

Resolute Energy Corp  
Form DEF 14A  
April 25, 2013  
Table of Contents

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

### PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

## RESOLUTE ENERGY CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on the table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

Edgar Filing: Resolute Energy Corp - Form DEF 14A

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (5) Total fee paid:

.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**Table of Contents**

**1675 Broadway, Suite 1950**

**Denver, Colorado 80202**

**Telephone: (303) 534-4600**

**April 25, 2013**

Dear Resolute Energy Corporation Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to the Resolute Energy Corporation Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 12:00 p.m., Mountain Time. The meeting will be held at the offices of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, 1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202.

At the Annual Meeting, you will be asked (i) to elect two Class I directors to our Board of Directors; (ii) to approve, by a non-binding advisory vote, the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers (the "Say on Pay Vote"); and (iii) to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2013 fiscal year.

We have enclosed a copy of our Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, with this Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement. Please read the enclosed information carefully before completing and returning the enclosed proxy card.

Please join us at the meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend, it is important that you vote your proxy promptly in accordance with the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. If you do attend the meeting, you may withdraw your proxy should you wish to vote in person.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Sutton  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

**Table of Contents**

**1675 Broadway, Suite 1950**

**Denver, Colorado 80202**

**Telephone: (303) 534-4600**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

To the Stockholders of Resolute Energy Corporation:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Resolute Energy Corporation will be held at the offices of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, 1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202, at 12:00 p.m., Mountain Time, on May 30, 2013, for the following purposes:

1. to elect William H. Cunningham and James E. Duffy to our Board of Directors as Class I directors;
2. to approve, by a non-binding advisory vote, the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers (the "Say on Pay Vote");
3. to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and
4. to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

We know of no other matters to come before the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on Thursday, April 11, 2013, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting or at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be Held on May 30, 2013:**

The proxy statement, proxy card and the annual report to stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, are available at [www.proxydocs.com/ren](http://www.proxydocs.com/ren).

Regardless of the number of shares of common stock you hold, as a stockholder your role is very important and the Board of Directors strongly encourages you to exercise your right to vote.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael N. Stefanoudakis  
*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary*

Edgar Filing: Resolute Energy Corp - Form DEF 14A

April 25, 2013

Denver, Colorado

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u></b>	1
<u>Proxy Solicitation</u>	1
<u>Stockholders Entitled to Vote</u>	1
<u>Differences Between Holding Stock of Record and as a Beneficial Owner</u>	1
<u>Attending the Annual Meeting</u>	2
<u>Voting in Person at the Annual Meeting</u>	2
<u>Voting Without Attending the Annual Meeting</u>	2
<u>Quorum</u>	2
<u>Required Vote</u>	3
<u>Board Recommendation</u>	3
<u>Other Matters</u>	3
<u>Revocation of Proxies</u>	4
<b><u>PROPOSAL ONE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u></b>	4
<u>Board of Directors</u>	5
<u>Nominees</u>	5
<u>Other Directors</u>	6
<b><u>STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN PERSONS</u></b>	8
<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management</u>	8
<b><u>SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u></b>	12
<b><u>CODE OF ETHICS</u></b>	12
<b><u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u></b>	13
<u>General</u>	13
<u>Director Independence</u>	13
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	14
<u>Board Committees</u>	14
<u>Non-Management Sessions</u>	16
<u>Stockholder and Interested Parties Communications Policy</u>	16
<u>Absence of Appraisal Rights</u>	16
<u>Stockholder Proposals</u>	16
<u>Board Leadership Structure and Risk Management</u>	16
<u>Current Executive Officers</u>	17
<u>Family Relationships</u>	18
<b><u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u></b>	19
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	19
<b><u>GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS</u></b>	20
<b><u>OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2012 FISCAL YEAR END</u></b>	21
<b><u>OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN 2012</u></b>	22
<u>2012 Pension Benefits</u>	22
<u>2012 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans</u>	22
<u>Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control of Resolute</u>	22
<b><u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u></b>	23
<b><u>EQUITY PLAN INFORMATION</u></b>	34
<u>Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans</u>	34





**Table of Contents**

<u>TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS</u>	34
<u>Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Parties</u>	34
<u>COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS</u>	35
<u>PROPOSAL TWO ADVISORY VOTE ON THE COMPENSATION OF THE COMPANY S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	37
<u>PROPOSAL THREE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	38
<u>Fees Paid to Principal Accountants</u>	38
<u>Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy</u>	38
<u>Report of the Audit Committee</u>	38
<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	40
<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	40
<u>Householding of Proxy Materials</u>	40
<u>Available Information</u>	40

**Table of Contents**

**1675 Broadway, Suite 1950**

**Denver, Colorado 80202**

**Telephone: (303) 534-4600**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Proxy Solicitation**

These proxy materials are being furnished to you by the Board of Directors (the Board) of Resolute Energy Corporation, a Delaware corporation (we, our, us, Resolute or the Company), in connection with its solicitation of proxies for Resolute's Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 30, 2013, at 12:00 p.m., Mountain Time, at the offices of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, 1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof (the Annual Meeting). In addition to solicitation by mail, certain of our directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies by telephone, personal contact, or other means of communication. They will not receive any additional compensation for these activities. Also, brokers, banks and other persons holding common stock on behalf of beneficial owners will be requested to solicit proxies or authorizations from beneficial owners. We will bear all costs incurred in connection with the preparation, assembly and mailing of the proxy materials and the solicitation of proxies and will reimburse brokers, banks and other nominees, fiduciaries and custodians for reasonable expenses incurred by them in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners of our common stock.

This proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card are expected to be first sent to our stockholders on or about April 26, 2013. The proxy materials are also available at [www.proxydocs.com/ren](http://www.proxydocs.com/ren).

**Stockholders Entitled to Vote**

The close of business on Thursday, April 11, 2013, has been fixed as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. On that date, our outstanding voting securities consisted of 63,624,950 shares of common stock. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote. Votes may not be cumulated.

**Differences Between Holding Stock of Record and as a Beneficial Owner**

Most stockholders hold their shares through a broker or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, you are considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record, and we are sending these proxy materials directly to you. As the stockholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to the named proxy holder or to vote in person at the meeting. We have enclosed a proxy card for you to use that contains voting instructions and allows you to vote via the phone, mail or online.

If your shares are held in a brokerage account or by another nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by such brokerage



## **Table of Contents**

account or nominee, together with a voting instruction card. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, trustee or nominee how to vote and are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Since a beneficial owner is not the stockholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the meeting unless you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, trustee or nominee that holds your shares, giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting. Your broker, trustee or nominee has enclosed or provided voting instructions for you to use in directing the broker, trustee or nominee how to vote your shares.

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name and do not provide the organization that holds your shares with specific voting instructions, the organization that holds your shares may generally vote on routine matters such as ratification of auditors, but cannot vote on non-routine matters, which now include matters such as votes for the election of directors and the Say on Pay proposal. Thus, if the organization that holds your shares does not receive instructions from you on how to vote your shares on a non-routine matter, that organization will inform the inspector of election that it does not have the authority to vote on this matter with respect to your shares. This is generally referred to as a broker non-vote.

### **Attending the Annual Meeting**

All stockholders as of the record date, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the Annual Meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record but hold shares through a broker or nominee (i.e., in street name), you should provide proof of beneficial ownership on the record date, such as your most recent account statement prior to April 11, 2013, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, trustee or nominee, or other similar evidence of ownership.

### **Voting in Person at the Annual Meeting**

Shares held in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted in person at the Annual Meeting. Shares held beneficially in street name may be voted in person only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, trustee or nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy or voting instructions prior to the meeting as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting.

### **Voting Without Attending the Annual Meeting**

Whether you hold shares directly as the stockholder of record or beneficially in street name, you may direct how your shares are voted without attending the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by submitting a proxy. If you hold shares beneficially in street name, you may vote by submitting voting instructions to your broker, trustee or nominee. For directions on how to vote, please refer to the instructions included on your proxy card or, for shares held beneficially in street name, the voting instruction card provided by your broker, trustee or nominee.

### **Quorum**

Holders of a majority of our outstanding common stock entitled to vote must be present, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting for a quorum to exist. If the shares present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting do not constitute a quorum, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned to a subsequent time. Shares that are voted FOR, AGAINST, ABSTAIN, or, with respect to the election of directors, WITHHOLD, will be treated as being present at the Annual Meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum. Accordingly, if you have returned a valid proxy or attend the Annual Meeting in person, your shares will be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum, even if you wish to abstain from voting on some or all matters at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes will also be counted as present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Required Vote**

You may vote FOR or WITHHOLD authority to vote on Proposal One, relating to the election of William H. Cunningham and James E. Duffy to our Board of Directors as Class I directors to the Board. Members of the Board are elected by a plurality of votes cast. This means that the two duly-nominated persons who receive the largest number of FOR votes cast will be elected. Neither broker non-votes nor WITHHOLD votes cast with respect to any nominee will affect the election of that nominee.

You may vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN on Proposal Two, relating to the proposed approval, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers (the Say on Pay Vote). To be approved, that proposal must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting shares that are present, in person or by proxy, at the meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal. An abstention will have the effect of a vote against the proposal. A broker non-vote will also have the effect of a vote against the proposal.

Although the advisory vote in Proposal Two is non-binding, the Board will review the results of the vote and will take it into account in determinations concerning executive compensation.

You may vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN on Proposal Three, relating to the ratification of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. To be approved, that proposal must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting shares that are present, in person or by proxy, at the meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal. An abstention will have the effect of a vote against the proposal.

### **Board Recommendation**

The Board recommends that you vote as follows:

FOR Proposal One, relating to the election of William H. Cunningham and James E. Duffy to our Board of Directors as Class I directors;

FOR Proposal Two, relating to the proposed approval, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers; and

FOR Proposal Three, relating to the ratification of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

Any proxy as to which no instructions are given will be voted in accordance with the foregoing recommendations; however, your broker, bank or other holder of record does not have discretionary voting authority to vote on Proposal One or Proposal Two, without instructions from you, in which case a broker non-vote will occur and your shares will not be voted in favor of the Board's recommendations on such proposals. If you are a beneficial owner whose shares are held of record by a broker, your broker does have discretionary voting authority under the applicable rules to vote your shares on the routine matter of ratification of KPMG LLP, even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you.

### **Other Matters**

The proposals set forth in this proxy statement constitute the only business that the Board intends to present or is informed that others will present at the meeting. The proxy does, however, confer discretionary authority upon the persons named therein (the Proxy Agents), or their substitutes, to vote on any other business that may properly come before the meeting. If the Annual Meeting is adjourned, the Proxy Agents can vote your shares on the new meeting date as well, unless you have revoked your proxy.

**Table of Contents**

**Revocation of Proxies**

You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to its use by (i) delivering a written notice of revocation to our Secretary, (ii) filing a duly executed proxy bearing a later date with us or (iii) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

**PROPOSAL ONE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our certificate of incorporation provides that members of the Board are to be divided into three classes. The Board currently consists of two Class I directors (William H. Cunningham and James E. Duffy), three Class II directors (Richard L. Covington, James M. Piccone and Robert M. Swartz) and two Class III directors (Nicholas J. Sutton and Thomas O. Hicks, Jr.). Our certificate of incorporation provides that a director will generally serve for a term that expires at the annual stockholders' meeting three years after the date of his or her election. The term of the current Class I directors will expire at the Annual Meeting. Our certificate of incorporation and applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") contemplate that the number of directors in each class will be approximately equal.

The Board has nominated Messrs. Cunningham and Duffy to stand for election at the Annual Meeting and to serve until the 2016 annual meeting or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Directors whose terms of office will not expire at the Annual Meeting will continue in office for the remainder of their respective terms. Under our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, the number of directors on the Board is determined by a resolution of the Board.

The Board has no reason to believe that Messrs. Cunningham and Duffy will be unable to serve if elected and, to the knowledge of the Board, each nominee intends to serve the entire term for which election is sought. Only the nominees, or substitute nominees designated by the Board, will be eligible to stand for election as directors at the Annual Meeting. If any nominee becomes unable to serve as a director before the Annual Meeting, the Proxy Agents have the discretionary authority to vote proxies held by them for substitute nominees designated by the Board.

**Table of Contents**

*The Board recommends a vote FOR the election of William H. Cunningham and James E. Duffy to the Board.*

**Board of Directors**

The following table sets forth certain information as of April 11, 2013, regarding the composition of the Board, including the term of each director.

Name	Age	Position	Director Since	Current Term to Expire
<b><i>Nominees</i></b>				
<b><u>Class I</u></b>				
William H. Cunningham	69	Director	2009	2013
James E. Duffy	62	Director	2009	2013
<b><i>Other Directors</i></b>				
<b><u>Class II</u></b>				
Richard L. Covington	55	Lead Independent Director	2009	2014
James M. Piccone	62	President and Director	2009	2014
Robert M. Swartz	60	Director	2009	2014
<b><u>Class III</u></b>				
Nicholas J. Sutton	68	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	2009	2015
Thomas O. Hicks, Jr.	35	Director	2009	2015
<b><i>Nominees</i></b>				

**William H. Cunningham** was elected to the Company's Board of Directors in September 2009. Dr. Cunningham has been a member of the Audit Committee since September 25, 2009 and a member of the Compensation Committee since August 2, 2012. He was previously member of the Compensation and Corporate Governance/Nominating Committees between September 25, 2009 and December 14, 2009. Dr. Cunningham was a director of Hicks Acquisition Company I, Inc. from October 2007 through March 2010. Since 1979, Dr. Cunningham has served as a professor of marketing at the University of Texas at Austin and he has held the James L. Bayless Chair for Free Enterprise at the University of Texas at Austin since 1985. From 1983 to 1985 he was Dean of the College of Business Administration and Graduate School of Business of the University of Texas at Austin, from 1985 to 1992 he served as the President of the University of Texas at Austin, and from 1992 to 2000 he served as the Chancellor (Chief Executive Officer) of the University of Texas System. Dr. Cunningham currently serves on the Board of Directors of Lincoln National Corporation, a NYSE listed holding company for insurance, investment management, broadcasting and sports programming businesses; Southwest Airlines, an airline listed on the NYSE; and Lin Television, a NYSE listed company that owns a number of television stations. Dr. Cunningham currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of John Hancock Mutual Funds. Dr. Cunningham received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1966, a Master of Business Administration degree in 1967 and a Ph.D. in 1971, each from Michigan State University. In determining Dr. Cunningham's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his academic experience in corporate governance matters, his service on more than 20 corporate boards, including in many instances as chairman of the audit committee of public companies, and his experience and expertise in marketing and management.

