

The terms, if any, on which debt securities of any series are convertible into or exchangeable for common stock, preferred stock, or other debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms of conversion or exchange may be either mandatory, at the option of the holders, or at our option.

#### Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

The indenture generally will permit a consolidation or merger between us and another corporation, if the surviving corporation meets certain limitations and conditions. Subject to those conditions, the indenture may also permit the sale by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets. If this happens, the remaining or acquiring corporation shall assume all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indentures.

We are only permitted to consolidate or merge with or into any other corporation or sell all or substantially all of our assets according to the terms and conditions of the indentures, as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The remaining or acquiring corporation will be substituted for us in the indentures with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indenture. Thereafter, the successor corporation may exercise our rights and powers under any indenture, in our name or in its own name.

#### **Events of Default**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, an event of default, as defined in the indenture and applicable to debt securities issued under such indenture, typically will occur with respect to the debt securities of any series under the indenture upon:

- default for a period to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement in payment of any interest with respect to any debt security of such series;
- default in payment of principal or any premium with respect to any debt security of such series when due upon maturity, redemption, repurchase at the option of the holder, or otherwise;
- default by us in the performance, or breach, of any other covenant or warranty in the indenture, which shall not have been remedied for a period to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement after notice to us by the applicable trustee or the holders of not less than a fixed percentage in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of all series issued under the indenture;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization of Comstock or our subsidiary guarantors; or
- any other event of default that may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, including an event of default based on other debt being accelerated, known as a "cross-acceleration."

No event of default with respect to any particular series of debt securities necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities. If the trustee considers it in the interest of the holders to do so, the trustee under an indenture may withhold notice of the occurrence of a default with respect to the debt securities to the holders of any series outstanding, except a default in payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any.

The indenture will provide that if an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities issued thereunder shall have occurred and be continuing, either the relevant trustee or the holders of at least a fixed percentage in principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding may declare the principal amount of all the debt securities of such series to be due and payable immediately. In the case of original issue discount securities, the trustee may declare as due and payable such lesser amount as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, upon certain conditions, such declaration and its consequences may be rescinded and annulled by the holders of at least a fixed percentage in principal amount of the debt securities of all series issued under the indenture.

The applicable prospectus supplement will provide the terms pursuant to which an event of default shall result in acceleration of the payment of principal of debt securities.

In the case of a default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt securities of any series, the applicable trustee, subject to certain limitations and conditions, may institute a judicial proceeding for the collection thereof.

No holder of any of the debt securities of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the indenture or any remedy thereunder, unless the holders of at least a fixed percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series:

- have made written request to the trustee to institute such proceeding as trustee, and offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee;
- the trustee has failed to institute such proceeding within the time period specified in the applicable prospectus supplement after receipt of such notice; and
- the trustee has not within such period received directions inconsistent with such written request by holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series. Such limitations do not apply, however, to a suit instituted by a holder of a debt security for the enforcement of the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or any accrued and unpaid interest on the debt security on or after the respective due dates expressed in the debt security.

During the existence of an event of default under an indenture, the trustee is required to exercise such rights and powers vested in it under the indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise thereof as a prudent person would exercise under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs. Subject to the provisions of the indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, if an event of default shall occur and be continuing, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders, unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to certain provisions concerning the rights of the trustee, the holders of at least a fixed percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any power conferred on the trustee with respect to such series.

The indenture provides that the trustee will, within the time period specified in the applicable prospectus supplement after the occurrence of any default, give to the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default known to it, unless such default shall have been cured or waived; provided that the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it determines in good faith that the withholding of such notice is in the

interest of such holders, except in the case of a default in payment of principal of or premium, if any, on any debt security of such series when due or in the case of any default in the payment of any interest on the debt securities of such series.

We will be required to furnish to the trustee annually a statement as to compliance with all conditions and covenants under the indenture.

#### **Modification and Waivers**

From time to time, when authorized by resolutions of our board of directors and by the trustee, we may, without the consent of the holders of debt securities of any series, amend, waive, or supplement the indenture and the debt securities of such series for certain specified purposes, including, among other things:

- · to cure ambiguities, defects, or inconsistencies;
- to provide for the assumption of our obligations to holders of the debt securities of such series in the case of a merger or consolidation;
- to add to our events of default or our covenants or to make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of the
  debt securities of such series;
- to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series and any related coupons;
- · to add subsidiary guarantors with respect to the debt securities of such series;
- to release any subsidiary guarantor from its obligations under its guarantee in compliance with the terms of the indenture;
- to secure the debt securities of such series;
- to maintain the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or
- to make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder.

Other amendments and modifications of the indenture or the debt securities issued thereunder may be made by the trustee and us with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected, with each series voting as a separate class; provided that, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected, no such modification or amendment may:

- reduce the principal amount of, or extend the fixed maturity of the debt securities, or alter or waive any redemption, repurchase, or sinking fund provision of the debt securities;
- reduce the amount of principal of any original issue discount securities that would be due and payable upon an acceleration of the maturity thereof;
- change the currency in which any debt securities, or any premium or the accrued interest thereon is payable;
- reduce the percentage in principal amount outstanding of debt securities of any series which must consent to an amendment, supplement, or waiver or consent to take any action under the indenture or the debt securities of such series;
- impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the debt securities;
- waive a default in payment with respect to the debt securities or any subsidiary guarantee; or
- reduce the rate or extend the time for payment of interest on the debt securities.

The holders of a fixed percentage in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the relevant indenture, including any set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The holders of a fixed percentage in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of that series, waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt securities of such series, or in respect of a covenant or provision which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security of the series affected.

#### Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

When we establish a series of debt securities, we may provide that such series is subject to the defeasance and discharge provisions of the indenture. If those provisions are made applicable, we may elect either:

- · to terminate and be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to those debt securities subject to some limitations; or
- to be released from our obligations to comply with specified covenants relating to those debt securities, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

To effect that defeasance, or covenant defeasance, we must irrevocably deposit in trust with the relevant trustee an amount which, through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms, will provide money sufficient to make payments on those debt securities and any mandatory sinking fund or similar payments on those debt securities. This deposit may be made in any combination of funds or government obligations. On such a defeasance, we will not be released from certain of our obligations that will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

To establish such a trust, we must deliver to the relevant trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of those debt securities:

- · will not recognize income, gain, or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the defeasance or covenant defeasance; and
- will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner, and at the same times as would have been the case if the defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred (and, in the case of defeasance, such opinion must be based upon a published ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable income tax laws).

If we effect covenant defeasance with respect to any debt securities, the amount of deposit with the relevant trustee must be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities at the time of their stated maturity. However, those debt securities may become due and payable prior to their stated maturity, if there is an event of default with respect to a covenant from which we have not been released. In that event, the amount on deposit may not be sufficient to pay all amounts due on the debt securities at the time of the acceleration.

The applicable prospectus supplement may further describe the provisions, if any, permitting defeasance or covenant defeasance, including any modifications to the provisions described above.

#### **Governing Law**

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

#### The Trustee

We will identify the trustee with respect to any series of debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities.

## **Regarding the Trustees**

The Trust Indenture Act contains limitations on the rights of a trustee, should it become a creditor of ours, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims as security or otherwise. Each trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us from time to time, provided that, if such trustee becomes subject to any conflicting interest, it must eliminate such conflict upon the occurrence of an event of default under the relevant indenture, or else resign as trustee.

#### DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the following terms of any warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

- · the title of such warrants;
- the aggregate number of such warrants;
- the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued;
- any changes or adjustments to the exercise price;
- the securities or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate, or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities, or indices, or any combination of the foregoing, purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;
- the price at which, and the currency or currencies in which the securities or other rights purchasable upon exercise of, such warrants may be purchased;
- the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which such warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such security;
- if applicable, the date on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- if applicable, a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations; and
- any other terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of such warrants.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, or warrants or any combination of such securities.

The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the following terms of any units in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

- the terms of the units and of any of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, and warrants comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;
- · a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and
- · a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer, or exchange of the units.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplements in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- through underwriters or dealers;
- · through agents;
- directly to purchasers, including institutional investors and our affiliates;
- through a combination of any such methods of sale; or
- through any other methods described in a prospectus supplement.

Any such underwriter, dealer, or agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act.

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to the securities will set forth:

- the offering terms, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers, or agents;
- the purchase price of the securities and the estimated net proceeds to us from such sales;
- any underwriting discounts, commissions, and other items constituting compensation to underwriters, dealers, or agents;
- any initial public offering price, if applicable;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid by underwriters or dealers to other dealers;
- any delayed delivery arrangements;
- in the case of debt securities, the interest rate, maturity, and redemption provisions; and
- any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

If underwriters or dealers are used in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters or dealers for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions:

- · at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

The securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more of such firms. Unless otherwise stated in an applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of underwriters or dealers to purchase the securities will be subject to certain customary closing conditions and the underwriters or dealers will be obligated to purchase all the securities if any of the securities are purchased. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid by underwriters or dealers to other dealers may be changed from time to time.

Securities may be sold directly by us, or through agents designated by us, from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus and a prospectus supplement is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any agent selling the securities covered by this prospectus may be deemed to be an underwriter as that term is defined in the Securities Act.

If so indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters, dealers, or agents to solicit offers from certain specified institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. Such contracts will be subject to any conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of such contracts. The underwriters and other persons soliciting such contracts will have no responsibility for the validity or performance of any such contracts.

Underwriters, dealers, and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to be indemnified by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution by us to payments which they may be required to make. The terms and conditions of such indemnification will be described in an applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, dealers, and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Each class or series of securities will be a new issue of securities with no established trading market, other than the common stock, which is listed on the NYSE. We may elect to list any other class or series of securities on any exchange, other than the common stock, but we are not obligated to do so. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold by us for public offering and sale may make a market in such securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any securities.

Certain persons participating in any offering of securities may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities offered in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. In connection with any such offering, the underwriters or agents, as the case may be, may purchase and sell securities in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the securities; and syndicate short positions involve the sale by the underwriters or agents, as the case may be, of a greater number of securities than they are required to purchase from us, as the case may be, in the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, whereby selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if such securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the market price of the securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market, and if commenced, may be discontinued at any time. These transactions may be effected on the NYSE in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. These activities will be described in more detail in the sections entitled "Plan of Distribution" or "Underwriting" in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as applicable, will set forth the anticipated delivery date of the securities being sold at that time.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering described in this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Locke Lord LLP, Dallas, Texas, and by Woodburn & Wedge, Reno, Nevada, with respect to matters of Nevada law. Any underwriters will be advised about legal matters by their own counsel, who will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### **EXPERTS**

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Certain estimates of our oil and natural gas reserves and related information included in this prospectus have been derived from engineering reports prepared by Lee Keeling & Associates as of December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and all such information has been so included on the authority of such firm as an expert regarding the matters contained in its reports.

#### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The rules of the SEC allow us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to that information. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede that information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below:

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the SEC on February 24, 2017, including the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 3, 2017, incorporated by reference therein; and
- The description of our common stock, par value \$0.50 per share, contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (Registration Statement No. 001-03262) filed with the SEC on December 6, 1996, pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01, or any corresponding information furnished under Item 9.01, on any Current Report on Form 8-K) after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement and after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of each offering under this prospectus shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus by reference and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

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

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, upon that person's written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus (other than exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents). Requests should be directed to:

Comstock Resources, Inc. Attention: Roland O. Burns, President 5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500 Frisco, Texas 75034 Telephone number: (972) 668-8800

#### WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with regard to the offering described in this prospectus. The registration statement, including the filed exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us.

We file annual, quarterly, and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1–800–SEC–0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public through the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov. General information about us, including our annual reports on Form 10–K, quarterly reports on Form 10–Q and current reports on Form 8–K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, are available free of charge through our website at http://www.comstockresources.com as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them with, or furnish them to, the SEC. Information on our website is not incorporated into this prospectus or our other securities filings and is not a part of this prospectus.

#### PART II

#### INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

#### Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table sets forth the various expenses, all of which will be borne by the Company, in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being registered.

SEC registration fee	\$86,925
Accounting fees and expenses	*
Legal fees and expenses	*
Printing and engraving expenses	*
Miscellaneous	*
Total	*

<sup>\*</sup> These fees are calculated based on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time. An estimate of the aggregate amount of these expenses will be reflected in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 78.7502 of the Nevada Revised Statutes permits a corporation to indemnify any person who was, is or is threatened to be made a party in a completed, pending or threatened proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (except an action by or in the right of the corporation), by reason of being or having been an officer, director, employee or agent of the corporation or serving in certain capacities at the request of the corporation. Indemnification may include attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement. The person to be indemnified must have 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, with respect to any criminal action, such person must have had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

With respect to actions by or in the right of the corporation, indemnification may not be made for any claim, issue or matter as to which such a person has been finally adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be liable to the corporation or for amounts paid in settlement to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction determines upon application that in view of all circumstances the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper.

Unless indemnification is ordered by a court, the determination to pay indemnification must be made by the stockholders, by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding, or in certain circumstances by independent legal counsel in a written opinion. Section 78.751 of the Nevada Revised Statutes permits the articles of incorporation or bylaws to provide for payment to an indemnified person of the expenses of defending an action as incurred upon receipt of an undertaking to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that the person is not entitled to indemnification.

Section 78.7502 also provides that to the extent a director, officer, employee or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any such action, he must be indemnified by the corporation against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense.

Article VI, "Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Agents," of the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws provides as follows with respect to indemnification of the Company's directors, officers, employees and agents:

Section 1. To the fullest extent allowed by Nevada law, any director of the Company shall not be liable to the Company or its shareholders for monetary damages for an act or omission in the director's capacity as a director, except that this Article VI does not eliminate or limit the liability of a director for:

- (a) an act or omission which involves intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law; or
- (b) the payment of dividends in violation of N.R.S. 78.300.

Section 2. The Company shall indemnify each director, officer, employee and agent, now or hereafter serving the Company, each former director, officer, employee and agent, and each person who may now or hereafter serve or who may have heretofore served at the Company's request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or other business enterprise, and the respective heirs, executors, administrators and personal representatives of each of them against all expenses actually and reasonably incurred by, or imposed upon, him in connection with the defense of any claim, action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, against him by reason of his being or having been such director, officer, employee or agent, except in relation to such matters as to which he shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of duty. For purposes hereof, the term "expenses" shall include but not be limited to all expenses, costs, attorneys' fees, judgments (including adjudications other than on the merits), fines, penalties, arbitration awards, costs of arbitration and sums paid out and liabilities actually and reasonably incurred or imposed in connection with any suit, claim, action or proceeding, and any settlement or compromise thereof approved by the Board of Directors as being in the best interests of the Company. However, in any case in which there is no disinterested majority of the Board of Directors available, the indemnification shall be made: (1) only if the Company shall be advised in writing by counsel that in the opinion of counsel (a) such officer, director, employee or agent was not adjudged or found liable for gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of duty as such director, officer, employee or agent or the indemnification provided is only in connection with such matters as to which the person to be indemnified was not so liable, and in the case of settlement or compromise, the same is in the best interests of the Company; and (b) indemnification under the circumstances is lawful and falls within the provisions of these Bylaws; and (2) only in such amount as counsel shall advise the Company in writing is, in his opinion, proper. In making or refusing to make any payment under this or any other provision of these Bylaws, the Company, its directors, officers, employees and agents shall be fully protected if they rely upon the written opinion of counsel selected by, or in the manner designated by, the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the Company in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee, representative or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the Company as authorized in these Bylaws.

Section 4. The Company may indemnify each person, though he is not or was not a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, who served at the request of the Company on a committee created by the Board of Directors to consider and report to it in respect of any matter. Any such indemnification may be made under the provisions hereof and shall be subject to the limitations hereof, except that (as indicated) any such committee member need not be nor have been a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company.

Section 5. The provisions hereof shall be applicable to actions, suits or proceedings (including appeals) commenced after the adoption hereof, whether arising from acts or omissions to act occurring before or after the adoption hereof.

Section 6. The indemnification provisions herein provided shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, or by law or statute, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Section 7. The Company may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, and persons described in Section 4 of this Article above, 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 Company would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of these Bylaws.

#### Item 16. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	<u>Description</u>
1.1**	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
4.1	Indenture dated October 9, 2009 between Comstock Resources, Inc., the guarantors and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., Trustee for debt securities issued by Comstock Resources, Inc. (incorporated by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 14, 2009).
4.2	Third Supplemental Indenture dated March 14, 2011 between Comstock Resources, Inc., the guarantors and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., for the 7 3/4% Senior Notes due 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 14, 2011).
4.3	Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated June 5, 2012 between Comstock Resources, Inc., the guarantors and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., for the 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Senior Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 7, 2012).
4.4	Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as successor Trustee for the 7 3/4% Senior Notes due 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.5	Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as successor Trustee for the 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Senior Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.6	Indenture dated March 13, 2015 between Comstock Resources, Inc., the guarantors and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., Trustee for senior secured debt securities issued by Comstock Resources, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 13, 2015).
4.7	First Supplemental Indenture dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as successor Trustee for the 10% Senior Secured Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.8	Indenture dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, Trustee for the 7 ¾% Convertible Secured PIK Notes due 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).

23.3\* 23.4\*

Exhibit No.	<b>Description</b>
4.9	First Supplemental Indenture dated November 17, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, Trustee for the 7 3/4% Convertible Secured PIK Notes due 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K dated February 24, 2017).
4.10	Indenture dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, Trustee for the 9 $1/2$ % Convertible Secured PIK Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.11	First Supplemental Indenture dated November 17, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, Trustee for the 9 $1/2\%$ Convertible Secured PIK Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.11 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K dated February 24, 2017).
4.12	Indenture dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, Trustee for the Senior Secured Toggle Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.13	Amended and Restated Priority Lien Intercreditor Agreement dated September 6, 2016, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the Grantors party thereto, Bank of Montreal, as pari passu collateral agent, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, Trustee for the Senior Secured Toggle Notes due 2020, 7 ¾% Convertible Secured PIK Notes due 2019, 9 ½% Convertible Secured PIK Notes due 2020, 10% Senior Secured Notes due 2020, 7 ¾% Senior Notes due 2019 and 9 ½% Senior Notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.14	Junior Lien Intercreditor Agreement dated September 6, 2016, between Bank of Montreal, as priority lien collateral agent, and Bank of Montreal, as second lien collateral agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.15	Warrant Agreement dated September 6, 2016, between Comstock Resources, Inc. and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as warrant agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 8, 2016).
4.16	Amendment No. 1 to Warrant Agreement between Comstock Resources, Inc. and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, dated November 7, 2016 to be effective as of September 6, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q dated November 9, 2016).
4.17*	Form of Indenture for the Debt Securities registered hereby.
4.18**	Form of Certificate of Designation for Preferred Stock, including specimen Preferred Stock certificate.
4.19**	Form of Warrant Agreement, including form of Warrant.
4.20**	Form of Unit Agreement for the Units registered hereby.
5.1*	Opinion of Locke Lord LLP.
5.2*	Opinion of Woodburn and Wedge.
12.1*	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
23.1*	Consent of Locke Lord LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
23.2*	Consent of Woodburn & Wedge (included in Exhibit 5.2).

Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.

Consent of Lee Keeling and Associates, Inc.

Exhibit No.

24.1*	Power of Attorney (Included on the Signature Pages to the Registration Statement).
25.1	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Indenture on Form T-1. To be filed separately under the electronic form type 305B2 of
	the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Description

#### Item 17. Undertakings.

- (a) The undersigned registrant 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;
    - (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) of this section 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 Exchange Act 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, 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.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:
  - (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

<sup>\*</sup> Filed herewith.

<sup>\*\*</sup> To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report of the Registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein, if applicable.

Securities Act 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 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; or

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act 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 undersigned 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) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act) 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 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 Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event 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 the 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, the 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 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Frisco, State of Texas, on April 25, 2017.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

By: /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them singly, 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 (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this registration statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	<u>Title</u>	Date
/s/ M. JAY ALLISON M. Jay Allison	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Principal Executive Officer)	April 25, 2017
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS Roland O. Burns	President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Director (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	April 25, 2017
/s/ ELIZABETH B. DAVIS Elizabeth B. Davis	Director	April 25, 2017
/s/ DAVID K. LOCKETT David K. Lockett	Director	April 25, 2017
/s/ CECIL E. MARTIN, JR. Cecil E. Martin, Jr.	Director	April 25, 2017
/s/ FREDERIC D. SEWELL Frederic D. Sewell	Director	April 25, 2017
/s/ DAVID W. SLEDGE David W. Sledge	Director	April 25, 2017
/s/ JIM L. TURNER Jim L. Turner	Director	April 25, 2017

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Frisco, State of Texas, on April 25, 2017.

COMSTOCK OIL & GAS, LP

By: Comstock Oil and Gas GP, LLC, general partner

By: /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison

Manager (Principal Executive Officer)

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them singly, 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 (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this registration statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ M. JAY ALLISON	Manager of General Partner	April 25, 2017
M. Jay Allison	(Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS	Manager of General Partner	April 25, 2017
Roland O. Burns	(Principal Financial Officer and	
	Principal Accounting Officer	

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Frisco, State of Texas, on April 25, 2017.

COMSTOCK OIL & GAS - LOUISIANA, LLC

By: /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them singly, 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 (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this registration statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ M. JAY ALLISON M. Jay Allison	Chief Executive Officer and Manager (Principal Executive Officer)	April 25, 2017
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS Roland O. Burns	President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Manager (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	April 25, 2017

## **Table of Contents**

## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Frisco, State of Texas, on April 25, 2017.

COMSTOCK OIL & GAS GP, LLC

By: /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them singly, 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 (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this registration statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	Date
/s/ M. JAY ALLISON	Manager	April 25, 2017
M. Jay Allison	(Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS	Manager	April 25, 2017
Roland O. Burns	(Principal Financial Officer and	•
	Principal Accounting Officer)	

## **Table of Contents**

## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Frisco, State of Texas, on April 25, 2017.

COMSTOCK OIL & GAS INVESTMENTS, LLC

By: /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them singly, 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 (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this registration statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ M. JAY ALLISON	Chief Executive Officer and Manager	April 25, 2017
M. Jay Allison	(Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS	President, Chief Financial Officer,	April 25, 2017
Roland O. Burns	Secretary and Manager	
	(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	

## **Table of Contents**

## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Frisco, State of Texas, on April 25, 2017.

