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

FORM S-8

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)

**04-1667468** (IRS Employer Identification No.)

5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500, Frisco, Texas 75034 (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

#### COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. 2009 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AMENDED AND RESTATED EFFECTIVE AS OF MAY 7, 2015

(Full title of the plan)

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

(Name and address of agent for service)
(972) 668-8800
(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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

Indicate by check number whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  $\square$ 

Accelerated filer o

Non-accelerated filer o

Smaller reporting company o

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

# CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered <sup>(1)</sup>	Proposed maximum offering price per share <sup>(1)</sup>	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price <sup>(1)</sup>	Amount of registration fee $^{(1)}$
Common Stock, \$0.50 par value per share	1,050,000 shares	\$2.21	\$2,320,500.00	\$269.64

(1) The offering price per share, aggregate offering price and registration fee with respect to the shares of common stock of Comstock Resources, Inc. (the "Company"), par value \$0.50 per share (the "Common Stock"), issuable pursuant to the Comstock Resources, Inc. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan as Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015 (the "Plan") described herein have been calculated in accordance with Rule 457(c) and (h) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based on the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock on September 25, 2015 as reported in the consolidated reporting system of the New York Stock Exchange. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement also covers additional shares of Common Stock as may be offered or issued as a result of stock splits, stock dividends, or similar transactions.

# EXPLANATORY NOTE

This registration statement on Form S-8 is filed by Comstock Resources, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), to register an additional 1,050,000 shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.50 per share (the "Common Stock"), for issuance under the Comstock Resources, Inc. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan as Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015 (the "Plan"). Accordingly, pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8, the Company incorporates by reference the contents of the Company's prior registration statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on May 19, 2009 (Registration No. 333-159332) except as otherwise updated or modified by this registration statement.

# PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

The Company hereby incorporates by reference into this registration statement the following documents filed with the Commission:

- (a) The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014;
- (b) All other reports filed with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the fiscal year covered by the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K referred to in (a) above; and
- (c) The description of the Common Stock contained in the Company's registration statement on Form 8-A (Registration Statement No. 001-03262) filed with the Commission 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 subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities offered have been sold or that deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this registration statement 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 herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement.

#### Item 6. Indemnification of Officers and Directors.

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 8. Exhibits.

The following are filed as exhibits to this registration statement:

Exhibit No.	<u>Description</u>
4	Specimen Common Stock Certificate of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-112100) filed on January 22, 2004).
5*	Opinion of Locke Lord LLP.
23.1*	Consent of Locke Lord LLP (See Exhibit 5).
23.2*	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
23.3*	Consent of Lee Keeling & Associates, Inc.
24*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this registration statement).
99*	Comstock Resources, Inc. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan as Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015.
* Filed herewith	

(Signature Page Follows)

# **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Company certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and 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 September 29, 2015.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

By: <u>/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS</u>
President, Chief Financial Officer,
Secretary and Director

(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

# POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below hereby authorizes M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them, with full power to act without the other, to sign and file one or more amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement, which amendments may make such changes in this registration statement as either of them deems appropriate, and each such person hereby appoints M. Jay Allison and Roland O. Burns, and each of them, as attorney-in-fact to execute in the name and on behalf of the Company and any such person, individually and in each capacity stated below, any such amendments to this registration statement.

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

/s/ M. JAY ALLISON M. Jay Allison	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Principal Executive Officer)	September 29, 2015
/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS Roland O. Burns	President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Director (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	September 29, 2015
/s/ ELIZABETH B. DAVIS Elizabeth B. Davis	Director	September 29, 2015
/s/ DAVID K. LOCKETT David K. Lockett	Director	September 29, 2015
/s/ CECIL E. MARTIN, JR. Cecil E. Martin, Jr.	Director	September 29, 2015
/s/ FREDERIC D. SEWELL Frederic D. Sewell	Director	September 29, 2015
/s/ DAVID W. SLEDGE David W. Sledge	Director	September 29, 2015
/s/ JIM L. TURNER Jim L. Turner	Director	September 29, 2015

# **Exhibit Index**

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September 29, 2015

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

Re: Registration of 1,050,000 Shares of Common Stock, par value of \$0.50 per share, pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form S-8

#### Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Comstock Resources, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), in connection with its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") of a Registration Statement (the "Registration Statement") on Form S-8 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"). The Registration Statement covers 1,050,000 shares of common stock, \$0.50 par value per share ("Common Stock"), of the Company, and such additional shares of Common Stock as may become issuable pursuant to the provisions of the Comstock Resources, Inc. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan as Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015 (the "Plan") (such shares collectively referred to as the "Securities"), to be issued pursuant to the Plan.