**James E. Duffy** was elected to the Company's Board of Directors in September 2009. Mr. Duffy has been a member of the Compensation and Audit Committees since September 25, 2009, and between September 25, 2009 and December 15, 2009, was also a member of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee. He is a co-founder and, since 2003, Chairman of StreamWorks Products Group, Inc., a private

---

## **Table of Contents**

consumer products development company that manufactures products for the sport fishing, industrial safety, specialty tool and outdoor recreation industries. From 1990 to 2001, he served as Chief Financial Officer and Director of HS Resources, Inc. until its sale to Kerr-McGee Corporation. Prior to that time, he served as Chief Financial Officer and Director of a division of Tidewater, Inc. He was also a general partner in a boutique investment banking business specializing in the oil and gas business, and began his career with Arthur Young & Co. in San Francisco. He is a certified public accountant. In determining Mr. Duffy's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his experience and expertise in oil and gas finance, accounting and banking, as well as his position as chief financial officer of two public oil and gas companies and his service as an audit manager for a major accounting firm with engagement responsibility for public and private entities.

### **Other Directors**

**Richard L. Covington** was elected to the Company's Board of Directors in September 2009. Mr. Covington has been a member of the Compensation and Corporate Governance/Nominating Committees since September 25, 2009 and is our Lead Independent Director. He is a managing director of the Natural Gas Partners ( NGP ) private equity funds. He has been a member of the board of managers of Resolute Holdings since its founding in 2004. Mr. Covington joined NGP in 1997. Prior to joining NGP, Mr. Covington was a senior shareholder at the law firm of Thompson & Knight, LLP in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Covington serves on the investment committee of NGP Capital Resources Company and as a director of numerous private energy companies. In determining Mr. Covington's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his experience and expertise in the legal and finance aspects of the oil and gas industry and his role as a key advisor to the Company from the founding of its predecessor companies to the present.

**Thomas O. Hicks, Jr.** was elected to the Company's Board of Directors in September 2009. Mr. Hicks has been a member of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee since September 25, 2009. Between September 25, 2009 and December 15, 2009, he was also a member of the Compensation Committee. He was a vice president of Hicks Acquisition Company I, Inc. from February 2007 through September 2009 and was its secretary from August 2007 to September 2009. He also served as Secretary and Vice President of Hicks Acquisition Company II, Inc. from October 2010 to July 2011. Mr. Hicks has served as a vice president of Hicks Holdings LLC since its inception in 2005. Hicks Holdings LLC is a Dallas-based family holding company for the Hicks family and a private investment firm which owns and manages real estate assets and makes corporate acquisitions. In 2004 and 2005, Mr. Hicks served as Director, Corporate and Suite Sales, for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. From 2001 to 2003, Mr. Hicks was an analyst at Greenhill & Co. LLC, a New York based merchant banking firm. From May 2010 to August 2010, Mr. Hicks served as Executive Vice President of Texas Rangers Baseball Partners, Rangers Equity Holdings, L.P. and Rangers Equity Holdings GP, LLC. On May 24, 2010, Texas Rangers Baseball Partners filed a voluntary petition for bankruptcy and on May 28, 2010, a group of creditors filed an involuntary bankruptcy petition against Rangers Equity Holdings, L.P. and Rangers Equity Holdings GP, LLC. In determining Mr. Hicks's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his experience and expertise in sales, banking and management.

**James M. Piccone** has been the President and a member of the Board of Directors of the Company since the Company's formation in July 2009. He was also General Counsel and Secretary of the Company from its formation in July 2009 until July 2010. Mr. Piccone has served as President of the following Company subsidiaries and affiliates: Resolute Natural Resources Company, LLC; WYNR, LLC; BWNR, LLC; RNRC Holdings, Inc.; Resolute Wyoming, Inc.; and Resolute Aneth, LLC (collectively, Resources, WYNR, BWNR, RNRC, RWI and Aneth are referred to as Predecessor Resolute ), and of Resolute Holdings, LLC, since the formation of these entities beginning in 2004. He also served as General Counsel and Secretary of each of these entities until July 2010 and as a member of the Board of Managers of certain of these entities. From January 2002 until January 2004, Mr. Piccone was Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Aspect Energy, LLC, a private oil and gas company. He also served as a contract attorney for Aspect Energy from October 2001 until January 2002. Mr. Piccone served as Vice President General Counsel and Secretary of HS Resources,



## **Table of Contents**

Inc. from May 1995 until the acquisition of HS Resources by Kerr-McGee Corporation in August 2001. Mr. Piccone is admitted to the practice of law in Colorado and is a member of local and national bar associations. He is a member of the American Association of Corporate Counsel. In determining Mr. Piccone's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his management and legal expertise, his knowledge of the oil and gas industry and the role he played in the success of HS Resources and Resolute Holdings, including his role in the September 25, 2009 business combination with Hicks Acquisition Company I, Inc. (the Resolute Transaction).

**Nicholas J. Sutton** has been Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since the Company's formation in July 2009. Mr. Sutton has been the Chief Executive Officer of, and previously served on the board of managers of, Resolute Natural Resources Company, LLC and related companies and of Resolute Holdings since their founding in 2004. Mr. Sutton was a co-founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of HS Resources, Inc., an NYSE listed company, from 1978 until the company's acquisition by Kerr-McGee Corporation in late 2001. From 2002 until the formation of Resolute Holdings in 2004, Mr. Sutton was a director of Kerr-McGee Corporation. Currently, Mr. Sutton is a director of Tidewater, Inc., a publicly traded company that is the owner and operator of the world's largest fleet of vessels serving the global offshore oil industry. He also is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In determining Mr. Sutton's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his experience and expertise in the oil and gas industry, his track record in growing public oil and gas companies, including managing acquisition programs, as well as his role in the founding of Resolute Holdings. In addition, Mr. Sutton has degrees in engineering and law, and has attended the Harvard Owner/President Management program, giving him expertise in all of the areas of importance to the Company.

**Robert M. Swartz** was elected to the Company's Board of Directors in September 2009. Mr. Swartz has been a member of the Audit Committee since September 25, 2009 and a member of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee since August 2, 2012. He was also a member of the Compensation and Corporate Governance/Nominating Committees between September 25, 2009 and December 15, 2009. Effective January 1, 2011, Mr. Swartz became Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Glazer's Distributors. He was previously Managing Director and Partner of Hicks Equity Partners LLC from 2007 to 2011. He was Chief Executive Officer of Hicks Acquisition Company II, Inc. from September 2010 to December 2010. He was a Senior Vice President of Hicks Acquisition Company I, Inc. from September 2007 until September 2009. From 1999 until 2007, Mr. Swartz served in various positions at Centex Corporation, a NYSE listed home building company, serving as Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning and Mergers and Acquisitions from 1999 to 2000, and serving as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Centex HomeTeam Services from 2000 to 2007. Mr. Swartz is on the Board of Directors of Ocular LCD, Inc. Mr. Swartz received a Bachelor's of Science degree in accounting from the State University of New York in Albany in 1973 and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance from New Hampshire College in 1976. Mr. Swartz is a Certified Public Accountant. In determining Mr. Swartz's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors, the Board of Directors has considered, among other things, his experience and expertise in mergers and acquisitions, finance, accounting and management.

**Table of Contents****STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN PERSONS****Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

The following table, based in part upon information supplied by officers, directors and principal stockholders, sets forth certain information known to the Company with respect to beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock par value \$0.0001 per share ( "Common Stock" ) as of April 11, 2013, by (i) each person known to the Company to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of the Company's Common Stock, (ii) each Named Executive Officer (see *Executive Compensation Summary Compensation Table* ), (iii) each director of the Company, and (iv) all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group. Except as otherwise indicated, each person has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares shown as beneficially owned, subject to community property laws where applicable. Voting power is the power to vote or direct the voting of securities, and dispositive power is the power to dispose of or direct the disposition of securities.

For purposes of this beneficial ownership table, Founder's Warrants and Sponsor's Warrants are warrants issued in the Resolute Transaction which entitle the holder to purchase one share of Common Stock at a price of \$13.00 per share at any time prior to September 25, 2014. For purposes of calculating beneficial ownership as of April 11, 2013, shares issuable on exercise of Sponsor's Warrants and Founder's Warrants are considered to be beneficially owned by the holders thereof. The address for all directors and officers is c/o Resolute Energy Corporation, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver, CO 80202.

<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (1)</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>
SPO Advisory Corp. 591 Redwood Highway, Suite 3215 Mill Valley, CA 94941	19,349,723 (2)	26.8%
Thomas O. Hicks 100 Crescent Court, Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75201	5,763,529 (3)	8.6%
TOH Holdings, LP 100 Crescent Court, Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75201	8,272,761 (4)	11.5%
Natural Gas Partners VII, L.P. 125 E. John Carpenter Fwy., Suite 600 Irving, TX 75062	14,899,357 (5)(6)(7)	21.1%
Kenneth A. Hersh 125 E. John Carpenter Fwy., Suite 600 Irving, TX 75062	14,899,357 (5)(6)	21.1%
Resolute Holdings LLC 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950 Denver, CO 80202	8,333,472 (5)(7)	11.8%

## Edgar Filing: Resolute Energy Corp - Form DEF 14A

JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Ave. New York, NY 10017	3,509,880 (8)	5.5%
Invesco Ltd. 1555 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, GA 30309	3,212,499 (9)	5.0%
Richard L. Covington	0	*
William H. Cunningham	101,691 (10)	*

**Table of Contents**

<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (1)</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>
James E. Duffy	19,390 (11)	*
Thomas O. Hicks, Jr.	216,227 (12)	*
Robert M. Swartz	497,976 (13)	*
Nicholas J. Sutton	1,463,895 (14)	2.3%
James M. Piccone	801,873 (15)	*
Theodore Gazulis	625,273 (16)	*
Richard F. Betz	584,053 (17)	*
Michael N. Stefanoudakis	147,191 (18)	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (12 persons)	4,764,015 (19)	7.4%

- (1) Security ownership information for beneficial owners is taken from statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) pursuant to Sections 13(d), 13(g) and 16(a) and information made known to the Company. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Shares of Common Stock subject to options or warrants that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the date of the table are deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of the person holding those options or warrants, but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. The percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 63,624,950 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of April 11, 2013.
- (2) This disclosure is based on the Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on June 12, 2012 by SPO Advisory Corp. on behalf of SPO Partners II, L.P., SPO Advisory Partners, L.P., San Francisco Partners, L.P., SF Advisory Partners, L.P., SPO Advisory Corp., John H. Scully, Edward H. McDermott, and Phoebe Snow Foundation, Inc. The amount disclosed consists of 10,899,010 shares of Common Stock and warrants to purchase 8,450,713 shares of Common Stock. Messrs. Scully and McDermott are the two controlling persons of SPO Advisory Corp., which is the sole general partner of the sole general partners of SPO Partners II, L.P. and San Francisco Partners, L.P., and may be deemed to beneficially own the shares owned by SPO Partners II, L.P. and San Francisco Partners, L.P. Of these shares, SPO Partners II, L.P., through its sole general partner, SPO Advisory Partners, L.P., holds sole voting and dispositive power over 18,685,435 shares (10,515,910 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 8,169,525 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise); SPO Advisory Partners, L.P., through its sole general partner, SPO Advisory Corp, and in its capacity as sole general partner of SPO Partners II, L.P., holds sole voting and dispositive power over 18,685,435 shares (10,515,910 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 8,169,525 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise); San Francisco Partners, L.P., through its sole general partner, SF Advisory Partners, L.P., holds sole voting and dispositive power over 647,753 shares (368,000 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 279,753 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise); SF Advisory Partners, L.P., through its sole general partner SPO Advisory Corp and in its capacity as sole general partner of San Francisco Partners, L.P. holds sole voting and dispositive power over 647,753 shares (368,000 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 279,753 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise); SPO Advisory Corp, in its capacity as sole general partner of each of SPO Advisory Partners, L.P. and SF Advisory Partners, L.P., holds sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 19,333,188 shares in the aggregate (10,883,910 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 8,449,278 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise). Power is exercised through the two controlling persons of SPO Advisory Corp., John H. Scully and Edward H.

**Table of Contents**

McDermott. John H. Scully holds sole voting and dispositive power over 15,013 shares (14,200 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 813 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise), including 5,913 shares held in the John H. Scully Individual Retirement Account, which is self-directed, and 9,100 shares of Common Stock which may be deemed beneficially owned by Mr. Scully in his capacity as controlling person, sole director and executive officer of Phoebe Snow Foundation, Inc., and shared voting and dispositive power over 19,333,188 shares (10,883,910 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 8,449,278 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise) beneficially owned by Mr. Scully solely in his capacity as one of two controlling persons of SPO Advisory Corp. Edward H. McDermott holds sole voting and dispositive power over 1,522 shares of Common Stock (900 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 622 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise) held in the Edward H. McDermott Individual Retirement Account, which is self-directed, and shared voting and dispositive power over 19,333,188 shares (10,883,910 shares of Common Stock and warrants covering 8,449,278 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise) beneficially owned by Mr. McDermott solely in his capacity as one of two controlling persons of SPO Advisory Corp.

