

ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP

Form 424B3

May 14, 2009

Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-137183

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Shares Registered	Proposed	Proposed	Amount of Registration Fee
		Offering Price Per Share	Aggregate Offering Price	
Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share	34,500,000(1)	\$45.50	\$1,569,750,000	\$87,593(2)

- (1) Includes 4,500,000 shares that the underwriters have the option to purchase to cover over-allotments, if any.
- (2) The filing fee of \$87,593 is calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This prospectus supplement filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) relates to the same offering of securities for which a prospectus supplement was previously filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) and for which, in connection with such filing, a filing fee of \$87,593 was paid. Accordingly, no additional filing fee is due.

Table of Contents

Prospectus Supplement

To Prospectus dated September 8, 2006

30,000,000 Shares

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Common Stock

We are selling 30,000,000 shares of our common stock. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol APC. On May 12, 2009, the last sales price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange was \$45.91 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See Risk factors beginning on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

	Public offering price	Underwriting discount	Proceeds, before expenses, to us
Per Share	\$45.50	\$0.91	\$44.59
Total	\$1,365,000,000	\$27,300,000	\$1,337,700,000

We have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 4,500,000 shares of our common stock from us on the same terms and conditions as set forth above if the underwriters sell more than 30,000,000 shares of common stock in this offering.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares on May 15, 2009.

Joint Book-Running Managers

UBS Investment Bank

Barclays Capital

The date of this prospectus supplement is May 13, 2009.

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this document or to which we have referred you. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in this document may only be accurate on the date of this document.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus supplement

	Page
<u>About this prospectus supplement</u>	S-ii
<u>Forward-looking statements</u>	S-iii
<u>Summary</u>	S-1
<u>The offering</u>	S-2
<u>Risk factors</u>	S-3
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-6
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	S-7
<u>Price range of common stock and dividend policy</u>	S-8
	Page
<u>Description of common stock</u>	S-9
<u>United States federal tax considerations for non-U.S. holders</u>	S-10
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-14
<u>Notice to investors</u>	S-17
<u>Legal matters</u>	S-20
<u>Experts</u>	S-20
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	S-20
<u>Glossary of oil and natural gas terms</u>	G-1

Prospectus

	Page
<u>About this prospectus</u>	i

Edgar Filing: ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP - Form 424B3

<u>Where you can find more information</u>	i
<u>Forward-looking statements</u>	ii
<u>About us</u>	1
<u>Risk factors</u>	1
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	1
	Page
<u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges</u>	2
<u>Description of debt securities</u>	3
<u>Description of common stock</u>	17
<u>Legal matters</u>	19
<u>Experts</u>	19

S-i

Table of Contents

About this prospectus supplement

This prospectus supplement is a supplement to the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf process, we may, from time to time, issue and sell to the public any combination of the securities described in the accompanying prospectus up to an indeterminate amount, of which this offering is a part.

This prospectus supplement describes the specific terms of the common stock we are offering and certain other matters relating to us. The accompanying prospectus gives more general information about securities we may offer from time to time, some of which does not apply to the common stock we are offering. Generally, when we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to this prospectus supplement combined with the accompanying prospectus. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

S-ii

Table of Contents

Forward-looking statements

We have made in this prospectus supplement and in the reports and documents incorporated by reference, and may from time to time otherwise make in other public filings, press releases and statements by our management, forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition. These forward-looking statements include information concerning future production and reserves, schedules, plans, timing of development, contributions from oil and gas properties, marketing and midstream activities and those statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, projects, target, plans, objective, should or similar expressions or variations on such expressions.

For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, our assumptions about energy markets, production levels, reserve levels, operating results, competitive conditions, technology, the availability of capital resources, capital expenditures and other contractual obligations, the supply and demand for and the price of natural gas, oil, NGLs and other products or services, volatility in the commodity futures market, the weather, inflation, the availability of goods and services, drilling risks, future processing volumes and pipeline throughput, general economic conditions, either internationally or nationally or in the jurisdictions in which we or our subsidiaries are doing business, legislative or regulatory changes, including changes in environmental regulation, environmental risks and liability under federal, state and foreign environmental laws and regulations, potential environmental or other obligations arising from Kerr-McGee's former chemical business, the securities, capital or credit markets, our ability to repay debt or the interest thereon, continuation of our current common stock dividend, the outcome of any proceedings related to the Algerian exceptional profits tax, and other factors discussed in Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Estimates in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and in our other public filings, press releases and discussions with our management. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

S-iii

Table of Contents

Summary

This summary does not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read carefully the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference for a more complete understanding of this offering. You should read Risk factors beginning on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement and Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for more information about important risks that you should consider before making a decision to purchase our common stock in this offering.

Our, we, us and Anadarko as used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus refer solely to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.

We have defined certain oil and gas industry terms used in this document in the Glossary of oil and natural gas terms on page G-1.

ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORPORATION

General

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation is among the largest independent oil and gas exploration and production companies in the world, with 2.28 billion BOE of proved reserves as of December 31, 2008. Our primary business segments are vertically integrated within the oil and gas industry. These segments are managed separately because of the nature of their products and services, as well as unique technology, distribution and marketing requirements. Our three operating segments are:

- *Oil and gas exploration and production* This segment explores for and produces natural gas, crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids (NGLs). Our major areas of operation are located onshore in the United States, the deepwater of the Gulf of Mexico and Algeria. We also have production in China and are executing strategic exploration programs in several other countries, including Ghana and Brazil.
- *Midstream* This segment engages in gathering, processing, treating and transporting Anadarko and third-party oil and gas production. We own and operate natural gas gathering, treating and processing systems in the United States.
- *Marketing* This segment sells most of our production, as well as commodities purchased from third parties. We actively market natural gas, oil and NGLs in the United States, and actively market oil from Algeria and China.

We also have hard minerals properties that contribute to operating income through non-operated joint ventures and royalty arrangements in several coal, trona (natural soda ash) and industrial mineral mines located on lands within and adjacent to our Land Grant holdings. The Land Grant is an 8 million acre strip running through portions of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah and is where we own most of our fee mineral rights. We are committed to minimizing our impact on the environment from exploration and production activities of our worldwide operations through programs such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration and the reduction of surface area used for production facilities.

For a further description of our business, properties and operations, you should read our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009, each of which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1201 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands, Texas 77380, and our telephone number is (832) 636-1000.

Table of Contents

The offering

Issuer	Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Common stock offered	30,000,000 shares(1)
Common stock outstanding after this offering	499,191,747 shares(1)(2)
Use of proceeds	We will receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$1.3 billion, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including future capital expenditures. See Use of proceeds.
Risk factors	See Risk factors beginning at page S-3 of this prospectus supplement and Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for a discussion of the risk factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our common stock.
NYSE symbol	APC

- (1) Excludes shares that may be issued to the underwriters pursuant to their option to purchase additional shares. If the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full, the total number of shares of common stock offered will be 34,500,000 and the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding after this offering will be 503,691,747, based on the total number of outstanding shares of our common stock as of May 12, 2009.
- (2) Excludes 9,617,101 shares potentially issuable as of May 12, 2009, under outstanding options at a weighted average exercise price of \$39.44.