COMSTOCK OIL & GAS HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them singly, 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 (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this registration statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ M. JAY ALLISON M. Jay Allison	Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	April 25, 2017
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS	President, Chief Financial Officer,	April 25, 2017
Roland O. Burns	Secretary and Director	
	(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, IN	IC
SUBSIDIARY GUARANTOR	RS
NAMED HEREIN	
and	
[ ]	
Trustee	
INDENTURE	
Dated as of [	

DEBT SECURITIES

# Reconciliation and Tie between Trust Indenture Act of 1939 and Indenture, dated as of [

Trust Indenture Act Section	Indenture Section
Section 310 (a)(1)	5.7
(a)(2)	5.7
(b)	5.7
Section 311 (a)	5.7, 5.8, 5.9
(b)	5.12
Section 312	6.1
Section 313	6.2
Section 314 (a)	6.3
(a)(4)	13.1
(c)(1)	13.1
(c)(2)	13.1
(e)	13.1
Section 315 (a)	5.1
(b)	5.13
(c)	5.1
(d)	5.1
(e)	4.15
Section 316 (a) (last sentence)	1.1 ("Outstanding")
(a)(1)(A)	4.2, 4.12
(a)(1)(B)	4.13
(b)	4.8
(c) Section 217 (c)(1)	13.3(d)
Section 317 (a)(1)	4.3
(a)(2)	4.4 9.3
(b) Section 219 (c)	
Section 318 (a)	13.10(b)

Note: This reconciliation and tie shall not, for any purpose, be deemed to be a part of the Indenture.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I DI	EFINITIONS AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION	1
Section 1.1	Definitions.	1
Section 1.2	Other Definitions.	6
Section 1.3	<u>Incorporation by Reference of Trust Indenture Act.</u>	6
Section 1.4	Rules of Construction.	7
	HE SECURITIES	7
Section 2.1	Amount of Securities; Issuable in Series.	7
Section 2.2	Form and Dating.	9
Section 2.3	Execution and Authentication.	9
Section 2.4	Registrar and Paying Agent.	10
Section 2.5	Paying Agent To Hold Money in Trust.	10
Section 2.6	Securityholder Lists.	10
Section 2.7	Replacement Securities.	10
Section 2.8	Outstanding Securities.	11
Section 2.9	<u>Temporary Securities.</u>	11
Section 2.10	Cancellation.	11
Section 2.11	<u>Defaulted Interest.</u>	11
Section 2.12	CUSIP Numbers.	11
ARTICLE III. S	SATISFACTION AND DISCHARGE	12
Section 3.1	Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture.	12
Section 3.2	Application of Trust Money.	12
ΔΡΤΙΟΙ Ε ΙΜ Ι	DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES	13
Section 4.1	Events of Default.	13
Section 4.1	Acceleration of Maturity; Rescission and Annulment.	14
Section 4.2	Collection of Indebtedness and Suits for Enforcement by Trustee.	15
Section 4.4	Trustee May File Proofs of Claim.	15
Section 4.5	Trustee May Enforce Claims Without Possession of Securities.	16
Section 4.5	Application of Money Collected.	16
Section 4.7	Limitation on Suits.	16
Section 4.7	<u>Unconditional Right of Holders to Receive Principal, Premium and Interest.</u>	16
Section 4.9	Restoration of Rights and Remedies.	17
Section 4.3	Rights and Remedies Cumulative.	17
Section 4.10	Delay or Omission Not Waiver.	17
Section 4.12	Control by Holders.	17
Section 4.13 Section 4.14	<u>Waiver of Past Defaults.</u> <u>Waiver of Stay, Extension or Usury Laws.</u>	17 18
Section 4.14 Section 4.15	Undertaking of Costs.	18
		10
ARTICLE V. T		18
Section 5.1	<u>Duties of Trustee.</u>	18
Section 5.2	Certain Rights of Trustee.	19
Section 5.3	<u>Trustee Not Responsible for Recitals or Issuance of Securities.</u>	20
Section 5.4	May Hold Securities.	20
Section 5.5	Money Held in Trust.	20
Section 5.6	Compensation and Reimbursement.	20
Section 5.7	Corporate Trustee Required; Eligibility.	21
Section 5.8	Conflicting Interests.	21
Section 5.9	Resignation and Removal; Appointment of Successor.	21
Section 5.10	Acceptance of Appointment by Successor.	22
Section 5.11	Merger, Conversion, Consolidation or Succession to Business.	22

i

22

23

Preferential Collection of Claims Against Company.

Notice of Defaults.

Section 5.12

Section 5.13

ARTICLE VI. HOI	LDERS' LISTS AND REPORTS BY TRUSTEE AND COMPANY	23
Section 6.1	Holders' Lists; Holder Communications; Disclosure Respecting Holders.	23
Section 6.2	Reports by Trustee.	23
Section 6.3	Reports by Company.	23
ARTICLE VII. CO	NSOLIDATION, MERGER, CONVEYANCE, TRANSFER OR LEASE	24
Section 7.1	Company May Consolidate, etc., Only on Certain Terms.	24
Section 7.2	Successor Substituted.	25
ARTICLE VIII SI	JPPLEMENTAL INDENTURES	25
Section 8.1	Supplemental Indentures Without Consent of Holders.	25
Section 8.2	Supplemental Indentures with Consent of Holders.	26
Section 8.3	Execution of Supplemental Indentures.	26
Section 8.4	Effects of Supplemental Indentures.	27
Section 8.5	Conformity with Trust Indenture Act.	27
Section 8.6	References in Securities to Supplemental Indentures.	27
Section 8.7	Notice of Supplemental Indentures.	27
ARTICLE IX. COV	VENANTS	27
Section 9.1	Payment of Principal, Premium, if any, and Interest.	27
Section 9.2	Maintenance of Office or Agency.	27
Section 9.3	Money for Security Payments to Be Held in Trust.	28
Section 9.4	Corporate Existence.	28
Section 9.5	Statement by Officers as to Default.	29
Section 9.6	Waiver of Certain Covenants.	29
Section 9.7	Additional Amounts.	29
ARTICLE Y RED	EMPTION OF SECURITIES	30
Section 10.1	Notice to Trustee.	30
Section 10.1 Section 10.2	Selection by Trustee of Securities to Be Redeemed.	30
Section 10.2 Section 10.3	Notice of Redemption.	30
Section 10.4	Deposit of Redemption Price.	31
Section 10.5	Securities Payable on Redemption Date.	31
Section 10.6	Securities Redeemed in Part.	31
ADTICLE VI DEE	FEASANCE AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE	
Section 11.1	Company's Option to Effect Defeasance of Covenant Defeasance.	31 31
Section 11.1 Section 11.2	Defeasance and Discharge.	32
Section 11.3	Covenant Defeasance.	32
Section 11.4	Conditions to Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance.	32
Section 11.5	Deposited Money and U.S. Government Obligations to Be Held in Trust; Other Miscellaneous Provisions.	33
Section 11.6	Reinstatement.	34
ADTICLE VIL CI	BSIDIARY GUARANTEES	34
	Unconditional Guarantee.	34
Section 12.1	Subsidiary Guarantors May Consolidate, etc., on Certain Terms.	35
Section 12.2	Release of Subsidiary Guarantors.	36
Section 12.4	Limitation of Subsidiary Guarantors' Liability.	36
Section 12.5	Contribution.	36
Section 12.6	Subordination of Subsidiary Guarantees.	36
Section 12.7	Severability.	37
ARTICLE XIII. MI	Compliance Certificates and Opinions.	37
Section 13.1 Section 13.2	<u>— i — i — i — i — i — i — i — i — i — i</u>	37 37
Section 13.2 Section 13.3	Form of Documents Delivered to Trustee. Acts of Holders.	38
Section 13.4	Notices, etc. to Trustee, Company and Subsidiary Guarantors.	38
Section 13.5	Notice to Holders; Waiver.	39
occuon 13.3	TYOUCE TO ITOTUCES, YYOUYEL.	39

Section 13.6	Effect of Headings and Table of Contents.	39
Section 13.7	Successors and Assigns.	39
Section 13.8	Severability.	39
Section 13.9	Benefits of Indenture.	39
Section 13.10	Governing Law; Trust Indenture Act Controls.	39
Section 13.11	<u>Legal Holidays.</u>	40
Section 13.12	No Recourse Against Others.	40
Section 13.13	<u>Duplicate Originals.</u>	40
Section 13.14	No Adverse Interpretation of Other Agreements.	40
Section 13.15	Force Majeure.	40
Section 13.16	Waiver of Jury Trial.	41
	<del></del>	

Appendix A — Form of Security

THIS INDENTURE, dated as of [ ], is between COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC., a Nevada corporation (hereinafter called the "Company"), the SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS (as defined hereinafter) and [ ], as Trustee (hereinafter called the "Trustee").

Each party agrees as follows for the benefit of the other party and for the equal and ratable benefit of the Holders of the Company's [title of debt security], to be issued, from time to time, in one or more series as in this Indenture provided (the "Securities"):

#### ARTICLE I.

#### DEFINITIONS AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

#### Section 1.1 Definitions.

"Act," when used with respect to any Holder, has the meaning specified in Section 13.3.

"Adjusted Net Assets" of a Subsidiary Guarantor at any date shall mean the amount by which the fair value of the Properties of such Subsidiary Guarantor exceeds the total amount of liabilities, including, without limitation, contingent liabilities (after giving effect to all other fixed and contingent liabilities incurred or assumed on such date), but excluding liabilities under its Subsidiary Guarantee, of such Subsidiary Guarantor at such date.

"Affiliate" means, with respect to any specified Person, any other Person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by or under direct or indirect common control with such specified Person. For the purposes of this definition, "control," when used with respect to any Person, means the power to direct the management and policies of such Person, directly or indirectly, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise; and the terms "controlling" and "controlled" have meanings correlative to the foregoing. For purposes of this definition, beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the voting common equity (on a fully diluted basis) or options or warrants to purchase such equity (but only if exercisable at the date of determination or within 60 days thereof) of a Person shall be deemed to constitute control of such Person.

"Board of Directors" means, with respect to the Company, either the board of directors of the Company or any duly authorized committee of such board of directors, and, with respect to any Subsidiary, either the board of directors of such Subsidiary or any duly authorized committee of that board or, in the case of a Subsidiary not having a board of directors, the manager or other person performing a function comparable to a board of directors of a corporation.

"Board Resolution" means, with respect to the Company, a copy of a resolution certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company to have been duly adopted by its Board of Directors and to be in full force and effect on the date of such certification, and delivered to the Trustee, and with respect to a Subsidiary, a copy of a resolution certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of such Subsidiary to have been duly adopted by its Board of Directors and to be in full force and effect on the date of such certification, and delivered to the Trustee.

"Business Day" means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in the cities of New York, New York or Dallas, Texas are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

"Capitalized Lease Obligation" means any obligation to pay rent or other amounts under a lease of (or other agreement conveying the right to use) any Property that is required to be classified and accounted for as a capital lease obligation under GAAP, and, for the purpose of this Indenture, the amount of such obligation at any date shall be the capitalized amount thereof at such date, determined in accordance with GAAP. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any lease (whether entered into before or after date of this Indenture) that would have been classified as an operating lease pursuant to GAAP as in effect on the date of this Indenture will be deemed not to represent a Capitalized Lease Obligation.

"Capital Stock" means, with respect to any Person, any and all shares, interests, participations, rights or other equivalents in the equity interests (however designated) in such Person, and any rights (other than debt securities convertible into an equity interest), warrants or options exercisable for, exchangeable for or convertible into such an equity interest in such Person.

"Cash Equivalents" means (i) any evidence of Indebtedness with a maturity of 180 days or less issued or directly and fully guaranteed or insured by the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof (provided that the full faith and credit of the United States of America is pledged in support thereof); (ii) demand and time deposits and certificates of deposit or acceptances with a maturity of 180 days or less of any financial institution that is a member of the Federal Reserve System having combined capital and surplus and undivided profits of not less than \$500,000,000; (iii) commercial paper with a maturity of 180 days or less issued by a corporation that is not an Affiliate of the Company and is organized under the laws of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and rated at least A-l by S&P or at least P-l by Moody's; (iv) repurchase obligations with a term of not more than seven days for underlying securities of the types described in clause (i) above entered into with any commercial bank meeting the specifications of clause (ii) above; (v) overnight bank deposits and bankers' acceptances at any commercial bank meeting the qualifications specified in clause (ii) above, provided that such deposits and certificates support bond, letter of credit and other similar types of obligations incurred in the ordinary course of business; and (vii) investments in money market or other mutual funds substantially all of whose assets comprise securities of the types described in clauses (i) through (v) above.

"Code" shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as now or hereafter in effect, together with all regulations thereunder issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

"Commission" or "SEC" means the Securities and Exchange Commission, as from time to time constituted, created under the Exchange Act, or, if at any time after the execution of this Indenture such Commission is not existing and performing the duties now assigned to it under the Trust Indenture Act, then the body performing such duties at such time.

"Common Stock" of any Person means Capital Stock of such Person that does not rank prior, as to the payment of dividends or as to the distribution of assets upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of such Person, to shares of Capital Stock of any other class of such Person.

"Company" means the Person named as the "Company" in the first paragraph of this Indenture, until a successor Person shall have become such pursuant to the applicable provisions of this Indenture, and thereafter "Company" shall mean such successor Person.

"Company Request" or "Company Order" means a written request or order signed in the name of the Company by its Chairman, its President, any Vice President, its Treasurer or an Assistant Treasurer, and delivered to the Trustee.

"Corporate Trust Office" means, for purposes of presenting Securities, [ ] located at [ ] and, for all other purposes the office of the Trustee at which any time its corporate trust business shall be administered, which at the date hereof is located at [ ], or such other address as the Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders and the Company, or the principal corporate trust office of any successor Trustee (or such other address as such successor Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders and the Company).

"Default" means any event, act or condition that is, or after notice or passage of time or both would become, an Event of Default.

"Event of Default" has the meaning specified in Section 4.1 hereof.

"Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time, and any successor act thereto.

"Fair Market Value" means the fair market value of a Property (including shares of Capital Stock) as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company and evidenced by a Board Resolution, which determination shall be conclusive for purposes of this Indenture; provided, however, that unless otherwise specified herein, the Board of Directors shall be under no obligation to obtain any valuation or assessment from any investment banker, appraiser or other third party.

"Federal Bankruptcy Code" means the United States Bankruptcy Code of Title 11 of the United States Code, as amended from time to time.

"GAAP" means generally accepted accounting principles, consistently applied, that are set forth in the opinions and pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and statements and pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board or in such other statements by such other entity as may be approved by a significant segment of the accounting profession of the United States of America, which are applicable as of the date of this Indenture.

The term "guarantee" means, as applied to any obligation, (i) a guarantee (other than by endorsement of negotiable instruments or documents for collection in the ordinary course of business), direct or indirect, in any manner, of any part or all of such obligation and (ii) an agreement, direct or indirect, contingent or otherwise, the practical effect of which is to assure in any way the payment or performance (or payment of damages in the event of non-performance) of all or any part of such obligation, including, without limiting the foregoing, the payment of amounts drawn down under letters of credit. When used as a verb, "guarantee" has a corresponding meaning.

"Guarantor Senior Debt" means, unless otherwise provided with respect to the Securities of a series as contemplated by Section 2.1, (1) all Indebtedness of a Subsidiary Guarantor, whether currently outstanding or hereafter issued, unless, by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing such Indebtedness, it is provided that such Indebtedness is not superior in right of payment to the Subsidiary Guarantee or to other Indebtedness which is pari passu with or subordinated to the Subsidiary Guarantee, and (2) any modifications, refunding, deferrals, renewals or extensions of any such Indebtedness or securities, notes or other evidence of Indebtedness issued in exchange for such Indebtedness; provided that in no event shall "Guarantor Senior Debt" include (a) Indebtedness of a Subsidiary Guarantor owed or owing to any Subsidiary of such Subsidiary Guarantor or any officer, director or employee of such Subsidiary Guarantor or any Subsidiary of such Subsidiary Guarantor.

"Holder" means a Person in whose name a Security is registered in a Security Register.

"Indebtedness" means, with respect to any Person, without duplication, (a) all liabilities of such Person, contingent or otherwise, for borrowed money or for the deferred purchase price of Property or services (excluding any trade accounts payable and other accrued current liabilities incurred and reserves established in the ordinary course of business) and all liabilities of such Person incurred in connection with any agreement to purchase, redeem, exchange, convert or otherwise acquire for value any Capital Stock of such Person, or any warrants, rights or options to acquire such Capital Stock outstanding on the date of this Indenture or thereafter, if, and to the extent, any of the foregoing would appear as a liability upon a balance sheet of such Person evidenced by bonds, notes, debentures or other similar instruments, if, and to the extent, any of the foregoing would appear as a liability upon a balance sheet of such Person prepared in accordance with GAAP, (c) all obligations of such Person with respect to letters of credit, (d) all indebtedness of such Person created or arising under any conditional sale or other title retention agreement with respect to Property acquired by such Person (even if the rights and remedies of the seller or lender under such agreement in the event of default are limited to repossession or sale of such Property), but excluding trade accounts payable and reserves established arising in the ordinary course of business, (e) all Capitalized Lease Obligations of such Person, and (f) all guarantees by such Person of Indebtedness referred to in this definition.

"Indenture" means this instrument as originally executed and as it may from time to time be supplemented or amended by one or more indentures supplemental hereto entered into pursuant to the applicable provisions hereof. The term "Indenture" shall also include the terms of a particular series of Securities established as contemplated by Section 2.1.

"Insolvency or Liquidation Proceeding" means, with respect to any Person, (a) an insolvency or bankruptcy case or proceeding, or any receivership, liquidation, reorganization or similar case or proceeding in connection therewith, relative to such Person or its creditors, as such, or its assets or (b) any liquidation, dissolution or other winding-up proceeding of such Person, whether voluntary or involuntary and whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy or (c) any assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshaling of assets and liabilities of such Person.

"Interest Payment Date" means the Stated Maturity of an installment of interest on the Securities.

"Issue Date" means the date on which the Securities were first issued under this Indenture.

"Maturity" means, with respect to any Security, the date on which any principal of such Security becomes due and payable as therein or herein provided, whether at the Stated Maturity with respect to such principal or by declaration of acceleration, call for redemption or purchase or otherwise.

"Moody's" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and its successors.

"Obligations" means all obligations for principal, premium, interest, penalties, fees, indemnifications, payments with respect to any letters of credit, reimbursements, damages and other liabilities payable under the documentation governing any Indebtedness.

"Officers" means, with respect to any Person, the Chief Executive Officer, the President, any Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer and the Treasurer of such Person.

"Officers' Certificate" means a certificate signed by the Chairman of the Board, the President or a Vice President, and by the Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company, and delivered to the Trustee.

"Opinion of Counsel" means a written opinion of counsel, who may be counsel for the Company (or any Subsidiary Guarantor), including an employee of the Company (or any Subsidiary Guarantor), and who shall be reasonably acceptable to the Trustee.

"Outstanding," when used with respect to Securities, means, as of the date of determination, all Securities theretofore authenticated and delivered under this Indenture, except:

- (i) Securities theretofore canceled by the Trustee or delivered to the Trustee for cancellation;
- (ii) Securities, or portions thereof, for whose payment or redemption money in the necessary amount has been theretofore deposited with the Trustee or any Paying Agent (other than the Company) in trust or set aside and segregated in trust by the Company (if the Company shall act as its own Paying Agent) for the Holders of such Securities, *provided* that, if such Securities are to be redeemed, notice of such redemption has been duly given pursuant to this Indenture or provision therefor satisfactory to the Trustee has been made;
- (iii) Securities, except to the extent provided in Sections 11.2 and 11.3 hereof, with respect to which the Company has effected legal defeasance or covenant defeasance as provided in Article XI hereof; and
- (iv) Securities which have been paid pursuant to Section 2.7 hereof or in exchange for or in lieu of which other Securities have been authenticated and delivered pursuant to this Indenture, other than any such Securities in respect of which there shall have been presented to the Trustee proof satisfactory to it that such securities are held by a bona fide purchaser in whose hands the Securities are valid obligations of the Company;

provided, however, that in determining whether the Holders of the requisite principal amount of Outstanding Securities have given any request, demand, authorization, direction, consent, notice or waiver hereunder, and for the purpose of making the calculations required by TIA Section 313, Securities owned by the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor or any other obligor upon the Securities or any Affiliate of the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor or such other obligor shall be disregarded and deemed not to be Outstanding, except that, in determining whether the Trustee shall be protected in making such calculation or in relying upon any such request, demand, authorization,

direction, consent, notice or waiver, only Securities which the Trustee knows to be so owned shall be so disregarded. Securities so owned which have been pledged in good faith may be regarded as Outstanding if the pledgee establishes to the satisfaction of the Trustee the pledgee's right so to act with respect to such Securities and that the pledgee is not the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor or any other obligor upon the Securities or any Affiliate of the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor or such other obligor.

"Person" means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, association, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

"Property" means, with respect to any Person, any interest of such Person in any kind of property or asset, whether real, personal or mixed, or tangible or intangible, including, without limitation, Capital Stock in any other Person.

"Redemption Date," when used with respect to any Security to be redeemed, in whole or in part, means the date fixed for such redemption by or pursuant to this Indenture.

"Redemption Price," when used with respect to any Security to be redeemed, means the price at which it is to be redeemed pursuant to this Indenture.

"Regular Record Date" for the interest payable on any Interest Payment Date with respect to the Securities of any series means the date specified for that purpose as contemplated by Section 2.1.

"Responsible Officer," when used with respect to the Trustee, means any officer in the Corporate Trust Office, and also means, with respect to a particular corporate trust matter, any other officer of the Trustee to whom such matter is referred because of his knowledge of and familiarity with the particular subject.

"Restricted Subsidiary" means any Subsidiary of the Company, whether existing on or after the date of this Indenture, unless such Subsidiary of the Company is an Unrestricted Subsidiary or is designated as an Unrestricted Subsidiary pursuant to the terms of this Indenture.

"S&P" means Standard and Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and its successors.

"Securities" has the meaning stated in the first recital of this Indenture and more particularly means any Securities authenticated and delivered under this Indenture.

"Securities Act" means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time, and any successor act thereto.

"Senior Indebtedness" means any Indebtedness of the Company (whether outstanding on the date hereof or hereinafter incurred), unless such Indebtedness is Subordinated Indebtedness.

"Stated Maturity," when used with respect to any Indebtedness or any installment of interest thereon, means the date specified in the instrument evidencing or governing such Indebtedness as the fixed date on which the principal of such Indebtedness or such installment of interest is due and payable.

"Subordinated Indebtedness" means Indebtedness of the Company or a Subsidiary Guarantor which is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the Securities or the Subsidiary Guarantees, as the case may be.

"Subsidiary" means, with respect to any Person, (i) a corporation a majority of whose Voting Stock is at the time, directly or indirectly, owned by such Person, by one or more Subsidiaries of such Person or by such Person and one or more Subsidiaries thereof or (ii) any other Person (other than a corporation), including, without limitation, a joint venture, in which such Person, one or more Subsidiaries thereof or such Person and one or more Subsidiaries thereof, directly or indirectly, at the date of determination thereof, have at least majority ownership interest entitled to vote in the election of directors, managers or trustees thereof (or other Persons performing similar functions).

"Subsidiary Guarantee" has the meaning specified in Section 12.1 hereof.

"Subsidiary Guarantor" means (i) those Subsidiaries designated as such pursuant to Section 2.1(20), and (ii) any Person that becomes a successor guarantor of the Securities in compliance with the provisions of Section 12.2 hereof.

"Trust Indenture Act" or "TIA" means the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended and in force at the date as of which this Indenture was executed, except as provided in Section 8.5 hereof.

"Trustee" means the Person named as the "Trustee" in the first paragraph of this Indenture until a successor Trustee shall have become such pursuant to the applicable provisions of this Indenture, and thereafter "Trustee" shall mean such successor Trustee.

"Unrestricted Subsidiary" means (i) any Subsidiary of the Company that at the time of determination will be designated an Unrestricted Subsidiary by the Board of Directors of the Company as provided below and (ii) any Subsidiary of an Unrestricted Subsidiary. The Board of Directors of the Company may designate any Subsidiary of the Company as an Unrestricted Subsidiary so long as (a) neither the Company nor any Restricted Subsidiary is directly or indirectly liable pursuant to the terms of any Indebtedness of such Subsidiary; and (b) no default with respect to any Indebtedness of such Subsidiary would permit (upon notice, lapse of time or otherwise) any holder of any other Indebtedness of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary to declare a default on such other Indebtedness or cause the payment thereof to be accelerated or payable prior to its Stated Maturity. Any such designation by the Board of Directors of the Company shall be evidenced to the Trustee by filing a Board Resolution with the Trustee giving effect to such designation.

"Vice President," when used with respect to the Company or the Trustee, means any vice president, whether or not designated by a number or a word or words added before or after the title "vice president."

"Voting Stock" means any class or classes of Capital Stock pursuant to which the holders thereof have the general voting power under ordinary circumstances to elect at least a majority of the board of directors, managers or trustees of any Person (irrespective of whether or not, at the time, stock of any other class or classes shall have, or might have, voting power by reason of the happening of any contingency).

# Section 1.2 Other Definitions.

<u>Term</u>	Defined in
"Funding Guarantor"	12.5
"Global Security"	Appendix A
"OID"	2.1
"Paying Agent"	2.4
"Registrar"	2.4
"Representative"	13.2
"Security Register"	2.4
"Surviving Entity"	7.1(a)
"U.S. Government Obligations"	11.4(a)

# Section 1.3 <u>Incorporation by Reference of Trust Indenture Act.</u>

Whenever this Indenture refers to a provision of the TIA, the provision is incorporated by reference in and made a part of this Indenture. The following TIA terms used in this Indenture have the following meanings:

"indenture securities" means the Securities,

"indenture security holder" means a Holder,

"indenture to be qualified" means this Indenture,

"indenture trustee" or "institutional trustee" means the Trustee, and

"obligor" on the indenture securities means the Company or any other obligor on the Securities.

All other TIA terms used in this Indenture that are defined by the TIA, defined by TIA reference to another statute or defined by Commission rule and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them therein.