- (3) This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13D/A filed by Thomas O. Hicks with the SEC on January 9, 2013. Thomas O. Hicks has sole voting and dispositive power over 66,889 shares and shared voting and dispositive power over 5,696,640 shares. The 5,763,529 shares of Common Stock include 66,889 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Hicks, 524 shares of Common Stock held by HH-HACI GP, LLC ( HH LLC ), of which Mr. Hicks is the sole member, and 5,696,116 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Hicks' s charitable foundation and estate planning entities for his family. The 5,763,529 shares of Common Stock include Common Stock that would be issuable upon the exercise of 3,606,708 Founder' s Warrants. Mr. Hicks has the shared power to vote and dispose of the aggregate of 5,696,640 shares of Common Stock, which include 524 shares of Common Stock held by HH LLC and 5,696,116 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Hicks' s charitable foundation and estate planning entities for his family. These 5,697,253 shares of Common Stock include Common Stock that would be issuable upon the exercise of Founder' s Warrants. Mr. Hicks disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares held by other entities, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest.
- (4) This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G filed by TOH Holdings, LP and TOH Holdings GenPar, LLC with the SEC on January 9, 2013. TOH Holdings GenPar, LLC shares voting and dispositive power over these shares with TOH Holdings, LP. These entities are the beneficial owners of 8,272,761 shares of Common Stock, comprised of Sponsor' s Warrants exercisable to purchase 4,666,667 shares of Common Stock and Founder' s Warrants exercisable to purchase 3,606,094 shares of Common Stock. Thomas O. Hicks, as the sole limited partner of TOH Holdings, LP has a right to receive dividends from, and the proceeds from the sale of, the Common Stock of the Company held by TOH Holdings, LP provided that such right is subject to certain proceeds being first used as prepayment on financing from JPMorgan Chase Bank (as agent for various lenders) obtained by Mr. Hicks.
- (5) This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on February 23, 2011. Natural Gas Partners VII, L.P. ( NGP VII ) shares voting and dispositive power over 8,623,191 shares and has sole voting and dispositive power over 6,276,166 shares. Securities beneficially owned are comprised as follows: (i) direct ownership of 6,276,166 shares of Common Stock; (ii) indirect ownership of 289,719 shares of Common Stock owned directly by NGP-VII Income Co-Investment Opportunities, L.P. ( Co-Invest ); (iii) indirect ownership of 1,400,139 shares of Common Stock owned by Resolute Holdings; and (iv) indirect ownership of 2,333,333 Sponsor' s Warrants and 4,600,000 Founder' s Warrants owned by Resolute Holdings. NGP VII owns 100% of NGP Income Management, L.L.C., which is the sole general partner of Co-Invest and, therefore, may be deemed to be the indirect beneficial owner of the securities owned by Co-Invest. NGP VII and Co-Invest own approximately 66% of the outstanding membership interests of Resolute Holdings and, therefore, may be deemed to be the indirect beneficial owners of the securities owned by Resolute Holdings. NGP VII and NGP Co-Invest disclaim beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

**Table of Contents**

- (6) This disclosure includes 14,899,357 shares over which Mr. Kenneth Hersh has shared voting and dispositive power. Mr. Hersh is an Authorized Member of GFW VII, L.L.C., which is the sole general partner of G.F.W. Energy VII, L.P., which is the sole general partner of NGP VII. Thus, Mr. Hersh may be deemed to indirectly beneficially own all the Common Stock directly and/or indirectly deemed beneficially owned by NGP VII. Mr. Hersh disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (7) Resolute Holdings, LLC has sole voting and dispositive power over 8,333,472 shares, consisting of (i) 1,400,139 shares of Common Stock, (ii) 4,600,000 Founder s Warrants and (iii) 2,333,333 Sponsor s Warrants. NGP VII and Co-Invest own approximately 66% of the outstanding membership interests of Resolute Holdings and therefore may be deemed to be the indirect beneficial owners of the Common Stock and warrants owned by Resolute Holdings. NGP VII and NGP Co-Invest disclaim beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.
- (8) This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G filed by JPMorgan Chase & Co. with the SEC on February 1, 2013. JPMorgan Chase is the beneficial owner of 3,509,880 shares of Common Stock as a result of being parent holding company to the following subsidiaries holding shares of Common Stock: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc.; JPMorgan Asset Management (UK) Ltd.; and J.P. Morgan Trust Company of Delaware.
- (9) This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G filed by Invesco Ltd. with the SEC on February 12, 2013. Invesco is the beneficial owner of 3,212,499 shares of Common Stock as a result of being parent holding company to the following subsidiaries which are investment advisers holding shares of Common Stock: Invesco Advisers Inc., Invesco Management S.A and Invesco PowerShares Capital Management.
- (10) This disclosure includes (i) 55,691 shares of Common Stock and (ii) 46,000 Founder s Warrants. The total shares of Common Stock include 17,451 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (11) This disclosure includes 17,451 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (12) This disclosure includes (i) 63,228 shares of Common Stock, (ii) 68,999 Founder s Warrants and (iii) 84,000 public warrants. The total shares of Common Stock include 17,451 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (13) This disclosure includes (i) 198,978 shares of Common Stock and (ii) 298,998 Founder s Warrants. The total shares of Common Stock include 17,451 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (14) This disclosure includes 30,751 shares held by the reporting person in an IRA account and 761,011 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (15) This disclosure includes 427,661 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (16) This disclosure includes 257,527 shares held by the reporting person in a revocable trust, 38,462 shares held in a custodial account and 273,722 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (17)

## Edgar Filing: Resolute Energy Corp - Form DEF 14A

This disclosure includes 46,692 shares held by the reporting person in custodial accounts and 273,722 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.

- (18) This disclosure includes 126,586 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.
- (19) This disclosure includes 512,997 underlying currently exercisable warrants and 2,150,146 shares of restricted stock that are subject to future vesting.

**Table of Contents**

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

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than ten percent of our Common Stock, to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of our Common Stock. To our knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports available to us and written representations from our executive officers and directors that no other reports were required, we believe that all reporting obligations of our officers, directors and greater than ten percent stockholders under Section 16(a) were satisfied during the year ended December 31, 2012, except that James E. Duffy filed a Form 4 one day late with respect to sale of 2,282 shares of Common Stock on May 16, 2012 due to a miscommunication with Mr. Duffy's broker.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

The Company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to directors, officers and employees that complies with the rules and regulations of the NYSE and SEC. The Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is posted on the Company's website, at [www.resoluteenergy.com](http://www.resoluteenergy.com), under the Investor Relations tab, subheading Corporate Governance. All amendments to, and waivers granted under, the Company's code of ethics will be disseminated on the Company's website in the manner required by SEC and NYSE rules.



## **Table of Contents**

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **General**

The Company's business is managed under the direction of its Board of Directors. In connection with its oversight of the Company's operations and governance, the Board of Directors has adopted, among other things, the following:

Corporate Governance Guidelines to implement certain policies regarding the governance of the Company;

a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics to provide guidance to directors, officers and employees with regard to certain ethical and compliance issues;

Charters of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors;

an Insider Trading Policy to facilitate compliance with insider trading regulations;

an Audit Committee Whistleblower Policy to allow directors, officers and employees (i) to make confidential anonymous submissions regarding concerns with respect to accounting or auditing matters and (ii) provides for the receipt of complaints regarding accounting, internal controls or auditing; and

a Stockholder and Interested Parties Communications Policy pursuant to which holders of our securities and other interested parties can communicate with the Board of Directors, Board Committees and/or individual directors.

Other than the Insider Trading Policy, each of these documents can be viewed on the Company's website, at [www.resoluteenergy.com](http://www.resoluteenergy.com), under the Investor Relations tab, subheading Corporate Governance. Copies of the foregoing documents and disclosures are available without charge to any person who requests them. Requests should be directed to Resolute Energy Corporation, Attn: Secretary, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver, Colorado 80202.

The Board meets regularly to review significant developments affecting the Company and to act on matters requiring its approval. The Board held twelve meetings in 2012 and acted four times by written consent. No director, other than William Quinn, attended fewer than 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board and committees on which he served during his period of service in 2012. Mr. Quinn resigned from the Board on August 1, 2012 because of business obligations that conflicted with the time commitment required by Board and Committee service.

Directors are encouraged, but not required, to attend the Annual Meeting. Messrs. Sutton, Piccone and Swartz attended the 2012 annual stockholders' meeting.

#### **Director Independence**

Under the rules of the NYSE, a majority of the members of the Board of Directors and all of the members of certain committees must be composed of independent directors, as defined in the rules of the NYSE. In general, an independent director is a person other than an officer or employee of the Company or any other individual who has a relationship, which, in the opinion of the Company's Board of Directors, would interfere with the director's exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director. Additional independence and qualification requirements apply to our directors serving on certain committees. As discussed under *Board Committees*, the Company has standing Audit, Compensation and Corporate Governance/Nominating Committees, each of which is composed entirely of independent directors, under each of



## **Table of Contents**

the applicable standards. The Company's Board of Directors has determined that, other than Messrs. Sutton and Piccone, each member of the Board of Directors is independent under the NYSE rules. In making that determination, the Board of Directors considered the relationships of Mr. Hicks with HH LLC, and the relationships of Mr. Covington with various NGP entities.

### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

No member of the Compensation Committee has been an officer or employee of the Company. None of the Company's executive officers serves as a member of the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on the Company's Board of Directors, or on the compensation committee of the Company's Board of Directors.

### **Board Committees**

The composition and primary responsibilities of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee are described below.

#### ***Audit Committee***

The Company has a separately designated Audit Committee, the members of which are Messrs. Cunningham, Duffy and Swartz, with Mr. Swartz serving as Chairman. The primary function of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in its oversight of the Company's financial reporting process. Among other things, the committee is responsible for reviewing and selecting our independent registered public accounting firm and reviewing our accounting practices and policies, and to serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the financial reporting process. The Board of Directors has determined that each of Mr. Swartz, Mr. Duffy and Dr. Cunningham qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 407(d)(5) of SEC Regulation S-K and that each member of the committee is independent under applicable NYSE rules and for purposes of SEC Rule 10A-3, and financially literate for purposes of applicable NYSE rules. See *Proposal One Election of Directors Board of Directors* for a summary of the business experience of each member of the committee. During 2012, the Audit Committee held seven meetings.

#### ***Compensation Committee***

The Company has a separately designated Compensation Committee, which currently consists of Messrs. Covington, Cunningham and Duffy, with Mr. Duffy acting as Chairman. The Compensation Committee's primary function is to discharge the Board of Director's responsibilities relating to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and to make recommendations to the Board regarding the compensation of our other executive officers. Among other things, the committee reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives for setting Chief Executive Officer compensation, evaluates the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of those goals and objectives and sets the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer. In February 2012, the Compensation Committee engaged Longnecker and Associates as its independent compensation consultant. The Board has determined that each member of the committee is (i) independent under applicable NYSE rules, (ii) a non-employee director as defined in Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and (iii) an outside director as defined in Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. During 2012, the Compensation Committee held six meetings.

#### ***Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee***

The Company has a separately designated Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee, the current members of which are Messrs. Covington, Hicks and Swartz, with Mr. Covington serving as Chairman. The primary function of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee is (i) to assist the Board of Directors with identifying, evaluating and recommending to the Board qualified candidates for election or appointment to the Board, (ii) reviewing, evaluating and recommending changes to the Company's corporate governance guidelines

## **Table of Contents**

and (iii) monitoring and overseeing matters of corporate governance, including the evaluation of Board and management performance and the independence of directors. The Board has determined that each member of the committee is independent under applicable NYSE rules. During 2012, the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee held five meetings.

### ***Director Nominations***

The charter of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee provides that director candidates recommended by security holders will be considered on the same basis as candidates recommended by other persons. A security holder who wishes to recommend a candidate should send complete information regarding the candidate to Resolute Energy Corporation, Attn: Secretary, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver, Colorado 80202. The information provided with respect to the nominee should include five years of professional background, academic qualifications, whether the nominee has been subject to any legal proceedings in the past ten years, the relationship between the security holder and the nominee, and any other specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that qualify the nominee for the Board. The committee will assess each candidate, including candidates recommended by security holders, by evaluating all factors it considers appropriate, which may include career specialization, relevant technical skills or financial acumen, diversity of viewpoint and industry knowledge. The charter provides that nominees must meet certain minimum qualifications. In particular, a nominee must:

have displayed the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values and sound business judgment;

be highly accomplished in his or her field, with superior credentials and recognition and broad experience at the administrative or policy-making level in business, government, education, technology or public interest;

have relevant expertise and experience and be able to offer guidance and advice to the chief executive officer based on that expertise and experience;

with respect to a majority of directors, be independent and able to represent all stockholders and be committed to enhancing long term stockholder value; and

have sufficient time available to devote to the activities of the Board of Directors and to enhance his or her knowledge of the Company's business.

The committee does not have a formal policy with respect to the consideration of diversity when assessing director nominees, but considers diversity as part of its overall assessment of the Board's functioning and needs. The committee may retain a search firm to assist it in identifying potential candidates, but it has not done so to date.

### ***Finance Committee***

The Company previously had a separately designated Finance Committee. The primary functions of the Finance Committee were to assist the Board of Directors with oversight of annual and long-range planning, reviewing the financial condition and performance of the Company, reviewing the Company's risk profile with respect to financial matters, evaluating major financial policies and strategies, reviewing proposed acquisitions and divestitures (when it is impractical for the entire Board to do so), review hedging matters and monitoring the management of the Company's 401(k) plan. In August 2012, the Board dissolved the Finance Committee and assigned all of the functions of such committee to the entire Board. Prior to its dissolution, the Finance Committee did not meet during 2012.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Non-Management Sessions**

The Board generally schedules regular executive sessions involving exclusively non-management directors, as required by NYSE rules, at the time of each in-person board meeting. Mr. Covington, as our lead independent director, presides at all such executive sessions.

### **Stockholder and Interested Parties Communications Policy**

In recognition of the importance of providing all interested parties, including but not limited to, the holders of Resolute securities, with the ability to communicate with members of the Board, including non-management directors, the Board has adopted a Stockholder and Interested Parties Communications Policy, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.resoluteenergy.com](http://www.resoluteenergy.com). Pursuant to the policy, interested parties may direct correspondence to the Board, or to any individual director and the lead independent director by mail to the following address: Resolute Energy Corporation, Attn: Lead Independent Director, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver, CO 80202.