S-2

Table of Contents

Risk factors

An investment in our common stock involves risks. You should consider carefully the risk factors included below and under the caption "Risk Factors" on page 1 of the accompanying prospectus, as well as those discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, together with all of the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement, when evaluating an investment in our common stock.

RISKS RELATING TO THIS OFFERING AND OUR COMMON STOCK

There may be future dilution of our common stock or other equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Except as described under "Underwriting," we are not restricted from issuing additional shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock. We may issue additional shares of common stock from time to time, which may dilute the ownership position of our current stockholders. If we issue additional shares of our common stock or convertible or exchangeable securities, it may also adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue up to 1,000,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.10 per share, and up to 2,000,000 shares of our preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. As of May 12, 2009, we had outstanding 469,191,747 shares of our common stock and no preferred stock.

The market price of our common stock has historically experienced volatility.

The market price of our common stock has historically experienced fluctuations. For example, during 2008, the closing market price of our common stock ranged from \$27.17 to \$79.86 per share. The market price of our common stock is likely to continue to be volatile and subject to price and volume fluctuations in response to commodity price volatility and market and other factors, including the factors discussed in

Forward-looking statements. Volatility or depressed market prices of our common stock could make it difficult for you to resell shares of our common stock when you want or at attractive prices.

We are able to issue shares of preferred stock with greater rights than our common stock.

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue one or more series of preferred stock and set the terms of the preferred stock without seeking any further approval from our stockholders. Any preferred stock that is issued may rank ahead of our common stock in terms of dividends, liquidation rights or voting rights. If we issue preferred stock, it may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

We may reduce or cease to pay dividends on our common stock.

We can provide no assurance that we will continue to pay dividends at the current rate or at all. The amount of cash dividends, if any, to be paid in the future will depend upon their declaration by our board of directors and upon our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, capital and exploration expenditures, and future business prospects and any other matters that our board of directors deems relevant.

Table of Contents

Risk factors

Provisions in our organizational documents and Delaware law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

The existence of some provisions in our organizational documents and under Delaware law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock. The provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws that could delay or prevent an unsolicited change in control of our company include a staggered board of directors, board authority to issue preferred stock, advance notice provisions for director nominations or business to be considered at a stockholder meeting and supermajority voting requirements. In addition, Delaware law imposes some restrictions on mergers and other business combinations between us and any holder of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock. See [Description of Common Stock Preferred Stock](#) and [Description of Common Stock Delaware Anti-Takeover Law and Certain Charter and Bylaw Provisions](#) in the accompanying prospectus.

We may not be able to generate enough cash flow to meet our debt obligations.

We expect our earnings and cash flow to vary significantly from year to year due to the nature of our industry. As a result, the amount of debt that we can manage in some periods may not be appropriate for us in other periods. Additionally, our future cash flow may be insufficient to meet our debt obligations and other commitments due to the volatility of our operating cash flow from period to period, and we may be unable to refinance our existing or future debt due to the uncertainty of the capital markets. Any insufficiency could negatively impact our business. A range of economic, competitive, business and industry factors will affect our future financial performance, and, as a result, our ability to generate cash flow from operations and to pay our debt. Many of these factors, such as commodity prices, economic and financial conditions in our industry and the global economy or competitive initiatives of our competitors, are beyond our control. If we do not generate enough cash flow from operations to satisfy our debt obligations, we may have to undertake alternative financing plans, such as:

- refinancing or restructuring our debt;
- selling assets;
- reducing or delaying capital investments; or
- seeking to raise additional capital.

However, we cannot assure you that undertaking alternative financing plans or our ability to obtain alternative financing, if necessary, would allow us to meet our debt obligations. Our inability to generate sufficient cash flow to satisfy our debt obligations or to obtain alternative financing could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

We may incur substantial environmental and other costs arising from Kerr-McGee's former chemical business.

Prior to its acquisition by us, Kerr-McGee Corporation (Kerr-McGee) through an initial public offering, spun off its chemical manufacturing business to a newly created and separate company, Tronox Incorporated (Tronox). Under the terms of a Master Separation Agreement (MSA), Kerr-McGee agreed to reimburse Tronox for certain qualifying environmental remediation costs, subject to certain limitations and conditions and up to a maximum aggregate reimbursement of \$100 million. However,

S-4

Table of Contents

Risk factors

Kerr-McGee could be subject to liability for certain costs of cleaning up hazardous substance contamination attributable to the facilities and operations conveyed to Tronox if Tronox becomes insolvent or otherwise unable to pay for certain remediation costs. As a result of the acquisition of Kerr-McGee, we will be responsible to provide reimbursements to Tronox pursuant to the MSA, and we may be subject to potential liability, as the successor-in-interest to Kerr-McGee, if Tronox is unable to perform certain remediation obligations.

On January 12, 2009, Tronox and certain of its subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions to restructure under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. As a result of this filing, third parties, including governmental agencies, may seek to impose liability upon Kerr-McGee that is otherwise attributable to Tronox due to Kerr-McGee's status as the former parent of Kerr-McGee Chemical Worldwide LLC, a predecessor-in-interest to Tronox. In addition, based on the information contained in the Tronox bankruptcy filings, it is also possible that third parties, including governmental agencies, may pursue other claims against Kerr-McGee associated with the separation of Kerr-McGee's former chemical business and the initial public offering of Tronox. Currently, we are unable to estimate the amount of these potential liabilities.

On May 12, 2009, Tronox filed a claim against Anadarko and Kerr-McGee in the Tronox bankruptcy proceeding that alleges that Tronox was under-capitalized at the time that it was spun off from Kerr-McGee and that Tronox was not provided with sufficient financial resources to resolve the environmental liabilities associated with its chemical manufacturing business. The claim seeks to recover damages from Kerr-McGee and Anadarko sufficient to compensate Tronox for adverse consequences arising from the alleged under-funding of Tronox at the time it was spun off from Kerr-McGee. Currently, we are evaluating this recently filed claim and are unable to estimate the amount of any potential liabilities.

S-5

Table of Contents

Capitalization

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of March 31, 2009:

- on a consolidated historical basis; and
- on an as adjusted basis to give effect to (i) the completion of this offering and (ii) our application of the estimated proceeds from this offering in the manner described in Use of proceeds.

	As of March 31, 2009	
	Historical	As Adjusted
	(millions of dollars)	
	(unaudited)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,165	\$ 3,503
Short-term debt:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	1,020	1,020
Total short-term debt	1,020	1,020
Total long-term debt, less current portion	11,970	11,970
Total debt	\$ 12,990	\$ 12,990
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, par value \$0.10 per share (1.0 billion shares authorized, 472.3 million shares issued as of March 31, 2009)	47	50
Paid-in capital	5,735	7,070
Retained earnings	13,799	13,799
Treasury stock (11.9 million shares as of March 31, 2009)	(694)	(694)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss):		
Gains (losses) on derivative instruments	(112)	(112)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(1)	(1)
Pension and other postretirement plans	(314)	(314)
Total	(427)	(427)
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 18,460	\$ 19,798
Noncontrolling interest	362	362
Total equity	\$ 18,822	\$ 20,160
Total capitalization	\$ 31,812	\$ 33,150

S-6

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

We will receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$1.3 billion, after deducting the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including future capital expenditures. The net proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term marketable securities pending such usages.