In rendering this opinion we have examined the Registration Statement, the Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, each as amended to date, and such corporate records, documents and instruments of the Company and such certificates of public officials, have received such representations from officers of the Company, and have reviewed such questions of law as in our judgment are necessary, relevant or appropriate to enable us to render the opinion expressed below. In such examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all corporate records, documents and instruments submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as conformed, certified or photostatic copies thereof, and the authenticity of the originals of such photostatic, certified or conformed copies.

Based upon such examination and review and upon representations made to us by officers of the Company, we are of the opinion that upon issuance and delivery in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan, and upon receipt by the Company of the full consideration for the Securities as determined pursuant to the Plan, the Securities will be legally issued, fully paid and nonassessable shares of Common Stock of the Company.

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not admit that we come within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Respectfully submitted, /s/ Locke Lord LLP
Locke Lord LLP

# CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the Comstock Resources, Inc. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan as Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015 of our reports dated February 24, 2015, 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, 2014 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP Ernst & Young LLP

Dallas, Texas, September 29, 2015

# CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ENGINEERS

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8 filed on September 29, 2015) pertaining to the Comstock Resources, Inc. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan as Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015 of the reference of our firm and to the reserve estimates as of December 31, 2014 and our report thereon in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Comstock Resources, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Lee Keeling & Associates, Inc. Lee Keeling & Associates, Inc.

Dallas, Texas, September 29, 2015

### COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan Amended and Restated Effective as of May 7, 2015

#### I. GENERAL

- 1. Purpose. The COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan (the "Plan") has been established by COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. (the "Company") to:
- (a) attract and retain key executive and managerial employees;
- (b) motivate participating employees, by means of appropriate incentive, to achieve long-range goals;
- (c) attract and retain well-qualified individuals to serve as members of the Company's Board of Directors;
- (d) provide incentive compensation opportunities which are competitive with those of other public corporations; and
- (e) further align Participants' interests with those of the Company's other stockholders through compensation alternatives based on the Company's common stock;
- and thereby promote the long-term financial interest of the Company and its Subsidiaries, including the growth in value of the Company's equity and enhancement of long-term shareholder return.
- 2. Effective Date. The Plan was originally effective May 19, 2009, upon approval by the stockholders at the Company's 2009 annual meeting. As amended and restated, the Plan is effective May 7, 2015, upon approval by the stockholders at the Company's 2015 annual meeting.
- 3. <u>Definitions</u>. The following definitions are applicable to the Plan.
- "Award" means the grant of any Stock Option, share of Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Unit, Performance Unit or Stock Appreciation Right under the Plan pursuant to the terms, conditions, and limitations that the Committee may establish in order to fulfill the objectives of the Plan.
- "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.
- "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- "Committee" means the Compensation Committee of the Board.
- "Disability" means the inability of a Participant, by reason of a physical or mental impairment, to engage in any substantial gainful activity, of which the Committee shall be the sole judge.
- "Effective Date" means May 7, 2015, with respect to this Amendment and Restatement. The original "Effective Date" was May 19, 2009.
- "Fair Market Value" of any Stock means, as of any date, the last sale price for such Stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange on the date or, if Stock is not traded on that date, on the next preceding date on which Stock was traded.
- "Non-employee Director" means each member of the Board who is not an employee of the Company.
- "Option Date" means, with respect to any Stock Option, the date on which the Stock Option is awarded under the Plan.
- "Participant" means any employee or Non-employee Director of the Company or any Subsidiary who is selected by the Committee to participate in the Plan.
- "Performance Unit" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Part V.

"Permitted Transferees" means members of the immediate family of the Participant, trusts for the benefit of such immediate family members, and partnerships in which substantially all of the interests are held by the Participant and members of his or her immediate family. An immediate family member shall mean any descendant (children, grandchildren and more remote descendants), including step-children and relationships arising from legal adoption, and any spouse of a Participant or a Participant's descendant.

"Related Company" means any corporation during any period in which it is a Subsidiary, or during any period in which it directly or indirectly owns 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company that are entitled to vote.

"Restricted Period" has the meaning ascribed to it in Part IV.

"Restricted Stock" has the meaning ascribed to it in Part IV.

"Retirement" means (i) Termination of Service in accordance with the retirement procedures set by the Company from time to time; or (ii) a Termination of Service voluntarily with the consent of the Company (of which the Committee shall be the sole judge).

"Stock" means the Company's common stock, \$.50 par value per share.

"Stock Appreciation Right" has the meaning ascribed to it in Part VI.