Communications should not exceed 1,000 words in length and should indicate (i) the type and amount of Resolute securities held by the person submitting the communication, if any, and/or the nature of the person's interest in Resolute, (ii) any personal interest the person has in the subject matter of the communication and (iii) the person's mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number. Unless the communication relates to an improper topic (e.g., it contains offensive content or advocates that we engage in illegal activities) or it fails to satisfy the procedural requirements of the policy, we will deliver it to the person(s) to whom it is addressed.

### **Absence of Appraisal Rights**

We are incorporated in the State of Delaware and, accordingly, are subject to the Delaware General Corporation Law. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, our stockholders are not entitled to appraisal rights with respect to any of the proposals to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting.

### **Stockholder Proposals**

Any proposal that a stockholder wishes to include in proxy materials for our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders must be received no later than December 26, 2013 and must be submitted in compliance with SEC Rule 14a-8. Proposals should be directed to Resolute Energy Corporation, Attn: Secretary, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Any proposal or nomination for director that a stockholder wishes to propose for consideration at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, but does not seek to include in our proxy statement under applicable SEC rules, must be submitted in accordance with Section 2.7 of our bylaws, and must be received at our principal executive offices no earlier than January 30, 2013, and no later than March 1, 2014, in each case assuming that the 2014 annual meeting is held on the anniversary of the Annual Meeting. Any such proposal must be an appropriate subject for stockholder action under applicable law and must otherwise comply with Section 2.7 of our bylaws.

Pursuant to SEC Rule 14a-4(c)(1), if our Secretary receives any stockholder proposal at the address listed above after March 1, 2014 that is intended to be presented at the 2014 annual meeting without inclusion in the proxy statement for the meeting, the proxies designated by the Board will have discretionary authority to vote on such proposal.

### **Board Leadership Structure and Risk Management**

Our Board of Directors currently consists of seven directors, all of whom, other than Messrs. Sutton and Piccone, have been determined to be independent directors under the rules of the NYSE. Mr. Sutton has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since the Company became a public company in September 2009, was

## Table of Contents

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Resolute Holdings from its inception in 2004, and was instrumental in the completion of the Resolute Transaction. He is most familiar with the Company's properties and, based on his years as chairman and chief executive officer of HS Resources from 1998 to 2001, has demonstrated skills in building and leading a public oil and gas company. Accordingly, the Board of Directors believes that he is uniquely qualified to be the person who sets the agenda for, and leads discussion of, strategic issues for the Company. Our lead independent director, Mr. Covington, presides over executive sessions of the independent directors, which generally occur at the time of each in-person board meeting, and also presides over any Board meetings at which Mr. Sutton is not present. The Board appointed Mr. Covington as the lead independent director in March 2010. In such capacity, Mr. Covington reviews agendas for Board meetings, reviews with Mr. Sutton annual goals and objectives for the Company and consults with the Board regarding its evaluation of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board believes that its supermajority of independent directors and other aspects of its governance provide appropriate independent oversight to Board decisions.

The Board of Directors oversees the risks involved in the Company's operations as part of its general oversight function, integrating risk management into the Company's compliance policies and procedures. While the Board has the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, the Audit Committee has certain specific responsibilities relating to risk management. Among other things, the Audit Committee, pursuant to its charter, addresses Company policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, and reviews major risk exposures (whether financial, operating or otherwise) and the guidelines and policies that management has put in place to govern the process of assessing, controlling, managing and reporting such exposures. While the charters of the Compensation and Corporate Governance/Nominating Committees do not assign specific risk-related responsibilities to those committees, the committees nevertheless consider risk and risk management issues in the course of performing their duties with respect to compensation and governance issues, respectively.

### **Current Executive Officers**

The following table sets forth certain information as of April 11, 2013, regarding the current executive officers of the Company.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Nicholas J. Sutton	68	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
James M. Piccone	62	President and Director
Richard F. Betz	51	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Theodore Gazulis	58	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Michael N. Stefanoudakis	42	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Bob D. Brady, Jr.	55	Vice President, Operations
James A. Tuell	53	Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

*Nicholas J. Sutton* See *Proposal One Election of Directors* for Mr. Sutton's biography.

*James M. Piccone* See *Proposal One Election of Directors* for Mr. Piccone's biography.

*Richard F. Betz* has been Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since March 2012, was Senior Vice President, Strategy and Planning of the Company from September 2009 to March 2012, and was Vice President - Business Development of the Company from July 2009 to September 2009. He has been Vice President, Business Development of Predecessor Resolute and Resolute Holdings since their founding in 2004. From September 2001 to January 2004, Mr. Betz was involved in various financial consulting activities related to the energy industry. Prior to that, Mr. Betz spent 17 years with Chase Securities and successor companies, where he was involved primarily in oil and gas corporate finance. Mr. Betz was a Managing Director in the oil and gas investment banking coverage group with primary responsibility for mid-cap exploration and production companies as well as leveraged finance and private equity. In that capacity, Mr. Betz worked with the HS Resources management team for approximately twelve years.

---

## **Table of Contents**

**Theodore Gazulis** has been Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since March 2012, was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company from September 2009 to March 2012, and was Vice President of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company from July 2009 to September 2009. He had been Vice President Finance, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of Predecessor Resolute and Resolute Holdings since their founding in 2004. Mr. Gazulis served as a Vice President of HS Resources from 1984 until its merger with Kerr-McGee Corporation in 2001. Mr. Gazulis had primary responsibility for HS Resources' capital markets activity and for investor relations and information technology. Subsequent to HS Resources' acquisition by Kerr-McGee Corporation and prior to the formation of Predecessor Resolute, Mr. Gazulis was a private investor and also undertook assignments with two privately-held oil and gas companies. Prior to joining HS Resources, he worked for Amoco Production Company and Sohio Petroleum Company. Mr. Gazulis received an AB with Distinction from Stanford University and an MBA from the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management. Mr. Gazulis is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

**Michael N. Stefanoudakis** has been Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of the Company since July 1, 2010. From April 2009 until June 2010, Mr. Stefanoudakis served as Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of StarTek, Inc., an NYSE listed company in the business processing outsourcing industry. From 2006 to 2008, Mr. Stefanoudakis was Vice President and General Counsel at BioFuel Energy Company, a NASDAQ listed company in the ethanol production industry. From 2004 to 2006, Mr. Stefanoudakis served as Vice President and General Counsel of Patina Oil & Gas Corporation, an NYSE listed oil and gas exploration company, until its merger with Noble Energy, Inc. Prior to his public company experience, Mr. Stefanoudakis spent eight years as a practicing attorney, most recently at the legal firm Hogan & Hartson LLP (now Hogan Lovells). Mr. Stefanoudakis graduated from the University of San Diego with a B.A. in Economics in 1993 and from Harvard Law School with a J.D. in 1996. He is admitted to the practice of law in Colorado and is a member of local and national bar associations. He is also a member of the American Association of Corporate Counsel.

**Bob D. Brady, Jr.** has been Vice President, Operations of the Company since June 1, 2010. From March 1, 2006 until May 31, 2010, Mr. Brady served as the Company's Operations Manager. Mr. Brady previously served as Vice President of Engineering and Operations of Double Eagle Petroleum Company from April 2002 until February 2006. Mr. Brady was Operations Manager for Prima Oil & Gas from October 2000 until April 2002. Prior to working for Prima, Mr. Brady was Vice President of Engineering and Operations for Evergreen Operating Corporation. He has 29 years' experience in natural gas and oil industry operations. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering. He has been a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers since 1982.

**James A. Tuell** has been Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer of the Company since June 1, 2010. From December 2009 until May 31, 2010, Mr. Tuell served as the Company's Interim Chief Accounting Officer. Prior to joining Resolute, Mr. Tuell owned and operated an accounting and finance consultancy which served Resolute and numerous other independent energy companies from January 2009 through December 2009 and from July 2001 to February 2004. Mr. Tuell served as a director of Infinity Energy Resources, Inc. from April 2005 until June 2008. He also served in various officer capacities with Infinity Energy Resources, Inc., from March 2005 through August 2007, including as President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Executive Officer, principal financial and accounting officer and Executive Vice President. Mr. Tuell also served as President of Infinity Oil & Gas of Wyoming, Inc. and Infinity Oil and Gas of Texas, Inc., wholly-owned subsidiaries of Infinity Energy Resources, Inc., from February 2004 and June 2004, respectively, until May 2007. From 1996 through July 2001, Mr. Tuell served as Controller and Chief Accounting Officer of Basin Exploration, Inc. From 1994 through 1996, he served as Vice President and Controller of Gerrity Oil & Gas Corporation. Mr. Tuell was employed by the independent accounting firm of Price Waterhouse from 1981 through 1994, most recently as a Senior Audit Manager. He earned a B.S. in accounting from the University of Denver and is a certified public accountant.

## **Family Relationships**

There are no family relationships among any of the Company's directors and executive officers.

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION****Summary Compensation Table**

The following table summarizes the total compensation paid or earned by our principal executive officer, our principal financial officer and three other most highly compensated executive officers (the Named Executive Officers ) who served as executive officers as of December 31, 2012.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation	All Other Compensation (\$) <sup>(5)</sup>	Total (\$)
							Earnings (\$)		
Nicholas J. Sutton <sup>(1)</sup> Chief Executive Officer	2012	\$ 540,800		\$ 1,548,919 <sup>(2)</sup>		\$ 600,369		\$ 15,000	\$ 2,705,088
	2011	\$ 520,000		\$ 1,895,356 <sup>(3)</sup>		\$ 489,008		\$ 14,700	\$ 2,919,064
	2010	\$ 501,923		\$ 5,177,118 <sup>(4)</sup>		\$ 480,200		\$ 14,700	\$ 6,173,941
James M. Piccone <sup>(1)</sup> President	2012	\$ 376,480		\$ 808,713 <sup>(2)</sup>		\$ 355,257		\$ 18,195	\$ 1,558,645
	2011	\$ 362,000		\$ 989,596 <sup>(3)</sup>		\$ 289,361		\$ 17,760	\$ 1,658,717
	2010	\$ 351,346		\$ 3,163,794 <sup>(4)</sup>		\$ 285,700		\$ 17,760	\$ 3,818,600
Theodore Gazulis Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2012	\$ 322,400		\$ 461,695 <sup>(2)</sup>		\$ 250,539		\$ 15,000	\$ 1,049,634
	2011	\$ 310,000		\$ 564,966 <sup>(3)</sup>		\$ 204,067		\$ 14,700	\$ 1,093,733
	2010	\$ 301,154		\$ 2,300,941 <sup>(4)</sup>		\$ 201,700		\$ 14,700	\$ 2,818,495
Richard F. Betz Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer	2012	\$ 322,400		\$ 461,695 <sup>(2)</sup>		\$ 250,539			\$ 1,034,634
	2011	\$ 310,000		\$ 564,966 <sup>(3)</sup>		\$ 204,067			\$ 1,079,033
	2010	\$ 301,154		\$ 2,300,941 <sup>(4)</sup>		\$ 201,700			\$ 2,803,795
Michael N. Stefanoudakis <sup>(6)</sup> Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	2012	\$ 283,920		\$ 254,118 <sup>(2)</sup>		\$ 189,116		\$ 18,195	\$ 745,349
	2011	\$ 273,000		\$ 310,961 <sup>(3)</sup>		\$ 154,038		\$ 17,760	\$ 755,759

- (1) Mr. Sutton and Mr. Piccone are also directors of the Company but received no compensation for their services as directors.
- (2) Represents the grant date fair market value, two-thirds of which is determined based on the Company's closing stock price on the dates of grant, and one-third of which is determined using a binomial lattice model that incorporates a Monte Carlo simulation. See Note 7 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, for a description of the calculation of grant date fair market value.
- (3) Represents the grant date fair market value, two-thirds of which is determined based on the Company's closing stock price on the dates of grant, and one-third of which is determined using a binomial lattice model that incorporates a Monte Carlo simulation. See Note 8 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, for a description of the calculation of grant date fair market value.
- (4) Represents the grant date fair market value, two-thirds of which is determined based on the Company's closing stock price on the dates of grant, and one-third of which is determined using a binomial lattice model that incorporates a Monte Carlo simulation. See Note 9 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, for a description of the calculation of grant date fair market value.



## Edgar Filing: Resolute Energy Corp - Form DEF 14A

- (5) Consists of (i) contributions pursuant to the Company's 401(k) plan to match employee contributions, plus (ii) the value of parking paid for by the Company, if any. The 401(k) matching contribution was made for each Named Executive Officer other than Mr. Betz for the years listed. The 401(k) matching contribution for (a) 2012 was \$15,000, was paid in 2012 on a period by period matching basis and accrued on the Company's financial statements in 2012; (b) 2011 was \$14,700, was paid in 2012, but accrued on the Company's financial statements in 2011; and (c) 2010 was \$14,700, was paid in 2011, but accrued on the Company's financial statements in 2010.
- (6) Mr. Stefanoudakis became a Named Executive Officer of the Company in 2011.

**Table of Contents****GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS**

The following table includes plan-based awards made to Named Executive Officers in 2012. During 2012, we granted short term incentive plan awards and restricted stock awards.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)</sup>			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(2)</sup>			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares or Units	All Other Option Awards: Number of Underlying Securities	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold #	Target #	Maximum #				
Nicholas J. Sutton	03/08/12	\$ 270,400	\$ 540,800	\$ 811,200							
	03/08/12				0	64,038	64,038				261,755
	03/08/12				0	128,076	128,076				1,287,164
James M. Piccone	03/08/12	\$ 160,004	\$ 320,008	\$ 480,012							
	03/08/12				0	33,436	33,436				136,670
	03/08/12				0	66,870	66,870				672,044
Theodore Gazulis	03/08/12	\$ 112,840	\$ 225,680	\$ 338,520							
	03/08/12				0	19,089	19,089				78,026
	03/08/12				0	38,176	38,176				383,669
Richard F. Betz	03/08/12	\$ 112,840	\$ 225,680	\$ 338,520							
	03/08/12				0	19,089	19,089				78,026
	03/08/12				0	38,176	38,176				383,669
Michael N. Stefanoudakis	03/08/12	\$ 85,176	\$ 170,352	\$ 255,528							
	03/08/12				0	10,507	10,507				42,947
	03/08/12				0	21,012	21,012				211,171

(1) Non-equity incentive plan refers to our short-term executive incentive bonus plan, one-half of which is based on Company-wide performance metrics and one-half of which is based on individual performance metrics.