S-7

Table of Contents**Price range of common stock and dividend policy**

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol APC. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low closing market price of and dividends declared and paid on our common stock.

	Sales Price		Dividends
	High	Low	
2007:			
First Quarter	\$ 43.92	\$ 38.63	\$ 0.09
Second Quarter	55.33	43.68	0.09
Third Quarter	54.77	47.14	0.09
Fourth Quarter	67.05	53.89	0.09
2008:			
First Quarter	66.75	54.02	0.09
Second Quarter	79.86	62.56	0.09
Third Quarter	74.47	44.86	0.09
Fourth Quarter	48.21	27.17	0.09
2009:			
First Quarter	43.84	31.15	0.09
Second Quarter (through May 12, 2009)	51.96	40.52	

On May 12, 2009, the closing sale price of our common stock, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, was \$45.91 per share. On that date, there were approximately 16,734 holders of record.

We have paid a dividend to our common stockholders continuously since becoming an independent company in 1986. The amount of future dividends, if any, for our common stock will be determined by our board of directors on a quarterly basis and will depend on our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, capital and exploration expenditures, and future business prospects, and any other matters that our board of directors deems relevant.

As of March 31, 2009, the covenants contained in certain of our financing agreements provided for a maximum debt-to-capitalization ratio of 60%. The covenants do not specifically restrict the payment of dividends; however, the impact of dividends paid on our debt-to-total capitalization (excluding non-cash charges and noncontrolling interests) ratio must be considered in order to ensure covenant compliance. Based on these covenants, as of March 31, 2009, retained earnings of approximately \$10.3 billion were not limited as to the payment of dividends.

Table of Contents

Description of common stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 1,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.10 per share, and 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share.

VOTING RIGHTS

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders.

DIVIDENDS

The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available for their payment subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock, if any.

LIQUIDATION

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share equally in any of our assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock, if any, have received their liquidation preferences in full.

FULLY PAID

The outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable.

OTHER RIGHTS

The holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive or redemption rights. Shares of our common stock are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock.

Table of Contents

United States federal tax considerations for non-U.S. holders

The following general discussion summarizes the material U.S. federal income and, to a limited extent, estate tax consequences relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder (as defined below). Except where noted, this summary deals only with common stock that is held as a capital asset (generally, property held for investment).

A non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of common stock (other than a partnership or entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that is not for U.S. federal income tax purposes any of the following:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation or other entity taxable as a corporation created or organized under the laws of the United States, any of its states or the District of Columbia;
- an estate if its income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of the source; or
- a trust if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or if the trust existed on August 20, 1996 and has validly elected to continue to be treated as a domestic trust.

This summary is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, and Treasury regulations, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as of the date hereof. Those authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, so as to result in U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences different from those summarized below. This summary does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxes and does not deal with foreign, state, local or other tax considerations that may be relevant to non-U.S. holders in light of their personal circumstances. In addition, this summary does not address tax considerations applicable to investors that may be subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws such as (without limitation):

- dealers in securities or foreign currency;
- tax-exempt entities;
- banks;
- thrifts;
- regulated investment companies;

- real estate investment trusts;
- traders in securities that have elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities;
- controlled foreign corporations;
- passive foreign investment companies;
- insurance companies;
- persons that hold our common stock as part of a straddle, a hedge or a conversion transaction ;
- expatriates; and
- pass-through entities (e.g., partnerships) or investors who hold our common stock through pass-through entities.

S-10

Table of Contents

United States federal tax considerations for non-U.S. holders

If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holding our common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

We have not sought any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in the following summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with such statements and conclusions. If you are considering buying our common stock, we urge you to consult your tax advisor about the particular federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock, and the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to your particular situation.

DIVIDENDS

Any distributions on our common stock will constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Distributions in excess of earnings and profits will constitute a return of capital that is applied against and reduces the non-U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in our common stock. Any remaining excess will be treated as gain realized on the sale or other disposition of our common stock and will be treated as described under Gain on Disposition of Common Stock below. Any dividend paid to a non-U.S. holder of our common stock ordinarily will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30%, or such lower rate as may be specified under an applicable income tax treaty, unless the dividend is effectively connected with a trade or business carried on by the non-U.S. holder within the U.S. In order to receive a reduced treaty rate, a non-U.S. holder must provide us with IRS Form W-8BEN (or applicable substitute or successor form) properly certifying eligibility for the reduced rate.

Dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the non-U.S. holder in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base in the United States) generally will be exempt from the withholding tax described above and instead will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at the regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a U.S. person as defined under the Code. In such cases, we will not have to withhold U.S. federal income tax if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements. In order to obtain this exemption from withholding tax, a non-U.S. holder must provide us with an IRS Form W-8ECI (or applicable substitute or successor form) properly certifying eligibility for such exemption. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a foreign corporation may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30% or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable tax treaty.

GAIN ON DISPOSITION OF COMMON STOCK

Any gain realized on the disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless:

- such gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the non-U.S. holder in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base in the United States);

Table of Contents

United States federal tax considerations for non-U.S. holders

- the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition, and certain other conditions are met; or

- we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation, or USRPHC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

An individual non-U.S. holder who has gain that is described in the first bullet point immediately above will be subject to tax on the net gain derived from the disposition under regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates. If a non-U.S. holder that is a foreign corporation has gain described under the first bullet point immediately above, it generally will be subject to tax on its net gain in the same manner as if it were a U.S. person as defined under the Code, and, in addition, may be subject to the branch profits tax equal to 30% of its effectively connected earnings and profits or at such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

An individual non-U.S. holder who meets the requirements described in the second bullet point immediately above will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the disposition, which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses, even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States.

With respect to our status as a USRPHC, we believe that we currently are, and expect to remain for the foreseeable future, a USRPHC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, so long as our common stock continues to be regularly traded on an established securities market, a non-U.S. holder will be taxable on gain recognized on its disposition of our common stock only if the non-U.S. holder actually or constructively holds or held more than 5% of such common stock at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition. If our common stock was not considered to be regularly traded on an established securities market, each non-U.S. holder would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain recognized on the disposition of all or a portion of its common stock.

Non-U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the application of the foregoing rules to their ownership and disposition of our common stock.

FEDERAL ESTATE TAX

If you are an individual, common stock owned or treated as being owned by you at the time of your death will be included in your gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes and may be subject to U.S. federal estate tax, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

INFORMATION REPORTING AND BACKUP WITHHOLDING

We must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

A non-U.S. holder will be subject to backup withholding for dividends paid to such holder unless such holder certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a U.S. person as defined under the Code), or such holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

Table of Contents

United States federal tax considerations for non-U.S. holders

Information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding (at a current rate of 28%) will apply to the proceeds of a sale of our common stock within the United States or conducted through certain U.S. related financial intermediaries, unless the beneficial owner certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a U.S. person as defined under the Code), or such owner otherwise establishes an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against a non-U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

S-13

Table of Contents

Underwriting

UBS Securities LLC and Barclays Capital Inc. are acting as joint book-running managers of the underwritten offering and representatives of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the number of common shares set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

Underwriter	Number of Common Shares
UBS Securities LLC	15,000,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	15,000,000
Total	30,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the common shares included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the common shares (other than those covered by the over-allotment option to purchase additional common shares described below) if they purchase any of the common shares.