"Stock Option" means the right of a Participant to purchase Stock pursuant to an Incentive Stock Option or Non-Qualified Option awarded pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

"Subsidiary" means any corporation during any period of which 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Company.

"Termination of Service" means the termination of employment of an employee by the Company and all Subsidiaries or the termination of service by an Non-employee Director as a member of the board of directors of the Company and all Subsidiaries. A Participant's service shall not be deemed to have terminated because of a change in the entity for which the Participant renders such service, provided that there is no interruption or termination of the Participant's service. Furthermore, a Participant's service with the Company shall not be deemed to have terminated if the Participant takes any military leave, sick leave, or other bona fide leave of absence approved by the Company or a Subsidiary; provided, however, that if any such leave exceeds 90 days, on the 91st day of such leave the Participant's service shall be deemed to have terminated unless the Participant's leave of absence is approved by the Committee. The Participant's service shall be deemed to have terminated upon the entity for which the Participant performs service ceasing to be a Subsidiary (or any successor). Subject to the foregoing, the Company, in its discretion, shall determine whether a Participant's service has terminated and the effective date of such termination.

4. <u>Administration</u>. The authority to manage and control the operation and administration of the Plan shall be vested in the Committee. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Committee will have authority to select Participants to receive Awards, to determine the time or times of receipt, to determine the types of Awards and the number of shares covered by the Awards, to establish the terms, conditions, performance criteria, restrictions, and other provisions of such Awards, to determine the number and value of Performance Units awarded and earned, and to cancel or suspend Awards. In making such determinations, the Committee may take into account the nature of services rendered by the Participant, his or her present and potential contribution to the Company's success and such other factors as the Committee deems relevant. The Committee is authorized to interpret the Plan, to establish, amend, and rescind any rules and regulations relating to the Plan, to determine the terms and provisions of any agreements made pursuant to the Plan, and to make all other determinations that may be necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan.

A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, and the acts of a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, or acts approved in writing by all members of the Committee, shall be the acts of the Committee, unless provisions to the contrary are embodied in the Company's Bylaws or resolutions duly adopted by the Committee. All actions taken and decisions and determinations made by the Committee pursuant to the Plan shall be binding and conclusive on all persons interested in the Plan. No member of the Board or the Committee shall be liable for any action or determination taken or made in good faith with respect to the Plan.

- 5. <u>Participation</u>. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan, the Committee shall determine and designate, from time to time, the key executives, managerial employees, and Non-employee Directors of the Company and/or its Subsidiaries who will participate in the Plan. In the discretion of the Committee, a Participant may be awarded Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Performance Units or any combination thereof, and more than one Award may be granted to a Participant. Except as otherwise agreed to by the Company and the Participant, any Award under the Plan shall not affect any previous Award to the Participant under the Plan or any other plan maintained by the Company or its Subsidiaries.
- 6. <u>Shares Subject to the Plan</u>. The shares of Stock with respect to which Awards may be made under the Plan shall be either authorized and unissued shares or authorized and issued shares held in the treasury by the Company (including, in the discretion of the Committee, shares purchased in the market).
- (a) <u>Shares Reserved for Awards</u>. Effective as of May 7, 2015, and subject to the provisions of paragraph I.11, the number of shares of Stock available under the Plan for the grant of Awards shall not exceed 5,050,000 shares in the aggregate. If, for any reason, any Award under the Plan otherwise distributable in shares of Stock, or any portion of the Award, shall expire, terminate or be forfeited or canceled, or be settled in cash pursuant to the terms of the Plan and, therefore, any such shares are no longer distributable under the Award, such shares of Stock shall again be available for award under the Plan.
- (b) <u>Annual Limit on Grants to Employees</u>. Subject to the provisions of paragraph I.11, the number of shares of Stock with respect to which Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights under the Plan may be granted in any calendar year to any employee shall not exceed 1,000,000 shares.
- 7. <u>Terms of Awards</u>. Awards may be granted generally on the terms and conditions set forth in Parts II through VI. In addition, the Committee may impose on any Award or the exercise thereof, at the date of grant, such additional terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as the Committee shall determine and specify in the Award Agreement.
- (a) Minimum Vesting Requirements. Awards granted under the Plan shall be subject to the following minimum vesting requirements. If the vesting of an Award is not based on the achievement of one or more performance conditions, such Award will vest over a minimum period of three years after the date of grant. If the vesting of an Award is based on the achievement of one or more performance conditions, such Award will vest over a minimum period of one year after the date of grant. For purposes of this paragraph I.7(a), (i) vesting over a three-year period will include periodic graded vesting over such period; provided, that, no portion of an Award shall vest prior to the first anniversary of the date of grant; and (ii) notwithstanding those requirements, up to five percent (5%) of the shares reserved for Awards under the Plan, or 252,500 shares, subject to the provisions of paragraph I.11, may be granted as non-performance-based Awards with vesting terms not conforming to the three-year minimum vesting requirement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, these minimum vesting requirements may be accelerated or waived in the event of a Participant's death or Disability, or in the event of a Change in Control of the Company.
- (b) <u>Maximum Term of Awards</u>. The terms of each Award shall be for such period as may be determined by the Committee, except that the term of any Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right shall not exceed ten years from the date of grant of the Award.
- 8. Compliance With Applicable Laws and Withholding of Taxes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Company shall have no liability to issue any shares of Stock under the Plan unless such issuance would comply with all applicable laws and the applicable requirements of any securities exchange or similar authority. Prior to the issuance of any shares of Stock under the Plan, the Company may require a written statement that the recipient is acquiring the shares for investment and not for the purpose or with the intention of distributing as amended, the shares. In the case of a Participant who is subject to Section 16(a) and 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Committee may, at any time, add such conditions and limitations to any election to satisfy tax withholding obligations through the withholding or surrender of shares of Stock as the Committee, in its sole discretion, deems necessary or desirable to comply with Section 16(a) or 16(b) and the rules and regulations thereunder or to obtain any exemption therefrom. All Awards and payments under the Plan to employees are subject to withholding of all applicable taxes, which withholding obligations may be satisfied, with the consent of the Committee, through the surrender of shares of Stock which the Participant already owns, or to which a Participant is otherwise entitled under the Plan.
- 9. <u>Transferability</u>. Incentive Stock Options, Performance Units, and, during the period of restriction, Restricted Stock awarded under the Plan are not transferable except as designated by the Participant by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. Incentive Stock Options may be exercised during the lifetime of the Participant only by the Participant or his guardian or legal representative. If expressly permitted by the terms of the Award Agreement, Non-Qualified Stock Options may be transferred by a Participant to Permitted Transferees, provided that there is not any consideration for the transfer.