#### Section 1.4 Rules of Construction.

For all purposes of this Indenture, except as otherwise expressly provided or unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the terms defined in this Article have the meanings assigned to them in this Article, and include the plural as well as the singular;
- (b) all accounting terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in accordance with GAAP and all accounting calculations will be determined in accordance with GAAP;
- (c) the words "herein," "hereof" and "hereunder" and other words of similar import refer to this Indenture as a whole and not to any particular Article, Section or other subdivision;
  - (d) the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter;
  - (e) a "day" means a calendar day;
  - (f) the term "merger" includes a statutory share exchange and the term "merged" has a correlative meaning;
  - (g) provisions apply to successive events and transactions; and
- (h) references to agreements and other instruments include subsequent amendments and waivers but only to the extent not prohibited by this Indenture.

#### ARTICLE II.

#### THE SECURITIES

## Section 2.1 Amount of Securities; Issuable in Series.

The aggregate principal amount of Securities Outstanding at any one time is unlimited. All Securities of each series shall be identical in all respects other than issue price and issuance dates. The Securities may be issued in one or more series; *provided*, *however*, that any Securities issued with original issue discount ("OID") for Federal income tax purposes shall not be issued as part of the same series as any Securities that are issued with a different amount of OID or are not issued with OID.

There shall be established in or pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors and, subject to Section 2.3, set forth or determined in the manner provided in an Officers' Certificate, or established in one or more indentures supplemental hereto, prior to the issuance of such Securities:

- (1) whether such Securities shall be issued as part of a new or existing series of Securities and the title of such Securities (which shall distinguish the Securities of the series from Securities of any other series);
  - (2) any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of such Securities which may be authenticated and delivered under this Indenture;

- (3) the issue price and issuance date of such Securities, including the date from which interest on such Securities shall accrue;
- (4) if applicable, that such Securities shall be issuable in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Securities, and, in such case, the respective depositories for such Global Securities, and any transfer of such Global Security in whole or in part may be registered, in the name or names of Persons other than the depository for such Global Security or a nominee thereof;
  - (5) the date or dates on which the principal of the Securities of the series is payable or the method of determination thereof;
- (6) the rate or rates at which the Securities of the series shall bear interest, if any, or the formula, method or provision pursuant to which such rate or rates are determined, the date or dates from which such interest shall accrue or the method of determination thereof, the Interest Payment Dates on which such interest shall be payable and the record date for the interest payable on any Interest Payment Date;
- (7) the place or places where, subject to the provisions of Section 9.2, the principal of and any premium and interest on Securities of the series shall be payable, Securities of the series may be surrendered for registration of transfer, Securities of the series may be surrendered for exchange, and notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of the Securities of the series and this Indenture may be served;
- (8) the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which Securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of the Company;
  - (9) if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which Securities of the series shall be issuable;
- (10) whether payment of principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the Securities of the series shall be without deduction for taxes, assessments or governmental charges paid by Holders of the series;
- (11) if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of Securities of the series which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to Section 4.2;
- (12) if the amount of payments of principal of and any premium or interest on the Securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index, the manner in which such amounts shall be determined;
- (13) if and as applicable, that the Securities of the series shall be issuable in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Securities and, in such case, the depositary or depositaries for such Global Security or Global Securities and any circumstances in which any such Global Security may be transferred to, and registered and exchanged for Securities registered in the name of, a Person other than the Depositary for such Global Security or a nominee thereof and in which any such transfer may be registered;
- (14) any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default set forth in Section 4.1 or the covenants of the Company set forth in Article IX with respect to the Securities of such series;
- (15) whether and under what circumstances the Company will pay additional amounts on the Securities of the series held by a Person who is not a U.S. person in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if so, whether the Company will have the option to redeem the Securities of the series rather than pay such additional amounts;
- (16) if the Securities of the series are to be issuable in definitive form (whether upon original issue or upon exchange of a temporary Security of such series) only upon receipt of certain certificates or other documents or satisfaction of other conditions, the form and terms of such certificates, documents or conditions;

- (17) if the Securities of the series are to be convertible into or exchangeable for any other security or property of the Company, including, without limitation, securities of another Person held by the Company or its Affiliates and, if so, the terms thereof;
- (18) if other than as provided in Sections 11.2 and 11.3, the means of defeasance or covenant defeasance as may be specified for the Securities of the Series;
  - (19) if other than the Trustee, the identity of the initial Registrar and any initial Paying Agent;
- (20) whether the Securities of the series will be guaranteed pursuant to the Subsidiary Guarantees, the names of the Subsidiaries that will initially be Subsidiary Guarantors and Unrestricted Subsidiaries (if there are Subsidiary Guarantees), any modifications to the terms of Article XII applicable to the Securities of such series and the applicability of any other guarantees;
- (21) whether the Securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, the subordination provisions and the applicable definition of Senior Indebtedness; and
  - (22) any other terms of the series (which terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Indenture).

All Securities of any one series need not be issued at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, a series may be reopened, without the consent of the Holders, for increases in the aggregate principal amount of such series of Securities and issuances of additional Securities of such series or for the establishment of additional terms with respect to the Securities of such series.

If any of the terms of any series are established by action taken pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors, a copy of an appropriate record of such action shall be certified by the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary of the Company and delivered to the Trustee at or prior to the delivery of the Officers' Certificate or the trust indenture supplementary thereto setting forth the terms of the series.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section or otherwise in this Indenture, any additional issuance of Securities after the Issue Date, whether such Securities are of the same or a different series than the Securities first issued under this Indenture, shall be in a principal amount greater than or equal to \$25,000,000.

### Section 2.2 Form and Dating.

Provisions relating to the Securities of each series are set forth in <u>Appendix A</u>, which is hereby incorporated in and expressly made a part of this Indenture. The Securities of each series and the Trustee's certificate of authentication shall be substantially in the form of <u>Appendix A</u> which is hereby incorporated in and expressly made a part of this Indenture. The Securities of each series may have notations, legends or endorsements required by law, stock exchange rule, agreements to which the Company is subject, if any, or usage, provided that any such notation, legend or endorsement is in a form reasonably acceptable to the Company. Each Security shall be dated the date of its authentication. The terms of the Securities of each series set forth in <u>Appendix A</u> are part of the terms of this Indenture.

#### Section 2.3 Execution and Authentication.

Two Officers of the Company shall sign the Securities for the Company by manual or facsimile signature. The Company's seal may be impressed, affixed, imprinted or reproduced on the Securities and may be in facsimile form.

If an Officer whose signature is on a Security no longer holds that office at the time the Trustee authenticates the Security, the Security shall be valid nevertheless.

At any time and from time to time after the execution and delivery of this Indenture, the Company may deliver Securities of any series executed by the Company to the Trustee for authentication, together with a written order of the Company signed by two Officers of the Company for the authentication and delivery of such Securities, and the Trustee in accordance with such written order of the Company shall authenticate and deliver such Securities.

A Security shall not be valid until an authorized signatory of the Trustee manually signs the certificate of authentication on the Security. The signature shall be conclusive evidence that the Security has been authenticated under this Indenture.

The Trustee may appoint an authenticating agent reasonably acceptable to the Company to authenticate the Securities. Unless limited by the terms of such appointment, an authenticating agent may authenticate Securities whenever the Trustee may do so. Each reference in this Indenture to authentication by the Trustee includes authentication by such agent. An authenticating agent has the same rights as any Registrar, Paying Agent or agent for service of notices and demands.

#### Section 2.4 Registrar and Paying Agent.

The Company shall maintain an office or agency where Securities may be presented for registration of transfer or for exchange (the "Registrar") and an office or agency where Securities may be presented for payment (the "Paying Agent"). The Registrar shall keep a register (the "Security Register") of the Securities and of their transfer and exchange. The Company may have one or more co-registrars and one or more additional paying agents. The term "Paying Agent" includes any additional paying agent.

The Company shall enter into an appropriate agency agreement with any Registrar, Paying Agent or co-registrar not a party to this Indenture, which shall incorporate the terms of the TIA. The agreement shall implement the provisions of this Indenture that relate to such agent. The Company shall notify the Trustee of the name and address of any such agent. If the Company fails to maintain a Registrar or Paying Agent, the Trustee shall act as such and shall be entitled to appropriate compensation therefor pursuant to Section 5.6. The Company may act as Paying Agent, Registrar, co-registrar or transfer agent.

The Company initially appoints the Trustee as Registrar and Paying Agent in connection with the Securities.

## Section 2.5 Paying Agent To Hold Money in Trust.

Not later than 10:00 a.m., Eastern standard time, on each due date of the principal and interest on any Security, the Company shall deposit with the Paying Agent a sum sufficient to pay such principal and interest when so becoming due. The Company shall require each Paying Agent (other than the Trustee) to agree in writing that the Paying Agent shall hold in trust for the benefit of Securityholders or the Trustee all money held by the Paying Agent for the payment of principal of or interest on the Securities and shall notify the Trustee of any default by the Company in making any such payment. If the Company acts as Paying Agent, it shall segregate the money held by it as Paying Agent and hold it as a separate trust fund. The Company at any time may require a Paying Agent to pay all money held by it to the Trustee and to account for any funds disbursed by the Paying Agent. Upon complying with this Section, the Paying Agent shall have no further liability for the money delivered to the Trustee.

## Section 2.6 Securityholder Lists.

The Trustee shall preserve in as current a form as is reasonably practicable the most recent list available to it of the names and addresses of Securityholders. If the Trustee is not the Registrar, the Company shall furnish to the Trustee, in writing at least five Business Days before each interest payment date and at such other times as the Trustee may request in writing, a list in such form and as of such date as the Trustee may reasonably require of the names and addresses of Securityholders.

#### Section 2.7 Replacement Securities.

If a mutilated Security is surrendered to the Registrar or if the Holder of a Security claims that such Security has been lost, destroyed or wrongfully taken, the Company shall issue and the Trustee shall authenticate a replacement Security if the requirements of Section 8-405 of the Uniform Commercial Code are met and the Holder satisfies any other reasonable requirements of the Trustee. If required by the Trustee or the Company, such Holder shall furnish

an indemnity bond sufficient in the judgment of the Company and the Trustee to protect the Company, the Trustee, the Paying Agent, the Registrar and any co-registrar from any loss which any of them may suffer if a Security is replaced. The Company and the Trustee may charge the Holder for their expenses in replacing a Security.

Every replacement Security is an additional obligation of the Company.

#### Section 2.8 Outstanding Securities.

Securities outstanding at any time are all Securities authenticated by the Trustee except for those canceled by it, those delivered to it for cancellation and those described in this Section as not outstanding. A Security does not cease to be outstanding because the Company or an Affiliate of the Company holds the Security.

If a Security is replaced pursuant to Section 2.7, it ceases to be outstanding unless the Trustee and the Company receive proof satisfactory to them that the replaced Security is held by a bona fide purchaser.

If the Paying Agent segregates and holds in trust, in accordance with this Indenture, on a redemption date or maturity date money sufficient to pay all principal and interest payable on that date with respect to the Securities (or portions thereof) to be redeemed or maturing, as the case may be, and the Paying Agent is not prohibited from paying such money to the Securityholders on that date pursuant to the terms of this Indenture, then on and after that date such Securities (or portions thereof) cease to be outstanding and interest on them ceases to accrue.

#### Section 2.9 <u>Temporary Securities.</u>

Until definitive Securities are ready for delivery, the Company may prepare and the Trustee shall authenticate temporary Securities. Temporary Securities shall be substantially in the form of definitive Securities but may have variations that the Company considers appropriate for temporary Securities. Without unreasonable delay, the Company shall prepare and the Trustee shall authenticate definitive Securities and deliver them in exchange for temporary Securities.

# Section 2.10 Cancellation.

The Company at any time may deliver Securities to the Trustee for cancellation. The Registrar and the Paying Agent shall forward to the Trustee any Securities surrendered to them for registration of transfer, exchange or payment. The Trustee and no one else shall cancel and destroy (subject to the record retention requirements of the Exchange Act) all Securities surrendered for registration of transfer, exchange, payment or cancellation and shall, upon written request, deliver a certificate of such destruction to the Company. The Company may not issue new Securities to replace Securities it has redeemed, paid or delivered to the Trustee for cancellation.

## Section 2.11 <u>Defaulted Interest.</u>

If the Company defaults in a payment of interest on the Securities, it shall pay the defaulted interest in any lawful manner plus, to the extent lawful, interest payable on the defaulted interest, to the persons who are Securityholders on a subsequent special record date, in each case at the rate provided in the Securities and in Section 9.1 hereof. The Company shall fix or cause to be fixed any such special record date and payment date to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee and shall promptly mail to each Securityholder a notice that states the special record date, the payment date and the amount of defaulted interest to be paid.

#### Section 2.12 CUSIP Numbers.

The Company in issuing the Securities may use "CUSIP" numbers (if then generally in use) and, if so, the Trustee shall use "CUSIP" numbers in notices of redemption as a convenience to Holders; *provided*, *however*, that any such notice may state that no representation is made as to the correctness of such numbers either as printed on the Securities or as contained in any notice of a redemption and that reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers printed on the Securities, and any such redemption shall not be affected by any defect in or omission of such numbers.

#### ARTICLE III.

#### SATISFACTION AND DISCHARGE

## Section 3.1 Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture.

This Indenture shall upon Company Request cease to be of further effect (except as to surviving rights of registration of transfer or exchange of Securities, as expressly provided for in this Indenture) as to all Outstanding Securities, and the Trustee, at the expense of the Company, shall, upon payment of all amounts due the Trustee under Section 5.6 hereof, execute proper instruments acknowledging satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture when

#### (a) either

- (1) all Securities theretofore authenticated and delivered (other than (i) Securities which have been replaced as provided in Section 2.7 hereof and (ii) Securities for whose payment money or United States governmental obligations of the type described in clause (i) of the definition of Cash Equivalents have theretofore been deposited in trust with the Trustee or any Paying Agent or segregated and held in trust by the Company and thereafter repaid to the Company or discharged from such trust, as provided in Section 9.3 hereof) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, or
  - (2) all such Securities not theretofore delivered to the Trustee for cancellation
    - (i) have become due and payable, or
    - (ii) will become due and payable at their Stated Maturity within one year, or
    - (iii) are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the Trustee in the name, and at the expense, of the Company,

and the Company, in the case of clause (2)(i), (2)(ii) or (2)(iii) above, has irrevocably deposited or caused to be deposited with the Trustee funds in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on such Securities not theretofore delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, for principal (and premium, if any) and interest to the date of such deposit (in the case of Securities which have become due and payable) or to the Stated Maturity or Redemption Date, as the case may be, together with instructions from the Company irrevocably directing the Trustee to apply such funds to the payment thereof at maturity or redemption, as the case may be;

- (b) the Company has paid or caused to be paid all other sums then due and payable hereunder by the Company; and
- (c) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, which, taken together, state that all conditions precedent herein relating to the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture have been complied with.

Notwithstanding the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture, the obligations of the Company to the Trustee under Section 5.6 hereof and, if money shall have been deposited with the Trustee pursuant to this Section, the obligations of the Trustee under Section 3.2 hereof and the last paragraph of Section 9.3 hereof shall survive.

#### Section 3.2 <u>Application of Trust Money.</u>

Subject to the provisions of the last paragraph of Section 9.3 hereof, all money deposited with the Trustee pursuant to Section 3.1 hereof shall be held in trust and applied by it, in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and this Indenture, to the payment, either directly or through any Paying Agent (including the Company acting as its own Paying Agent) as the Trustee may determine, to the Persons entitled thereto, of the principal (and premium, if any) and interest for whose payment such money has been deposited with the Trustee.

#### ARTICLE IV.

#### **DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES**

#### Section 4.1 Events of Default.

"Event of Default," wherever used herein, means any one of the following events (whatever the reason for such Event of Default and whether it shall be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body):

- (a) default in the payment of the principal of or premium, if any, on any of the Securities when the same becomes due and payable, whether such payment is due at Stated Maturity, upon redemption, upon acceleration or otherwise; or
- (b) default in the payment of any installment of interest on any of the Securities, when it becomes due and payable, and the continuance of such default for a period of 30 days; or
  - (c) default in the performance or breach of the provisions of Article VII hereof; or
- (d) the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) shall fail to perform or observe any other term, covenant or agreement contained in the Securities, any Subsidiary Guarantee (if there shall be any) or this Indenture (other than a default specified in subparagraph (a), (b) or (c) above) for a period of 60 days after written notice of such failure stating that it is a "notice of default" hereunder and requiring the Company or such Subsidiary Guarantor, as the case may be, to remedy the same shall have been given (x) to the Company by the Trustee or (y) to the Company and the Trustee by the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Securities then Outstanding; or
- (e) any Subsidiary Guarantee (if there shall be any) shall for any reason cease to be, or be asserted by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor, as applicable, not to be, in full force and effect (except pursuant to the release of any such Subsidiary Guarantee in accordance with this Indenture); or
- (f) the entry of a decree or order by a court having jurisdiction in the premises (A) for relief in respect of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) in an involuntary case or proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or (B) adjudging the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) bankrupt or insolvent, or approving a petition seeking reorganization, arrangement, adjustment or composition of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) under the Federal Bankruptcy Code or any applicable federal or state law, or appointing under any such law a custodian, receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee, sequestrator or other similar official of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) or of a substantial part of its consolidated assets, or ordering the winding up or liquidation of its affairs, and the continuance of any such decree or order for relief or any such other decree or order unstayed and in effect for a period of 90 consecutive days; or
- (g) the commencement by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) of a voluntary case or proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or any other case or proceeding to be adjudicated bankrupt or insolvent, or the consent by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) to the entry of a decree or order for relief in respect thereof in an involuntary case or proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or to the commencement of any bankruptcy or insolvency case or proceeding against it, or the filing by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) of a petition or consent seeking reorganization or relief under any applicable federal or state law, or the consent by it under any such law to the filing of any such petition or to the appointment of or taking possession by a custodian, receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee or sequestrator (or other

similar official) of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) or of any substantial part of its consolidated assets, or the making by it of an assignment for the benefit of creditors under any such law, or the admission by it in writing of its inability to pay its debts generally as they become due or taking of corporate action by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other Restricted Subsidiary (if applicable) in furtherance of any such action.

#### Section 4.2 Acceleration of Maturity; Rescission and Annulment.

If an Event of Default (other than an Event of Default specified in Section 4.1(f) or (g) hereof) occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Securities then Outstanding, by written notice to the Company (and to the Trustee if such notice is given by the Holders), may, and the Trustee upon the request of the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities shall, by a notice in writing to the Company, declare all unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest on all the Securities to be due and payable immediately, upon which declaration all amounts payable in respect of the Securities shall be immediately due and payable. If an Event of Default specified in Section 4.1(f) or (g) hereof occurs and is continuing, the amounts described above shall become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration, notice or other act on the part of the Trustee or any Holder.

Promptly after the occurrence of a declaration of acceleration, the Company shall notify each holder of Senior Indebtedness thereof, but failure to give any such notice shall not affect such declaration or its consequences.

At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the Trustee as hereinafter in this Article provided, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities Outstanding, by written notice to the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors (if applicable) and the Trustee, may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if

- (a) the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) has paid or deposited with the Trustee a sum sufficient to pay,
- (1) all overdue interest on all Outstanding Securities,
- (2) all unpaid principal of (and premium, if any, on) any Outstanding Securities which have become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration, and interest on such unpaid principal at the rate borne by the Securities,
- (3) to the extent that payment of such interest is lawful, interest on overdue interest and overdue principal at the rate borne by the Securities (without duplication of any amount paid or deposited pursuant to clauses (1) and (2) above), and
- (4) all sums paid or advanced by the Trustee hereunder and the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel;
- (b) the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction as certified to the Trustee by the Company; and
- (c) all Events of Default, other than the non-payment of amounts of principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest on Securities which have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived as provided in Section 4.13 hereof.

No such rescission shall affect any subsequent default or impair any right consequent thereon.

## Section 4.3 Collection of Indebtedness and Suits for Enforcement by Trustee.

The Company covenants that if

- (a) default is made in the payment of any installment of interest on any Security when such interest becomes due and payable and such default continues for a period of 30 days, or
- (b) default is made in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) any Security at the Maturity thereof, then the Company will, upon demand of the Trustee, pay to the Trustee for the benefit of the Holders of such Securities, the whole amount then due and payable on such Securities for principal (and premium, if any) and interest, and interest on any overdue principal (and premium, if any) and, to the extent that payment of such interest shall be legally enforceable, upon any overdue installment of interest, at the rate borne by the Securities, and, in addition thereto, such further amount as shall be sufficient to cover the costs and expenses of collection, including the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel.

If the Company fails to pay such amounts forthwith upon such demand, the Trustee, in its own name as trustee of an express trust, may institute a judicial proceeding for the collection of the sums so due and unpaid, may prosecute such proceeding to judgment or final decree and may enforce the same against the Company or any other obligor upon the Securities and collect the money adjudged or decreed to be payable in the manner provided by law out of the Property of the Company or any other obligor upon the Securities, wherever situated.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may in its discretion proceed to protect and enforce its rights and the rights of the Holders by such appropriate judicial proceedings as the Trustee shall deem most effectual to protect and enforce any such rights, whether for the specific enforcement of any covenant or agreement in this Indenture or in aid of the exercise of any power granted herein, or to enforce any other proper remedy.

# Section 4.4 Trustee May File Proofs of Claim.

In case of the pendency of any receivership, insolvency, liquidation, bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, composition or other judicial proceeding relative to the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or any other obligor upon the Securities, their creditors or the Property of the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) or of such other obligor, the Trustee (irrespective of whether the principal of the Securities shall then be due and payable as therein expressed or by declaration or otherwise and irrespective of whether the Trustee shall have made any demand on the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors (if applicable) or such other obligor for the payment of overdue principal, premium, if any, or interest) shall be entitled and empowered, by intervention in such proceeding or otherwise,

- (a) to file and prove a claim for the whole amount of principal (and premium, if any) and interest owing and unpaid in respect of the Securities and to file such other papers or documents and take any other actions including participation as a full member of any creditor or other committee as may be necessary or advisable in order to have the claims of the Trustee (including any claim for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel) and of the Holders allowed in such judicial proceeding, and
  - (b) to collect and receive any money or other Property payable or deliverable on any such claims and to distribute the same;

and any custodian, receiver, assignee, trustee, liquidator, sequestrator or similar official in any such judicial proceeding is hereby authorized by each Holder to make such payments to the Trustee and, in the event that the Trustee shall consent to the making of such payments directly to the Holders, to pay the Trustee any amount due to it for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel, and any other amounts due the Trustee under Section 5.6 hereof.

Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize the Trustee to authorize or consent to or accept or adopt on behalf of any Holder any plan of reorganization, arrangement, adjustment or composition affecting the Securities or the Subsidiary Guarantees (if there should be any) or the rights of any Holder thereof, or to authorize the Trustee to vote in respect of the claim of any Holder in any such proceeding.

## Section 4.5 <u>Trustee May Enforce Claims Without Possession of Securities.</u>

All rights of action and claims under this Indenture or the Securities or the Subsidiary Guarantees may be prosecuted and enforced by the Trustee without the possession of any of the Securities or the production thereof in any proceeding relating thereto, and any such proceeding instituted by the Trustee shall be brought in its own name and as trustee of an express trust, and any recovery of judgment shall, after provision for the payment of the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel, be for the ratable benefit of the Holders of the Securities in respect of which such judgment has been recovered.

#### Section 4.6 Application of Money Collected.

Any money collected by the Trustee pursuant to this Article shall be applied in the following order, at the date or dates fixed by the Trustee and, in the case of the distribution of such money on account of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, upon presentation of the Securities and the notation thereon of the payment if only partially paid and upon surrender thereof if fully paid:

FIRST: to the payment of all amounts due the Trustee under Section 5.6 hereof;

SECOND: to the payment of the amounts then due and unpaid for principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest on the Securities in respect of which or for the benefit of which such money has been collected, ratably, without preference or priority of any kind, according to the amounts due and payable on such Securities for principal (and premium, if any) and interest, respectively; and

THIRD: the balance, if any, to the Company, or to whomsoever may be lawfully entitled to receive the same, or as a court of competent jurisdiction may direct.