The underwriters propose to offer some of the common shares directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and some of the common shares to dealers at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed \$0.25 per common share. If all of the common shares are not sold at the initial offering price, the underwriters may change the public offering price and the other selling terms.

We have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to purchase up to 4,500,000 additional common shares at the public offering price less the underwriting discount. To the extent the option is exercised, each underwriter must purchase a number of additional common shares approximately proportionate to that underwriter's initial purchase commitment.

We and certain of our executive officers and directors have agreed that, for a period of 75 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, we and they will not, without the prior written consent of the representatives, offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of any common shares or any securities convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for or that represent the right to receive common shares or any securities that are senior to or pari passu with common shares, including the grant of any options or warrants to purchase common shares. This agreement also will not apply to grants under existing employee benefit plans, to issuances of common shares or any securities convertible or exchangeable into common shares as payment of any part of the purchase price in connection with acquisitions by us and our affiliates or any third parties, to certain sales of common shares by our officers or directors to pay tax liabilities associated with the vesting of shares or exercise of options or to issuances or deliveries of common shares in connection with the conversion, vesting or exercise of securities (including long-term incentive plan awards, options and warrants) currently outstanding. The representatives, in their sole discretion, may release any of the common shares subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice.

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol APC.

Table of Contents**Underwriting**

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional common shares.

	No Exercise	Full Exercise
Per common share	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.91
Total	\$ 27,300,000	\$ 31,395,000

In connection with the offering, the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, may purchase and sell common shares in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve syndicate sales of common shares in excess of the number of common shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Covered short sales are sales of common shares made in an amount up to the number of common shares represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option. In determining the source of common shares to close out the covered syndicate short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of common shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. Transactions to close out the covered syndicate short position involve either purchases of the common shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed or the exercise of the over-allotment option. The underwriters may also make naked short sales of common shares in excess of the over-allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing common shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids for or purchases of common shares in the open market while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the representatives repurchase common shares originally sold by that syndicate member in order to cover syndicate short positions or make stabilizing purchases.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common shares. They may also cause the price of the common shares to be higher than the price that would otherwise exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions on the New York Stock Exchange or in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that our total expenses of this offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$1.0 million.

Some of the underwriters and their affiliates have performed investment and commercial banking and advisory services for us and our affiliates from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses. The underwriters and their affiliates may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business. In addition, UBS Securities LLC served as a joint book-running manager and Barclays Capital Inc. served as a junior co-manager in connection with our March 2009 debt offering, for which they received customary compensation for such services.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of common shares for sale to their online brokerage account holders. The common shares will be allocated to underwriters that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other

Table of Contents

Underwriting

allocations. In addition, common shares may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell common shares to online brokerage account holders.

Other than this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format, information contained in any website maintained by an underwriter is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been endorsed by us and should not be relied on by investors in deciding whether to purchase common shares. The underwriters are not responsible for information contained in websites that they do not maintain.

We, have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933 or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

S-16

Table of Contents

Notice to investors

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area, or EEA, which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from, and including, the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State, or the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer to the public of our securities which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may not be made in that Relevant Member State, except that, with effect from, and including, the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of our securities may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets, or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in our securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive.

provided that no such offer of our securities shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or any underwriter or agent of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. As used above, the expression offered to the public in relation to any of our securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and our securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for our securities, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

The EEA selling restriction is in addition to any other selling restrictions set out in this prospectus supplement.

UNITED KINGDOM

This prospectus supplement is only being distributed to and is only directed at (1) persons who are outside the United Kingdom, (2) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, or Order; or (3) high net worth companies, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order, all such person together being referred to as relevant persons. The securities are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such securities will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement or any of its contents.

Table of Contents

Notice to investors

JAPAN

Our securities have not been and will not be registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan (the Securities and Exchange Law) and our securities will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan, or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan, or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Securities and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

HONG KONG

Our securities may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of this prospectus supplement or any document other than to persons whose ordinary business is to buy or sell shares, whether as principal or agent, or in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong). No advertisement, invitation or document relating to our securities may be issued or may be in the possession of any person other than with respect to the securities which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

SINGAPORE

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of our securities may not be circulated or distributed, nor may our securities be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore, or SFA, (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where our securities are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor as defined in Section 4A of the SFA) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor; shares of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares under Section 275 of the SFA, except: (1) to an institutional investor (for corporations under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to an offer that is made on terms that such shares of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) where the transfer is by operation of law.

Table of Contents

Notice to investors

PEOPLE S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

This prospectus supplement has not been and will not be circulated or distributed in the People s Republic of China, or PRC. Any of the securities has been offered or sold, and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to any person for re-offering or resale to any resident of the PRC except pursuant to applicable laws and regulations of the PRC. For the purposes of this paragraph, PRC does not include Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

SWITZERLAND

Our securities may not and will not be publicly offered, distributed or re-distributed on a professional basis in or from Switzerland, and neither this prospectus supplement nor any other solicitation for investments in our securities may be communicated or distributed in Switzerland in any way that could constitute a public offering within the meaning of articles 652a or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations or of Article 2 of the Federal Act on Investment Funds of March 18, 1994. This prospectus supplement may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or passed on to others without the underwriters and agents prior written consent. This prospectus supplement is not a prospectus within the meaning of Articles 1156 and 652a of the Swiss Code of Obligations or a listing prospectus according to article 32 of the Listing Rules of the Swiss exchange and may not comply with the information standards required thereunder. We will not apply for a listing of our securities on any Swiss stock exchange or other Swiss regulated market and this prospectus supplement may not comply with the information required under the relevant listing rules. The securities have not been and will not be approved by any Swiss regulatory authority. The securities have not been and will not be registered with or supervised by the Swiss Federal Banking Commission, and have not been and will not be authorized under the Federal Act on Investment Funds of March 18, 1994. The investor protection afforded to acquirers of investment fund certificates by the Federal Act on Investment Funds of March 18, 1994 does not extend to acquirers of our securities.

S-19

Table of Contents

Legal matters

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP will pass upon the validity of the issuance of the common stock covered by this prospectus supplement. Certain matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. In addition, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has in the past provided, and may continue to provide, legal services to us unrelated to this offering.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements of Anadarko as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Certain information with respect to the oil and gas reserves associated with Anadarko's oil and gas prospects is confirmed in the procedures and methods review letter of Miller and Lents, Ltd., an independent petroleum consulting firm, and incorporated by reference into this document, upon the authority of said firm as experts with respect to the matters covered by such procedures and methods review letter and in giving such procedures and methods review letter.

Where you can find more information

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC (File No. 001-8968). Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and at our web site at <http://www.anadarko.com>. You may also read and copy at prescribed rates any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus form part of a registration statement we have filed with the SEC relating to, among other things, our common stock. As permitted by SEC rules, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all the information we have included in the registration statement and the accompanying exhibits and schedules we have filed with the SEC. You may refer to the registration statement, exhibits and schedules for more information about us and our common stock. The statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus make pertaining to the content of any contract, agreement or other document that is an exhibit to the registration statement necessarily are summaries of their material provisions, and we qualify them in their entirety by reference to those exhibits for complete statements of their provisions. The registration statement, exhibits and schedules are available at the SEC's public reference room or through its Internet site.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol APC. Our reports, proxy statements and other information may be read and copied at the New York Stock Exchange at 20 Broad Street, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

Table of Contents

Where you can find more information

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents.