(2) The 2012 equity grants were made pursuant to the 2009 Performance Incentive Plan. The Performance Vested Shares comprise one-third of the overall grant and the Time Vested Shares comprise two-thirds of the overall grant. The Performance Vested Shares vest in four annual installments commencing December 31, 2012 through December 31, 2015; provided, however, that the Performance Vested Shares shall vest only if there has been a 10% annual appreciation in the trading price of the Company's Common Stock, compounded annually, from the 20 trading-day average stock price at December 31, 2011 (\$11.64). At the end of each year during the vesting period, the 20 trading-day average share price will be measured, and if the 10% threshold is met, the stock subject to the performance criteria will vest. If the 10% threshold is not met, shares that have not vested will roll to the following year. Any Performance Vested Shares that have not vested by December 31, 2015 will be forfeited. Time Vested Shares shall vest in four equal annual installments on December 31, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. One fourth of the total number of Time Vested Shares granted in 2012 to the Named Executive Officers vested on December 31, 2012. No Performance Vested Shares vested on December 31, 2012 because the stock performance threshold referenced above was not met.

**Table of Contents****OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2012 FISCAL YEAR END**

The following table identifies the unvested stock awards for each of the Named Executive Officers as of December 31, 2012.

Name	Option Awards					Stock Awards		Equity Incentive Plan Awards:
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options #	Equity Incentive Plan Awards	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options #	Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested #	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested \$ (2)
Nicholas J. Sutton							425,020	\$ 3,455,413
James M. Piccone							238,595	\$ 1,939,777
Theodore Gazulis							154,132	\$ 1,253,093
Richard F. Betz							154,132	\$ 1,253,093
Michael N. Stefanoudakis							53,968	\$ 438,760

(1) All equity grants were made pursuant to the 2009 Performance Incentive Plan. For all share grants reflected in this table, the Performance Vested Shares comprise one-third of the overall grant and the Time Vested Shares comprise two-thirds of the overall grant. The Performance Vested Shares vest in four annual installments commencing on December 31 of the year of grant; provided, however, that the Performance Vested Shares shall vest only if there has been a 10% annual appreciation in the trading price of the Company's Common Stock, compounded annually, from the 20 trading-day average stock price at December 31 of the prior year. At the end of each year during the vesting period, the 20 trading-day average share price will be measured, and if the 10% threshold is met, the stock subject to the performance criteria will vest. If the 10% threshold is not met, shares that have not vested will roll to the following year. Any Performance Vested Shares that have not vested by December 31 of the fourth year following grant will be forfeited. Time Vested Shares generally vest in four equal annual installments on December 31 of the year of grant and December 31 of the succeeding three years. Certain of the Time Vested Shares granted in 2010, 2011 and 2012 to the Named Executive Officers vested in 2012. The share numbers in the table above reflects the shares that remained unvested following such vesting.

(2) Value based on the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the NYSE on December 31, 2012 of \$8.13.

**Table of Contents****OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN 2012**

During 2012, the Named Executive Officers vested in restricted stock awards as described below.

	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise #	Value Realized on Exercise \$	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting #	Value Realized on Vesting \$(1)
Nicholas J. Sutton			126,375	\$ 1,027,429
James M. Piccone			72,657	\$ 590,701
Theodore Gazulis			48,647	\$ 395,500
Richard F. Betz			48,647	\$ 395,500
Michael N. Stefanoudakis			12,429	\$ 106,808

(1) Based on the closing price on the NYSE of the Company's Common Stock on the date of vesting.

**2012 Pension Benefits**

The Company has no defined benefit pension plans.

**2012 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans**

In the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company had no nonqualified plan that provides for deferral of compensation to Named Executive Officers.

**Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control of Resolute**

In April 2011, all of the officers of the Company entered into employment agreements that provide for severance payments upon termination or upon a change of control of the Company. The severance terms for the Named Executive Officers under such agreements are described below under Employment Agreements.

The Board has granted restricted stock to certain of the Named Executive Officers. The restricted stock was granted under the 2009 Performance Incentive Plan, which provides that upon the occurrence of certain Change of Control Events, restricted stock will become fully vested. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis Long-Term Incentive Compensation for a description of the restricted stock grants to Named Executive Officers.

---

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**Overview of the Company's Compensation Program.** The Company's Board of Directors has responsibility for establishing, implementing and continually monitoring adherence with the Company's compensation philosophy. The Board of Directors has delegated to the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors its responsibilities with respect to development of a compensation program and primary implementation of that program. The Compensation Committee is solely responsible for determining the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the compensation of other executive officers. It also makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding awards under the 2009 Performance Incentive Plan. Generally, the types of compensation and benefits that are provided to the Company's executive officers are similar to those provided to the Company's other officers and employees. The Company does not have compensation plans that are solely for executive officers. Those officers whose compensation elements and amounts are specifically listed in the Company's proxy statement are referred to in this discussion as the Named Executive Officers.

The Chief Executive Officer plays a key role in determining executive compensation for the other Named Executive Officers and other officers. The Chief Executive Officer attends the meetings of the Compensation Committee at which executive compensation is being discussed and makes recommendations to the committee. In arriving at his recommendations, the Chief Executive Officer evaluates the performance of each executive and solicits input from the peers of such executives and others, if necessary. This evaluation is shared with the committee and forms the basis for the recommendation. These recommendations are considered by the Compensation Committee, along with other relevant data, in determining the base salary, annual cash incentives, long-term equity incentives, and benefits and perquisites for such executives.

**Compensation Philosophy and Objectives.** The Company believes that the most effective compensation program is one that is designed to reward all employees, not just executives, for the achievement of the Company's short-term and long-term strategic goals. As a result, the Company's compensation philosophy is to provide all employees (except those covered by union contracts that limit the Company's flexibility in matters related to compensation) with cash incentives or a combination of cash and equity-based incentives that foster the continued growth and overall success of the Company and encourage employees to maximize stockholder value.

Under this philosophy, all Company employees (with the exception noted above) have aligned interests. When establishing its total compensation, the Company has the following objectives:

To attract, retain and motivate highly qualified and experienced individuals;

To provide financial incentives, through an appropriate mix of fixed and variable pay components, to achieve the organization's key financial and operational objectives;

To ensure that a portion of total compensation is at risk in the form of equity compensation; and

To offer competitive compensation packages that are consistent with the Company's core values, including the balance of fairness to the individual and the organization, and the demand for commitment and dedication in the performance of the job.

It is the Compensation Committee's policy to provide incentives that promote both our short-term and long-term financial objectives that are appropriate to the nature of our assets. Base salary and short-term incentive compensation are designed to reward achievement of short-term objectives, while the long-term incentive compensation is intended to encourage employees, particularly executives, to focus on our long-term goals. Base salary, annual cash bonuses and equity awards are the primary components of our compensation program and we believe that attention to all three elements is important to retain our existing personnel and to attract and hire new employees. As to any given individual, the factors considered in any compensation decision include, but are not limited to, the complexity of that individual's job, the person's dedication and demonstrated contribution of value to the Company, competitive pressures in the marketplace and his or her relative performance compared to peers within the Company.

**Table of Contents**

We consider an inability to attract or retain qualified motivated employees as a significant risk for the Company as we operate in a highly competitive industry. In approving elements of the compensation program, the Compensation Committee and the Board prefer a balancing of factors, so that no single performance metric becomes an overriding influence. For that reason, the incentive compensation program described below balances a number of metrics. Our Long-Term Incentive Program, also described below, generally provides for vesting over a multi-year period in order to mitigate against a short-term focus at the expense of long-term results by our senior executives, including the Named Executive Officers.

**Role of Compensation Consultant.** The Compensation Committee, which has sole authority to retain and terminate any compensation consulting firm, may independently retain compensation consultants to assist in deliberations regarding executive compensation. In February 2012, the committee engaged Longnecker & Associates ( Longnecker ), an independent compensation consultant, to review the Company’s compensation programs and pay practices for executives and other employees. Longnecker reports directly to the Compensation Committee and does not provide any services or advice directly to management unless authorized to do so by the Committee. The Compensation Committee reviewed the relationships of Longnecker and its employees to the Company and its employees and to the Compensation Committee to assess the independence of Longnecker pursuant to SEC and NYSE rules. Based on this assessment, the Compensation Committee has concluded that no conflict of interest exists that would prevent Longnecker from independently representing the Compensation Committee. The committee sought advice from Longnecker regarding base salary, annual bonus, the nature and amount of long-term incentives, performance measures for short-term and long-term incentives, identification of representative peer groups and general market data. Longnecker evaluated our executive compensation and recommended continued focus on total direct compensation as a means to achieve the compensation objectives outlined above while remaining competitive with the external market. Following the review of the Longnecker analysis, the Compensation Committee determined that the Company’s compensation programs were generally competitive and did not require any immediate action by the committee.

In February 2012, Longnecker provided the committee with a selection of possible peer companies for discussion purposes for use as part of its compensation evaluation process. These companies were selected based on their size, as measured by market capitalization, and an assessment that they are reasonably comparable to the Company in terms of business scope and objectives in the upstream oil and gas segment. The following companies comprise the peer group jointly selected by Longnecker and the committee and utilized by the committee for 2012:

Approach Resources, Inc.	Petroleum Development Corporation
Berry Petroleum Company	Rosetta Resources, Inc.
Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc.	Stone Energy Company
Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.	Swift Energy Company
Magnum Hunter Resources Corp.	Venoco, Inc.
Oasis Petroleum, Inc.	Warren Resources, Inc.

The Compensation Committee makes modifications to the peer group from time to time due to consolidations within, and to accommodate new companies entering, the oil and gas exploration and production industry, or for other reasons. In connection with the 2013 yearly compensation cycle, the committee selected a new peer group in consultation with Longnecker. The committee will continue to monitor the appropriateness of the peer group and the relative measures drawn from the process with the primary objective of utilizing a peer group that provides the most appropriate comparison to the Company to assist in formulating compensation that maintains the Company’s ability to compete for top executives. The Compensation Committee does not formally benchmark the compensation of our executive officers against the compensation of executives in the peer group.

**Setting the Company’s Executive Compensation.** Executive compensation is reviewed by the Compensation Committee no less frequently than annually. Compensation is expected to be based on the foregoing objectives and to include as integral components base salary and annual and long-term incentive-based cash and non-cash compensation. In performing its compensation reviews and making its compensation decisions regarding the

## **Table of Contents**

compensation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers, the Compensation Committee will conduct an ongoing review of compensation data from the peer group and the industry in general.

In establishing executive compensation, base salaries are expected to be targeted near the midpoint of a range established by this peer and industry review, although adjustments are made for such things as experience, market factors or exceptional performance, among others, and potential total compensation, including annual incentive compensation, are expected to be at the upper range of total compensation at comparable companies if performance targets are met. Annual cash incentive and equity incentive awards will be designed to reflect progress toward company-wide financial goals and personal objectives, as well as salary grade level, and to balance rewards for short-term and long-term performance.

Long-term incentive compensation will be used to reward and to encourage long-term performance and an alignment of interests between the individual, the organization and the stockholders. Long-term incentive grants will be used not only to reward prior performance, but also to retain executive officers and other employees and provide incentives for future exceptional performance. To the extent that business success makes long-term incentive awards more valuable, an individual's total compensation may move from the median to the high end of ranges established with reference to peer data.

In determining the allocation between cash short-term and non-cash long-term incentive compensation for executive officers, the Compensation Committee engages in an individual analysis for each executive. Factors affecting compensation decisions include:

- (i) The Company's annual performance;
- (ii) Impact of the employee's performance on the Company's results;
- (iii) The Company's objective to provide total compensation that is higher than competitive levels when aggressive goals of the Company are exceeded; and
- (iv) Internal equity.

The committee also takes into consideration the fact that, although our officers are responsible for specific business functions, together they share responsibility for the performance of the Company. As we seek to attract and retain the best talent available, we also wish to have employees view employment at the Company as a career decision. It takes a long period of time and a significant investment to develop the experienced executive talent necessary to succeed in the oil and gas business; senior executives must have experience with all phases of the business cycle to be effective leaders. We have a very experienced executive team, many members of which have been in the oil and gas industry for thirty years or more, and we believe that our future success will be enhanced by retaining these experienced employees through our compensation philosophy and practices.

We believe that the proportion of total compensation that is performance-based, and therefore at risk, should increase with an individual's level of responsibility. Therefore, long-term incentive compensation grants will typically represent a larger proportion of the total compensation package as the level of responsibility of the executive increases. For the Chief Executive Officer, long-term incentive grants are typically the largest element of the total compensation package. Executive officers generally receive the same benefits as other employees, although not necessarily in the same mix or amounts.

***Executive Compensation Components.*** The principal components of compensation for executive officers are:

Base salary;

Short-term incentive compensation (cash bonus);





---

**Table of Contents**

Long-term incentive compensation (equity awards); and

401(k) and other benefits.

**Relative Size of Major Compensation Elements.** The combination of base salary, annual cash incentives and equity awards comprises total direct compensation. In setting executive compensation, the Compensation Committee considers the aggregate compensation payable to an executive officer and the form of that compensation. The Compensation Committee seeks to achieve the appropriate balance between immediate cash rewards and long-term financial incentives for the achievement of both annual and long-term financial and non-financial objectives. The Compensation Committee may decide, as appropriate, to modify the mix of base salary, annual cash incentives and long-term equity incentives to best fit an executive officer's specific circumstances. For example, the Compensation Committee may make the decision to award more cash and not award an equity grant. The Compensation Committee may also increase the size of equity grants to an executive officer if the total number of career equity grants does not adequately reflect the executive's current position with the Company.