#### Section 4.7 <u>Limitation on Suits.</u>

No Holder of any Securities shall have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to this Indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy hereunder, unless:

- (a) such Holder has previously given written notice to the Trustee of a continuing Event of Default;
- (b) the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities shall have made written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as Trustee hereunder;
- (c) such Holder or Holders have offered to the Trustee such reasonable indemnity as it may require against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request;
  - (d) the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; and
- (e) no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the Trustee during such 60-day period by the Holders of a majority or more in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities;

it being understood and intended that no one or more Holders shall have any right in any manner whatever by virtue of, or by availing of, any provision of this Indenture to affect, disturb or prejudice the rights of any other Holders, or to obtain or to seek to obtain priority or preference over any other Holders or to enforce any right under this Indenture, except in the manner herein provided and for the equal and ratable benefit of all the Holders.

# Section 4.8 <u>Unconditional Right of Holders to Receive Principal, Premium and Interest.</u>

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Indenture, the Holder of any Security shall have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment, as provided herein (including, if applicable, Article XI hereof) and

in such Security of the principal of (and premium if any, on) and (subject to Section 2.11 hereof) interest on, such Security on the respective Stated Maturities expressed in such Security (or, in the case of redemption, on the Redemption Date) and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, and such rights shall not be impaired without the consent of such Holder.

## Section 4.9 Restoration of Rights and Remedies.

If the Trustee or any Holder has instituted any proceeding to enforce any right or remedy under this Indenture and such proceeding has been discontinued or abandoned for any reason, or has been determined adversely to the Trustee or to such Holder, then and in every such case, subject to any determination in such proceeding, the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors, the Trustee and the Holders shall be restored severally and respectively to their former positions hereunder and thereunder and all rights and remedies of the Trustee and the Holders shall continue as though no such proceeding had been instituted.

## Section 4.10 Rights and Remedies Cumulative.

Except as otherwise provided with respect to the replacement or payment of mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Securities in the last paragraph of Section 2.7 hereof, no right or remedy herein conferred upon or reserved to the Trustee or to the Holders is intended to be exclusive of any other right or remedy, and every right and remedy shall, to the extent permitted by law, be cumulative and in addition to every other right and remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or otherwise. The assertion or employment of any right or remedy hereunder, or otherwise, shall not prevent the concurrent assertion or employment of any other appropriate right or remedy.

## Section 4.11 <u>Delay or Omission Not Waiver.</u>

No delay or omission of the Trustee or of any Holder of any Security to exercise any right or remedy accruing upon any Event of Default shall impair any such right or remedy or constitute a waiver of any such Event of Default or an acquiescence therein. Every right and remedy given by this Article or by law to the Trustee or to the Holders may be exercised from time to time, and as often as may be deemed expedient, by the Trustee or by the Holders, as the case may be.

## Section 4.12 Control by Holders.

Subject to Section 5.2(e) and the last paragraph of Section 5.2, the Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee, provided that

- (a) such direction shall not be in conflict with any rule of law or with this Indenture,
- (b) the Trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the Trustee which is not inconsistent with such direction, and
- (c) the Trustee need not take any action which might involve it in personal liability or expense for which the Trustee has not received a satisfactory indemnity therefor or be unduly prejudicial to the Holders not joining therein.

## Section 4.13 Waiver of Past Defaults.

The Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities may on behalf of the Holders of all the Securities waive any existing Default or Event of Default hereunder and its consequences, except a Default or Event of Default

(a) in respect of the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest on any Security, or

(b) in respect of a covenant or provision hereof which under Article VIII hereof cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Security affected thereby.

Upon any such waiver, such Default or Event of Default shall cease to exist for every purpose under this Indenture, but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other fault or Event of Default or impair any right consequent thereon.

# Section 4.14 Waiver of Stay, Extension or Usury Laws.

Each of the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors covenants (to the extent that each may lawfully do so) that it will not at any time insist upon, plead or in any manner whatsoever claim or take the benefit or advantage of, any stay, extension, or usury law or other law wherever enacted, now or at any time hereafter in force, which would prohibit or forgive the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor from paying all or any portion of the principal of (premium, if any, on) or interest on the Securities as contemplated herein, or which may affect the covenants or the performance of this Indenture; and (to the extent that it may lawfully do so) each of the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors hereby expressly waives all benefit or advantage of any such law, and covenant that they will not hinder, delay or impede the execution of any power herein granted to the Trustee, but will suffer and permit the execution of every such power as though no such law had been enacted.

#### Section 4.15 <u>Undertaking of Costs.</u>

In any suit for the enforcement of any right or remedy under this Indenture, or in any suit against the Trustee for any action taken, suffered or omitted by it as Trustee, a court may require any party litigant in such suit to file an undertaking to pay the costs of such suit, and may assess costs against any such party litigant, in the manner and to the extent provided in the TIA; provided that neither this Section nor the TIA shall be deemed to authorize any court to require such an undertaking or to make such an assessment in any suit instituted by the Company.

# ARTICLE V.

## THE TRUSTEE

#### Section 5.1 <u>Duties of Trustee.</u>

- (a) If an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee shall exercise the rights and powers vested in it by this Indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in their exercise as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his own affairs.
  - (b) Except during the continuance of an Event of Default:
  - (i) the Trustee undertakes to perform such duties and only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Indenture and no implied covenants or obligations shall be read into this Indenture against the Trustee; and
  - (ii) in the absence of bad faith on its part, the Trustee may conclusively rely, and shall be fully protected in so relying, as to the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions expressed therein, upon certificates or opinions furnished to the Trustee and conforming to the requirements of this Indenture; *provided*, *however*, that, in the case of any such certificates or opinions which by any provision hereof are specifically required to be furnished to the Trustee, the Trustee shall examine the certificates and opinions to determine whether or not they conform to the requirements of this Indenture, but the Trustee has no obligation to determine the accuracy or completeness (other than as to conformity with the requirements of this Indenture) of the statements made therein.
- (c) The Trustee may not be relieved from liability for its own negligent action, its own negligent failure to act or its own willful misconduct, except that:
  - (i) this paragraph shall not limit the effect of Section 5.1(b);

- (ii) the Trustee shall not be liable for any error of judgment made in good faith by a Responsible Officer, unless it is proved that the Trustee was negligent in ascertaining the pertinent facts; and
- (iii) the Trustee shall not be liable with respect to any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in accordance with a direction received by it pursuant to Section 4.12.

#### Section 5.2 <u>Certain Rights of Trustee.</u>

Subject to the provisions of Section 5.1 hereof:

- (a) the Trustee may conclusively rely and shall be protected in acting or refraining from acting upon any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper (whether in its original or facsimile form), or document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties;
- (b) any request or direction of the Company mentioned herein shall be sufficiently evidenced by a Company Request or Company Order and any resolution of the Board of Directors may be sufficiently evidenced by a Board Resolution;
- (c) whenever in the administration of this Indenture the Trustee shall deem it desirable that a matter be proved or established prior to taking, suffering or omitting any action hereunder, the Trustee (unless other evidence be herein specifically prescribed) may, in the absence of bad faith on its part, rely upon an Officers' Certificate;
- (d) the Trustee may consult with counsel and the advice of such counsel or any Opinion of Counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it hereunder in good faith and in reliance thereon;
- (e) the Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by this Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders pursuant to this Indenture, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction;
- (f) the Trustee shall not be bound to make any investigation into the facts or matters stated in any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further inquiry or investigation into such facts or matters as it may reasonably see fit;
- (g) the Trustee may execute any of the trusts or powers hereunder or perform any duties hereunder either directly or by or through agents or attorneys and the Trustee shall not be responsible for any misconduct or negligence on the part of any agent or attorney appointed with due care by it hereunder;
- (h) the Trustee shall not be liable for any action taken, suffered or omitted by it in good faith and believed by it in good faith to be authorized or within the discretion or rights or powers conferred upon it by this Indenture; and
- (i) the Trustee shall not be deemed to have notice or knowledge of any matter unless a Responsible Officer has actual knowledge thereof or unless written notice thereof is received by the Trustee at its Corporate Trust Office and such notice references the Securities generally, the Company or this Indenture.

The Trustee shall not be required to advance, expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its duties hereunder, or in the exercise of any of its rights or powers if it shall have reasonable grounds for believing that repayment of such funds or adequate indemnity against such risk or liability is not reasonably assured to it.

## Section 5.3 <u>Trustee Not Responsible for Recitals or Issuance of Securities.</u>

The recitals contained herein and in the Securities, except for the Trustee's certificates of authentication, shall be taken as the statements of the Company or the Subsidiary Guarantors, as the case may be, and the Trustee assumes no responsibility for their correctness. The Trustee makes no representations as to the validity or sufficiency of this Indenture, the Subsidiary Guarantees (if there shall be any) or the Securities. The Trustee shall not be accountable for the use or application by the Company of any Securities or the proceeds thereof.

#### Section 5.4 May Hold Securities.

The Trustee, any Paying Agent, any Registrar or any other agent of the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors or of the Trustee, in its individual or any other capacity, may become the owner or pledgee of Securities and, subject to TIA Sections 310(b) and 311 in the case of the Trustee, may otherwise deal with the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors (if applicable) with the same rights it would have if it were not the Trustee, Paying Agent, Registrar or such other agent.

## Section 5.5 Money Held in Trust.

Money held by the Trustee in trust hereunder need not be segregated from other funds except to the extent required by law. The Trustee shall be under no liability for interest on any money received by it hereunder except as otherwise agreed with the Company or, if applicable, any Subsidiary Guarantor.

## Section 5.6 <u>Compensation and Reimbursement.</u>

## The Company agrees:

- (a) to pay to the Trustee from time to time such compensation as the Company and the Trustee may agree in writing for all services rendered by it hereunder (which compensation shall not be limited by any provision of law in regard to the compensation of a trustee of an express trust);
- (b) except as otherwise expressly provided herein, to reimburse the Trustee upon its request for all reasonable expenses, disbursements and advances incurred or made by the Trustee in accordance with any provision of this Indenture (including the compensation and the expenses and disbursements of its agents and counsel), except any such expense, disbursement or advance as may be attributable to the Trustee's willful misconduct, negligence or bad faith; and
- (c) to indemnify the Trustee for, and to hold it harmless against, any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense incurred without willful misconduct or negligence on its part, (i) arising out of or in connection with the acceptance or administration of this trust, including the costs and expenses of defending itself against any claim or liability in connection with the exercise or performance of any of its powers or duties hereunder or (ii) in connection with enforcing this indemnification provision.

The obligations of the Company under this Section 5.6 to compensate the Trustee, to pay or reimburse the Trustee for expenses, disbursements and advances and to indemnify and hold harmless the Trustee shall constitute additional indebtedness hereunder and shall survive the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture or any other termination under any Insolvency or Liquidation Proceeding. As security for the performance of such obligations of the Company, the Trustee shall have a claim and lien prior to the Securities upon all property and funds held or collected by the Trustee as such, except funds held in trust for payment of principal of (and premium, if any, on) or interest on particular Securities. Such lien shall survive the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture or any other termination under any Insolvency or Liquidation Proceeding.

When the Trustee incurs expenses or renders services after the occurrence of an Event of Default specified in paragraph (f) or (g) of Section 4.1 of this Indenture, such expenses and the compensation for such services are intended to constitute expenses of administration under any Insolvency or Liquidation Proceeding.

#### Section 5.7 Corporate Trustee Required; Eligibility.

There shall at all times be a Trustee hereunder which shall be eligible to act as Trustee under TIA Section 310(a)(1) and shall have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. If such corporation publishes reports of condition at least annually, pursuant to law or to the requirements of federal, state, territorial or District of Columbia supervising or examining authority, then for the purposes of this Section 5.7, the combined capital and surplus of such corporation shall be deemed to be its combined capital and surplus as set forth in its most recent report of condition so published. If at any time the Trustee shall cease to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of this Section, it shall resign immediately in the manner and with the effect hereinafter specified in this Article.

# Section 5.8 <u>Conflicting Interests.</u>

The Trustee shall comply with the provisions of Section 310(b) of the Trust Indenture Act; *provided, however,* that there shall be excluded from the operation of TIA Section 310(b)(1) any indenture or indentures under which other securities or certificates of interest or participation in other securities of the Company are outstanding if the requirements for such exclusion set forth in TIA Section 310(b)(1) are met.

## Section 5.9 Resignation and Removal; Appointment of Successor.

- (a) No resignation or removal of the Trustee and no appointment of a successor Trustee pursuant to this Article shall become effective until the acceptance of appointment by the successor Trustee in accordance with the applicable requirements of Section 5.10 hereof.
- (b) The Trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice thereof to the Company. If the instrument of acceptance by a successor Trustee required by Section 5.10 hereof shall not have been delivered to the Trustee within 30 days after the giving of such notice of resignation, the resigning Trustee may petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor Trustee.
- (c) The Trustee may be removed at any time by Act of the Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities, delivered to the Trustee and to the Company.

#### (d) If at any time:

- (1) the Trustee shall fail to comply with the provisions of TIA Section 310(b) after written request therefor by the Company or by any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder of a Security for at least six months, or
- (2) the Trustee shall cease to be eligible under Section 5.7 hereof and shall fail to resign after written request therefor by the Company or by any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder of a Security for at least six months, or
- (3) the Trustee shall become incapable of acting or shall be adjudged a bankrupt or insolvent or a receiver of the Trustee or of its property shall be appointed or any public officer shall take charge or control of the Trustee or of its property or affairs for the purpose of rehabilitation, conservation or liquidation,

then, in any such case, (i) the Company, by a Board Resolution, may remove the Trustee, or (ii) subject to TIA Section 315(e), any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder of a Security for at least six months may, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the removal of the Trustee and the appointment of a successor Trustee.

(e) If the Trustee shall resign, be removed or become incapable of acting, or if a vacancy shall occur in the office of Trustee for any cause, the Company, by a Board Resolution, shall promptly appoint a successor Trustee. If, within one year after such resignation, removal or incapability, or the occurrence of such vacancy, a successor Trustee shall be appointed by Act of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding

Securities delivered to the Company and the retiring Trustee, the successor Trustee so appointed shall, forthwith upon its acceptance of such appointment, become the successor Trustee and supersede the successor Trustee appointed by the Company. If no successor Trustee shall have been so appointed by the Company or the Holders and accepted appointment in the manner hereinafter provided, the retiring Trustee or any Holder who has been a bona fide Holder of a Security for at least six months may, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor Trustee. The evidence of such successorship may, but need not be, evidenced by a supplemental indenture.

- (f) The Company shall give notice of each resignation and each removal of the Trustee and each appointment of a successor Trustee to the Holders of Securities in the manner provided for in Section 13.5 hereof. Each notice shall include the name of the successor Trustee and the address of its Corporate Trust Office.
- (g) Notwithstanding the replacement of the Trustee pursuant to this Section 5.9, the Company's obligations under Section 5.6 shall continue for the benefit of the retiring Trustee.

#### Section 5.10 Acceptance of Appointment by Successor.

Every successor Trustee appointed hereunder shall execute, acknowledge and deliver to the Company and to the retiring Trustee an instrument accepting such appointment, and thereupon the resignation or removal of the retiring Trustee shall become effective and such successor Trustee, without any further act, deed or conveyance, shall become vested with all the rights, powers, trusts and duties of the retiring Trustee; but, on request of the Company or the successor Trustee, such retiring Trustee shall, upon payment of all amounts due it under Section 5.6 hereof, execute and deliver an instrument transferring to such successor Trustee all the rights, powers and trusts of the retiring Trustee and shall duly assign, transfer and deliver to such successor Trustee all money and other Property held by such retiring Trustee hereunder. Upon request of any such successor Trustee, the Company shall execute any and all instruments for more fully and certainly vesting in and confirming to such successor Trustee all such rights, powers and trusts.

No successor Trustee shall accept its appointment unless at the time of such acceptance such successor Trustee shall be qualified and eligible under this Article.

## Section 5.11 Merger, Conversion, Consolidation or Succession to Business.

Any corporation or banking association into which the Trustee may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation or banking association resulting from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which the Trustee shall be a party, or any corporation or banking association succeeding to all or substantially all of the corporate trust business of the Trustee, shall be the successor of the Trustee hereunder, provided such corporation or banking association shall be otherwise qualified and eligible under this Article, without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of any of the parties hereto. In case any Securities shall have been authenticated, but not delivered, by the Trustee then in office, any successor by merger, conversion or consolidation to such authenticating Trustee may adopt such authentication and deliver the Securities so authenticated with the same effect as if such successor Trustee had itself authenticated such Securities; and in case at that time any of the Securities shall not have been authenticated, any successor Trustee may authenticate such Securities either in the name of any predecessor hereunder or in the name of the successor Trustee; and in all such cases such certificates shall have the full force which it is anywhere in the Securities or in this Indenture provided; *provided*, *however*, that the right to adopt the certificate of authentication of any predecessor Trustee or to authenticate Securities in the name of any predecessor Trustee shall apply only to its successor successors by merger, conversion or consolidation.

## Section 5.12 Preferential Collection of Claims Against Company.

If and when the Trustee shall be or become a creditor of the Company (or any other obligor under the Securities), the Trustee shall be subject to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act regarding the collection of claims against the Company (or any such other obligor).

#### Section 5.13 Notice of Defaults.

Within 90 days after the occurrence of any Default hereunder, the Trustee shall transmit in the manner and to the extent provided in TIA Section 313(c), notice of such Default hereunder known to the Trustee, unless such Default shall have been cured or waived; *provided, however*, that, except in the case of a Default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest on any Security, the Trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a trust committee of directors and/or Responsible Officers of the Trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interest of the Holders. The Trustee shall not be deemed to have notice of any Default, other than a Default under 4.1(a) or (b), unless the Trustee shall have been advised in writing that a Default has occurred. No duty imposed upon the Trustee in this Indenture shall be applicable with respect to any Default of which the Trustee is not deemed to have notice.

#### ARTICLE VI.

#### HOLDERS' LISTS AND REPORTS BY TRUSTEE AND COMPANY

#### Section 6.1 <u>Holders' Lists; Holder Communications; Disclosure Respecting Holders.</u>

The Trustee shall preserve in as current a form as is reasonably practicable the most recent list available to it of the names and addresses of the Holders. Neither the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor (if applicable) nor the Trustee shall be under any responsibility with regard to the accuracy of such list. If the Trustee is not the Registrar, the Company shall furnish to the Trustee semi-annually before each Regular Record Date, and at such other times as the Trustee may reasonably request in writing, a list, in such form as the Trustee may reasonably request, as of such date of the names and addresses of the Holders then known to the Company. The Company and the Trustee shall also satisfy any other requirements imposed upon each of them by TIA Section 312(a).

Holders may communicate pursuant to Section 312(b) of the TIA with other Holders with respect to their rights under this Indenture or the Securities. Every Holder of Securities, by receiving and holding the same, agrees with the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors (if applicable), the Registrar and the Trustee that none of the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors (if applicable), the Registrar or the Trustee, or any agent of any of them, shall be held accountable by reason of the disclosure of any information as to the names and addresses of the Holders in accordance with TIA Section 312, regardless of the source from which such information was derived, that each of such Persons shall have the protection of TIA Section 312(c) and that the Trustee shall not be held accountable by reason of mailing any material pursuant to a request made under TIA Section 312(b).

## Section 6.2 Reports by Trustee.

Within 60 days after [	] of each year commencing with [	], the Trustee shall transmit by mail to the Holders, as their names and addresses
appear in the Security Register, a	brief report dated as of such [	] in accordance with and to the extent required under TIA Section 313(a). The Trustee
shall also comply with TIA Section	ons 313(b) and 313(c).	

The Company shall promptly notify the Trustee in writing if the Securities become listed on any stock exchange or automatic quotation system.

A copy of each Trustee's report, at the time of its mailing to Holders of Securities, shall be mailed to the Company and filed with the Commission and each stock exchange, if any, on which the Securities are listed.

# Section 6.3 Reports by Company.

#### The Company shall:

(a) file with the Trustee, within 30 days after the Company is required to file the same with the Commission, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents and other reports (or copies of such portions of any of the foregoing as the Commission may from time to time by rules and regulations prescribe) which the Company may be required to file with the Commission pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act;

- (b) file with the Trustee and the Commission, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the Commission, such additional information, documents and reports with respect to compliance by the Company with the conditions and covenants of this Indenture as may be required from time to time by such rules and regulations; and
- (c) transmit by mail to all Holders, in the manner and to the extent provided in TIA Section 313(c), such summaries of any information, documents and reports (without exhibits except to the extent required by TIA Section 313(c)) required to be filed by the Company pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this Section as may be required by rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the Commission.

#### ARTICLE VII.

#### CONSOLIDATION, MERGER, CONVEYANCE, TRANSFER OR LEASE

#### Section 7.1 Company May Consolidate, etc., Only on Certain Terms.

The Company shall not, in any single transaction or a series of related transactions, merge or consolidate with or into any other Person, or sell, assign, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all the Properties of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis to any Person or group of Affiliated Persons, and the Company shall not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to enter into any such transaction or series of related transactions if such transaction or series of transactions, in the aggregate, would result in a sale, assignment, conveyance, transfer, lease or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Properties of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis to any other Person or group of Affiliated Persons, unless at the time and after giving affect thereto:

- (a) either (i) if the transaction is a merger or consolidation, the Company shall be the surviving Person of such merger or consolidation, or (ii) the Person (if other than the Company) formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or to which the Properties of the Company or, if applicable, its Restricted Subsidiaries, as the case may be, are sold, assigned, conveyed, transferred, leased or otherwise disposed of (any such surviving Person or transferee Person being called the "Surviving Entity") shall be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and shall, in either case, expressly assume by a supplemental indenture to this Indenture executed and delivered to the Trustee, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, all the obligations of the Company under the Securities and this Indenture, and, in each case, this Indenture shall remain in full force and effect;
- (b) immediately before and immediately after giving effect to such transaction or series of related transactions on a pro forma basis (and treating any Indebtedness not previously an obligation of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries which becomes the obligation of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in connection with or as a result of such transaction or transactions as having been incurred at the time of such transaction or transactions), no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing:
- (c) if the Company is not the continuing obligor under this Indenture, then each Subsidiary Guarantor (if there shall be any), unless it is the Surviving Entity, shall have by supplemental indenture confirmed that its Subsidiary Guarantee of the Securities shall apply to the Surviving Entity's obligations under this Indenture and the Securities; and
- (d) the Company (or the Surviving Entity if the Company is not the continuing obligor under this Indenture) shall have delivered to the Trustee, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee, (i) an Officers' Certificate stating that such consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer, lease or other disposition and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with such transaction, such supplemental indenture, comply with this Indenture and (ii) an Opinion of Counsel stating that the requirements of Section 7.1(a) have been satisfied. The Trustee may conclusively rely upon such Officers' Certificate and shall have no duty to investigate the basis for the conclusions reached therein.

#### Section 7.2 Successor Substituted.

Upon any consolidation of the Company with or merger of the Company into any other corporation or any sale, assignment, lease, conveyance, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Properties of the Company and, if applicable, its Restricted Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis in accordance with Section 7.1 hereof, the Surviving Entity shall succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, the Company under this Indenture with the same effect as if such Surviving Entity had been named as the Company herein, and in the event of any such sale, assignment, lease, conveyance, transfer or other disposition, the Company (which term shall for this purpose mean the Person named as the "Company" in the first paragraph of this Indenture or any successor Person which shall theretofore become such in the manner described in Section 7.1 hereof), except in the case of a lease, shall be discharged of all obligations and covenants under this Indenture and the Securities.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURES

#### Section 8.1 Supplemental Indentures Without Consent of Holders.

Without the consent of any Holders, the Company, when authorized by a Board Resolution, each of the Subsidiary Guarantors (if there shall be any), when authorized by a Board Resolution, and the Trustee upon Company Request, at any time and from time to time, may enter into one or more indentures supplemental hereto, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to evidence the succession of another Person to the Company and the assumption by any such successor of the covenants of the Company contained herein and in the Securities; or
- (b) to add to the covenants of the Company such further covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions as the Company shall consider to be appropriate for the benefit of the Holders of all or any series of Securities (and if such covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions are to be for the benefit of less than all series of Securities, stating that such covenants are expressly being included solely for the benefit of such series) or to surrender any right or power herein conferred upon the Company and to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and continuance, of a certain default action in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an Event of Default permitting the enforcement of all or any of the several remedies provided in this Indenture as herein set forth; provided, that in respect of any such additional covenant, restriction, condition or provision such supplemental indenture may provide for a particular period of grace after default (which period may be shorter or longer than that allowed in the case of other defaults) or may provide for an immediate enforcement upon such an Event of Default or may limit the right of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities of such series to waive such an Event of Default; or
  - (c) to add any additional Events of Default in respect of all or any series of Securities; or
- (d) to change or eliminate any of the provisions of this Indenture, provided that any such change or elimination shall become effective only when there is no Security Outstanding of any series created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture which is entitled to the benefit of such provision; or
  - (e) to secure the Securities of any series; or
- (f) to establish the form or terms of Securities of any series as permitted by Section 2.1, including to reopen any series of any Securities as permitted under Section 2.1; or
- (g) to comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with qualifying this Indenture under the TIA or maintaining such qualification thereafter; or
- (h) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor Trustee pursuant to the requirements of Sections 5.9 and 5.10 hereof; or

- (i) to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision herein which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision herein, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under this Indenture, *provided* that such action shall not adversely affect the interests of any Holder; or
- (j) to make or add any Subsidiary as Subsidiary Guarantor or to evidence the succession of another Person to any Subsidiary Guarantor pursuant to Section 12.2(b) hereof and the assumption by any such successor of the covenants and agreements of such Subsidiary Guarantor contained herein, in the Securities and in the Subsidiary Guarantee of such Subsidiary Guarantor; or
  - (k) to release a Subsidiary Guarantor (if there shall be one) from its Subsidiary Guarantee pursuant to Section 12.3 hereof; or
  - (1) to provide for uncertificated Securities in addition to or in place of certificated Securities.