- 10. <u>Employment and Stockholder Status</u>. The Plan does not constitute a contract of employment, and selection as a Participant will not give any employee the right to be retained in the employ of the Company or any Subsidiary. The Plan does not constitute or serve as evidence of an agreement or understanding, express or implied, that the Company will retain a director for any period of time. Subject to the provisions of paragraph IV.3(a), no award under the Plan shall confer upon the holder thereof any right as a stockholder of the Company prior to the date on which he fulfills all service requirements and other conditions for receipt of shares of Stock. If the redistribution of shares is restricted pursuant to paragraph I.8, certificates representing such shares may bear a legend referring to such restrictions.
- 11. Adjustments to Number of Shares Subject to the Plan. In the event of any change in the outstanding shares of Stock of the Company by reason of any Stock dividend, split, spinoff, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, combination, exchange of shares or other similar change, the aggregate number of shares of Stock with respect to which Awards may be made under the Plan, the terms and the number of shares of any outstanding Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Performance Units, and the purchase price or base price of a Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right, shall be equitably adjusted by the Committee in its sole discretion.
- 12. <u>Change in Control</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, in the event of a "Change in Control", all outstanding Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights and Restricted Stock will automatically become fully exercisable and/or vested. The Committee may, in its sole discretion and immediately prior to a Change in Control, take such action as necessary to modify the terms of or accelerate the vesting of any outstanding Performance Units upon consummation of such Change in Control. A "Change in Control" of the Company shall be deemed to have taken place if:
- (a) a third person shall cause or bring about (through solicitation of proxies or otherwise) the removal or resignation of a majority of the then existing members of the Board or if a third person causes or brings about (through solicitation of proxies or otherwise) an increase in the size of the Board such that the then existing members of the Board thereafter represent a minority of the total number of persons comprising the entire Board;
- (b) a third person, including a "group" as defined in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, becomes the beneficial owner of shares of any class of the Company's stock having 20% or more of the total number of votes that may be cast for the election of directors of the Company; or
- (c) the Company shall merge with or consolidate into any other corporation, pursuant to which the Company does not survive or survives only as a subsidiary of another corporation, or the Company disposes of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, or any combination of the foregoing, other than a transaction in which the holders of the Company's Stock immediately prior to the transaction have the same proportionate ownership of common stock of the surviving corporation immediately after the transaction.