The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents and all documents that we subsequently file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (other than, in each case, information furnished rather than filed):

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed February 26, 2009, March 6, 2009 and May 12, 2009; and
- the description of our common stock set forth in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed on September 3, 1986, and the Form 8-A12B filed on October 30, 1998 and as amended by the Form 8-A12B/A filed on April 27, 2000 and the Form 8-A12B/A filed on November 25, 2008.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing), at no cost, by writing to us at the following address or calling the following number:

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Attention: Corporate Secretary

1201 Lake Robbins Dr.

The Woodlands, Texas 77380

(832) 636-1000

S-21

Table of Contents

Glossary of oil and natural gas terms

The following are abbreviations and definitions of certain terms commonly used in the oil and gas industry and this document:

BOE: One stock tank barrel of oil equivalent, using the ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one barrel of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

Condensate: Hydrocarbons which are in a gaseous state under reservoir conditions but which become liquid at the surface and may be recovered by conventional separators.

Mcf: One thousand cubic feet of natural gas. For the purposes of this prospectus, this volume is stated at the legal pressure base of the state or area in which the reserves are located and at 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Natural gas liquids: Hydrocarbons found in natural gas which may be extracted as liquefied petroleum gas and natural gasoline.

Oil: Crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids.

Proved reserves or proved oil and natural gas reserves: The estimated quantities of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions.

G-1

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Common Stock

Debt Securities

We, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, may offer from time to time our debt securities and common stock. This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we will offer these securities. The specific terms of any securities we offer will be included in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also describe the specific manner in which we will offer the securities. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol APC.

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

This prospectus is dated September 8, 2006.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	Page i
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	i
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	ii
<u>ABOUT US</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	1
	Page
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	1
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	2
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u>	17
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	19
<u>EXPERTS</u>	19

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, over time, offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" below. You should rely only on the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell in any jurisdiction in which the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in the prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any other document incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the dates of those documents.

Unless the context requires otherwise or unless otherwise noted, all references in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement to Anadarko and to the company, we, us or our are to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Western Gas Resources, Inc., or Western, and Kerr-McGee Corporation, or Kerr-McGee.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Each time we offer to sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplement, will include or refer you to all material information relating to each offering.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC (File No. 001-8968). Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and at our web site at <http://www.anadarko.com>. You may also read and copy at prescribed rates any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol APC. Our reports, proxy statements and other information may be read and copied at the New York Stock Exchange at 20 Broad Street, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information

that we file later with the SEC will

Table of Contents

automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents and all documents that we subsequently file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (other than, in each case, information furnished rather than filed):

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005;

our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006;

our current reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on February 7, 2006, March 6, 2006, April 27, 2006, May 4, 2006, May 16, 2006, June 26, 2006, July 12, 2006, July 28, 2006, August 15, 2006, August 24, 2006 and September 7, 2006;

our current report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on September 8, 2006; and

the description of our common stock set forth in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on September 3, 1986, and the Form 8-A12B filed with the SEC on October 30, 1998 and as amended by the Form 8-A12B/A filed with the SEC on April 27, 2000.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing), at no cost, by writing to us at the following address or calling the following number:

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Attention: Corporate Secretary

1201 Lake Robbins Dr.

The Woodlands, Texas 77380

(832) 636-1000

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We have made in this prospectus and in the reports and documents incorporated herein by reference, and may from time to time otherwise make in other public filings, press releases and discussions with our management, forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, concerning the operations, economic performance and financial condition of Anadarko. These forward-looking statements include information concerning future production and reserves of Anadarko, schedules, plans, timing of development, contributions from oil and gas properties, and those statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, projects, target, goal, objective, should or similar expressions or variations on these expressions.

For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, our assumptions about energy markets, production levels, reserve levels, operating results, competitive conditions, technology, the availability of capital resources, capital expenditures and other contractual obligations, the supply and demand for oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs) and other products or services, the price of oil, natural gas, NGLs and other products or services, currency exchange rates, the weather, inflation, the availability of goods and services, drilling risks, future processing volumes and pipeline throughput, general economic conditions, either internationally or nationally or in the jurisdictions in which we or our subsidiaries are doing business, legislative or regulatory changes, including changes in environmental regulation, environmental risks and liability under federal,

Edgar Filing: ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP - Form 424B3

state and foreign environmental laws and regulations, the securities or capital markets, the ability to successfully integrate the operations of Anadarko, Kerr-McGee and Western, our ability to repay the debt incurred in connection with the acquisitions of Kerr-McGee and Western and other factors discussed in Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 and in Risk Factors included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

ABOUT US

Our mission is to deliver a competitive and sustainable rate of return to stockholders by exploring for, acquiring and developing oil and natural gas resources vital to the world's health and welfare. Our primary line of business is the exploration, development, production and marketing of natural gas, crude oil, condensate and NGLs and the treatment and transportation of natural gas and NGLs. Our major areas of operations are located in the United States and Algeria. We are also active in Venezuela, Qatar and several other countries. Our focus is on adding high-margin oil and natural gas reserves at competitive costs and continuing to develop more efficient and effective ways of exploring for and producing oil and gas.

We also engage in the hard minerals business through non-operated joint ventures and royalty arrangements in several coal, trona (natural soda ash) and industrial mineral mines located on lands within and adjacent to our Land Grant holdings. Our Land Grant holdings comprise an eight million acre strip running through portions of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah where we own most of our fee mineral rights. We are committed to minimizing the environmental impact of exploration and production activities in our worldwide operations through programs such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration and the reduction of surface area used for production facilities.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1201 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands, Texas 77380, and our telephone number is (832) 636-1000. We maintain a website on the Internet at <http://www.anadarko.com>. Information that you may find on our website is not part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the factors contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 under the headings Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates and in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006 under the heading Risk Factors before investing in our securities. You should also consider similar information contained in any annual report on Form 10-K or other document filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus before deciding to invest in our securities. If applicable, we will include in any prospectus supplement a description of those significant factors that could make the offering described therein speculative or risky.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless specified otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, which may include, among other things:

the repayment of outstanding indebtedness;

working capital;

capital expenditures; and

acquisitions.

The precise amount and timing of the application of such proceeds will depend upon our funding requirements and the availability and cost of other capital.

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

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

Six Months Ended June 30, 2006	2005	2004	Year Ended December 31,		
	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001*
13.92	12.99	5.63	4.98	3.47	

* Earnings in 2001 were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$58 million.
For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are defined as:

income from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges.
Fixed charges are defined as the sum of the following:

interest expense (including amounts capitalized);

amortization of debt discount and issuance cost (expensed and capitalized); and

that portion of rental expense which we believe to be representative of an interest factor.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The debt securities will not be secured by any property or assets of Anadarko. Thus, by owning a debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The debt securities will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

The indenture does not limit our ability to incur additional indebtedness.