#### Section 8.2 Supplemental Indentures with Consent of Holders.

With the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities, by Act of said Holders delivered to the Company and the Trustee, the Company, when authorized by a Board Resolution, each of the Subsidiary Guarantors, when authorized by a Board Resolution, and the Trustee upon Company Request may enter into an indenture or indentures supplemental hereto for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of this Indenture or of modifying in any manner the rights of the Holders under this Indenture; provided, however, that no such supplemental indenture shall, without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Security affected thereby:

- (a) change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, any Security, or reduce the principal amount thereof or the rate of interest thereon or any premium thereon, or change the coin or currency in which principal of any Security or any premium or the interest on any Security is payable, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment after the Stated Maturity thereof (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the Redemption Date); or
- (b) reduce the percentage of aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities, the consent of whose Holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose Holders is required for any waiver of compliance with certain provisions of this Indenture or certain defaults hereunder or the consequences of a default provided for in this Indenture; or
- (c) modify any of the provisions of this Section or Sections 4.13 and 9.6 hereof, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of this Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Security affected thereby.

A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of this Indenture which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of one or more particular series of Securities, or which modifies the rights of the Holders of Securities of such series with respect to such covenant or other provision, shall be deemed not to affect the rights under this Indenture of the Holders of Securities of any other series.

It shall not be necessary for any Act of the Holders under this Section to approve the particular form of any proposed supplemental indenture, but it shall be sufficient if such Act shall approve the substance thereof.

# Section 8.3 <u>Execution of Supplemental Indentures.</u>

In executing, or accepting the additional trusts created by, any supplemental indenture permitted by this Article or the modifications thereby of the trusts created by this Indenture, the Trustee shall be entitled to receive, and shall be fully protected in relying upon, an Opinion of Counsel stating that the execution of such supplemental indenture is authorized or permitted by this Indenture. The Trustee may, but shall not be obligated to, enter into any such supplemental indenture which affects the Trustee's own rights, duties or immunities under this Indenture or otherwise.

## Section 8.4 Effects of Supplemental Indentures.

Upon the execution of any supplemental indenture under this Article, this Indenture shall be modified in accordance therewith, and such supplemental indenture shall form a part of this Indenture for all purposes; and every Holder of Securities theretofore or thereafter authenticated and delivered hereunder shall be bound thereby.

#### Section 8.5 Conformity with Trust Indenture Act.

Every supplemental indenture executed pursuant to this Article shall conform to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act as then in effect.

## Section 8.6 References in Securities to Supplemental Indentures.

Securities authenticated and delivered after the execution of any supplemental indenture pursuant to this Article may, and shall if required by the Trustee, bear a notation in form approved by the Trustee as to any matter provided for in such supplemental indenture. If the Company shall so determine, new Securities so modified as to conform, in the opinion of the Trustee and the Company, to any such supplemental indenture may be prepared and executed by the Company, and authenticated and delivered by the Trustee in exchange for Outstanding Securities.

## Section 8.7 <u>Notice of Supplemental Indentures.</u>

Promptly after the execution by the Company and the Trustee of any supplemental indenture pursuant to the provisions of Section 8.2 hereof, the Company shall give notice thereof to the Holders of each Outstanding Security affected, in the manner provided for in Section 13.5 hereof, setting forth in general terms the substance of such supplemental indenture.

## ARTICLE IX.

## **COVENANTS**

## Section 9.1 Payment of Principal, Premium, if any, and Interest.

The Company covenants and agrees for the benefit of the Holders that it will duly and punctually pay the principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest on the Securities in accordance with the terms of the Securities and this Indenture.

## Section 9.2 Maintenance of Office or Agency.

The Company shall maintain an office or agency where Securities may be presented or surrendered for payment, where Securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and where notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of the Securities, the Subsidiary Guarantees and this Indenture may be served. The New York office of the Trustee shall be such office or agency of the Company, unless the Company shall designate and maintain some other office or agency for one or more of such purposes. The Company will give prompt written notice to the Trustee of any change in the location of any such office or agency. If at any time the Company shall fail to maintain any such required office or agency or shall fail to furnish the Trustee with the address thereof, such presentations, surrenders, notices and demands may be made or served at the aforementioned office of the Trustee, and the Company hereby appoints the Trustee as its agent to receive all such presentations, surrenders, notices and demands.

The Company may also from time to time designate one or more other offices or agencies where the Securities may be presented or surrendered for any or all such purposes and may from time to time rescind any such designation. Further, if at any time there shall be no such office or agency in The City of New York where the Securities may be presented or surrendered for payment, the Company shall forthwith designate and maintain such an office or agency in The City of New York, in order that the Securities shall at all times be payable in The City of New York. The Company will give prompt written notice to the Trustee of any such designation or rescission and any change in the location of any such other office or agency.

## Section 9.3 Money for Security Payments to Be Held in Trust.

If the Company shall at any time act as its own Paying Agent, it shall, on or before 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on each due date of the principal of (and premium, if any, on) or interest on any of the Securities, segregate and hold in trust for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto a sum sufficient to pay the principal (and premium, if any) or interest so becoming due until such sum shall be paid to such Persons or otherwise disposed of as herein provided and will promptly notify the Trustee of its action or failure so to act.

Whenever the Company shall have one or more Paying Agents for the Securities, it will, on or before 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on each due date of the principal of (and premium, if any, on), or interest on, any Securities, deposit with a Paying Agent immediately available funds in a sum sufficient to pay the principal (and premium, if any) or interest so becoming due, such funds to be held in trust for the benefit of the Persons entitled to such principal, premium or interest, and (unless such Paying Agent is the Trustee) the Company shall promptly notify the Trustee of such action or any failure so to act.

The Company shall cause each Paying Agent (other than the Trustee) to execute and deliver to the Trustee an instrument in which such Paying Agent shall agree with the Trustee, subject to the provisions of this Section, that such Paying Agent will:

- (a) hold all sums held by it for the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any, on) or interest on Securities in trust for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto until such sums shall be paid to such Persons or otherwise disposed of as herein provided;
- (b) give the Trustee notice of any default by the Company (or any other obligor upon the Securities) in the making of any payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest; and
- (c) at any time during the continuance of any such default, upon the written request of the Trustee, forthwith pay to the Trustee all sums so held in trust by such Paying Agent.

The Company may at any time, for the purpose of obtaining the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture or for any other purpose, pay, or by Company Order direct any Paying Agent to pay, to the Trustee all sums held in trust by the Company or such Paying Agent, such sums to be held by the Trustee upon the same trusts as those upon which such sums were held by the Company or such Paying Agent; and, upon such payment by any Paying Agent to the Trustee, such Paying Agent shall be released from all further liability with respect to such sums. The Trustee and each Paying Agent shall promptly pay to the Company, upon Company Request, any money held by them (other than pursuant to Article XI) at any time in excess of amounts required to pay principal, premium, if any, or interest on the Securities.

Subject to applicable escheat and abandoned property laws, any money deposited with the Trustee or any Paying Agent, or then held by the Company, in trust for the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any, on) or interest on any Security and remaining unclaimed for two years after such principal (and premium, if any) or interest has become due and payable shall be paid to the Company on Company Request, or (if then held by the Company) shall be discharged from such trust; and the Holder of such Security shall thereafter, as an unsecured general creditor, look only to the Company for payment thereof, and all liability of the Trustee or such Paying Agent with respect to such trust money, and all liability of the Company as trustee thereof, shall thereupon cease.

## Section 9.4 Corporate Existence.

Except as expressly permitted by Article VII hereof, the Company shall do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect the corporate existence, rights (charter and statutory) and franchises of the Company and each Restricted Subsidiary; *provided*, *however*, that the Company shall not be required to preserve any such existence of its Restricted Subsidiaries, rights or franchises, if the Board of Directors of the Company shall determine that the preservation thereof is no longer desirable in the conduct of the business of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, and that the loss thereof is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the Holders.

#### Section 9.5 Statement by Officers as to Default.

(a) The Company shall deliver to the Trustee, within 100 days after the end of each fiscal year of the Company and within 45 days of the end of each of the first, second and third quarters of each fiscal year of the Company, an Officers' Certificate stating that a review of the activities of the Company and, if applicable, its Restricted Subsidiaries, during the preceding fiscal quarter or fiscal year, as applicable, has been made under the supervision of the signing Officers with a view to determining whether the Company has kept, observed, performed and fulfilled its obligations under this Indenture, and further stating, as to each such Officer signing such certificate, that to the best of such Officer's knowledge the Company has kept, observed, performed and fulfilled each and every condition and covenant contained in this Indenture and no Default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing (or, if a Default or Event of Default shall have occurred to either such Officer's knowledge, describing all such Defaults or Events of Default of which such Officer may have knowledge and what action the Company is taking or proposes to take with respect thereto). Such Officers' Certificate shall comply with TIA Section 314(a) (4). For purposes of this Section 9.5(a), such compliance shall be determined without regard to any period of grace or requirement of notice under this Indenture.

(b) The Company shall, so long as any of the Securities is outstanding, deliver to the Trustee, upon any of its Officers becoming aware of any Default or Event of Default, an Officers' Certificate specifying such Default or Event of Default and what action the Company proposes to take with respect thereto, within 10 days of its occurrence.

#### Section 9.6 Waiver of Certain Covenants.

Subject to the provisions of Section 8.2 hereof, Company may omit in any particular instance to comply with any term, provision or condition set forth in this Indenture with respect to the Securities of any series if before the time for such compliance the Holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities of all affected series (voting as one class) shall, by Act of such Holders, either waive such compliance in such instance or generally waive compliance with such term, provision or condition, but no such waiver shall extend to or affect such term, provision or condition except to the extent so expressly waived, and, until such waiver shall become effective, the obligations of the Company and the duties of the Trustee in respect of any such term, provision or condition shall remain in full force and effect.

A waiver which changes or eliminates any term, provision or condition of this Indenture which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of one or more particular series of Securities, or which modifies the rights of the Holders of Securities of such series with respect to such term, provision or condition, shall be deemed not to affect the rights under this Indenture of the Holders of Securities of any other series.

# Section 9.7 Additional Amounts.

If the Securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts (as provided in Section 2.1), at least 10 days prior to the first Interest Payment Date with respect to that series of Securities and at least 10 days prior to each date of payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Securities of that series if there has been a change with respect to the matters set forth in the below-mentioned Officers' Certificate, the Company shall furnish to the Trustee and the principal Paying Agent, if other than the Trustee, an Officers' Certificate instructing the Trustee and such Paying Agent whether such payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Securities of that series shall be made to holders of the Securities of that series without withholding or deduction for or on account of any tax, assessment or other governmental charge described in the Securities of that series. If any such withholding or deduction shall be required, then such Officers' Certificate shall specify by country the amount, if any, required to be withheld or deducted on such payments to such holders and shall certify the fact that additional amounts will be payable and the amounts so payable to each holder, and the Company shall pay to the Trustee or such Paying Agent the additional amounts required to be paid by this Section. The Company covenants to indemnify the Trustee and any Paying Agent for, and to hold them harmless against, any loss, liability or expense reasonably incurred without negligence or bad faith on their part arising out of or in connection with actions taken or omitted by any of them in reliance on any Officers' Certificate furnished pursuant to this Section 9.7.

Whenever in this Indenture there is mentioned, in any context, the payment of the principal of or any premium, interest or any other amounts on, or in respect of, any Securities of any series, such mention shall be deemed to include mention of the payment of additional amounts provided by the terms of such series established hereby or pursuant hereto to the extent that, in such context, additional amounts are, were or would be payable in respect thereof pursuant to such terms, and express mention of the payment of additional amounts (if applicable) in any provision hereof shall not be construed as excluding the payment of additional amounts in those provisions hereof where such express mention is not made.

#### ARTICLE X.

#### REDEMPTION OF SECURITIES

#### Section 10.1 Notice to Trustee.

Securities of any series which are redeemable before their Stated Maturity shall be redeemable in accordance with their terms and (except as otherwise specified as contemplated by Section 2.1 for Securities of any series) in accordance with this Article X.

The Company shall give each notice to the Trustee provided for in this Section at least 60 days before the Redemption Date unless the Trustee consents to a shorter period. Such notice shall be accompanied by an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel from the Company to the effect that such redemption will comply with the conditions herein. Any election to redeem Securities shall be revocable until the Company gives a notice of redemption pursuant to Section 10.2 to the Holders of Securities to be redeemed.

#### Section 10.2 Selection by Trustee of Securities to Be Redeemed.

If less than all the Securities are to be redeemed, the particular Securities to be redeemed shall be selected not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to the Redemption Date by the Trustee, pro-rata from the Outstanding Securities not previously called for redemption, by lot, at random or by any other method as the Trustee shall deem fair and appropriate and which may provide for the selection for redemption of portions of the principal of Securities; provided, however, that any such partial redemption shall be in integral multiples of \$1,000.

The Trustee shall promptly notify the Company in writing of the Securities selected for redemption and, in the case of any Securities selected for partial redemption, the principal amount thereof to be redeemed.

For all purposes of this Indenture, unless the context otherwise requires, all provisions relating to redemption of Securities shall relate, in the case of any Security redeemed or to be redeemed only in part, to the portion of the principal amount of such Security which has been or is to be redeemed.

#### Section 10.3 Notice of Redemption.

Notice of redemption shall be given in the manner provided for in Section 13.5 hereof not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the Redemption Date, to each Holder of Securities to be redeemed.

All notices of redemption shall state:

- (a) the Redemption Date;
- (b) the Redemption Price;
- (c) if less than all Outstanding Securities are to be redeemed, the identification (and, in the case of a partial redemption, the principal amounts) of the particular Securities to be redeemed;

- (d) that on the Redemption Date the Redemption Price (together with accrued interest, if any, to the Redemption Date payable as provided in Section 10.5 hereof) will become due and payable upon each such Security, or the portion thereof, to be redeemed, and that, unless the Company shall default in the payment of the Redemption Price and any applicable accrued interest, interest thereon will cease to accrue on and after said date; and
  - (e) the place or places where such Securities are to be surrendered for payment of the Redemption Price.

Notice of redemption of Securities to be redeemed at the election of the Company shall be given by the Company or, at the Company's request, by the Trustee in the name and at the expense of the Company. Failure to give such notice by mailing to any Holder of Securities or any defect therein shall not affect the validity of any proceedings for the redemption of other Securities.

#### Section 10.4 Deposit of Redemption Price.

On or before 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on any Redemption Date, the Company shall deposit with the Trustee or with a Paying Agent (or, if the Company is acting as its own Paying Agent, segregate and hold in trust as provided in Section 9.3 hereof) an amount of money sufficient to pay the Redemption Price of, and accrued and unpaid interest on, all the Securities which are to be redeemed on such Redemption Date.

#### Section 10.5 <u>Securities Payable on Redemption Date.</u>

Notice of redemption having been given as aforesaid, the Securities so to be redeemed shall, on the Redemption Date, become due and payable at the Redemption Price therein specified (together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the Redemption Date), and from and after such date (unless the Company shall default in the payment of the Redemption Price and accrued and unpaid interest) such Securities shall cease to bear interest. Upon surrender of any such Security for redemption in accordance with said notice, such Security shall be paid by the Company at the Redemption Price, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the Redemption Date.

If any Security called for redemption shall not be so paid upon surrender thereof for redemption, the principal (and premium, if any) shall, until paid, bear interest from the Redemption Date at the rate borne by the Securities.

#### Section 10.6 Securities Redeemed in Part.

Any Security which is to be redeemed only in part shall be surrendered at the office or agency of the Company maintained for such purpose pursuant to Section 9.2 hereof (with, if the Company or the Trustee so requires, due endorsement by, or a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company and the Trustee duly executed by, the Holder thereof or such Holder's attorney duly authorized in writing), and the Company shall execute, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver to the Holder of such Security without service charge, a new Security or Securities, of any authorized denomination as requested by such Holder, in aggregate principal amount equal to and in exchange for the unredeemed portion of the principal amount of the Security so surrendered.

#### ARTICLE XI.

#### DEFEASANCE AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE

## Section 11.1 <u>Company's Option to Effect Defeasance of Covenant Defeasance.</u>

The provisions of this Article XI shall be applicable for each series of Securities except as otherwise specified as contemplated by Section 2.1 for Securities of such series. The Company may, at its option by Board Resolution, at any time, with respect to the Securities, elect to have either Section 11.2 or Section 11.3 hereof be applied to all Outstanding Securities upon compliance with the conditions set forth below in this Article XI.

#### Section 11.2 <u>Defeasance and Discharge.</u>

Upon the Company's exercise under Section 11.1 hereof of the option applicable to this Section 11.2, the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors shall be deemed to have been discharged from their respective obligations with respect to all Outstanding Securities on the date the conditions set forth in Section 11.4 hereof are satisfied (hereinafter, "legal defeasance"). For this purpose, such legal defeasance means that the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors shall be deemed (i) to have paid and discharged their respective obligations under the Outstanding Securities; *provided*, *however*, that the Securities shall continue to be deemed to be "Outstanding" for purposes of Section 11.5 hereof and the other Sections of this Indenture referred to in clauses (A) and (B) below, and (ii) to have satisfied all their other obligations with respect to such Securities and this Indenture (and the Trustee, at the expense and direction of the Company, shall execute proper instruments acknowledging the same), except for the following which shall survive until otherwise terminated or discharged hereunder: (A) the rights of Holders of Outstanding Securities to receive, solely from the trust fund described in Section 11.4 hereof and as more fully set forth in such Section, payments in respect of the principal of (and premium if any, on) and interest on such Securities when such payments are due (or at such time as the Securities would be subject to redemption at the option of the Company in accordance with this Indenture), (B) the respective obligations of the Company, if applicable, and the Subsidiary Guarantors under Sections 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 4.8, 4.14, 5.6, 5.9, 5.10, 9.2, 9.3, 12.1 (to the extent it relates to the foregoing Sections and this Article XI), 12.4 and 12.5 hereof, (C) the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the Trustee hereunder, and (D) the obligations of the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors under this Article XI. Subject to compliance with this Article XI, the Company may exe

#### Section 11.3 Covenant Defeasance.

Upon the Company's exercise under Section 11.1 hereof of the option applicable to this Section 11.3, the Company and, if applicable, each Subsidiary Guarantor shall be released from their respective obligations under any covenant contained in Article VII, in Sections 9.5 through 9.7 and in Section 12.2 hereof with respect to the Outstanding Securities on and after the date the conditions set forth below are satisfied (hereinafter, "covenant defeasance"), and the Securities shall thereafter be deemed not to be "Outstanding" for the purposes of any direction, waiver, consent or declaration or Act of Holders (and the consequences of any thereof) in connection with such covenants, but shall continue to be deemed "Outstanding" for all other purposes hereunder. For this purpose, such covenant defeasance means that, with respect to the Outstanding Securities, the Company and, if applicable, each Subsidiary Guarantor may omit to comply with and shall have no liability in respect of any term, condition or limitation set forth in any such covenant, whether directly or indirectly, by reason of any reference elsewhere herein to any such covenant or by reason of any reference in any such covenant to any other provision herein or in any other document and such omission to comply shall not constitute a Default or an Event of Default under Section 4.1(c) or 4.1(d) hereof, but, except as specified above, the remainder of this Indenture and such Securities shall be unaffected thereby.

# Section 11.4 Conditions to Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance.

The following shall be the conditions to application of either Section 11.2 or Section 11.3 hereof to the Outstanding Securities:

(a) The Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor shall irrevocably have deposited or caused to be deposited with the Trustee (or another trustee satisfying the requirements of Section 5.7 hereof who shall agree to comply with the provisions of this Article XI applicable to it) as trust funds in trust for the purpose of making the following payments, specifically pledged as security for, and dedicated solely to, the benefit of the Holders of such Securities, (A) cash in United States dollars in an amount, or (B) U.S. Government Obligations which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms will provide, not later than one day before the due date of any payment, money in an amount, or (C) a combination thereof, sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the Trustee, to pay and discharge, and which shall be applied by the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee) to pay and discharge, the principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest on the Outstanding Securities on the Stated Maturity thereof (or Redemption Date, if applicable), provided that the Trustee shall have been irrevocably

instructed in writing by the Company to apply such money or the proceeds of such U.S. Government Obligations to said payments with respect to the Securities. Before such a deposit, the Company may give to the Trustee, in accordance with Section 10.1 hereof, a notice of its election to redeem all of the Outstanding Securities at a future date in accordance with Article X hereof, which notice shall be irrevocable. Such irrevocable redemption notice, if given, shall be given effect in applying the foregoing. For this purpose, "U.S. Government Obligations" means securities that are (x) direct obligations of the United States of America for the timely payment of which its full faith and credit is pledged or (y) obligations of a Person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States of America the timely payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States of America, which, in either case, are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof, and shall also include a depository receipt issued by a bank (as defined in Section 3(a)(2) of the Securities Act), as custodian with respect to any such U.S. Government Obligation or a specific payment of principal of or interest on any such U.S. Government Obligation held by such custodian for the account of the holder of such depository receipt, provided that (except as required by law) such custodian is not authorized to make any deduction from the amount payable to the holder of such depository receipt from any amount received by the custodian in respect of the U.S. Government Obligation or the specific payment of principal of or interest on the U.S. Government Obligation evidenced by such depository receipt.

- (b) No Default or Event of Default with respect to the Securities shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit or, insofar as Sections 4.1(f) and 4.1(g) are concerned, at any time during the period ending on the 91st day after the date of such deposit.
- (c) Such legal defeasance or covenant defeasance shall not cause the Trustee to have a conflicting interest under this Indenture or the Trust Indenture Act with respect to any securities of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor.
- (d) Such legal defeasance or covenant defeasance shall not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other material agreement or instrument to which the Company or, if applicable, any Subsidiary Guarantor is a party or by which it is bound, as evidenced to the Trustee in an Officers' Certificate delivered to the Trustee concurrently with such deposit.
- (e) In the case of an election under Section 11.2 hereof, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel stating that (i) the Company has received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling, or (ii) since the date of this Indenture there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax laws, in either case providing that the Holders of the Outstanding Securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such legal defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such legal defeasance had not occurred (it being understood that (x) such Opinion of Counsel shall also state that such ruling or applicable law is consistent with the conclusions reached in such Opinion of Counsel and (y) the Trustee shall be under no obligation to investigate the basis or correctness of such ruling).
- (f) In the case of an election under Section 11.3 hereof, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that the Holders of the Outstanding Securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such covenant defeasance had not occurred.
- (g) The Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, which, taken together, state that all conditions precedent provided for relating to either the legal defeasance under Section 11.2 hereof or the covenant defeasance under Section 11.3 (as the case may be) have been complied with.