For purposes hereof, a person will be deemed to be the beneficial owner of any voting securities of the Company which it would be considered to beneficially own under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 13d-3 (or any similar or superseding statute or rule from time to time in effect).

- 13. <u>Agreement With Company</u>. At the time of any Awards under the Plan, the Committee will require a Participant to enter into an agreement (the "Award Agreement") with the Company in a form specified by the Committee, agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Plan and to such additional terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Committee may, in its sole discretion, prescribe.
- 14. Amendment and Termination of Plan.
- (a) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph 14, the Board may at any time and in any way amend, suspend or terminate the Plan. No amendment of the Plan and, except as provided in paragraph I.11, no action by the Board shall, without further approval of the stockholders of the Company, materially increase the total number of shares of Stock with respect to which Awards may be made under the Plan, materially increase the benefits accruing to Participants under the Plan or materially modify the requirements as to eligibility for participation in the Plan, if stockholder approval of such amendment is a condition to the availability of the exemption provided by Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 16b-3 or of the Code at the time such amendment is adopted. No amendment, suspension or termination of the Plan shall alter or impair any Award previously made under the Plan without the consent of the holder thereof.

- (b) No Awards may be granted hereunder after the date that is ten (10) years from the earlier of (a) the Effective Date and (b) the date the Plan is approved by the stockholders of the Company.
- (c) Neither the Board nor the Committee may, without further approval of the stockholders of the Company, reduce the exercise price of a Stock Option or the grant value of a Stock Appreciation Right, except in accordance with the adjustments pursuant to paragraph I.11. Neither the Board nor the Committee may accelerate the vesting of an Award, except in the event of a Change in Control, or a Participant's death or Disability. Neither the Board nor the Committee shall offer a cash buy-out of "underwater" Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights, and such buyouts of "underwater" Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights shall be prohibited.
- 15. <u>Prohibition on Deferred Compensation</u>. It is the intention of the Company that no Award shall be "deferred compensation" subject to Code Section 409A unless and to the extent that the Committee specifically determines otherwise, and the Plan and the terms and conditions of all Awards shall be interpreted accordingly. The terms and conditions governing any Awards that the Committee determines will be subject to Code Section 409A, including any rules for elective or mandatory deferral of the delivery of cash or Shares pursuant thereto, shall be set forth in the applicable Award Agreement, and shall comply in all respects with Code Section 409A. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, any Award issued under the Plan that constitutes a deferral of compensation under a "nonqualified deferred compensation plan" as defined under Code Section 409A(d)(1) and is not specifically designated as such by the Committee shall be modified or cancelled to comply with the requirements of Code Section 409A, including any rules for elective or mandatory deferral of the delivery of cash or Shares pursuant thereto.

#### II. INCENTIVE STOCK OPTIONS

- 1. <u>Definition</u>. The Award of an Incentive Stock Option under the Plan entitles the Participant to purchase shares of Stock at a price fixed at the time the option is awarded, subject to the following terms of this Part II.
- 2. <u>Eligibility</u>. The Committee shall designate the Participants to whom Incentive Stock Options, as described in Code Section 422(b) or any successor section thereto, are to be awarded under the Plan and shall determine the number of option shares to be offered to each of them. Incentive Stock Options shall be awarded only to key employees of the Company, and no Non-employee Director shall be eligible to receive an Award of an Incentive Stock Option. In no event shall the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined at the time the option is awarded) of Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are exercisable for the first time by an individual during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company and all Related Companies) exceed \$100,000.
- 3. <u>Price</u>. The purchase price of a share of Stock under each Incentive Stock Option shall be determined by the Committee, provided, however, that in no event shall such price be less than the greater of (a) 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock as of the Option Date (or 110% of such Fair Market Value if the holder of the Incentive Stock Option owns stock possessing more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Related Company) or (b) the par value of a share of Stock on such date. To the extent provided by the Committee, the full purchase price of each share of Stock purchased upon the exercise of any Incentive Stock Option shall be paid in cash or in shares of Stock (valued at Fair Market Value as of the day of exercise), or in any combination thereof, at the time of such exercise and, as soon as practicable thereafter, a certificate representing the shares so purchased shall be delivered to the person entitled thereto.
- 4. <u>Exercise</u>. No Incentive Stock Option may be exercised by a Participant after the Expiration Date (as defined in paragraph II.5 below) applicable to that option. Each Stock Option shall become and be exercisable at such time or times and during such period or periods, in full or in such installments as may be determined by the Committee at the Option Date.
- 5. <u>Option Expiration Date</u>. The "Expiration Date" with respect to an Incentive Stock Option or any portion thereof awarded to a Participant under the Plan means the earliest of:
- (a) the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Incentive Stock Option is awarded;
- (b) the date established by the Committee at the time of the Award;
- (c) the date that is one year after the Participant's employment with the Company and all Related Companies is terminated because of death or permanent and total disability; as defined in Code Section 22(e)(3); or

(d) the date that is three months after the date the Participant's employment with the Company and all Related Companies is terminated for reasons other than death or permanent and total disability.