**Timing of Compensation Decisions.** It is expected that all elements of the executive officers' compensation will be reviewed annually in the February-March timeframe, including a review of financial, operating and personal objectives with respect to the prior year's results. At that time, the financial, operating and personal objectives and performance targets will also be determined for the current year. The Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee may, however, review salaries or grant equity incentives at other times in connection with new appointments or promotions or other extraordinary events that occur during the year, or under other circumstances that it deems appropriate.

**Base Salary.** The Company provides executive officers with a base salary to compensate them for services rendered during the fiscal year. Base salaries for executive officers are based upon each individual's responsibilities, experience and performance, taking into account among other things, the individual's initiative, contribution to our overall performance, managerial ability and handling of special projects. These same factors are applied to establish base salaries for other key management employees. The Compensation Committee's evaluation of each executive officer's performance is subjective; no specific written criteria or formulas, and no pre-determined targets, are used in determining base salary. The factors considered in compensation decisions are not weighted, but are viewed collectively. Base salaries for executive officers generally are reviewed annually for possible adjustment, but are not necessarily changed each year. The committee is responsible for determining the base salary for the Chief Executive Officer, and the Chief Executive Officer recommends the base salary for the other executive officers. Other executive officers recommend the base salary for all employees that are in that executive officer's area of responsibility. The Chief Executive Officer, the President, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer review the recommendations for salaries and bonuses for all other employees and adjust them as they deem appropriate. The Compensation Committee reviews the recommendations for all employees from the Chief Executive Officer and approves them or adjusts them as it deems appropriate, and then recommends them to the Board for final approval.

Base salaries for 2012 for each of the Named Executive Officers were set in March 2012, as follows: for Mr. Sutton at \$540,800, for Mr. Piccone at \$376,480, for Messrs. Betz and Gazulis at \$322,400, and for Mr. Stefanoudakis at \$283,920, which equated to 4% increases from 2011 salary levels for each officer. The decisions with respect to 2012 salaries for the Named Executive Officers reflected responsibilities associated with public company status, increased experience levels, and other factors. In determining base salary adjustments, the Compensation Committee reviewed survey data compiled by a third party of publicly available information of proposed salary adjustments for executives at companies in the oil and gas industry with a market capitalization and business operations focus comparable to that of the Company as well as the then current salary levels of executives.

---

**Table of Contents**

In March 2013, in connection with the yearly compensation cycle, and based in part on peer group and market data provided by Longnecker, the Compensation Committee and the Board approved 2013 base salaries for each of the Named Executive Officers, as follows: Mr. Sutton at \$590,000; Mr. Piccone at \$415,000; Messrs. Betz and Gazulis at \$350,000; and Mr. Stefanoudakis at \$300,000. These equated to 6-10% increases from 2012 salary levels for each officer.

***Short-Term Incentive ( STI ) Compensation.*** Annual short-term incentive cash bonuses are performance-based and are intended to promote achievement of our business objectives of increasing stockholder value. All eligible employees participate in an annual bonus plan with the same performance objectives as those used for executive officers. The annual bonus awards are also intended to assist executives in meeting income tax obligations associated with vesting of restricted stock, which is a significant component of the executives' compensation, so that executives are not forced to sell their stock to meet tax obligations and are able to maintain their equity positions in the Company.

Similar to base salaries, the Compensation Committee is responsible for determining the bonus for the Chief Executive Officer, and the Chief Executive Officer recommends the annual bonus for each other executive officer. Other executive officers recommend the annual bonus for all employees that are in that executive officer's area of responsibility. The Chief Executive Officer, the President, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer review the recommendations for bonuses for all other employees and adjust them as they deem appropriate. The Compensation Committee reviews the recommendations for all executives from the Chief Executive Officer and approves them or adjusts them as it deems appropriate, and then recommends them to the Board for final approval.

For 2012, the Compensation Committee recommended, and the Board approved for implementation, a program that set bonus targets, which are a percentage of base salary, for the senior executives, and then decided which performance metrics would be used to determine whether bonus awards will be less than (the threshold level), equal to (the target level), or greater than (the stretch level) the target percentage. The target awards for our Named Executive Officers, as a percentage of each executive's base salary, are as follows: Chief Executive Officer 100%; President 85%; Executive Vice Presidents 70%; Senior Vice Presidents 60%; and Vice Presidents 50%.

The Compensation Committee established a bonus pool equal to the aggregate of each eligible employee's target bonus percentage multiplied by that employee's base salary (the Bonus Pool). Fifty percent of the Bonus Pool was allocated to the Company Performance Metrics Pool, and fifty percent of the Bonus Pool was allocated to the Individual Performance Metrics Pool. The Company Performance Metrics Pool may be increased or decreased depending on how the Company has performed as measured against certain pre-established parameters. In determining which performance metrics to use in evaluating this portion of bonus awards, the Committee concluded that short-term incentive compensation should be based on achievement of operational objectives rather than measures such as total shareholder return that can be greatly influenced by factors outside of any individual's influence or control. Longer term performance metrics are more appropriate for the long-term incentive plan. For 2012, the Compensation Committee utilized four key performance metrics: (i) production, (ii) lease operating expense, (iii) general and administrative expense, and (iv) the Company's success in advancing its capital and strategic projects on time and on budget. These are the same metrics that were used for the 2011 plan and that were approved for use in the 2013 plan.

The specific levels of these metrics that would trigger the threshold, target and stretch bonus payments were tied to the Company's public guidance with respect to these metrics. The performance criteria for the target bonus were generally at the midpoint of the range of the Company's public guidance, with the threshold and stretch bonuses being payable for performance that was less than or exceeded those expectations. Performance that would qualify for bonuses at the threshold level is expected in normal operating circumstances. Performance satisfying the criteria for bonuses at the target level is believed to be achievable with additional effort. Performance that would qualify for bonuses at the stretch level is believed to be achievable with extraordinary efforts. Generally, the bonus amount for the threshold level of performance is 50% of the target and the bonus

## Table of Contents

amount for stretch level of performance is 150% of the target. Bonuses can range between these amounts based on the level of performance attained. There is generally no bonus payable if the threshold level of performance is not met.

The Company Performance Metrics Pool was divided among eligible participants on a formulaic pro rata basis, although the Compensation Committee reserved the ability to adjust individual participants' awards as the result of extraordinary individual contribution or lack thereof.

Below is the weighting of the four Company level components (relative to the 50% of the Bonus Pool that was allocated to Company performance), and the Board's assessment of the Company's performance for 2012, with respect to those items was as follows:

Production (37.5% weighting). The Company achieved 111.94% of the target level of performance, as a result of 2012 aggregate oil and gas production exceeding the midpoint of public guidance.

LOE (22.5% weighting). The Company achieved 0% of the target level of performance, as a result of 2012 aggregate lease operating expense exceeding the high end of public guidance.

G&A (15% weighting). The Company achieved 108.71% of the threshold level of performance, as a result of 2012 aggregate general and administrative expense being below the midpoint of public guidance.

Capital Program (25% weighting). The capital metric was subjective in nature and was determined by the Board to have been achieved at 135% of the target level of performance, as a result of what the Board determined was strong execution of capital projects including acquisitions and divestitures.

The above weighting and grading resulted in the bonus pool receiving approximately 92% of the 50% of the Bonus Pool allocated to Company performance, or 46% of the overall target pool.

The other fifty percent of the Bonus Pool (the Individual Performance Metrics Pool) was allocated according to management's, the Committee's and the Board's assessment of individual and group performance measured against defined goals and objectives. This portion of the bonus determination is more subjective than the performance metrics described above, which are inherently more formulaic, but the Committee believes that motivating and rewarding superior performance is not a matter of one size fits all. Effective discretion in this regard is a significant component of good management. For 2012, it was determined that the Named Executive Officers as a group exceeded their individual and team goals. As a result, each Named Executive Officer received 92% of the half portion of the target bonus allocated to Company performance and 130% of the half portion of the target bonus allocated to individual performance.

Short-term incentive compensation payments to executive officers for 2012 were made at the recommendation of the Compensation Committee and approved by the Board of Directors (other than with respect to the Chief Executive Officer whose payment was approved by the Compensation Committee). Short-term incentive compensation payments totaling \$1,645,820 were awarded and paid, partially in December 2012 and the remainder in March 2013, to the Named Executive Officers for services during 2012.

In connection with the yearly compensation cycle, the Compensation Committee asked Longnecker in February 2013 to evaluate the structure of the Company's STI Compensation Program. In view of the trends in cash bonus programs of the Company's industry peers and the market generally, Longnecker recommended that the Company maintain the structure of its STI Compensation Program. The Compensation Committee also reviewed the STI percentage targets for all Company employees based on peer company and market data. Following such review, it was determined that adjustments were needed in order to bring the percentage targets into ranges that would be consistent with the Company's compensation philosophy of paying base salaries that

**Table of Contents**

are targeted near the midpoint of a range established by this peer and industry review, and potential total compensation, including annual incentive compensation, at the upper range of total compensation at comparable companies if performance targets are met. As a result of such adjustments, the 2013 target STI awards for our officers, including the Named Executive Officers, as a percentage of each executive's base salary, were set as follows: Chief Executive Officer 125%; President 100%; Executive Vice Presidents 90%; Senior Vice Presidents 80%; and Vice Presidents 60-70%.

***Long-Term Incentive ( LTI ) Compensation.*** The Company adopted the 2009 Performance Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan ) in July 2009, and the Incentive Plan was approved by the sole stockholder of the Company at that time. An amendment to the Incentive Plan was approved by the stockholders of the Company in June 2011. The maximum number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued pursuant to awards under the Incentive Plan as adopted is 9,157,744. Awards for 1,063,145 shares (net of forfeitures) were made in 2012, including 438,469 shares to the Named Executive Officers.

The purpose of the Incentive Plan is to promote the success of the Company and the interests of its stockholders by providing an additional means for the Company to attract, motivate, retain and reward directors, officers, employees and other eligible persons (including consultants and advisors) through the grant of incentive awards. Equity-based awards are also intended to further align the interests of award recipients and the Company's stockholders. In particular, long-term incentive compensation is awarded to employees who are important for us to retain to accomplish our strategic goals over the longer term. As with base salary and short-term incentive compensation, the long-term awards granted to each recipient are determined by several factors. These factors include our need to retain a specific employee, the employee's performance, the employee's ability to add value to our enterprise and the compensation data from our peer group.

On March 8, 2012, the Compensation Committee met for the purpose of determining and approving awards of restricted stock for the Named Executive Officers and other employees. In evaluating 2012 LTI awards, the committee again considered the goal of motivating employees to contribute to the long-term growth of the Company and participating fully in that growth through equity participation and utilized the same LTI compensation structure that had been used in 2011. The Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Sutton 192,114 shares of restricted stock, and recommended to the Board (which the Board approved) restricted stock awards to the other Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Piccone 100,306 shares; Messrs. Gazulis and Betz 57,265 shares each; and Mr. Stefanoudakis 31,519 shares. These amounts were determined by multiplying the 2012 base salary for each Named Executive Officer by the target LTI percentage set forth below and dividing by the stock value for the 20 trading days leading up to the date of grant. The 2012 target LTI awards for our officers, as a percentage of each executive's base salary, were as follows: Chief Executive Officer 400%; President 300%; Executive Vice Presidents 200%; Senior Vice Presidents 125%; and Vice Presidents 100%.

Shares of restricted stock are subject to forfeiture and vest if the Named Executive Officers continue to be employed at specified dates in the future and if certain performance metrics are satisfied. For 2012, two-thirds of each grant of restricted stock was time-based, with these shares vesting based on continued employment in four equal tranches. The first tranche vested on December 31, 2012. The remaining tranches will vest on each successive December 31<sup>st</sup>, with the final tranche vesting on December 31, 2015. The remaining one-third of each grant is subject to the satisfaction of pre-established stock performance targets. The performance-based shares will vest in equal tranches on the same dates if there has been a 10% annual appreciation in the trading price of the Company's Common Stock, compounded annually, from the twenty trading day average stock price at December 31, 2011, which was \$11.64. At the end of each year, the twenty trading day average share price will be measured, and if the 10% threshold is met, the stock subject to the performance criteria will vest. If the 10% threshold is not met, shares that have not vested will roll to the following year. In that way, an underperforming year can be offset by an over-performing year. At December 31, 2015, any unvested shares will vest if the cumulative test is met or will be forfeited if the test is not met. The committee believes that this plan emphasizes long-term, multi-year performance and value creation. The twenty day average stock at December 31, 2012 was \$8.32, and therefore the first tranche of the performance-based shares did not vest on that date.

---

**Table of Contents**

In accordance with the terms of the Incentive Plan, vesting will accelerate on an individual's death or disability or, in the discretion of the Compensation Committee, on certain change of control events. The vesting of the shares of restricted stock also accelerates under certain circumstances described in the Employment Agreements for each Named Executive Officer, as described below.

**2013 Amendments to LTI Compensation Program**

In connection with the 2013 yearly compensation cycle, the Compensation Committee engaged Longnecker in February 2013 to evaluate the structure of the Company's LTI Compensation Program. In view of the trends in equity programs of the Company's industry peers and the market generally, Longnecker recommended that the Company amend its LTI Compensation Program in certain respects. Longnecker advised the Company to (i) eliminate performance share grants to employees below the officer level since those employees are not generally able to influence the stock performance of the Company; (ii) amend the performance share structure for officer level grants so that vesting of performance shares is based on a total shareholder return relative to a peer group metric rather than absolute nominal stock price appreciation; and (iii) to reduce the vesting period for all restricted stock grants from four years to three years. The Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors approved these changes in the LTI Compensation Program and implemented such changes in connection with the 2013 annual equity awards. As a result of these changes to the program, it is anticipated that future restricted stock awards for employees below the officer level will be three-year time vested grants, and that future restricted stock awards for officers will vest over three years and will consist of time-vested shares (with respect to two-thirds of the shares granted) and performance-vested shares (with respect to one-third of the shares granted).