# Section 11.5 <u>Deposited Money and U.S. Government Obligations to Be Held in Trust; Other Miscellaneous Provisions.</u>

Subject to the provisions of the last paragraph of Section 9.3 hereof, all money and U.S. Government Obligations (including the proceeds thereof) deposited with the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee — collectively for purposes of this Section 11.5, the "Trustee") pursuant to Section 11.4 hereof in respect of the Outstanding Securities shall be

held in trust and applied by the Trustee, in accordance with the provisions of such Securities and this Indenture, to the payment, either directly or through any Paying Agent (including the Company acting as its own Paying Agent) as the Trustee may determine, to the Holders of such Securities of all sums due and to become due thereon in respect of principal (and premium, if any) and interest, but such money need not be segregated from other funds except to the extent required by law.

The Company shall pay and indemnify the Trustee against all taxes, fees or other charges imposed on or assessed against the U.S. Governmental Obligations deposited pursuant to Section 11.4 hereof or the principal and interest received in respect thereof other than any such tax, fee or other charge which by law is for the account of the Holders of the Outstanding Securities.

Anything in this Article XI to the contrary notwithstanding, the Trustee shall deliver or pay to the Company from time to time upon Company Request any money or U.S. Government Obligations held by it as provided in Section 11.4 hereof which, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the Trustee, are in excess of the amount thereof which would then be required to be deposited to effect an equivalent legal defeasance or covenant defeasance, as applicable, in accordance with this Article.

#### Section 11.6 Reinstatement.

If the Trustee or any Paying Agent is unable to apply any money in accordance with Section 11.5 hereof by reason of any order or judgment of any court or governmental authority enjoining, restraining or otherwise prohibiting such application, then the Company's and the Subsidiary Guarantors' obligations under this Indenture and the Securities shall be revived and reinstated as though no deposit had occurred pursuant to Section 11.2 or 11.3 hereof, as the case may be, until such time as the Trustee or Paying Agent is permitted to apply all such money in accordance with Section 11.5 hereof; *provided, however*, that if the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor makes any payment of principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest on any Security following the reinstatement of its obligations, the Company or such Subsidiary Guarantor shall be subrogated to the rights of the Holders of such Securities to receive such payment from the money held by the Trustee or Paying Agent.

#### ARTICLE XII.

#### **SUBSIDIARY GUARANTEES**

#### Section 12.1 <u>Unconditional Guarantee.</u>

Each Subsidiary Guarantor hereby unconditionally, jointly and severally, guarantees (each such guarantee being referred to herein as this "Subsidiary Guarantee," with all such guarantees being referred to herein as the "Subsidiary Guarantees") to each Holder of Securities authenticated and delivered by the Trustee of each series to which this Article XII has been made applicable as provided in Section 2.1(20), and to the Trustee and its successors and assigns, the full and prompt performance of the Company's obligations under this Indenture and the Securities and that:

- (a) the principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest on the Securities will be promptly paid in full when due, whether at maturity, by acceleration, redemption or otherwise, and interest on the overdue principal of and interest on the Securities, if any, to the extent lawful, and all other obligations of the Company to the Holders or the Trustee hereunder or thereunder will be promptly paid in full or performed, all in accordance with the terms hereof and thereof: and
- (b) in case of any extension of time of payment or renewal of any Securities or of any such other obligations, the same will be promptly paid in full when due or performed in accordance with the terms of the extension or renewal, whether at Stated Maturity, by acceleration or otherwise; subject, however, in the case of clauses (a) and (b) above, to the limitations set forth in Section 12.4 hereof.

Failing payment when due of any amount so guaranteed or any performance so guaranteed for whatever reason, the Subsidiary Guarantors will be jointly and severally obligated to pay the same immediately. Each Subsidiary

Guarantor hereby agrees that its obligations hereunder shall, to the extent permitted by law, be unconditional, irrespective of the validity, regularity or enforceability of the Securities or this Indenture, the absence of any action to enforce the same, any waiver or consent by any Holder of the Securities with respect to any provisions hereof or thereof, the recovery of any judgment against the Company, any action to enforce the same or any other circumstance which might otherwise constitute a legal or equitable discharge or defense of a guarantor. Each Subsidiary Guarantor hereby waives, to the extent permitted by law, diligence, presentment, demand of payment, filing of claims with a court in the event of insolvency or bankruptcy of the Company, any right to require a proceeding first against the Company, protest, notice and all demands whatsoever and covenants that its Subsidiary Guarantee will not be discharged except by complete performance of the obligations contained in the Securities, this Indenture and in this Subsidiary Guarantee. If any Holder or the Trustee is required by any court or otherwise to return to the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor, or any custodian, trustee, liquidator or other similar official acting in relation to the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor, any amount paid by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor to the Trustee or such Holder, this Subsidiary Guarantee, to the extent theretofore discharged, shall be reinstated in full force and effect. Each Subsidiary Guarantor agrees it shall not be entitled to enforce any right of subrogation in relation to the Holders in respect of any obligations guaranteed hereby until payment in full of all obligations guaranteed hereby. Each Subsidiary Guarantor further agrees that, as between each Subsidiary Guarantor, on the one hand, and the Holders and the Trustee, on the other hand, (x) the maturity of the obligations guaranteed hereby may be accelerated as provided in Article IV hereof for the purposes of this Subsidiary Guarantee, notwithstanding any stay, injunction or other prohibition preventing such acceleration in respect of the obligations guaranteed hereby, and (y) in the event of any acceleration of such obligations as provided in Article IV hereof, such obligations (whether or not due and payable) shall forthwith become due and payable by each Subsidiary Guarantor for the purpose of this Subsidiary Guarantee.

#### Section 12.2 <u>Subsidiary Guarantors May Consolidate, etc., on Certain Terms.</u>

- (a) Except as set forth in Article VII hereof, nothing contained in this Indenture or in any of the Securities shall prevent any consolidation or merger of a Subsidiary Guarantor with or into the Company or another Subsidiary Guarantor or shall prevent any sale, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all the Properties of a Subsidiary Guarantor to the Company or another Subsidiary Guarantor.
- (b) Except as set forth in Article VII hereof, nothing contained in this Indenture or in any of the Securities shall prevent any consolidation or merger of a Subsidiary Guarantor with or into a Person other than the Company or another Subsidiary Guarantor (whether or not Affiliated with the Subsidiary Guarantor), or successive consolidations or mergers in which a Subsidiary Guarantor or its successor or successors shall be a party or parties, or shall prevent any sale, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all the Properties of a Subsidiary Guarantor to a Person other than the Company or another Subsidiary Guarantor (whether or not Affiliated with the Subsidiary Guarantor) authorized to acquire and operate the same; provided, however, that (i) immediately after such transaction, and giving effect thereto, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred as a result of such transaction and be continuing, (ii) such transaction shall not violate any of the covenants of Sections 9.1 through 9.7 hereof, and (iii) each Subsidiary Guarantor hereby covenants and agrees that, upon any such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance or other disposition, such Subsidiary Guarantor's Subsidiary Guarantee set forth in this Article XII, and the due and punctual performance and observance of all of the covenants and conditions of this Indenture to be performed by such Subsidiary Guarantor, shall be expressly assumed (in the event that the Subsidiary Guarantor is not the surviving corporation in a merger), by supplemental indenture satisfactory in form to the Trustee, executed and delivered to the Trustee, by such Person formed by such consolidation, or into which the Subsidiary Guarantor shall have merged, or by the Person that shall have acquired such Property (except to the extent the following Section 12.3 would result in the release of such Subsidiary Guarantee, in which case such surviving Person or transferee of such Property shall not have to execute any such supplemental indenture and shall not have to assume such Subsidiary Guarantor's Subsidiary Guarantee). In the case of any such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance or other disposition and upon the assumption by the successor Person, by supplemental indenture executed and delivered to the Trustee and satisfactory in form to the Trustee of the due and punctual performance of all of the covenants and conditions of this Indenture to be performed by the Subsidiary Guarantor, such successor Person shall succeed to and be substituted for the Subsidiary Guarantor with the same effect as if it had been named herein as the initial Subsidiary Guarantor.

#### Section 12.3 Release of Subsidiary Guarantors.

Upon the sale or disposition (by merger or otherwise) of a Subsidiary Guarantor (or all or substantially all of its Properties) to a Person other than the Company or another Subsidiary Guarantor and pursuant to a transaction that is otherwise in compliance with the terms of this Indenture, including but not limited to the provisions of Section 12.2 hereof or pursuant to Article VII hereof, such Subsidiary Guarantor shall be deemed released from its Subsidiary Guarantee and all related obligations under this Indenture; *provided*, *however*, that any such release shall occur only to the extent that all obligations of such Subsidiary Guarantor under all of its guarantees of, and under all of its pledges of assets or other security interests which secure, other Indebtedness of the Company or any other Restricted Subsidiary shall also be released upon such sale or other disposition. The Trustee shall deliver an appropriate instrument evidencing such release upon receipt of a Company Request accompanied by an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel certifying that such sale or other disposition was made by the Company in accordance with the provisions of this Indenture. Each Subsidiary Guarantor that is designated as an Unrestricted Subsidiary in accordance with the provisions of this Indenture shall be released from its Subsidiary Guarantee and all related obligations under this Indenture for so long as it remains an Unrestricted Subsidiary. The Trustee shall deliver an appropriate instrument evidencing such release upon its receipt of the Board Resolution designating such Unrestricted Subsidiary. Any Subsidiary Guarantor not released in accordance with this Section 12.3 shall remain liable for the full amount of principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest on the Securities as provided in this Article XII.

#### Section 12.4 <u>Limitation of Subsidiary Guarantors' Liability.</u>

Each Subsidiary Guarantor, and by its acceptance hereof each Holder, hereby confirm that it is the intention of all such parties that the guarantee by such Subsidiary Guarantor pursuant to its Subsidiary Guarantee not constitute a fraudulent transfer or conveyance for purposes of the Federal Bankruptcy Code, the Uniform Fraudulent Conveyance Act, the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act or any similar federal or state law. To effectuate the foregoing intention, the Holders and each Subsidiary Guarantor hereby irrevocably agree that the obligations of such Subsidiary Guarantor under its Subsidiary Guarantor and after giving effect to any collections from or payments made by or on behalf of any other Subsidiary Guarantor in respect of the obligations of such other Subsidiary Guarantor under its Subsidiary Guarantee or pursuant to Section 12.5 hereof, result in the obligations of such Subsidiary Guarantor under its Subsidiary Guarantor.

#### Section 12.5 Contribution.

In order to provide for just and equitable contribution among the Subsidiary Guarantors, the Subsidiary Guarantors agree, inter se, that in the event any payment or distribution is made by any Subsidiary Guarantor (a "Funding Guarantor") under its Subsidiary Guarantee, such Funding Guarantor shall be entitled to a contribution from each other Subsidiary Guarantor (if any) in a pro rata amount based on the Adjusted Net Assets of each Subsidiary Guarantor (including the Funding Guarantor) for all payments, damages and expenses incurred by that Funding Guarantor in discharging the Company's obligations with respect to the Securities or any other Subsidiary Guarantor's obligations with respect to its Subsidiary Guarantee.

#### Section 12.6 <u>Subordination of Subsidiary Guarantees.</u>

The obligations of each Subsidiary Guarantor under the Subsidiary Guarantees pursuant to this Article XII shall be junior and subordinated to the prior payment in full in cash of all Guarantor Senior Debt (including interest after the commencement of any proceeding of the type described in Section 12.1 with respect to such Subsidiary Guarantor at the rate specified in the applicable Guarantor Senior Debt, whether or not such interest would be an allowed claim in such proceeding) of such Subsidiary Guarantor. For the purposes of the foregoing sentence, the Trustee and the Holders shall have the right to receive and/or retain payments by a Subsidiary Guarantor only at such times as they receive and/or retain payments and distributions in respect of the Securities pursuant to this Indenture.

#### Section 12.7 Severability.

In case any provision of this Subsidiary Guarantee shall be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, that portion of such provision that is not invalid, illegal or unenforceable shall remain in effect, and the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

#### ARTICLE XIII.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### Section 13.1 Compliance Certificates and Opinions.

Upon any application or request by the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor to the Trustee to take any action under any provision of this Indenture, the Company or such Subsidiary Guarantor, as the case may be, shall furnish to the Trustee such certificates and opinions as may be required under the Trust Indenture Act or this Indenture. Each such certificate and each such legal opinion shall be in the form of an Officers' Certificate or an Opinion of Counsel, as applicable, and shall comply with the requirements of this Indenture.

Every certificate or opinion with respect to compliance with a condition or covenant provided for in this Indenture shall include:

- (1) a statement that each Person signing such certificate or opinion has read such covenant or condition and the definitions herein relating thereto;
- (2) a brief statement as to the nature and scope of the examination or investigation upon which the statements or opinions contained in such certificate or opinion are based;
- (3) a statement that, in the opinion of each such Person, such Person has made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable him to express an informed opinion as to whether or not such covenant or condition has been complied with; and
  - (4) a statement as to whether, in the opinion of each such Person, such condition or covenant has been complied with.

The certificates and opinions provided pursuant to this Section 13.1 and the statements required by this Section 13.1 shall be satisfactory to the Trustee and comply in all respects with TIA Sections 314(c) and (e).

#### Section 13.2 Form of Documents Delivered to Trustee.

In any case where several matters are required to be certified by, or covered by an opinion of, any specified Person, it is not necessary that all such matters be certified by, or covered by the opinion of, only one such Person, or that they be so certified or covered by only one document, but one such Person may certify or give an opinion with respect to some matters and one or more other such Persons as to other matters, and any such Person may certify or give an opinion as to such matters in one or several documents.

Any certificate or opinion of an officer may be based, insofar as it relates to legal matters, upon a certificate or opinion of, or representations by, counsel, unless such officer knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the certificate or opinion or representations with respect to the matters upon which his certificate or opinion is based are erroneous. Any such Opinion of Counsel may be based, insofar as it relates to factual matters, upon an officers' certificate, unless such counsel knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the certificate with respect to such matters is erroneous.

Where any Person is required to make, give or execute two or more applications, requests, consents, certificates, statements, opinions or other instruments under this Indenture, they may, but need not, be consolidated and form one instrument.

#### Section 13.3 Acts of Holders.

- (a) Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action provided by this Indenture to be given or taken by Holders may be embodied in and evidenced by one or more instruments of substantially similar tenor signed by such Holders in person or by agents duly appointed in writing; and, except as herein otherwise expressly provided, such action shall become effective when such instrument or instruments are delivered to the Trustee and, where it is hereby expressly required, to the Company. Such instrument or instruments (and the action embodied therein and evidenced thereby) are herein sometimes referred to as the "Act" of the Holders signing such instrument or instruments. Proof of execution of any such instrument or of a writing appointing any such agent shall be sufficient for any purpose of this Indenture and conclusive in favor of the Trustee and the Company, if made in the manner provided in this Section.
- (b) The fact and date of the execution by any Person of any such instrument or writing may be proved by the affidavit of a witness of such execution or by a certificate of a notary public or other officer authorized by law to take acknowledgments of deeds, certifying that the individual signing such instrument or writing acknowledged to him the execution thereof. Where such execution is by a signer acting in a capacity other than his individual capacity, such certificate or affidavit shall also constitute sufficient proof of authority. The fact and date of the execution of any such instrument or writing, or the authority of the Person executing the same, may also be proved in any other manner which the Trustee deems sufficient.
- (c) The ownership, principal amount and serial numbers of Securities held by any Person, and the date of holding the same, shall be proved by the Security Register.
- (d) If the Company shall solicit from the Holders of Securities any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act, the Company may, at its option, by or pursuant to a Board Resolution, fix in advance a record date for the determination of Holders entitled to give such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act, but the Company shall have no obligation to do so. Notwithstanding TIA Section 316(c), such record date shall be the record date specified in or pursuant to such Board Resolution, which shall be a date not earlier than the date 30 days prior to the first solicitation of Holders generally in connection therewith and not later than the date such solicitation is completed. If such a record date is fixed, such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act may be given before or after such record date, but only the Holders of record at the close of business on such record date shall be deemed to be Holders for the purposes of determining whether Holders of the requisite proportion of Outstanding Securities have authorized or agreed or consented to such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act, and for that purpose the Outstanding Securities shall be computed as of such record date, provided that no such authorization, agreement or consent by the Holders on such record date shall be deemed effective unless it shall become effective pursuant to the provisions of this Indenture not later than eleven months after the record date.
- (e) Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act of the Holder of any Security shall bind every future Holder of the same Security and the Holder of every Security issued upon the registration of transfer thereof or in exchange therefor or in lieu thereof in respect of anything done, omitted or suffered to be done by the Trustee or the Company in reliance thereon, whether or not notation of such action is made upon such Security.

## Section 13.4 Notices, etc. to Trustee, Company and Subsidiary Guarantors.

Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or Act of Holders or other document provided or permitted by this Indenture to be made upon, given or furnished to or filed with,

- (1) the Trustee by any Holder, the Company, any Subsidiary Guarantor or any holder of Senior Indebtedness shall be sufficient for every purpose hereunder if made, given, furnished or filed in writing (in the English language) and delivered in person or mailed by certified or registered mail (return receipt requested) to the Trustee at its Corporate Trust Office; or
- (2) the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor by the Trustee or by any Holder shall be sufficient for every purpose hereunder (unless otherwise herein expressly provided) if in writing (in the English language)

and delivered in person or mailed by certified or registered mail (return receipt requested) to the Company or such Subsidiary Guarantor, as applicable, addressed to it at the Company's offices located at 5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500, Frisco, Texas, 75034, Attention: Chief Financial Officer, or at any other address otherwise furnished in writing to the Trustee by the Company.

#### Section 13.5 Notice to Holders; Waiver.

Where this Indenture provides for notice of any event to Holders by the Company or the Trustee, such notice shall be sufficiently given (unless otherwise herein expressly provided) if in writing (in the English language) and mailed, first-class postage prepaid, to each Holder affected by such event, at his address as it appears in the Security Register, not later than the latest date, and not earlier than the earliest date, prescribed for the giving of such notice. In any case where notice to Holders is given by mail, neither the failure to mail such notice, nor any defect in any notice so mailed, to any particular Holder shall affect the sufficiency of such notice with respect to other Holders. Any notice mailed to a Holder in the manner herein prescribed shall be conclusively deemed to have been received by such Holder, whether or not such Holder actually receives such notice. Where this Indenture provides for notice in any manner, such notice may be waived in writing by the Person entitled to receive such notice, either before or after the event, and such waiver shall be the equivalent of such notice. Waivers of notice by Holders shall be filed with the Trustee, but such filing shall not be a condition precedent to the validity of any action taken in reliance upon such waiver.

In case by reason of the suspension of or irregularities in regular mail service or by reason of any other cause, it shall be impracticable to mail notice of any event to Holders when such notice is required to be given pursuant to any provision of this Indenture, then any manner of giving such notice as shall be satisfactory to the Trustee shall be deemed to be a sufficient giving of such notice for every purpose hereunder.

#### Section 13.6 Effect of Headings and Table of Contents.

The Article and Section headings herein and the Table of Contents are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

### Section 13.7 Successors and Assigns.

All covenants and agreements in this Indenture by the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors shall bind their respective successors and assigns, whether so expressed or not. All agreements of the Trustee in this Indenture shall bind its successor.

#### Section 13.8 Severability.

In case any provision in this Indenture or in the Securities or the Subsidiary Guarantees shall be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby, and a Holder shall have no claim therefor against any party hereto.

#### Section 13.9 Benefits of Indenture.

Nothing in this Indenture or in the Securities, express or implied, shall give to any Person (other than the parties hereto, any Paying Agent, any Registrar and their successors hereunder, the Holders and, to the extent set forth in Section 12.4 hereof, creditors of Subsidiary Guarantors and the holders of Senior Indebtedness) any benefit or any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under this Indenture.

## Section 13.10 Governing Law; Trust Indenture Act Controls.

(a) THIS INDENTURE, THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTEES AND THE SECURITIES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED AND ENFORCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BUT WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO APPLICABLE PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICTS OF LAW TO THE EXTENT THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF ANOTHER JURISDICTION WOULD BE REQUIRED THEREBY. THE COMPANY AND EACH SUBSIDIARY GUARANTOR

IRREVOCABLY SUBMIT TO THE NON-EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF ANY UNITED STATES FEDERAL OR NEW YORK STATE COURT SITTING IN THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN, THE CITY OF NEW YORK IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS INDENTURE, THE SECURITIES OR THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTEES, AND THE COMPANY AND EACH SUBSIDIARY GUARANTOR IRREVOCABLY AGREE THAT ALL CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF SUCH ACTION OR PROCEEDING MAY BE HEARD AND DETERMINED BY ANY SUCH COURT.

(b) This Indenture is subject to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act that are required to be part of this Indenture and shall, to the extent applicable, be governed by such provisions. If and to the extent that any provision of this Indenture limits, qualifies or conflicts with the duties imposed by operation of Section 318(c) of the Trust Indenture Act, or conflicts with any provision (an "incorporated provision") required by or deemed to be included in this Indenture by operation of such Trust Indenture Act section, such imposed duties or incorporated provision shall control.

#### Section 13.11 Legal Holidays.

In any case where any Interest Payment Date, Redemption Date, or Stated Maturity or Maturity of any Security shall not be a Business Day, then (notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture or of the Securities or the Subsidiary Guarantee) payment of interest or principal (and premium, if any) need not be made on such date, but may be made on the next succeeding Business Day with the same force and effect as if made on the Interest Payment Date, Redemption Date or at the Stated Maturity or Maturity; *provided, however*, that no interest shall accrue for the period from and after such Interest Payment Date, Redemption Date, Stated Maturity or Maturity, as the case may be.

#### Section 13.12 No Recourse Against Others.

A director, officer, employee, stockholder, incorporator or Affiliate, as such, past, present or future, of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor shall not have any personal liability under the Securities or this Indenture by reason of his or its status as a director, officer, employee, stockholder, incorporator or Affiliate or any liability for any obligations of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor under the Securities or this Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. Each Holder, by accepting any of the Securities, waives and releases all such liability to the extent permitted by applicable law.

#### Section 13.13 <u>Duplicate Originals.</u>

The parties may sign any number of copies or counterparts of this Indenture. Each signed copy shall be an original, but all of them together represent the same agreement.

#### Section 13.14 No Adverse Interpretation of Other Agreements.

This Indenture may not be used to interpret another indenture, loan or debt agreement of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries. Any such indenture, loan or debt agreement may not be used to interpret this Indenture.

#### Section 13.15 Force Majeure.

In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations hereunder arising out of or caused by, directly or indirectly, forces beyond its control, including, without limitation, strikes, work stoppages, accidents, acts of war or terrorism, civil or military disturbances, nuclear or natural catastrophes or acts of God, and interruptions, loss or malfunctions of utilities, communications or computer (software and hardware) services; it being understood that the Trustee shall use reasonable efforts which are consistent with accepted practices in the banking industry to resume performance as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

Section 13.16 Waiver of Jury Trial.

EACH OF THE COMPANY, THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS AND THE TRUSTEE HEREBY IRREVOCABLE WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY AND ALL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS INDENTURE, THE SECURITIES OR THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Indenture to be duly executed, all as of the day and year first above written. ISSUER: COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. Name: SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS: COMSTOCK OIL & GAS, LP By: Comstock Oil & Gas GP, LLC, its general partner Name: Title: COMSTOCK OIL & GAS-LOUISIANA, LLC By: Title: COMSTOCK OIL & GAS GP, LLC By: Name: Title: COMSTOCK OIL & GAS INVESTMENTS, LLC By:

COMSTOCK OIL & GAS HOLDINGS, INC.

By:

TRUSTEE:
[ ]
By: Name:
Title:

# PROVISIONS RELATING TO INITIAL SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE SECURITIES

#### 1. Definitions.

#### 1.1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Appendix A the following terms shall have the meanings indicated below:

"Depository" means The Depository Trust Company, its nominees and their respective successors.

"Securities" means Securities in the aggregate principal amount of \$ issued .

"Securities Act" means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

"Securities Custodian" means the custodian with respect to a Global Security (as appointed by the Depository), or any successor person thereto who shall initially be the Trustee.

#### 1.2 Other Definitions.

<u>Term</u>	Defined in Section:
"Agent Members"	2.1(b)
"Global Security"	2.1(a)

#### 2. The Securities.

#### 2.1 Form and Dating.

(a) <u>Global Securities</u>. Securities shall be issued initially in the form of one or more permanent global Securities in definitive, fully registered form without interest coupons with the global securities legend and restricted securities legend set forth in Exhibit 1 hereto (each, a "Global Security"), which shall be deposited on behalf of the purchasers of the Securities represented thereby with the Securities Custodian, and registered in the name of the Depository or a nominee of the Depository, duly executed by the Company and authenticated by the Trustee as provided in this Indenture. The aggregate principal amount of the Global Securities may from time to time be increased or decreased by adjustments made on the records of the Trustee and the Depository or its nominee as hereinafter provided.