The debt indenture and its associated documents, including your debt security, contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section and your prospectus supplement. We have filed a form of the indenture with the SEC as an exhibit to our registration statement. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) above for information on how to obtain copies of them.

This section and your prospectus supplement summarize all the material terms of the indenture and your debt security. They do not, however, describe every aspect of the indenture and your debt security. For example, in this section we use terms that have been given special meaning in the indenture, but we describe the meaning for only the more important of those terms.

Indenture

The debt securities are governed by a document called an indenture. The indenture is a contract between us and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.

The trustee under the indenture has two main roles:

First, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on your behalf, which we describe later under [Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default](#).

Second, the trustee performs administrative duties for us, such as sending you interest payments and notices.

Series of Debt Securities

We may issue as many distinct series of debt securities under the indenture as we wish. This section summarizes terms of the securities that apply generally to all series. The provisions of the indenture allow us not only to issue debt securities with terms different from those of debt securities previously issued under the indenture, but also to reopen a previously issued series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series. We will describe most of the financial and other specific terms of your series in the prospectus supplement for that series. Those terms may vary from the terms described here.

As you read this section, please remember that the specific terms of your debt security as described in your prospectus supplement will supplement and, if applicable, may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. If there are any differences between your prospectus supplement and this prospectus, your prospectus supplement will control. Thus, the statements we make in this section may not apply to your debt security.

When we refer to a series of debt securities, we mean a series issued under the indenture. When we refer to your prospectus supplement, we mean the prospectus supplement describing the specific terms of the debt security you purchase. The terms used in your prospectus supplement will have the meanings described in this prospectus, unless otherwise specified.

Table of Contents

Amounts of Issuances

The indenture does not limit the aggregate amount of debt securities that we may issue or the number of series or the aggregate amount of any particular series. We may issue debt securities and other securities at any time without your consent and without notifying you.

The indenture and the debt securities do not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities. Also, unless otherwise specified below or in your prospectus supplement, we are not subject to financial or similar restrictions by the terms of the debt securities.

Principal Amount, Stated Maturity and Maturity

The principal amount of a debt security means the principal amount payable at its stated maturity, unless that amount is not determinable, in which case the principal amount of a debt security is its face amount.

The term *stated maturity* with respect to any debt security means the day on which the principal amount of your debt security is scheduled to become due. The principal may become due sooner, by reason of redemption or acceleration after a default or otherwise in accordance with the terms of the debt security. The day on which the principal actually becomes due, whether at the stated maturity or earlier, is called the *maturity* of the principal.

We also use the terms *stated maturity* and *maturity* to refer to the days when other payments become due. For example, we may refer to a regular interest payment date when an installment of interest is scheduled to become due as the *stated maturity* of that installment. When we refer to the *stated maturity* or the *maturity* of a debt security without specifying a particular payment, we mean the stated maturity or maturity, as the case may be, of the principal.

Specific Terms of Debt Securities

Your prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of your debt security, which will include some or all of the following:

the title of the series of your debt security;

any limit on the total principal amount of the debt securities of the same series;

the stated maturity;

the currency or currencies for principal and interest, if not U.S. dollars;

the price at which we originally issue your debt security, expressed as a percentage of the principal amount, and the original issue date;

whether your debt security is a fixed rate debt security, a floating rate debt security or an indexed debt security;

if your debt security is a fixed rate debt security, the yearly rate at which your debt security will bear interest, if any, and the interest payment dates;

Edgar Filing: ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP - Form 424B3

if your debt security is a floating rate debt security, the interest rate basis; any applicable index currency or maturity, spread or spread multiplier or initial, maximum or minimum rate; the interest reset, determination, calculation and payment dates; the day count used to calculate interest payments for any period; and the calculation agent;

if your debt security is an indexed debt security, the principal amount, if any, we will pay you at maturity, interest payment dates, the amount of interest, if any, we will pay you on an interest payment date or the formula we will use to calculate these amounts, if any, and the terms on which your debt security will be exchangeable for or payable in cash, securities or other property;

Table of Contents

if your debt security may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for common or preferred stock or other securities of Anadarko or debt or equity securities of one or more third parties, the terms on which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, including whether conversion, exercise or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, the period during which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, the initial conversion, exercise or exchange price or rate and the circumstances or manner in which the amount of common or preferred stock or other securities issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange may be adjusted;

if your debt security is also an original issue discount debt security, the yield to maturity;

if applicable, the circumstances under which your debt security may be redeemed at our option or repaid at the holder's option before the stated maturity, including any redemption commencement date, repayment date(s), redemption price(s) and redemption period(s);

the authorized denominations, if other than \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000;

the depository for your debt security, if other than The Depository Trust Company (DTC), and any circumstances under which the holder may request securities in non-global form, if we choose not to issue your debt security in book-entry form only;

if applicable, the circumstances under which we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes and under which we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay additional amounts;

the names and duties of any co-trustees, depositories, paying agents, transfer agents or registrars for your debt security; and

any other terms of your debt security, which could be different from those described in this prospectus.

Governing Law

The debt indenture and the debt securities will be governed by New York law.

Form of Debt Securities

We will issue each debt security only in registered form, without coupons, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. In addition, we will issue each debt security in global i.e., book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository, which will be the holder of all the debt securities represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a global debt security will do so through participants in the depository's securities clearance system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. References to holders in this section mean those who own debt securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in debt securities registered in street name or in debt securities issued in book-entry form through one or more depositories.

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the following is a summary of the depository arrangements applicable to debt securities issued in global form and for which DTC acts as depository.

Each global debt security will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC, as depository, or its nominee, and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Except under the limited circumstances described below, global debt securities are not exchangeable for definitive certificated debt securities.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global debt security is limited to institutions that have accounts with DTC or its nominee, or persons that may hold interests through those participants. In addition, ownership of

Table of Contents

beneficial interests by participants in a global debt security will be evidenced only by, and the transfer of that ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee for a global debt security. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global debt security by persons that hold those interests through participants will be evidenced only by, and the transfer of that ownership interest within that participant will be effected only through, records maintained by that participant. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the debt securities. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but beneficial owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the participants through which the beneficial owners entered the transaction. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities they purchase in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global debt security.

We will make payment of principal of, and interest on, debt securities represented by a global debt security registered in the name of or held by DTC or its nominee to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the global debt security representing those debt securities. DTC has advised us that upon receipt of any payment of principal of, or interest on, a global debt security, DTC immediately will credit accounts of participants on its book-entry registration and transfer system with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective interests in the principal amount of that global debt security, as shown in the records of DTC. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global debt security held through those participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the sole responsibility of those participants, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements that may be in effect from time to time.

Neither we, any trustee nor any of our respective agents will be responsible for any aspect of the records of DTC, any nominee or any participant relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a permanent global debt security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the records of DTC, any nominee or any participant relating to such beneficial interests.

A global debt security is exchangeable for definitive debt securities registered in the name of, and a transfer of a global debt security may be registered to, any person other than DTC or its nominee, only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depository for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depository within 60 days; or

we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global security.

Any global debt security that is exchangeable pursuant to the preceding sentence will be exchangeable in whole for definitive debt securities in registered form, of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount as the global debt security, in denominations specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, if other than \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000. The definitive debt securities will be registered by the registrar in the name or names instructed by DTC. We expect that these instructions may be based upon directions received by DTC from its participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global debt security.