On March 8, 2013, the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee approved certain long-term incentive grants to the executive officers of the Company (including the Named Executive Officers) under the Incentive Plan (the 2013 Awards). The Company filed a Current Report on Form 8-K on March 14, 2013 reflecting the details of the 2013 Awards.

The 2013 Awards consist of grants of restricted stock, two-thirds of which vest by the passage of time ( Time-Vested Shares ) and one-third of which vest only upon achievement of specified thresholds of cumulative total shareholder return ( TSR ) as compared to a specified peer group (the Performance-Vested Shares ). A TSR percentile (the TSR Percentile ) is calculated based on the change in the value of the Company's Common Stock between the grant date and the applicable vesting date, including any dividends paid during the period, as compared to the respective TSRs of a specified group of 17 peer companies. The Time-Vested Shares vest automatically in three installments upon the one-, two- and three-year anniversaries of the grant date. The Performance-Vested Shares vest in three installments to the extent that the applicable TSR Percentile ranking thresholds are met upon the one-, two- and three-year anniversaries of the grant date. Performance-Vested Shares that are eligible to vest on a vesting date but do not qualify for vesting become eligible for vesting again on the next vesting date. All Performance-Vested Shares that do not vest as of the final vesting date will be forfeited on such date.

The 2013 Awards also consist of the right to earn additional shares of Common Stock upon achievement of a higher TSR Percentile ( Outperformance Shares ). The Outperformance Shares are earned in increasing increments based on a TSR Percentile attained over a specified threshold. Outperformance Shares may be earned on any vesting date to the extent that the applicable TSR Percentile ranking thresholds are met in three installments on the one-, two- and three-year anniversaries of the grant date. Outperformance Shares that are earned at a vesting date will be issued to the recipient; however, prior to such issuance, the recipient is not entitled to stockholder rights with respect to Outperformance Shares. Outperformance Shares that are eligible to be earned but remain unearned on a vesting date become eligible to be earned again on the next vesting date. The right to earn any theretofore unearned Outperformance Shares terminates immediately following the final vesting date.

**Table of Contents**

The vesting schedule for the above awards continues as long as the recipient is employed by the Company or, in the case of the CEO and the President, effects a qualifying retirement. Any unvested shares are forfeited upon a recipient's termination of employment with the Company, other than in the event of a qualifying retirement. Upon death or disability, all Time-Vested Shares and Performance-Vested Shares shall vest, but any unearned Outperformance Shares are no longer eligible to be earned. Upon a change in control (as defined by the Plan), all Time-Vested Shares and Performance-Vested Shares vest on the terms set forth in the Plan, and any unearned Outperformance Shares will vest to the extent that the applicable performance thresholds are met in the change in control transaction.

In addition to the structural amendments made to the Company's LTI Compensation Program, the Compensation Committee also reviewed the LTI percentage targets for all Company employees based on peer company and market data. Following such review, it was determined that adjustments were needed in order to bring the percentage targets into ranges that would be consistent with the Company's compensation philosophy of paying base salaries that are targeted near the midpoint of a range established by this peer and industry review, and potential total compensation, including annual incentive compensation, at the upper range of total compensation at comparable companies if performance targets are met. As such, the 2013 target LTI awards for our officers, as a percentage of each executive's base salary, were adjusted to the following: Chief Executive Officer 500%; President 400%; Executive Vice Presidents 300%; Senior Vice Presidents 200%; and Vice Presidents 125-150%.

**Employment Agreements.** In April 2011, the Company entered into employment agreements with all of the officers of the Company, including the Named Executive Officers. The following is a summary of the terms of the employment agreements.

Each executive employment agreement provides for the payment of annual base salary and annual short-term incentive payment (as a percent of base salary) upon the achievement of certain targets and also provides for the issuance of annual grants of equity or equity related awards (valued as a percentage of base salary). Each employment agreement also provides that during the term of such agreement, the officer will be entitled to receive such welfare benefits and other fringe benefits (including, but not limited to vacation, medical, dental, life insurance, 401(k) and other employee benefits and perquisites) as the Company may offer from time to time to similarly situated executive level employees, subject to applicable eligibility requirements. The employment agreements all had an initial term commencing effective on April 1, 2011 and ending on December 31, 2011, with automatic additional one year term extensions (the "extended term").

If the executive's employment is terminated by the Company without cause, but in the absence of a change in control, by the executive with good reason (for officers at the level of Senior Vice President and above), or by the Company or by the executive upon his death or disability, the executive is entitled to receive, in addition to earned but unpaid compensation, bonus payments, employee benefits and business expense reimbursements (the "Accrued Payments"), (i) payment of an amount equal to the equivalent of a number of months of his base salary as of the date of termination (ii) payment of an amount equal to a multiple of the executive's target STI payment, (iii) payment of an amount equal to a pro-rata portion of the target STI payment that executive would have been entitled to for the calendar year of termination (a "Pro Rata Bonus"), and (iv) reimbursement on a monthly basis of premiums for payments for COBRA health care coverage for 18 months (the payments described in (i) through (iv) are collectively referred to as the "Severance Payments"). The terms "cause", "change in control" and "good reason" have the definitions set forth in the employment agreement. For subpart (i), the number of months is 24 for the Chief Executive Officer, 21 for the President, 18 for Executive and Senior Vice Presidents and 12 for Vice Presidents.

If the executive's employment is terminated by the Company without cause, or by the executive with good reason, within six months prior to the occurrence of a change in control or within two years following a change in control, he is entitled to receive, in addition to Accrued Payments, (i) an amount equal to a multiple of the sum of (a) the executive's annual base salary as of the termination date, or, if greater, as of the date of the change in control, plus (b) his target STI payment, calculated based on his annual base salary as of the

## Table of Contents

termination date, or, if greater, as of the date of the change in control, (ii) payment of the Pro-Rata Bonus, and (iii) reimbursement on a monthly basis of premiums for payments for COBRA health care coverage for 18 months (the payments described in (i) through (iii) are collectively referred to as the Change in Control Severance Payments ). The multiple in subpart (i) is 3x for the Chief Executive Officer, 2.5x for the President, 2x for Executive and Senior Vice Presidents and 1.5x for Vice Presidents.

In addition, upon a change in control, any performance-based equity awards held by the executive will vest to the extent that the stock price target or other performance thresholds applicable to such awards are met in the change in control transaction, as determined by the Board in its reasonable discretion. Any performance-based equity awards held by the executive that are not vested under the preceding sentence will be automatically converted to time-based equity awards in equal one-third proportions and the vesting of those awards will be amended such that those awards shall vest over the executive's next three regularly scheduled vesting dates. Any remaining equity awards that remain unvested will vest on the established vesting date of such award, provided however, that in the event of a termination of the executive's employment by the Company (or its successor) for any reason other than for cause, or a termination of his employment by the executive for good reason, within two years following a change in control, such unvested equity awards will immediately and automatically vest in full and, in the case of options or other exercisable equity awards, will remain exercisable for two years following such termination of employment.

In addition, if the executive's employment is terminated (i) by the Company for any reason other than for cause or (ii) by the executive for good reason within the six months prior to the occurrence of a change in control, then the executive will be treated for purposes of the vesting of equity awards as if he continued to be employed through the date of the change in control and the termination of his employment occurred immediately following the change in control.

The timing and amount of any Severance Payments or Change in Control Severance Payments to the executive may be modified to comply with, and to avoid additional taxes or interest under, Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

There is no 280G gross-up provided in the employment agreements. The agreements contain confidentiality and non-compete provisions substantially similar to the prior agreements; provided that the non-compete period for the Chief Executive Officer, the President and all Executive and Senior Vice Presidents is 24 months and the period for Vice Presidents is 18 months.

In the employment agreement, each officer agreed: (i) that all intellectual property developed, and business opportunities as to which such executive became aware, during his employment belong to the Company, (ii) to maintain confidentiality of proprietary information, and (iii) to turn over to the Company all business records during, and upon termination of, employment. In addition, pursuant to the employment agreement, the Company has the right, in its sole discretion, to agree to make severance payments to any executive officer for up to a specified period months following termination other than for Cause (as defined in such agreement), or upon voluntary resignation following a reduction in annual salary. Severance payments would be equal to the executive's salary immediately prior to termination. During the period in which severance payments are being made, the executive could not engage in the oil and gas business in an area within a ten mile radius of the boundaries of any property interest of the Company (the Non-Compete ). In addition, the executive would be subject to the Non-Compete, even if no severance is paid, if the executive resigned other than for Good Reason (as defined in such agreement) or following a salary reduction, the executive was terminated for Cause, or the executive had breached any material provision of the employment agreement. In addition, the executive would be in all events prohibited during a specified period following termination from inducing any other employee of the Company to terminate his employment or cease providing services to the Company.

This description of the employment agreements is qualified in its entirety by the complete copies of the various employment agreements attached to the Form 8-K filed by the Company on April 26, 2011.

**Table of Contents**

***Retirement and Other Benefit Plans.*** All of the Company's full time employees (including the Company's executive officers) are eligible to participate in a 401(k) plan. The Company matches all or a portion of employee contributions to the 401(k) plan up to 6% on a bi-weekly basis, with a year-end true up. A 6% matching contribution was made in during 2012 and trued up in February 2013 for all 2012 plan contributions.

***Other Benefits Plans.*** The Company offers a variety of health and benefit programs to all employees, including medical, dental, vision, life insurance and disability insurance. The Company's executive officers are generally eligible to participate in these employee benefit plans on the same basis as the rest of the Company's employees.

***Compensation Programs and Potential of Risks.*** The Compensation Committee and Board have determined that the risks arising from its compensation policies and practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

***Tax Deductibility of Compensation.*** Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, generally limits the corporate income tax deduction for compensation paid to the principal executive officer and each other executive officer shown in the summary compensation table in the proxy statement to \$1 million, unless the compensation is performance-based compensation and qualifies under certain other exceptions. Our policy is primarily to design and administer compensation plans which support the achievement of long-term strategic objectives and enhance shareholder value. Where it is consistent with our compensation philosophy, the Compensation Committee will also attempt to structure compensation programs that are tax-advantageous to us.

***Compensation Committee Report.*** We, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, have reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with the management of the Company, and, based on such review and discussion, have recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:

James E. Duffy, Chairman

Richard L. Covington

William H. Cunningham



**Table of Contents****EQUITY PLAN INFORMATION****Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding shares of our Common Stock issuable under our compensation plans as of December 31, 2012.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights</b>	<b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	0	\$ 0.00	5,757,608 <sup>(1)</sup>
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>5,757,608</b>

- (1) This represents the shares remaining available for issuance under the 2009 Performance Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2012. Awards under the plan may be made in the form of options, restricted stock, restricted stock units or stock appreciation rights. As of the record date, the Company had (i) 4,003,957 shares remaining available for future issuance under such plan, (ii) no options outstanding, and (iii) an aggregate of 3,813,299 shares of restricted stock outstanding (issued under the plan) that were subject to future vesting.

**TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS**

The Company has entered into agreements to indemnify its directors and named executive officers. Under these agreements, the Company is obligated to indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law for expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and settlement amounts incurred by them in any action or proceeding arising out of their services as a director or officer. The Company believes that these agreements are necessary in attracting and retaining qualified directors and officers.

In December 2012, the Company completed acquisitions of interests in certain oil and gas properties in the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico from Celero Energy II, LP and certain of its affiliates ( Celero ) for a purchase price of \$120 million, and from RSP Permian, L.L.C. and certain of its affiliates ( RSP and, together with Celero, the Sellers ), for a purchase price of \$110 million plus an additional \$5 million paid for the option to acquire certain remaining interests from RSP. In March 2013, the Company exercised its option to purchase the remaining interests from RSP for a total purchase price of \$255.9 million, to which the previously paid option fee was applied. Natural Gas Partners VII, L.P. is an over 20% beneficial stockholder of the Company. Although NGP VII did not and does not own any interests in Celero and RSP, NGP VII is affiliated with investment funds that own equity interests in Celero and RSP, by virtue of being managed by the same investment advisor and sharing certain common owners. The Company's Board of Directors received a fairness opinion from a nationally recognized investment bank with respect to the fairness from a financial perspective of each transaction. In addition, Mr. Covington recused himself from the deliberations of the Board and the negotiation and approval of each of these transactions.

**Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Parties**

Pursuant to the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, the Board of Directors will review and approve all relationships and transactions in which it and its directors, director nominees and executive officers and their immediate family members, as well as holders of more than 5% of any class of its voting securities and their family members, have a direct or indirect material interest. In approving or rejecting such proposed relationships and transactions, the Board of Directors shall consider the relevant facts and circumstances available and deemed relevant to this determination. The Company has designated Michael N. Stefanoudakis as the compliance officer to generally oversee compliance with the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS**

**Director Summary Compensation Table.** The following table summarizes the compensation we paid to our non-employee directors for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Kenneth A. Hersh <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 16,500 <sup>(3)</sup>						\$ 16,500
Richard L. Covington	\$ 95,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 19,595 <sup>(3)</sup>					\$ 114,595
William J. Quinn <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 31,750 <sup>(3)</sup>						\$ 31,750
William H. Cunningham	\$ 81,000	\$ 148,777					\$ 229,777
Robert M. Swartz	\$ 88,500	\$ 148,777					\$ 237,277
James E. Duffy	\$ 93,500	\$ 148,777					\$ 242,277
Thomas O. Hicks, Jr.	\$ 80,000	\$ 148,777					\$ 228,777

(1) Amounts are based on the fair value of the restricted stock or stock appreciation rights awards, as applicable, on the date of grant.

(2) Mr. Hersh resigned his position as a member of the Board of Directors on March 8, 2012. Mr. Hersh was not awarded any equity award in 2012 in light of his resignation.

(3) Fees and awards earned by Directors Hersh, Covington and Quinn were issued directly to NGP pursuant to internal NGP rules.

(4) Mr. Quinn resigned his position as a member of the Board of Directors on August 1, 2012. Mr. Quinn was awarded an equity award in 2012 but such award was forfeited upon his resignation.