(b) Book-Entry Provisions. This Section 2.1(b) shall apply only to a Global Security deposited with or on behalf of the Depository.

The Company shall execute and the Trustee shall, in accordance with this Section 2.1(b) and pursuant to an order of the Company, authenticate and deliver initially one or more Global Securities that (a) shall be registered in the name of the Depository for such Global Security or Global Securities or the nominee of such Depository and (b) shall be delivered by the Trustee to such Depository or pursuant to such Depository's instructions or held by the Trustee as Securities Custodian.

Members of, or participants in, the Depository ("Agent Members") shall have no rights under this Indenture with respect to any Global Security held on their behalf by the Depository or by the Trustee as Securities Custodian or under such Global Security, and the Depository may be treated by the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee as the absolute owner of such Global Security for all purposes whatsoever. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall prevent the Company, the Trustee or any agent of the Company or the Trustee from giving effect to any written certification, proxy or other authorization furnished by the Depository or impair, as between the Depository and its Agent Members, the operation of customary practices of such Depository governing the exercise of the rights of a holder of a beneficial interest in any Global Security.

(c) <u>Certificated Securities</u>. Except as provided in Section 2.3 or 2.4, owners of beneficial interests in Global Securities will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated Securities.

#### 2.2 Authentication.

The Trustee shall authenticate and deliver: (1) Securities for original issue in an aggregate principal amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, and (2) additional in an unlimited amount (except as otherwise provided in the Indenture), upon a written order of the Company signed by two Officers of the Company. Such order shall specify the amount of the Securities to be authenticated and the date on which the original issue of Securities is to be authenticated. The aggregate principal amount of Securities outstanding at any time is unlimited, except as provided otherwise in the Indenture.

#### 2.3 Transfer and Exchange.

- (a) Transfer and Exchange of Certificated Securities. When certificated Securities are presented to the Registrar or a co-registrar with a request:
  - (x) to register the transfer of such certificated Securities; or
  - (y) to exchange such certificated Securities for an equal principal amount of certificated Securities of other authorized denominations,

the Registrar or co-registrar shall register the transfer or make the exchange as requested if its reasonable requirements for such transaction are met; *provided*, *however*, that the certificated Securities surrendered for transfer or exchange:

- (i) shall be duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form reasonably satisfactory to the Company and the Registrar or co-registrar, duly executed by the Holder thereof or his attorney duly authorized in writing; and
- (ii) are being transferred or exchanged pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act, pursuant to Section 2.3(b) or pursuant to clause (A) or (B) below, and are accompanied by the following additional information and documents, as applicable:
  - (A) if such certificated Securities are being delivered to the Registrar by a Holder for registration in the name of such Holder, without transfer, a certification from such Holder to that effect; or
    - (B) if such certificated Securities are being transferred to the Company, a certification to that effect.
- (b) Restrictions on Transfer of a Certificated Security for a Beneficial Interest in a Global Security. A certificated Security may not be exchanged for a beneficial interest in a Global Security except upon satisfaction of the requirements set forth below. Upon receipt by the Trustee of a certificated Security, duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form reasonably satisfactory to the Company and the Registrar or co-registrar, together with written instructions directing the Trustee to make, or to direct the Securities Custodian to make, an adjustment on its books and records with respect to such Global Security to reflect an increase in the aggregate principal amount of the Securities represented by the Global Security, such instructions to contain information regarding the Depositary account to be credited with such increase, then the Trustee shall cancel such certificated Security and cause, or direct the Securities Custodian to cause, in accordance with the standing instructions and procedures existing between the Depository and the Securities Custodian, the aggregate principal amount of Securities represented by the Global Security to be increased by the aggregate principal amount of the certificated Security to be exchanged and shall credit or cause to be credited to the account of the Person specified in such instructions a beneficial interest in the Global Security equal to the principal amount of the certificated Security so canceled. If no Global Securities are then outstanding and the Global Security has not been previously exchanged pursuant to Section 2.4, the Company shall issue and the Trustee shall authenticate, upon written order of the Company in the form of an Officers' Certificate, a new Global Security in the appropriate principal amount.

#### (c) Transfer and Exchange of Global Securities.

- (i) The transfer and exchange of Global Securities or beneficial interests therein shall be effected through the Depository, in accordance with this Indenture (including applicable restrictions on transfer set forth herein, if any) and the procedures of the Depository therefor. A transferor of a beneficial interest in a Global Security shall deliver a written order given in accordance with the Depository's procedures containing information regarding the participant account of the Depository to be credited with a beneficial interest in the Global Security and such account shall be credited in accordance with such instructions with a beneficial interest in the Global Security and the account of the Person making the transfer shall be debited by an amount equal to the beneficial interest in the Global Security being transferred.
- (ii) If the proposed transfer is a transfer of a beneficial interest in one Global Security to a beneficial interest in another Global Security, the Registrar shall reflect on its books and records the date and an increase in the principal amount of the Global Security to which such interest is being transferred in an amount equal to the principal amount of the interest to be so transferred, and the Registrar shall reflect on its books and records the date and a corresponding decrease in the principal amount of Global Security from which such interest is being transferred.
- (iii) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Appendix A (other than the provisions set forth in Section 2.4), a Global Security may not be transferred as a whole except by the Depository to a nominee of the Depository or by a nominee of the Depository or another nominee of the Depository or by the Depository or any such nominee to a successor Depository or a nominee of such successor Depository.
- (d) <u>Cancellation or Adjustment of Global Security</u>. At such time as all beneficial interests in a Global Security have either been exchanged for certificated or certificated Securities, redeemed, repurchased or cancelled, such Global Security shall be returned by the Depository to the Trustee for cancellation or retained and canceled by the Trustee. At any time prior to such cancellation, if any beneficial interest in a Global Security is exchanged for certificated Securities, redeemed, repurchased or canceled, the principal amount of Securities represented by such Global Security shall be reduced and an adjustment shall be made on the books and records of the Trustee (if it is then the Securities Custodian for such Global Security) with respect to such Global Security, by the Trustee or the Securities Custodian, to reflect such reduction.

# (e) Obligations with Respect to Transfers and Exchanges of Securities.

- (i) To permit registrations of transfers and exchanges, the Company shall execute and the Trustee shall authenticate certificated Securities, Definitive Securities and Global Securities at the Registrar's or co-registrar's request.
- (ii) No service charge shall be made for any registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax, assessments, or similar governmental charge payable in connection therewith (other than any such transfer taxes, assessments or similar governmental charge payable upon exchange or transfer pursuant to Section 8.6).
- (iii) The Registrar or co-registrar shall not be required to register the transfer of or exchange of any Security for a period beginning 15 days before the mailing of a notice of redemption or an offer to repurchase Securities or 15 days before an interest payment date.
- (iv) Prior to the due presentation for registration of transfer of any Security, the Company, the Trustee, the Paying Agent, the Registrar or any co-registrar may deem and treat the person in whose name a Security is registered as the absolute owner of such Security for the purpose of receiving payment of principal of and interest on such Security and for all other purposes whatsoever, whether or not such Security is overdue, and none of the Company, the Trustee, the Paying Agent, the Registrar or any co-registrar shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

(v) All Securities issued upon any transfer or exchange pursuant to the terms of this Indenture shall evidence the same debt and shall be entitled to the same benefits under this Indenture as the Securities surrendered upon such transfer or exchange.

#### (f) No Obligation of the Trustee.

- (i) The Trustee shall have no responsibility or obligation to any beneficial owner of a Global Security, a member of, or a participant in the Depository or any other Person with respect to the accuracy of the records of the Depository or its nominee or of any participant or member thereof, with respect to any ownership interest in the Securities or with respect to the delivery to any participant, member, beneficial owner or other Person (other than the Depository) of any notice (including any notice of redemption or repurchase) or the payment (or any delay in payment) of any amount, under or with respect to such Securities. All notices and communications to be given to the Holders and all payments to be made to Holders under the Securities shall be given or made only to the registered Holders (which shall be the Depository or its nominee in the case of a Global Security). The rights of beneficial owners in any Global Security shall be exercised only through the Depository subject to the applicable rules and procedures of the Depository. The Trustee may rely and shall be fully protected in relying upon information furnished by the Depository with respect to its members, participants and any beneficial owners.
- (ii) The Trustee shall have no obligation or duty to monitor, determine or inquire as to compliance with any restrictions on transfer imposed under this Indenture or under applicable law with respect to any transfer of any interest in any Security (including any transfers between or among Depository participants, members or beneficial owners in any Global Security) other than to require delivery of such certificates and other documentation or evidence as are expressly required by, and to do so if and when expressly required by, the terms of this Indenture, and to examine the same to determine substantial compliance as to form with the express requirements hereof.

# 2.4 Certificated Securities.

- (a) A Global Security deposited with the Depository or with the Trustee as Securities Custodian pursuant to Section 2.1 shall be transferred to the beneficial owners thereof in the form of certificated Securities in an aggregate principal amount equal to the principal amount of such Global Security, in exchange for such Global Security, only if such transfer complies with Section 2.3 and (i) the Depository notifies the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a Depository for such Global Security and a successor depositary for such Global Note is not appointed by the Company within 90 days after delivery of such notice, or (ii) the Depository has ceased to be a "clearing agency" registered under the Exchange Act, or (iii) the Company delivers to the Trustee an Officers' certificate notifying the Trustee that it elects to cause the issuance of certificated Securities in exchange for all outstanding Global Securities issued under this Indenture, or (iv) there shall have occurred and be continuing an Event of Default with respect to the Securities.
- (b) Any Global Security that is transferable to the beneficial owners thereof pursuant to this Section 2.4 shall be surrendered by the Depository to the Trustee, to be so transferred, in whole or from time to time in part, without charge, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, upon such transfer of each portion of such Global Security, an equal aggregate principal amount of certificated Securities of authorized denominations. Any portion of a Global Security transferred pursuant to this Section shall be executed, authenticated and delivered only in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof and registered in such names as the Depository shall direct.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Section 2.4(b), the registered Holder of a Global Security may grant proxies and otherwise authorize any Person, including Agent Members and Persons that may hold interests through Agent Members, to take any action which a Holder is entitled to take under this Indenture or the Securities.
- (d) In the event of the occurrence of either of the events specified in Section 2.4(a)(i), (ii), (iii) or (iv), the Company will promptly make available to the Trustee a reasonable supply of certificated Securities in definitive, fully registered form without interest coupons.

#### [FORM OF FACE OF SECURITY]

#### [Global Securities Legend]

Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for Notes in definitive form, this Note may not be transferred except as a whole by the Depositary to a nominee of the Depositary or by a nominee of the Depositary or another nominee of the Depositary or by the Depositary or any such nominee to a successor Depositary or a nominee of such successor Depositary. Unless this certificate is presented by an authorized representative of The Depository Trust Company (55 Water Street, New York, New York) ("DTC") to the issuer or its agent for registration of transfer, exchange or payment, and any certificate issued is registered in the name of Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC (and any payment is made to Cede & Co. or such other entity as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL inasmuch as the registered owner hereof, Cede & Co., has an interest herein.

# [FORM OF FACE OF SECURITY]

# COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

# [Title of Security]

No		
		\$ CUSIP No
Comstock Resources, Inc., a Nevada corporation, promises to pay to,	or registered assigns, the principal sum of _	Dollars o
Interest Payment Dates: and, beginning on		
Record Dates: and		
Additional provisions of this Security are set forth on the other side of this Security.		
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this instrument to be duly execut	ted.	
Date:,	_	
	COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.	
	Ву:	
	Name: Title:	
[CORPORATE SEAL]		
TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION		
[ ], as Trustee, certifies that this is one of the Securities referred to in the Indenture.		
By:		

Authorized Signatory

#### [FORM OF REVERSE SIDE OF SECURITY]

#### [Title of Security]

# 1. Interest.

herein called the "Company interest semiannually on or, if no interest has been pa	Inc., a Nevada corporation (such corporation, and its successors and assigns under the Indenture hereinafter referred to, being "), promises to pay interest on the principal amount of this Security at the rate per annum shown above. The Company will pay and of each year. Interest on the Securities will accrue from the most recent date to which interest has been paid id, from Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. The Company shall pay lat the rate borne by the Securities.
2. Method of Payment.	
business on theinterest payment date. Hold money of the United States Securities represented by a accounts specified by The premium and interest), by made, in the case of a Hold payee with a bank in the Uniterest.	ay interest on the Securities (except defaulted interest) to the Persons who are registered holders of Securities at the close of or next preceding the interest payment date even if Securities are canceled after the record date and on or before the ers must surrender Securities to a Paying Agent to collect principal payments. The Company will pay principal and interest in of America that at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts. Payments in respect of the Global Security (including principal, premium and interest) will be made by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the Depository Trust Company. The Company will make all payments in respect of a certificated Security (including principal, nailing a check to the registered address of each Holder thereof; <i>provided, however</i> , that payments on the Securities may also be let of at least \$1,000,000 aggregate principal amount of Securities, by wire transfer to a U.S. dollar account maintained by the nited States if such Holder elects payment by wire transfer by giving written notice to the Trustee or the Paying Agent to such that the time of payment are than 30 days immediately preceding the relevant due date for payment (or such other date as the Trustee may accept
3. Paying Agent and Registr	ar.
Initially, [	] (the "Trustee") will act as Paying Agent and Registrar. The Company may appoint and change any Paying Agent, Registrar or

# 4. Indenture.

The Company issued the Securities under an Indenture dated as of [ ] (the "Indenture"), between the Company, the initial Subsidiary Guarantors and the Trustee. The terms of the Securities include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (15 U.S.C. Sections 77aaa-77bbbb) as in effect on the date of the Indenture (the "TIA"). Terms defined in the Indenture and not defined herein have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Indenture. The Securities are subject to all such terms, and Securityholders are referred to the Indenture and the TIA for a statement of those terms.

co-registrar without notice. The Company may act as Paying Agent, Registrar or co-registrar.

The Securities are general unsecured obligations of the Company limited to \$\_\_\_\_\_ aggregate principal amount at any one time outstanding (subject to Sections 2.1 and 2.8 of the Indenture). The Indenture also imposes limitations on the ability of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor to consolidate or merge with or into any other Person or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of the Property of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor.

[If applicable, insert — To guarantee the due and punctual payment of the principal and interest on the Securities and all other amounts payable by the Company under the Indenture and the Securities when and as the same shall be due and payable, whether at maturity, by acceleration or otherwise, according to the terms of the Securities and the Indenture, the Subsidiary Guarantors will unconditionally guarantee the Obligations on a joint and several basis pursuant to the terms of the Indenture.]

#### 5. [If applicable, insert — *Optional Redemption*.

The Securities are subject to redemption, at the option of the Company, in whole or in part, at any time on or after \_\_\_\_\_ at the following Redemption Prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below if redeemed during the 12-month period beginning of the years indicated below:

Year	Redemption Price
	<u> </u>
	%

together in the case of any such redemption with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the Redemption Date (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an Interest Payment Date that is on or prior to the Redemption Date), all as provided in the Indenture.

#### 6. [If applicable, insert — *Sinking Fund*.

The Securities are not subject to any sinking fund.]

#### 7. [If applicable, insert — *Notice of Redemption*.

Notice of redemption will be sent at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each Holder of Securities to be redeemed at his or her registered address. Securities in denominations larger than \$1,000 may be redeemed in part but only in whole multiples of \$1,000. If money sufficient to pay the redemption price of and accrued interest on all Securities (or portions thereof) to be redeemed on the redemption date is deposited with the Paying Agent on or before the redemption date and certain other conditions are satisfied, on and after such date interest ceases to accrue on such Securities (or such portions thereof) called for redemption.]

#### 8. Denominations; Transfer; Exchange.

The Securities are in registered form without coupons in denominations of \$1,000 and whole multiples of \$1,000. A Holder may transfer or exchange Securities in accordance with the Indenture. Upon any transfer or exchange, the Registrar and the Trustee may require a Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements or transfer documents and to pay any taxes required by law or permitted by the Indenture.

#### 9. Persons Deemed Owners.

The registered Holder of this Security may be treated as the owner of it for all purposes.

#### 10. Unclaimed Money.

If money for the payment of principal or interest remains unclaimed for two years, the Trustee or Paying Agent shall pay the money back to the Company at its written request unless an abandoned property law designates another Person. After any such payment, Holders entitled to the money must look only to the Company and not to the Trustee for payment.

#### 11. Discharge and Defeasance.

Subject to certain conditions, the Company at any time may terminate some of or all its obligations under the Securities and the Indenture if the Company deposits with the Trustee money or U.S. Government Obligations for the payment of principal and interest on the Securities to redemption or maturity, as the case may be.

#### 12. Amendment, Waiver.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantors and the rights of the Holders under the Indenture at any time by the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time Outstanding. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the Holders of specified percentages in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time Outstanding, on behalf of the Holders of all the Securities, to waive compliance by the Company with certain provisions of the Indenture and certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by or on behalf of the Holder of this Security shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this Security and of any Security issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange herefor or in lieu hereof whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Security. Without the consent of any Holder, the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors and the Trustee may amend or supplement the Indenture or the Securities to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, to qualify or maintain the qualification of the Indenture under the TIA, to add or release any Subsidiary Guarantor pursuant to the Indenture and to make certain other specified changes and other changes that do not materially adversely affect the interests of any Holder in any material respect.

#### 13. Defaults and Remedies.

As set forth in the Indenture, an Event of Default is generally (i) failure to pay principal upon maturity, redemption or otherwise; (ii) default for 30 days in payment of interest on any of the Securities; (iii) default in the performance of agreements relating to mergers, consolidations and sales of all or substantially all assets; (iv) failure for 60 days after notice to comply with any other covenants in the Indenture, any Subsidiary Guarantee (if there shall be any) or the Securities; (v) the failure of any Subsidiary Guarantee (if there shall be any) to be in full force and effect (except as permitted by the Indenture); and (vi) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary. If any Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities may declare the principal amount of all the Securities to be due and payable immediately, except that (i) in the case of an Event of Default arising from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary, the principal amount of the Securities will become due and payable immediately without further action or notice, and (ii) in the case of an Event of Default which relates to certain payment defaults or the acceleration with respect to certain Indebtedness, any such Event of Default and any consequential acceleration of the Securities will be automatically rescinded if any such Indebtedness is repaid or if the default relating to such Indebtedness is cured or waived and if the holders thereof have accelerated such Indebtedness then such holders have rescinded their declaration of acceleration. No Holder may pursue any remedy under the Indenture unless the Trustee shall have failed to act after notice from such Holder of an Event of Default and written request by Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities, and the offer to the Trustee of indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it; however, such provision does not affect the right to sue for enforcement of any overdue payment on a Security by the Holder thereof. Subject to certain limitations, Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Securities may direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The Trustee may withhold from Holders notice of any continuing default (except default in payment of principal, premium or interest) if it determines in good faith that withholding the notice is in the interest of the Holders. The Company is required to file annual and quarterly reports with the Trustee as to the absence or existence of defaults.

# 14. Trustee Dealings with the Company.

Subject to certain limitations imposed by the TIA, the Trustee under the Indenture, in its individual or any other capacity, may become the owner or pledgee of Securities and may otherwise deal with and collect obligations owed to it by the Company or its Affiliates and may otherwise deal with the Company or its Affiliates with the same rights it would have if it were not Trustee.

## 15. No Recourse Against Others.

A director, officer, employee, incorporator, stockholder or Affiliate of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor, as such, past, present or future shall not have any personal liability under this Security or any other

Security or the Indenture by reason of his or its status as such director, officer, employee, incorporator, stockholder or Affiliate, or any liability for any obligations of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor under the Securities or the Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of such obligations or their creation. Each Holder, by accepting this Security, waives and releases all such liability. Such waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issuance of this Security.

#### 16. Authentication.

This Security shall not be valid until an authorized signatory of the Trustee (or an authenticating agent) manually signs the certificate of authentication on the other side of this Security.

#### 17. Abbreviations.

Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Securityholder or an assignee, such as TEN COM (=tenants in common), TEN ENT (=tenants by the entireties), JT TEN (=joint tenants with rights of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (=custodian), and U/G/M/A (=Uniform Gift to Minors Act).

#### 18. Governing Law.

THIS SECURITY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BUT WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO APPLICABLE PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICTS OF LAW TO THE EXTENT THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF ANOTHER JURISDICTION WOULD BE REQUIRED THEREBY.

#### 19. CUSIP Numbers.

Pursuant to a recommendation promulgated by the Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures, the Company has caused CUSIP numbers to be printed on the Securities and has directed the Trustee to use CUSIP numbers in notices of redemption as a convenience to Securityholders. No representation is made as to the accuracy of such numbers either as printed on the Securities or as contained in any notice of redemption and reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers placed thereon.

THE COMPANY WILL FURNISH TO ANY HOLDER OF SECURITIES UPON WRITTEN REQUEST AND WITHOUT CHARGE TO THE HOLDER A COPY OF THE INDENTURE WHICH HAS IN IT THE TEXT OF THIS SECURITY.

#### ASSIGNMENT FORM

To assign this Security, fill in the form below:

I or	we ass	ign and transfer this Security to
		(Print or type assignee's name, address and zip code)
		(Insert assignee's soc. sec. or tax I.D. No.)
and	irrevoc	cably appoint agent to transfer this Security on the books of the Company. The agent may substitute another to act for him.
Date	2:	Your Name:  (Print exactly as your name appears on the face of this Security) Your Signature:  (Sign exactly as your name appears on the face of this Security) Signature Guarantee: Signature must be guaranteed by a participant in a recognized signature guaranty medallion program or other signature acceptable to Trustee
unde	er the S	ion with any transfer of any of the Securities evidenced by this certificate occurring prior to the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 144(k). Securities Act after the later of the date of original issuance of such Securities and the last date, if any, on which such Securities were owned by the or any Affiliate of the Company, the undersigned confirms that such Securities are being transferred in accordance with its terms:
CHE	ECK O	NE BOX BELOW
(1)		to the Company or any subsidiary thereof; or
(2)		pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933; or
(3)		inside the United States to a "qualified institutional buyer" (as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933) that purchases for its own account or for the account of a qualified institutional buyer to whom notice is given that such transfer is being made in reliance on Rule 144A, in each case pursuant to and in compliance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933; or
(4)		outside the United States in an offshore transaction within the meaning of Regulation S under the Securities Act in compliance with Rule 904 under the Securities Act of 1933; or
(5)		inside the United States to an institutional "accredited investor" (as defined in Rule 501(a)(1), (2), (3) or (7) under the Securities Act of 1933) that has furnished to the trustee a signed letter containing certain representations and agreements (the form of which letter can be obtained from the Trustee) and, if such transfer is in respect an aggregate principal amount of Securities less than \$100,000, an opinion of counsel satisfactory to the Company to the effect that such transfer is in compliance with the Securities Act; or
(6)		pursuant to another available exemption from registration provided by Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933.

Unless one of the boxes is checked, the Trustee will refuse to register any of the Securities evidenced by this certificate in the name of any person other than the registered holder thereof; provided, however, that if box (6) is checked, the Trustee may require, prior to registering any such transfer of the Securities, such legal opinions, certifications and other information as the Company has reasonably requested to confirm that such transfer is being made pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933.

Your Signature

# TO BE COMPLETED BY PURCHASER IF (3) ABOVE IS CHECKED.

The undersigned represents and warrants that it is purchasing this Security for its own account or an account with respect to which it exercises sole investment discretion and that it and any such account is a "qualified institutional buyer" within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, and is aware that the sale to it is being made in reliance on Rule 144A and acknowledges that it has received such information regarding the Company as the undersigned has requested pursuant to Rule 144A or has determined not to request such information and that it is aware that the transferor is relying upon the undersigned's foregoing representations in order to claim the exemption from registration provided by Rule 144A.