Except as provided above, owners of the beneficial interests in a global debt security will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities in definitive form and will not be considered the holders of debt securities for any purpose under the indenture. No global debt security shall be exchangeable except for another global debt security of like denomination and tenor to be registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global debt security must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the global debt security or the indenture.

Table of Contents

We understand that, under existing industry practices, in the event that we request any action of holders, or an owner of a beneficial interest in a global debt security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the debt securities or the indenture, DTC would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action. Additionally, those participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through those participants to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

DTC has advised us as follows:

DTC is:

- a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law,
- a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law,
- a member of the Federal Reserve System,
- a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and
- a clearing agency registered under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

DTC was created to hold securities of its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants in those securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

DTC is owned by a number of its participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, Inc. and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

Access to DTC's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies, that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Investors may hold interests in the debt securities outside the United States through the Euroclear System (Euroclear) or Clearstream Banking (Clearstream) if they are participants in those systems, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in those systems. Euroclear and Clearstream will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Euroclear's and Clearstream's names on the books of their respective depositaries which in turn will hold such positions in customers' securities accounts in the names of the nominees of the depositaries on the books of DTC. At the present time JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association will act as U.S. depositary for Euroclear, and Citibank, National Association will act as U.S. depositary for Clearstream. All securities in Euroclear or Clearstream are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts.

The following is based on information furnished by Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be.

Euroclear has advised us that:

It was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash;

Euroclear includes various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries;

Table of Contents

Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./ N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System (the Euroclear Operator), under contract with Euroclear Clearance Systems S.C., a Belgian cooperative corporation (the Cooperative);

The Euroclear Operator conducts all operations, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not the Cooperative. The Cooperative establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks (including central banks), securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries and may include underwriters of debt securities offered by this prospectus;

Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly;

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law (collectively, the Terms and Conditions);

The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. The Euroclear Operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants, and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants; and

Distributions with respect to debt securities held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of Euroclear participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Euroclear.

Clearstream has advised us that:

It is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depository and holds securities for its participating organizations and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates;

Clearstream provides to Clearstream participants, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in several countries;

As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Monetary Institute;

Clearstream participants are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations and may include underwriters of debt securities offered by this prospectus;

Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream participant either directly or indirectly; and

Edgar Filing: ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP - Form 424B3

Distributions with respect to the debt securities held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream participants in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Clearstream.

We have provided the following descriptions of the operations and procedures of Euroclear and Clearstream solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of Euroclear and Clearstream and are subject to change by them from time to time. Neither we, any underwriters nor the trustee takes any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and you are urged to contact Euroclear or Clearstream or their respective participants directly to discuss these matters.

Table of Contents

Secondary market trading between Euroclear participants and Clearstream participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Euroclear and Clearstream and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Euroclear or Clearstream participants, on the other, will be effected within DTC in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. depositary; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its U.S. depositary to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving debt securities in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures. Euroclear participants and Clearstream participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. depositaries.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of securities received in Euroclear or Clearstream as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits, or any transactions in the securities settled during such processing, will be reported to the relevant Euroclear participants or Clearstream participants on that business day. Cash received in Euroclear or Clearstream as a result of sales of securities by or through a Euroclear participant or a Clearstream participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the business day of settlement in DTC but will be available in the relevant Euroclear or Clearstream cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of debt securities among participants of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and they may discontinue the procedures at any time.

Redemption or Repayment

If there are any provisions regarding redemption or repayment applicable to your debt security, we will describe them in your prospectus supplement.

We or our affiliates may purchase debt securities from investors who are willing to sell from time to time, either in the open market at prevailing prices or in private transactions at negotiated prices. Debt securities that we or they purchase may, at our discretion, be held, resold or canceled.

Mergers and Similar Transactions

We are generally permitted under the indenture to merge or consolidate with another corporation or other entity. We are also permitted under the indenture to sell all or substantially all of our assets to another corporation or other entity. With regard to any series of debt securities, however, we may not take any of these actions unless all the following conditions, among other things, are met:

If the successor entity in the transaction is not Anadarko the successor entity must be organized as a corporation, partnership or trust and must expressly assume our obligations under the debt securities of that series and the indenture. The successor entity may be organized under the laws of any jurisdiction, whether in the United States or elsewhere.

Immediately after the transaction, no default under the debt securities of that series has occurred and is continuing. For this purpose, default under the debt securities of that series means an event of default with respect to that series or any event that would be an event of default with respect to that series if the requirements for giving us default notice and for our default having to continue for a specific period of time were disregarded. We describe these matters below under Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default.

Table of Contents

If the conditions described above are satisfied with respect to the debt securities of any series, we will not need to obtain the approval of the holders of those debt securities in order to merge or consolidate or to sell our assets. Also, these conditions will apply only if we wish to merge or consolidate with another entity or sell all or substantially all of our assets to another entity. We will not need to satisfy these conditions if we enter into other types of transactions, including any transaction in which we acquire the stock or assets of another entity, any transaction that involves a change of control of Anadarko but in which we do not merge or consolidate and any transaction in which we sell less than substantially all our assets.

If we sell all or substantially all of our assets, we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under the debt securities of any series and the indenture. Also, if we merge, consolidate or sell substantially all of our assets and the successor is a non-U.S. entity, neither we nor any successor would have any obligation to compensate you for any resulting adverse tax consequences relating to your debt securities, including the imposition of U.S. withholding taxes in relation to future interest payments. Our succession by a non-U.S. entity could also impede the effective exercise of remedies available to the trustee or holders of debt securities following an event of default with respect to such debt securities.

Defeasance

When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under the indenture. If we deposit with the trustee funds or government securities, or if so provided in your prospectus supplement, obligations other than government securities, sufficient to make payments on any series of debt securities on the dates those payments are due and payable and other specified conditions are satisfied, then, at our option, either of the following will occur:

we will be discharged from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of such series (legal defeasance); or

the related events of default will no longer apply to us (covenant defeasance).

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

We will be required to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance would not cause the holders of the applicable series of debt securities to recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a change in law to that effect.

In addition, we may discharge all our obligations under the indenture with respect to debt securities of any series, other than our obligation to register the transfer of and exchange debt securities of that series, provided that we either:

deliver all outstanding debt securities of that series to the trustee for cancellation; or

all such debt securities not so delivered for cancellation have either become due and payable or will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year, and in the case of this bullet point, we have deposited with the trustee in trust an amount of cash sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness of such debt securities, including interest to the stated maturity or applicable redemption date.