#### III. NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTIONS

- 1. <u>Definition</u>. The Award of a Non-Qualified Stock Option under the Plan entitles the Participant to purchase shares of Stock at a price fixed at the time the option is awarded, subject to the following terms of this Part III.
- 2. <u>Eligibility</u>. The Committee shall designate the Participants to whom Non-Qualified Stock Options are to be awarded under the Plan and shall determine the number of option shares to be offered to each of them.
- 3. <u>Price</u>. The purchase price of a share of Stock under each Non-Qualified Stock Option shall be determined by the Committee; provided, however, that in no event shall such price be less than the greater of (a) 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock as of the Option Date or (b) the par value of a share of such Stock on such date. To the extent provided by the Committee, the full purchase price of each share of Stock purchased upon the exercise of any Non-Qualified Stock Option shall be paid in cash or by tendering, by either actual delivery of shares or by attestation, shares of Stock (valued at Fair Market Value as of the day of exercise), or in any combination thereof, at the time of such exercise. Shares of Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of a Non-Qualified Stock Option shall be subject to such conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Committee may establish in the Award Agreement. If the Company shall have a class of its Stock registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, an option holder may also make payment at the time of exercise of a Non-Qualified Stock Option by delivering to the Company a properly executed exercise notice together with irrevocable instructions to a broker approved by the Company, that upon such broker's sale of shares of Stock with respect to which such option is exercised, it is to deliver promptly to the Company the amount of sale proceeds necessary to satisfy the option exercise price and any required withholding taxes.
- 4. Exercise. No Non-Qualified Stock Option may be exercised by a Participant after the Expiration Date applicable to that option. Unless otherwise specified herein, each Stock Option shall become and be exercisable at such time or times and during such period or periods, in full or in such installments as may be determined by the Committee at the Option Date.
- 5. <u>Stock Option Expiration Date</u>. The "Expiration Date" with respect to a Non-Qualified Stock Option or any portion thereof awarded to a Participant under the Plan means the earliest of:
- (a) the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Non-Qualified Stock Option is awarded;
- (b) the date established by the Committee at the time of the Award;
- (c) the date that is three months after the employee Participant's employment with the Company and all Subsidiaries or the Non-employee Director Participant's service as a member of the Board is terminated for reasons other than Retirement, Disability or death; or
- (d) the date that is three years after the date the employee Participant's employment with the Company and all Subsidiaries or the Non-employee Director Participant's service as a member of the Board is terminated by reason of Retirement, Disability or death.

#### IV. RESTRICTED STOCK

- 1. <u>Definition</u>. Restricted Stock Awards are grants of Stock to Participants, the vesting of which is subject to a required period of employment and any other conditions established by the Committee or by the terms of this Plan.
- 2. Eligibility. The Committee shall designate the Participants to whom Restricted Stock is to be awarded and the number of shares of Stock that are subject to the Award.
- 3. <u>Terms and Conditions of Awards</u>. All shares of Restricted Stock awarded to Participants under the Plan shall be subject to the following terms and conditions and to such other terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as shall be prescribed by the Committee in its sole discretion and as shall be contained in the Award Agreement.
- (a) Restricted Stock awarded to Participants may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise encumbered, except as hereinafter provided, for a period of ten years or such shorter period as the Committee may determine, but no less than one year, after the time of the award of such Stock (the "Restricted Period"). Such restrictions shall lapse as to the Restricted Stock in accordance with the time(s) and number(s) of shares as to which the Restricted Period expires, as set forth in the Award Agreement with the Participant. Except for such restrictions, the Participant as owner of such shares shall have all the rights of a stockholder, including but not limited to the right to vote such shares and, except as otherwise provided by the Committee, the right to receive all dividends paid on such shares.