Dated:

NOTICE: To be executed by an executive officer

# [TO BE ATTACHED TO GLOBAL SECURITIES]

# SCHEDULE OF INCREASES OR DECREASES IN GLOBAL SECURITY

The initial principal mount of this Global Security is \$ [ ]. The following increases or decreases in this Global Security have been made:

Date of Exchange Amount of decrease in Principal Amount of this Global Security

Amount of increase in Principal Amount of this Global Security Principal amount of this Global Security following such decrease or increase

Signature of authorized signatory of Trustee or Securities Custodian



April 25, 2017

Comstock Resources, Inc. 5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500 Frisco, TX 75034

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Comstock Resources, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), and its subsidiary guarantor co-registrants (the "Co-Registrants"), in connection with the preparation of the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "Registration Statement") to be filed on the date hereof by the Company and the Co-Registrants with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Registration Statement relates to, among other things, the issuance and sale from time to time by the Company, pursuant to Rule 415 of the General Rules and Regulations promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), of up to \$750,000,000 of the following securities: (i) shares of common stock of the Company, \$0.50 par value per share (the "Common Stock"); (ii) shares of preferred stock of the Company, \$10.00 par value per share (the "Preferred Stock"), in one or more series; (iii) senior or subordinated debt securities of the Company, in one or more series (the "Debt Securities"); (iv) warrants to purchase debt or equity securities of the Company ("Warrants"); (v) units consisting of one or more Warrants, Debt Securities, Guarantees (as defined below), Preferred Stock, Common Stock or any combination of such securities ("Units"); and (vi) guarantees of the Company's Debt Securities by the Co-Registrants (the "Guarantees") (items (i) through (vi) above are collectively referred to herein as the "Securities").

The Debt Securities and the Guarantees will be issued pursuant to an indenture (the "Indenture"), to be entered into by the Company, each of the Co-Registrants, as guarantors, and a a trustee (the "Trustee") chosen by the Company and qualified to act as such under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act") to be named therein, substantially in the form referenced in Exhibit 4.17 to the Registration Statement, and as the same may hereafter be supplemented from time to time, among other things at the time of and in connection with the issuance of the Debt Securities and any Guarantees. The Warrants will be issued pursuant to a warrant agreement (the "Warrant Agreement") by and between the Company and a warrant agent.

In connection with this opinion, we have examined originals or copies, certified, or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of: (i) the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Company, each as amended to date and currently in effect, and similar organizational documents for each of the Co-Registrants; (ii) the Registration Statement; (iii) the prospectus contained in the Registration Statement (the "Prospectus"); and (iv) resolutions adopted by the Board of

Atlanta | Austin | Boston | Chicago | Cincinnati | Dallas | Hartford | Hong Kong | Houston | London | Los Angeles | Miami Morristown | New Orleans | New York | Providence | Sacramento | San Francisco | Stamford | Washington DC | West Palm Beach

Directors of the Company (the "Board of Directors") and the board of directors (or similar governing body) of each Co-Registrant relating to the registration of the Securities and related matters. We have also reviewed such other documents and records of the Company and each Co-Registrant and such agreements, certificates and receipts of public officials, certificates of officers or other representatives of the Company and each Co-Registrant and others, and such other documents as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinions set forth herein.

In rendering the opinions contained herein, we have, with your permission, made the following assumptions: (i) all documents submitted to or reviewed by us, including all amendments and supplements thereto, are accurate and complete and, if not originals, are true, correct, and complete copies of the originals; (ii) the signatures on each of such documents by the parties thereto are genuine; (iii) each individual who signed such documents had the legal capacity to do so; and (iv) all persons who signed such documents on behalf of a business entity were duly authorized to do so. We have assumed that there are no amendments, modifications, or supplements to such documents other than those amendments, modifications, and supplements that are known to us.

In rendering the opinions expressed in paragraphs 3 through 6 below with respect to the Securities referred to therein, we have additionally assumed that: (i) the Trustee identified in the Indenture will have all requisite power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under the Indenture; (ii) at the time of execution of the Indenture, the execution and delivery thereof and the performance of such obligations will have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the Trustee's part, and the Indenture will have been duly delivered by it; (iii) at the time of execution of the Indenture, the Indenture will be enforceable against the Trustee in accordance with the terms thereof; (iv) any supplemental indenture to the Indenture and any Board Resolution (as defined in the Indenture) and/or Officer's Certificate (as defined in the Indenture) executed and delivered pursuant to the Indenture, in any such case, pursuant to which any Debt Securities and Guarantees are issued, will comply with the Indenture as theretofore supplemented, and the form and terms of such Debt Securities and Guarantees will comply with the Indenture as then supplemented (including by such supplemental indenture) and any such Board Resolution and/or Officer's Certificate; (v) each of the Company and the Co-Registrants is and at all times material hereto will be a corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company (as applicable) duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the jurisdiction under which it is currently organized; and (vi) the indenture actually entered into by the Company, the Co-Registrants, and Trustee will not deviate in any material or substantial respect from the Indenture contained as Exhibit 4.17 to the Registration Statement, such that any deviation would alter our opinions contained herein.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, and subject also to the limitations, qualifications, exceptions and assumptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that:

(1) With respect to any offering of Common Stock (the "Offered Common Stock"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Common Stock has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and

regulations thereunder; (iii) if the Offered Common Stock is to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Common Stock will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iv) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of the Offered Common Stock and related matters; (v) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Offered Common Stock have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vi) a certificate or certificates representing the Offered Common Stock are duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the Offered Common Stock (including any Common Stock duly issued upon conversion, exchange, or exercise of any Debt Securities or Preferred Stock), when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, with respect to the Offered Common Stock, or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, provided that the consideration therefor is not less than the par value thereof.

(2) With respect to any offering of a series of Preferred Stock (the "Offered Preferred Stock"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) if the Offered Preferred Stock is to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iv) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Preferred Stock and related matters, including the adoption of a Certificate of Designation for the Offered Preferred Stock in accordance with the applicable provisions of Nevada law (the "Certificate of Designation"); (v) the filing of the Certificate of Designation with the Secretary of State of the State of Nevada has duly occurred; (vi) the terms, as well as the terms of the issuance and sale, of the Offered Preferred Stock have been duly established in conformity with the Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation, including the Certificate of Designation relating to the Offered Preferred Stock, and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any

court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vii) a certificate or certificates representing the Offered Preferred Stock are duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the Offered Preferred Stock (including any Preferred Stock duly issued upon conversion, exchange, or exercise of any Debt Securities), when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock, or any other duly authorized, executed, and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable, provided that the consideration therefor is not less than the par value thereof.

(3) With respect to any offering of any series of Debt Securities (the "Offered Debt Securities"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act and the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Debt Securities has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) if the Offered Debt Securities are to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Debt Securities will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iv) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Debt Securities and related matters; (v) the terms, as well as the terms of the issuance and sale, of the Offered Debt Securities have been duly established in conformity with the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) so as not to (A) violate any applicable law. (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vi) the Offered Debt Securities are duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) and duly delivered to the purchasers thereof upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the Offered Debt Securities (including any Debt Securities duly issued upon conversion, exchange, or exercise of any Debt Securities or Preferred Stock), when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) and the applicable underwriting agreement, if any, or any other duly authorized, executed, and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their respective terms, except to the extent that enforcement thereof may be limited by (a) bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium, or other similar laws now or hereafter in effect relating to creditors' rights generally, (b) general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforceability is considered in a proceeding at law or in equity), (c) public policy considerations which may limit the rights of parties to obtain remedies, (d) the waivers of any usury defense contained in the Indenture which may be unenforceable, (e) requirements that a claim with respect to any Offered Debt Securities denominated in a currency, currency unit, or composite currency other than United States

dollars (or a judgment denominated other than United States dollars in respect of such claim) be converted into United States dollars at a rate of exchange prevailing on a date determined pursuant to applicable law, and (f) governmental authority to limit, delay, or prohibit the making of payments outside the United States or in foreign currencies, currency units, or composite currencies (collectively, these qualifications and limitations are referred to herein as the "Enforceability Qualifications").

- (4) With respect to any offering of Warrants to be issued under a Warrant Agreement (the "Offered Warrants"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Warrants has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Warrants and related matters, (iv) the Warrant Agreement has been duly authorized and validly executed and delivered by the Company and the warrant agent under the Warrant Agreement; (v) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Offered Warrants have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vi) the Offered Warrants are duly executed, issued, and delivered in accordance with the terms of the Warrant Agreement and the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting, or similar agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their respective terms, subject to the Enforceability Qualifications.
- (5) With respect to any offering of Units (the "Offered Units"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Units has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to authorize and approve (A) the issuance and terms of the Offered Units, (B) the issuance and terms of any Warrants which are a component of the Units, the terms of the offering thereof and related matters, and the execution and delivery of the applicable Indenture (as supplemented), and (D) the issuance and terms of any Preferred Stock or Common Stock which are a component of the Units, the terms of the Units, the terms of the offering thereof and

related matters, (iv) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Offered Units have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, so as not to (A) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (v) all of the parties duly execute and deliver, and in the case of the applicable series of Debt Securities, duly authenticate, (A) the applicable Offered Units, (B) such Warrants and Warrant Agreement, (C) such series of Debt Securities and Indenture (and such Indenture is qualified under the Trust Indenture Act) and any applicable supplemental indenture, and (D) such Preferred Stock and Common Stock, and each such Security is issued, in each case upon payment of the consideration therefor provided for in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting, or similar agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the Company and otherwise in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Warrant Agreement, in the case of the Warrants, the applicable Indenture (as supplemented), in the case of any series of Debt Securities, or the Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (as amended to such date and then in effect), in the case of such Preferred Stock and Common Stock, such Offered Units will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their respective terms, subject to the Enforceability Qualifications.

(6) With respect to the Guarantees, when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Debt Securities for which the Guarantees relate has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) the Company and each Co-Registrant, and each of their respective board of directors or similar governing body, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers or managers (as applicable), have taken of all necessary corporate action to authorize and approve the issuance and terms of the Guarantees and the Debt Securities to which they pertain, the terms of the offering thereof and related matters; (iv) the terms of the issuance of the Guarantees have been duly established in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws (or similar organizational documents) of each Co-Registrant, each as amended and then in effect, so as not to (A) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws (or similar organizational documents) of each Co-Registrant, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company or any Co-Registrant and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company or any Co-Registrant; (v) the applicable Indenture as then and theretofore supplemented, pursuant to which the Guarantees will be issued, has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act; and (vi) such Debt Securities and such Guarantees are duly executed, issued, and delivered in each case in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) and the applicable purchase, underwriting, or similar agreement and payment (or delivery) of the consideration therefor provided for therein, such Guarantees will be valid and binding obligations of the applicable Co-Registrant, enforceable against such Co-Registrant in accordance with their respective terms, subject to the Enforceability Qualifications.

In rendering the opinions expressed above, we have assumed that, at or prior to the time of the delivery of any such Security, there shall not have occurred any change in law affecting the validity or enforceability of such Security.

With respect to any agreement or instrument (other than the Indenture) reviewed by us, that by its terms or otherwise is governed by the law of any jurisdiction other than the laws of the State of Texas, our opinion herein is based solely on our understanding of the plain language of such agreement or instrument and we do not express our opinion with respect to the interpretation, validity, binding nature, or enforceability of any such agreement or instrument, and we do not assume any responsibility with respect to the effect on the opinions or statements set forth herein of any interpretation thereof inconsistent with such understanding.

We do not express any opinion herein with respect to the law of any jurisdiction other than the States of Texas and New York, applicable federal law, and, based solely on the opinion of Woodburn and Wedge filed concurrently with our opinion as part of the Registration Statement, the State of Nevada.

This opinion is intended solely for your benefit. It is not to be quoted, in whole or in part, disclosed, made available to, or relied upon by any other person, firm, or entity without our express prior written consent. This opinion is limited to the specific opinions expressly stated herein, and no other opinion is implied or may be inferred beyond the specific opinions expressly stated herein.

This opinion is based upon our knowledge of the law and facts relevant to the transactions herein referenced as of the date hereof. We assume no duty to update or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention or to reflect any changes in any law that may hereafter occur or become effective.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to our firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not thereby admit that we are included in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ LOCKE LORD LLP

April 25, 2017

Comstock Resources, Inc. 5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500 Frisco, TX 75034

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special Nevada counsel to Comstock Resources, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), and its subsidiary guarantor co-registrants (the "Co-Registrants"), in connection with the preparation of the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "Registration Statement") to be filed on the date hereof by the Company and the Co-Registrants with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Registration Statement relates to, among other things, the issuance and sale from time to time by the Company, pursuant to Rule 415 of the General Rules and Regulations promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), of up to \$750,000,000 of the following securities: (i) shares of common stock of the Company, \$0.50 par value per share (the "Common Stock"); (ii) shares of preferred stock of the Company, \$10.00 par value per share (the "Preferred Stock"), in one or more series; (iii) senior or subordinated debt securities of the Company, in one or more series (the "Debt Securities"); (iv) warrants to purchase debt or equity securities of the Company ("Warrants"); (v) units consisting of one or more Warrants, Debt Securities, Guarantees (as defined below), Preferred Stock, Common Stock or any combination of such securities ("Units"); and (vi) guarantees of the Company's Debt Securities by the Co-Registrants (the "Guarantees") (items (i) through (vi) above are collectively referred to herein as the "Securities").

The Debt Securities and the Guarantees will be issued pursuant to an indenture (the "Indenture"), to be entered into by the Company, each of the Co-Registrants, as guarantors, and a trustee (the "Trustee") chosen by the Company and qualified to act as such under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act") to be named therein, substantially in the form referenced in Exhibit 4.17 to the Registration Statement, and as the same may hereafter be supplemented from time to time, among other things at the time of and in connection with the issuance of the Debt Securities and any Guarantees. The Warrants will be issued pursuant to a warrant agreement (the "Warrant Agreement") by and between the Company and a warrant agent.

In connection with this opinion, we have examined originals or copies, certified, or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of: (i) the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Company, each as amended to date and currently in effect, and similar organizational documents for each of the Co-Registrants; (ii) the Registration Statement; (iii) the prospectus contained in the Registration Statement (the "Prospectus"); and (iv) resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board of Directors") and the board of directors (or similar

governing body) of each Co-Registrant relating to the registration of the Securities and related matters. We have also reviewed such other documents and records of the Company and each Co-Registrant and such agreements, certificates and receipts of public officials, certificates of officers or other representatives of the Company and each Co-Registrant and others, and such other documents as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinions set forth herein.

In rendering the opinions contained herein, we have, with your permission, made the following assumptions: (i) all documents submitted to or reviewed by us, including all amendments and supplements thereto, are accurate and complete and, if not originals, are true, correct, and complete copies of the originals; (ii) the signatures on each of such documents by the parties thereto are genuine; (iii) each individual who signed such documents had the legal capacity to do so; and (iv) all persons who signed such documents on behalf of a business entity were duly authorized to do so. We have assumed that there are no amendments, modifications, or supplements to such documents other than those amendments, modifications, and supplements that are known to us.

In rendering the opinions expressed in paragraphs 4 through 7 below with respect to the Securities referred to therein, we have additionally assumed that: (i) the Trustee identified in the Indenture will have all requisite power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under the Indenture; (ii) at the time of execution of the Indenture, the execution and delivery thereof and the performance of such obligations will have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the Trustee's part, and the Indenture will have been duly delivered by it; (iii) at the time of execution of the Indenture, the Indenture will be enforceable in accordance with the terms thereof; (iv) any supplemental indenture to the Indenture and any Board Resolution (as defined in the Indenture) and/or Officer's Certificate (as defined in the Indenture) executed and delivered pursuant to the Indenture, in any such case, pursuant to which any Debt Securities and Guarantees are issued, will comply with the Indenture as theretofore supplemented, and the form and terms of such Debt Securities and Guarantees will comply with the Indenture as then supplemented (including by such supplemental indenture) and any such Board Resolution and/or Officer's Certificate; (v) each of the Company and the Co-Registrants is and at all times material hereto will be a corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company (as applicable) duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the jurisdiction under which it is currently organized; and (vi) the indenture actually entered into by the Company, the Co-Registrants, and Trustee will not deviate in any material or substantial respect from the Indenture contained as Exhibit 4.17 to the Registration Statement, such that any deviation would alter our opinions contained herein.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, and subject also to the limitations, qualifications, exceptions and assumptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that:

(1) The Company and each of the Co-Registrants has been duly incorporated or organized, and is validly existing as a corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company, as the case may be, in good standing under the laws of the State of Nevada.

- (2) With respect to any offering of Common Stock (the "Offered Common Stock"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Common Stock has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) if the Offered Common Stock is to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Common Stock will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iv) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of the Offered Common Stock and related matters; (v) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Offered Common Stock have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, so as not to (A) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vi) a certificate or certificates representing the Offered Common Stock are duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the Offered Common Stock (including any Common Stock duly issued upon conversion, exchange, or exercise of any Debt Securities or Preferred Stock), when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, with respect to the Offered Common Stock, or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, provided that the consideration therefor is not less than the par value thereof.
- (3) With respect to any offering of a series of Preferred Stock (the "Offered Preferred Stock"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) if the Offered Preferred Stock is to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iv) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Preferred Stock and related matters, including the adoption of a Certificate of Designation for the Offered Preferred Stock in accordance with the applicable provisions of Nevada law (the "Certificate of Designation"); (v) the filing of the Certificate of Designation with the Secretary of State of the State of Nevada has duly occurred; (vi) the terms, as well as the terms of the issuance and sale, of the Offered Preferred Stock have been duly established in conformity with the Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation, including the Certificate of Designation relating to the Offered Preferred Stock, and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, so as not to (A) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the

Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vii) a certificate or certificates representing the Offered Preferred Stock are duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the Offered Preferred Stock (including any Preferred Stock duly issued upon conversion, exchange, or exercise of any Debt Securities), when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock, or any other duly authorized, executed, and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable, provided that the consideration therefor is not less than the par value thereof.

(4) With respect to any offering of any series of Debt Securities (the "Offered Debt Securities"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act and the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Debt Securities has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) if the Offered Debt Securities are to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Debt Securities will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iv) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Debt Securities and related matters; (v) the terms, as well as the terms of the issuance and sale, of the Offered Debt Securities have been duly established in conformity with the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) so as not to (A) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vi) the Offered Debt Securities are duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) and duly delivered to the purchasers thereof upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the Offered Debt Securities (including any Debt Securities duly issued upon conversion, exchange, or exercise of any Debt Securities or Preferred Stock), when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) and the applicable underwriting agreement, if any, or any other duly authorized, executed, and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, to the extent Nevada law governs such issues.

- (5) With respect to any offering of Warrants to be issued under a Warrant Agreement (the "Offered Warrants"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Warrants has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Warrants and related matters, (iv) the Warrant Agreement has been duly authorized and validly executed and delivered by the Company and the warrant agent under the Warrant Agreement; (v) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Offered Warrants have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vi) the Offered Warrants are duly executed, issued, and delivered in accordance with the terms of the Warrant Agreement and the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting, or similar agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the Company, to the extent that Nevada law governs such issues.
- (6) With respect to any offering of Units (the "Offered Units"), when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Offered Units has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to authorize and approve (A) the issuance and terms of the Offered Units, (B) the issuance and terms of any Warrants which are a component of the Units, the terms of the offering thereof and related matters, and the execution and delivery of any related Warrant Agreement, (C) the issuance and terms of any applicable series of Debt Securities which are a component of the Units, the terms of the offering thereof and related matters, (iv) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Offered Units have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (v) all of the parties duly execute and deliver, and in the case of the applicable series of Debt Securities, duly authenticate, (A) the applicable Offered Units, (B) such Warrants and Warrant Agreement, (C) such series of Debt Securities and Indenture (and such Indenture is qualified under the Trust Indenture Act) and any applicable supplemental

indenture, and (D) such Preferred Stock and Common Stock, and each such Security is issued, in each case upon payment of the consideration therefor provided for in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting, or similar agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the Company and otherwise in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Warrant Agreement, in the case of the Warrants, the applicable Indenture (as supplemented), in the case of any series of Debt Securities, or the Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (as amended to such date and then in effect), in the case of such Preferred Stock and Common Stock, such Offered Units will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, to the extent Nevada law governs such issues.

(7) With respect to the Guarantees, when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including all necessary post-effective amendments), has become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) an appropriate prospectus supplement (or term sheet) with respect to the Debt Securities for which the Guarantees relate has been prepared, delivered, and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (iii) the Company and each Co-Registrant, and each of their respective board of directors or similar governing body, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers or managers (as applicable), have taken of all necessary corporate action to authorize and approve the issuance and terms of the Guarantees and the Debt Securities to which they pertain, the terms of the offering thereof and related matters; (iv) the terms of the issuance of the Guarantees have been duly established in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws (or similar organizational documents) of each Co-Registrant, each as amended and then in effect, so as not to (A) violate any applicable law, (B) violate the Restated Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws (or similar organizational documents) of each Co-Registrant, each as amended and then in effect, or (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company or any Co-Registrant and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company or any Co-Registrant; (v) the applicable Indenture as then and theretofore supplemented, pursuant to which the Guarantees will be issued, has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act; and (vi) such Debt Securities and such Guarantees are duly executed, issued, and delivered in each case in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture (as supplemented) and the applicable purchase, underwriting, or similar agreement and payment (or delivery) of

In rendering the opinions expressed above, we have assumed that, at or prior to the time of the delivery of any such Security, there shall not have occurred any change in law affecting the validity or enforceability of such Security.

With respect to any agreement or instrument (other than the Indenture) reviewed by us, that by its terms or otherwise is governed by the law of any jurisdiction other than the laws of the State of Nevada, our opinion herein is based solely on our understanding of the plain language of such agreement or instrument and we do not express our opinion with respect to the interpretation, validity, binding nature, or enforceability of any such agreement or instrument, and we do not assume any responsibility with respect to the effect on the opinions or statements set forth herein of any interpretation thereof inconsistent with such understanding.

We do not express any opinion herein with respect to the law of any jurisdiction other than the State of Nevada.

This opinion is intended solely for your benefit. It is not to be quoted, in whole or in part, disclosed, made available to, or relied upon by any other person, firm, or entity without our express prior written consent. This opinion is limited to the specific opinions expressly stated herein, and no other opinion is implied or may be inferred beyond the specific opinions expressly stated herein.

This opinion is based upon our knowledge of the law and facts relevant to the transactions herein referenced as of the date hereof. We assume no duty to update or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention or to reflect any changes in any law that may hereafter occur or become effective.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to our firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not thereby admit that we are included in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The law firm of Locke Lord LLP may rely on this opinion in connection with the opinion to be rendered by them in connection with the Registration Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
WOODBURN AND WEDGE

By: /s/ Shawn G. Pearson, Esq.

Shawn G. Pearson, Esq.

# COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

# COMPUTATION OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES RATIO

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Fixed charges					
Interest expense	\$ 57,906	\$ 73,242	\$ 58,631	\$ 118,592	\$ 128,743
Capitalized interest expense	11,357	2,736	10,237	891	_
Total fixed charges	\$ 69,263	\$ 75,978	\$ 68,868	\$ 119,483	\$ 128,743
Earnings, as defined					
Loss from continuing operations before income taxes	\$(153,713)	\$(162,880)	\$(81,800)	\$(1,201,554)	\$(127,965)
Fixed Charges	69,263	75,978	68,868	119,483	128,743
Less: capitalized interest	(11,357)	(2,736)	(10,237)	(891)	
Earnings, as defined	\$ (95,807)	\$ (89,638)	\$(23,169)	\$(1,082,962)	\$ 778
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)					

(1) The ratios were computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. "Earnings" consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges less capitalized interest. "Fixed charges" consists of interest expense, capitalized interest expense, preferred stock dividends, and that portion of non-capitalized rental expense deemed to be the equivalent of interest. For all periods presented, earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges. The coverage deficiency was \$165.1 million, \$165.6 million, \$92.0 million, \$1.2 billion and \$128.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively.

#### CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Experts" in this Registration Statement (Form S-3) and related Prospectus of Comstock Resources, Inc. for the registration of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, guarantees of debt securities, warrants and units and to the incorporation by reference therein of our reports dated February 24, 2017, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Comstock Resources, Inc., and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Comstock Resources, Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP Dallas, Texas April 25, 2017

#### CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Experts" in the Registration Statement (Form S-3) and related Prospectus of Comstock Resources, Inc. and to the reserve estimates as of December 31, 2016 and our report thereon in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 incorporated by reference into the Prospectus contained in the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or about April 25, 2017, and any subsequent amendments thereto.

/s/ Lee Keeling and Associates, Inc.

Tulsa, Oklahoma April 25, 2017