Messrs. Sutton and Piccone are not included in this table because as employees of the Company they receive no additional compensation for their services as directors. The compensation received by Messrs. Sutton and Piccone as employees is shown in Executive Compensation Summary Compensation Table.

For 2012, the Board of Directors had approved the following annual compensation for non-employee directors: annual retainer of \$50,000, fees of \$2,000 for each Board of Directors meeting and \$1,000 for each committee meeting, and additional annual compensation of \$7,500 for each committee chairman and for the Lead Independent Director. The cash fees appearing in the above table reflect this compensation arrangement with respect to cash compensation paid for 2012 Board and committee service.

In March 2013, and based on the results of a Board compensation study by Longnecker, the Board of Directors approved the following annual cash compensation for non-employee directors: annual retainer of \$50,000, fees of \$2,000 for each Board of Directors meeting and \$1,000 for each committee meeting, and additional annual compensation of \$15,000 for the chairman of the Audit Committee, \$10,000 for the chairman of the Compensation Committee, \$10,000 for the chairman of the Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee and \$7,500 for the Lead Independent Director.

In addition, non-employee directors receive equity compensation which is issued in March of the year following the year of service for which the equity compensation is paid. In March 2013, the Board approved an increase in the value of the equity compensation to be paid to the independent directors to \$125,000 annually, based on the results of the Board compensation study by Longnecker.

Awards of 14,237 shares of restricted stock were made to each of directors Cunningham, Duffy, Hicks and Swartz on March 8, 2012, with respect to 2012 services. The shares will vest on the first anniversary of the date of grant, subject to the continued service of the director on the

vesting date. The number of shares was

**Table of Contents**

determined by dividing the nominal equity payment of \$125,000 by the average closing stock price of the Company's Common Stock on the NYSE for the last 60 trading days before the date of grant, which was calculated as \$8.78. The amounts in the table represent the fair value of the restricted stock grants made to Messrs. Cunningham, Swartz, Duffy and Hicks in March 2013 for their Board service in 2012. See *Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management*.

Furthermore, Mr. Covington was awarded 14,237 stock appreciation rights with respect to 2012 services as director. Mr. Covington is not permitted to receive stock awards pursuant to the terms of his contractual arrangements with NGP and the right to receive the cash settlement of the stock appreciation rights has been assigned by him to NGP. Cash payments in settlement of the stock appreciation rights are based on the difference between the closing price of the Common Stock on the vesting date of the stock appreciation rights and \$10.45, the closing price of the Common Stock on March 8, 2012, the date of grant. Stock appreciation rights vest on the first anniversary of the date of grant. Stock appreciation rights are deemed exercised upon vesting and are paid out in cash. The amounts in the table represent the fair value of the stock appreciation rights grant made to Mr. Covington in 2013 for his Board service in 2012. Mr. Quinn was not granted any stock appreciation rights in March 2013 in light of his resignation from the Board in August 2012.

In addition, each director is reimbursed for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by such director in connection with attending meetings of the Board of Directors or its committees. Each director is covered by a liability insurance policy paid for by the Company and is indemnified, to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law, by the Company for his or her actions associated with being a director. The Company has also entered into indemnification agreements with each of its directors.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL TWO ADVISORY VOTE**

**ON THE COMPENSATION OF THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Section 951 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") added new Section 14A to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 which requires, among other things, that companies with publicly-traded securities take a separate non-binding vote at their annual meeting of stockholders to consider a resolution to approve the compensation of their named executive officers as disclosed in the proxy statement for the annual meeting in accordance with SEC regulations. We are asking our stockholders to vote, on an advisory basis, to approve the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the rules of the SEC and Section 14A of the Exchange Act.

This proposal gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on our Named Executive Officers' compensation. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our Named Executive Officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this proxy statement. This vote is advisory and is therefore not binding on us, the Board or the Compensation Committee. The Board and the Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders, and to the extent there is any significant vote against the Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement, we will consider our stockholders' concerns and will evaluate what, if any, actions are necessary to address those concerns.

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, the stockholders approved the compensation of the Named Executive Officers at an approval rate of approximately 95% of the votes cast. The Compensation Committee considered this result and made no major modifications to the Company's compensation programs. Furthermore, at the 2011 Annual Meeting, the stockholders approved annual Say on Pay votes at an approval rate of approximately 60%. The Board considered this result and determined that it would submit the compensation of the Named Executive Officers for stockholder approval annually.

As described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the overall goal of the Company's compensation policy is to maximize stockholder value by attracting, retaining and motivating the executive officers that are critical to its long-term success. It is also the belief of our Board of Directors that executive compensation should be designed to promote both the short-term and long-term economic goals of the Company and, accordingly, an important component of our executive compensation philosophy is to closely align the financial interests of the Company's executive officers with those of the Company's stockholders. The Board believes that the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as described in "Executive Compensation" appropriately addresses those objectives, and accordingly recommends that the stockholders approve the following advisory resolution:

RESOLVED, that the stockholders approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in the "Executive Compensation" section of this proxy statement pursuant to Item 402 of SEC Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the executive compensation tables and related disclosures.

*The Board recommends a vote FOR approval of the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed in the "Executive Compensation" section of this proxy statement, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the executive compensation tables and related disclosures.*

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL THREE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF  
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board has appointed KPMG LLP ( KPMG ) to act as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and requests ratification of this appointment by our stockholders. KPMG has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since December 21, 2009. If our stockholders do not ratify the appointment of KPMG, the adverse vote would be considered as a direction to the Audit Committee to consider other auditors for the subsequent fiscal year. However, because of the difficulty and expense of making any substitution of auditors after the beginning of the current fiscal year, it is contemplated that the appointment for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, will be permitted to stand unless the Audit Committee finds other reasons for making a change. Even if the selection of KPMG is ratified, the Audit Committee may, in its discretion, direct the appointment of new auditors at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders.

Representatives of KPMG are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

*The Board recommends a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.*

**Fees Paid to Principal Accountants**

The following table presents the aggregate fees billed for the indicated services performed by KPMG for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years.

	2011	2012
Audit fees	\$ 400,000	\$ 430,000
Audit-related fees	18,790	313,255
Tax fees		
All other fees		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 418,790</b>	<b>\$ 743,255</b>

**Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy**

The charter of the Audit Committee includes certain policies and procedures regarding the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services performed by an outside accountant. The committee is required to pre-approve all engagement letters and fees for all auditing services (including providing comfort letters in connection with securities underwritings) and permissible non-audit services, subject to any exception under Section 10A of the Exchange Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. Pre-approval authority may be delegated to a committee member or a subcommittee, and any such member or subcommittee shall report any decisions to the full committee at its next scheduled meeting. All of the services described in *Fees Paid to Principal Accountants* were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the pre-approval policies.

**Report of the Audit Committee**

Our management is responsible for the preparation of our financial statements, and our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, is responsible for auditing our annual financial statements and expressing an opinion as to whether they are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The Audit Committee is responsible for, among other things, reviewing and selecting our independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing our annual and interim financial statements and pre-approving all engagement letters and fees for auditing services.

**Table of Contents**

In the performance of its oversight function in connection with our financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2012, the Audit Committee has:

Reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management;

Discussed with KPMG the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1 AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T;

Received the written disclosures and the letter from KPMG required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding KPMG's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with KPMG its independence; and

Reviewed and approved the services provided by KPMG.

Based upon the reports and discussions described above, and subject to the limitations on the roles and responsibilities of the Audit Committee referred to in its charter, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board has approved, that the Company's audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 7, 2013.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Robert M. Swartz, Chairman

William H. Cunningham

James E. Duffy

## **Table of Contents**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board knows of no other business to be brought before the Annual Meeting. If, however, any other business should properly come before the Annual Meeting, the Proxy Agents will vote proxies on such matters in the manner they deem appropriate or within the discretionary power they have been provided.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Householding of Proxy Materials**

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries such as brokers to satisfy delivery requirements for proxy statements with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as householding, potentially provides extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for us. Under this procedure, multiple stockholders who share the same last name and address will receive only one copy of the annual proxy materials, unless they notify us that they wish to continue receiving multiple copies. We have undertaken householding to reduce our printing costs and postage fees.

If you wish to opt-out of householding and continue to receive multiple copies of the proxy materials at the same address, you may do so at any time prior to thirty days before the mailing of proxy materials, which will typically be mailed in April of each year, by notifying us in writing at: Resolute Energy Corporation, Attn: Secretary, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver CO 80202, or by contacting us at (303) 534-4600. You also may request additional copies of the proxy materials by notifying us in writing at the same address or contacting us at (303) 534-4600, and we will undertake to deliver such additional copies promptly. If you share an address with another stockholder and currently are receiving multiple copies of the proxy materials, you may request householding by notifying us at the above referenced address or telephone number.

#### **Available Information**

The Company maintains a link to investor relations information on its website, [www.resoluteenergy.com](http://www.resoluteenergy.com), where it makes available, free of charge, the Company's filings with the SEC, including its annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the SEC. The Company also makes available on its website copies of the charters of the Audit, Compensation and Corporate Governance/Nominating Committees of the Company's Board of Directors, its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Audit Committee Whistleblower Policy, Stockholder and Interested Parties Communications Policy and Corporate Governance Guidelines. Stockholders may request a printed copy of these governance materials or any exhibit to this report by writing to the Secretary, Resolute Energy Corporation, 1675 Broadway, Suite 1950, Denver, Colorado 80202. You may also read and copy any materials the Company files with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room, which is located at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information regarding the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains the documents the Company files with the SEC. The Company's website and the information contained on or connected to its website is not incorporated by reference herein and its web address is included as an inactive textual reference only.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Nicholas J. Sutton

*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

Dated: April 25, 2013



**Table of Contents**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF RESOLUTE ENERGY CORPORATION**

**Date:** May 30, 2013  
**Time:** 12:00 P.M. (Mountain Daylight Time)  
**Place:** Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, 1550 Seventeenth Street,  
 Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202

See Voting Instructions on Reverse Side.

**Please make your marks like this: x Use dark black pencil or pen only**

Board of Directors Recommends a Vote **FOR** the election of Directors nominated in Proposal 1 and **FOR** Proposals 2 and 3.

<b>1:</b> The election of two Class I directors to our Board of Directors	<b>Directors</b>
01 William H. Cunningham	<b>Recommend</b>
02 James E. Duffy	i
<b>Vote For All</b>	<b>For All</b>
<b>Withhold Authority</b>	
<b>Nominees</b>	<b>Nominees</b>
..	..
<b>For All Nominees</b>	<b>Except</b>
..	..

**\*INSTRUCTIONS:** To withhold authority for any individual nominee(s), mark the exception box and write the number(s) in the space provided to the right.

<b>2:</b> To approve, by a non-binding advisory vote, the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers (the Say on Pay Vote );	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	
	..	..	..	<b>For</b>

<b>3:</b> To ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	
	..	..	..	<b>For</b>

**4:** To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

To attend the meeting and vote your shares  
in person, please mark this box.

Authorized Signatures - This section must be  
completed for your Instructions to be executed.

Please Sign Here

Please Date

Please Sign Here

Please Date

Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this proxy card. Executors, administrators, attorneys in fact or trustees should give their full titles as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name and have a duly authorized officer sign, stating the title. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by an authorized person. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign.

**Annual Meeting of Resolute Energy Corporation**

**to be held on Thursday, May 30, 2013**

**for Stockholders of record as of April 11, 2013**

**This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of  
Resolute Energy Corporation.**

**VOTED BY:**

**INTERNET**

**TELEPHONE**

Go To  
[www.proxypush.com/ren](http://www.proxypush.com/ren)

Cast your vote online.

View Meeting Documents.

Call **866-390-6226**

**OR** Use any touch-tone telephone.  
**Have your Proxy Card ready.**  
Follow the simple recorded instructions.

**MAIL**

**OR** Mark, sign and date your Proxy Card.  
Detach your Proxy Card.  
Return your Proxy Card in the postage-paid  
envelope provided.

**All votes must be received by 5:00 P.M., Eastern Time, May 29, 2013.**

**PROXY TABULATOR FOR**

**RESOLUTE ENERGY CORPORATION**

**P.O. BOX 8016**

**CARY, NC 27512-9903**



**EVENT #**

**CLIENT #**

**Table of Contents**

**Revocable Proxy Resolute Energy Corporation**

**Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

**May 30, 2013 12:00 P.M. (Mountain Daylight Time)**

**This Proxy is Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Directors**

The undersigned hereby appoints Nicholas J. Sutton, James M. Piccone and Michael N. Stefanoudakis, or any one of them, with full power of substitution, as Proxies of the undersigned, to represent and vote as designated below all of the shares of common stock of Resolute Energy Corporation held of record by the undersigned on April 11, 2013 at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 12:00 p.m., MDT, at the offices of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, 1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202, and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

This proxy authorizes each of the persons named above to vote at his discretion on any other matter that may properly come before the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof. If this card contains no specific voting instructions, the shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** the election of Directors nominated in Proposal 1 and **FOR** Proposals 2 and 3.

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of Resolute Energy Corporation. Please sign and return this proxy in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. The giving of a proxy will not affect your right to vote in person if you attend the meeting.

This proxy when properly executed will be voted at the meeting in the manner directed herein by the undersigned stockholder. If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted **FOR** the election of the Directors nominated in Proposal 1 and **FOR** Proposals 2 and 3.

This proxy confers discretionary authority in respect of matters not known or determined at the time of the mailing of the notice of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to the undersigned.

The undersigned hereby acknowledge receipt of (a) the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, (b) the Proxy Statement, and (c) the Annual Report of the Company on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be Held on May 30, 2013: The proxy statement, proxy card and the annual report to stockholders for the fiscal year ended**

December 31, 2012, are available at [www.proxydocs.com/ren](http://www.proxydocs.com/ren).

**PLEASE DATE, SIGN AND MAIL YOUR PROXY CARD IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**(CONTINUED AND TO BE SIGNED ON REVERSE SIDE)**