- (b) An employee Participant whose employment with the Company and all Subsidiaries terminates prior to the end of the Restricted Period other than by reason of death or Disability shall forfeit all shares of Restricted Stock remaining subject to any outstanding Restricted Stock Award which have not then vested in accordance with the Award Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing and the provisions of paragraph I.7(a) hereof, the Committee may in its discretion accelerate the vesting of shares of Restricted Stock in the event of a Participant's death or Disability.
- (c) Each certificate issued in respect of shares of Restricted Stock awarded under the Plan shall be registered in the name of the Participant and, at the discretion of the Committee, each such certificate may be deposited in a bank designated by the Committee. Each such certificate shall bear the following (or a similar) legend:

"The transferability of this certificate and the shares of stock represented hereby are subject to the terms and conditions (including forfeiture) contained in the COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. 2009 Long-term Incentive Plan and an agreement entered into between the registered owner and COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. A copy of such plan and agreement is on file in the office of the Secretary of COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC., 5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500, Frisco, Texas 75034 or, if the Company changes its principal office, at the address of such new principal office."

(d) As the Restricted Period for Restricted Stock expires and such restrictions lapse, such Restricted Stock shall be held by a Participant (or his or her legal representative, beneficiary or heir) free of all restrictions imposed by the Plan and the Award Agreement. Such shares shall nevertheless continue to be subject to any restriction imposed under applicable securities laws.

#### V. RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS AND PERFORMANCE UNITS

- 1. <u>Definition</u>. A "Restricted Stock Unit" Award is the grant of a right to receive shares of Stock in the future. Performance Units are Awards to Participants who may receive value for the units at the end of a Performance Period. The number of units earned, and value received for them, will be contingent on the degree to which the performance measures established at the time of the initial Award are met. The term "Performance Units" as used in Parts I through IV and Part VII of the Plan shall be deemed to include both Restricted Stock Units and Performance Units.
- 2. <u>Eligibility</u>. The Committee shall designate the Participants to whom Restricted Stock Units or Performance Units are to be awarded, and the number of units to be the subject of such Awards.
- 3. Terms and Conditions of Awards. For each Participant, the Committee will determine the timing of Awards; the number of Restricted Stock Units or Performance Units awarded; the value of Performance Units, which may be stated either in cash or in shares of Stock; the performance measures used for determining whether the Performance Units are earned; the performance period during which the performance measures will apply; the relationship between the level of achievement of the performance measures and the degree to which Performance Units are earned; whether, during or after the performance period, any revision to the performance measures or performance period should be made to reflect significant events or changes that occur during the performance period; the number of earned Performance Units that will be paid in cash and/or shares of Stock; and whether dividend equivalents will be paid on Restricted Stock Units, either currently or on a deferred basis.
- 4. <u>Payment</u>. The Committee will compare the actual performance to the performance measures established for the performance period and determine the number of Performance Units to be paid and their value. Payment for Performance Units earned shall be wholly in cash, wholly in Stock or in a combination of the two, in a lump sum or installments, and subject to vesting requirements and such other conditions as the Committee shall determine. The Committee will determine the number of earned units to be paid in cash and the number to be paid in Stock. For Performance Units awarded in shares of Stock, one share of Stock will be paid for each unit earned. For Performance Units awarded in cash, cash will be paid for each unit earned equal to (a) its initial cash value, (b) the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock at the end of the performance period or (c) the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock averaged for a number of days determined by the Committee.
- (a) <u>Death or Disability</u>. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I.7(a) hereof, the Committee may in its discretion accelerate the vesting of Restricted Stock Units in the event of a Participant's death or Disability. A Participant whose employment with the Company and all Subsidiaries, or service as a member of the Board, terminates during a performance period because of Disability or death shall be entitled to the prorated value of earned Performance Units issued with respect to that performance period, at the conclusion of the performance period based on the ratio of the months of service during the period to the total months of the performance period. If an employee Participant's employment with the Company and all Subsidiaries terminates, or if a Non-employee Director Participant's service terminates, during a performance period for any reason other than Disability or death, the Performance Units issued with respect to that performance period will be forfeited on the date such Participant's employment or service terminates.

#### VI. STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS

- 1. <u>Definition</u>. A Stock Appreciation Right is an Award that entitles the Participant to receive an amount equal to the difference between the Fair Market Value of the shares of Stock at the time of exercise of the Stock Appreciation Right and the Fair Market Value of the shares of Stock on the date of grant of the Stock Appreciation Right, subject to the following provisions of this Part VI. Upon the grant of Stock Appreciation Rights that are to be settled in shares of Stock, the number of Stock Appreciation Rights awarded (and not the "net" number of shares of Stock issued upon exercise of the Stock Appreciation Rights) shall be considered awarded from the pool of authorized shares of Stock available under the Plan.
- 2. Exercise. A Stock Appreciation Right may be exercised under the applicable terms and conditions of the Award Agreement. A Stock Appreciation Right shall entitle the Participant to receive, upon the exercise of the Stock Appreciation Right, either cash or shares of Stock (valued at their Fair Market Value at the time of exercise), as specified in the Award Agreement, in an amount equal in value to the excess of the Fair Market Value of the shares of Stock subject to the Stock Appreciation Right as of the date of such exercise over the Fair Market Value of the shares of Stock as of the date of grant of the Stock Appreciation Right.
- 3. Expiration Date. The "Expiration Date" with respect to a Stock Appreciation Right shall be determined by the Committee, but shall not be more than 10 years after the date on which the Stock Appreciation Right is awarded. If the Stock Appreciation Right is not exercised before the end of the day on which the Stock Appreciation Right ceases to be exercisable, such Stock Appreciation Right shall be deemed exercised as of such date and payment shall be made to the holder in cash or shares of Stock (valued at their Fair Market Value at the time of exercise), as specified in the Award Agreement.

# VII. SECTION 162(m) PERFORMANCE AWARDS

- 1. <u>Maximum Award</u>. The maximum aggregate Award of Performance Units that a Participant may receive in any one Fiscal Year shall be 750,000 Shares, if stated in shares of Stock, or \$10,000,000, if stated in cash, determined as of the date of the Award.
- 2. <u>Code Section 162(m) Compliance</u>. Notwithstanding any other terms of this Plan, the vesting, payout or value (as determined by the Committee) of each Award other than a Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right that, at the time of grant, the Committee intends to be "performance-based compensation" to a "covered employee," as such terms are defined in Code Section 162(m), shall be determined by the attainment of one or more performance goals as determined by the Committee in conformity with Code Section 162(m). The Committee shall specify in writing, by resolution or otherwise, the Participants eligible to receive such an Award (which may be expressed in terms of a class of individuals) and the performance goal(s) applicable to such Awards within 90 days after the commencement of the period to which the performance goal(s) relate(s), or such earlier time as required to comply with Code Section 162(m). No such Award shall be payable unless the Committee certifies in writing, by resolution or otherwise, that the performance goal(s) applicable to the Award were satisfied. In no case may the Committee increase the value of an Award of performance-based compensation above the maximum value determined under the performance formula by the attainment of the applicable performance goal(s), but the Committee retains the discretion to reduce the value below such maximum.
- 3. <u>Performance Measures</u>. The performance goals, upon which the payment or vesting of an Award occurs that is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation, shall be limited to the following performance measures:
- (a) Increases in, or levels of, net asset value; net asset value per share; pretax earnings; earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, exploration and other non-cash expenses ("EBITDAX"); net income and/or earnings per share;
- (b) Return on equity, return on assets or net assets, return on capital (including return on total capital or return on invested capital);
- (c) Share price or stockholder return performance (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total stockholder return, which may be measured in absolute terms and/or in comparison to a group of peer companies or an index);

- (d) Oil and gas reserve replacement, reserve growth and finding and development costs;
- (e) Increases in, or levels of, oil and/or gas production;
- (f) Performance of investments in oil and gas properties;
- (g) Cash flow measures (including, but not limited to, cash flows from operating activities, discretionary cash flows, and cash flow return on investment, assets, equity or capital); and
- (h) Decreases in the leverage ratio (defined as total debt over EBITDAX).

Any performance measure(s) may be used in comparison to the performance of a group of peer companies, or a published or special index that the Committee, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. The Committee shall also have the authority to provide in Award Agreements for accelerated vesting of an Award based on the achievement of performance goal(s), a Participant's death or Disability, or a Change in Control.

- 4. Evaluation of Performance. The Committee may provide in any Award Agreement that any evaluation of attainment of a performance goal may include or exclude any of the following events that occurs during the relevant period: (a) asset write downs; (b) litigation judgments or settlements; (c) the effect of changes in tax laws, accounting principles, or other laws or regulations affecting reported results; (d) any reorganization or restructuring transactions; (e) extraordinary nonrecurring items as described in Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 30 and/or in management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the applicable year; and (f) significant acquisitions or divestitures. To the extent such inclusions or exclusions affect Awards to covered employees, they shall be prescribed in a form that meets the requirements of Code Section 162(m) for deductibility.
- 5. <u>Discretion</u>. In the event that applicable tax and/or securities laws change to permit discretion by the Committee to alter the governing performance measures without obtaining stockholder approval of such changes, the Committee shall have sole discretion to make such changes without obtaining stockholder approval. In addition, in the event that the Committee determines that it is advisable to grant Awards to covered employees that shall not qualify as performance-based compensation, the Committee may make such grants without satisfying the requirements of Code Section 162(m).