Limitations on Liens

Neither we nor any domestic subsidiary of ours will issue, assume or guarantee any debt secured by a mortgage, lien, pledge or other encumbrance upon real or personal property of ours or of any of our domestic

Table of Contents

subsidiaries that is located in the continental U.S. without providing that the debt securities will be secured equally and ratably or prior to the debt so long as the debt is so secured. However, this provision shall not apply to the following:

Mortgages existing on the date of the indenture;

Mortgages existing at the time a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership or other entity becomes a domestic subsidiary of ours or at the time it is merged into or consolidated with us or a domestic subsidiary of ours;

Mortgages in favor of Anadarko or any domestic subsidiary of ours;

Mortgages on property (a) existing at the time of the property's acquisition, (b) to secure payment of all or part of the property's purchase price, or (c) to secure debt incurred prior to, at the time of or within 180 days after the acquisition, the completion of construction or the commencement of full operation of the property or for the purpose of financing all or part of the property's purchase price;

Mortgages in favor of the United States of America, any state, any other country or any political subdivision required by contract or statute;

Mortgages on property to secure all or part of the cost of construction, development or repair, alteration or improvement of the property not later than one year after the completion of or the placing into operation the property;

Mortgages on minerals or geothermal resources in place, or on related leasehold or other property interests, which are incurred to finance development, production or acquisition costs;

Mortgages on equipment used or usable for drilling, servicing or operation of oil, gas, coal or other mineral properties or of geothermal properties;

Mortgages required by any contract or statute in order to permit us or a subsidiary of ours to perform any contract or subcontract made with or at the request of the U.S., any state or any department, agency or instrumentality of either; or

Any extension, renewal or replacement of any mortgage referred to in the preceding items or of any debt secured by those mortgages as long as the extension, renewal or replacement will be limited to substantially the same property (plus improvements) which secured the mortgage.

Notwithstanding anything mentioned above, we and any one or more of our domestic subsidiaries may issue, assume or guarantee debt secured by mortgages that would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restrictions in an aggregate principal amount which, together with the aggregate outstanding principal amount of all other debt of ours and our domestic subsidiaries that would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restrictions, does not at any one time exceed 15% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets, which is defined as the aggregate amount of assets of Anadarko and its domestic subsidiaries after deducting therefrom all current liabilities (other than current maturities of long term debt), goodwill, unamortized debt discount and expense and other like intangibles as calculated on our consolidated balance sheet as of a date within 150 days prior to the date of determination.

In addition, the preceding restrictions shall apply only to the following types of property:

minerals or geothermal resources in place, pipelines, distribution or gathering systems, storage facilities or processing plants located in the U.S. and owned by us or any domestic subsidiary, the gross book value of which exceeds 5% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets, other than any such property which, in the opinion of our board of directors, is not of material importance to our total business; and

equity interests in our domestic subsidiaries.

The following types of transactions shall not be deemed to create debt secured by mortgages: (1) the sale or other transfer of oil, gas or other minerals in place for a period of time until, or in an amount such that, the

Table of Contents

transferee will realize from the sale or transfer a specified amount (however determined) of money or such minerals, or the sale or other transfer of any other interest in property of the character commonly referred to as an oil payment or a production payment, and (2) the sale or other transfer by Anadarko or a domestic subsidiary of properties to a partnership, joint venture or other entity in which we or our domestic subsidiary would retain partial ownership of the properties.

Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default

You will have special rights if an event of default with respect to your series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, as described in this subsection.

Events of Default

Unless your prospectus supplement says otherwise, when we refer to an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities, we mean any of the following:

we do not pay the principal or any premium on any debt security of that series on the due date;

we do not pay interest on any debt security of that series within 60 days after the due date;

we do not deposit a sinking fund payment with regard to any debt security of that series within 60 days after the due date, but only if the payment is required under provisions described in the applicable prospectus supplement;

we default in the payment when due of other funded debt in an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$100,000,000, causing such debt to become due before its stated maturity, and such default is not cured within 30 days after notice from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series;

we remain in breach of our covenants regarding mergers or sales of substantially all of our assets, our covenant regarding liens, or any other covenant we make in the indenture for the benefit of the relevant series, for 90 days after we receive a notice of default stating that we are in breach and requiring us to remedy the breach. The notice must be sent by the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the relevant series of debt securities;

we file for bankruptcy or other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to Anadarko occur. Those events must arise under U.S. federal or state law, unless we merge, consolidate or sell our assets as described above and the successor firm is a non-U.S. entity. If that happens, then those events must arise under U.S. federal or state law or the law of the jurisdiction in which the successor firm is legally organized; or

if the applicable prospectus supplement states that any additional event of default applies to the series, that event of default occurs.

Remedies if an Event of Default Occurs

If an event of default has occurred with respect to any series of debt securities and has not been cured or waived, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal amount of the debt securities of that series to be due immediately. If the event of default occurs because of events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to Anadarko, the entire principal amount of the debt securities of that series will be automatically accelerated, without any action by the trustee or any holder.

Each of the situations described above is called an acceleration of the maturity of the affected series of debt securities. If the maturity of any series is accelerated and a judgment for payment has not yet been obtained, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of

that series may cancel the acceleration for the entire series.

Table of Contents

Indentures governing our outstanding public debt contain so-called cross-acceleration events of default, and the absence of such an event of default in the indenture could disadvantage holders of the debt securities by preventing the trustee from pursuing remedies under the indenture at a time when our other creditors may be exercising remedies under these other indentures.

If an event of default occurs, the trustee will have special duties. In that situation, the trustee will be obligated to use those of its rights and powers under the indenture, and to use the same degree of care and skill in doing so, that a prudent person would use in that situation in conducting his or her own affairs.

Except as described in the prior paragraph, the trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the trustee reasonable protection from expenses and liability. This is called an indemnity. If the trustee is provided with an indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it, the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee with respect to that series. These majority holders may also direct the trustee in performing any other action under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series.

Before you bypass the trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to any debt security, all of the following must occur:

the holder of your debt security must give the trustee written notice that an event of default has occurred with respect to the debt securities of your series, and the event of default must not have been cured or waived;

the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all debt securities of your series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the default, and they or other holders must offer to the trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action;

the trustee must not have taken action for 60 days after the above steps have been taken; and

during those 60 days, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of your series must not have given the trustee directions that are inconsistent with the written request of the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of your series.

You are entitled at any time, however, to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt security on or after its due date.

Book-entry and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee and how to declare or cancel an acceleration of the maturity.

Waiver of Default

The holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series may waive a default for all debt securities of that series. If this happens, the default will be treated as if it has not occurred. No one can waive a payment default on your debt security, however, without the approval of the particular holder of that debt security.

Annual Information about Defaults to the Trustee

We will furnish to the trustee every year a written statement of two of our officers certifying that to their knowledge we are in compliance with the indenture and the debt securities, or else specifying any default under the indenture.

Table of Contents

Modifications and Waivers

There are three types of changes we can make to the indenture and the debt securities.

First, there are changes that cannot be made without the approval of each holder of a debt security affected by the change, including, among others:

changing the stated maturity for any principal or interest payment on a debt security;

reducing the principal amount, the amount payable on acceleration of the maturity after a default, the interest rate or the redemption price for a debt security;

changing the currency of any payment on a debt security;

changing the place of payment on a debt security;

impair a holder's right to sue for payment of any amount due on its debt security;

reducing the percentage in principal amount of the debt securities of any one or more affected series, taken separately or together, as applicable, the approval of whose holders is needed to change the indenture or those debt securities or waive our compliance with the indenture or to waive defaults; and

changing the provisions of the indenture dealing with modification and waiver in any other respect, except to increase any required percentage referred to above or to add to the provisions that cannot be changed or waived without approval of the holder of each affected debt security.

The second type of change does not require any approval by holders of the debt securities of an affected series. These changes are limited to clarifications and changes that would not adversely affect the debt securities of that series in any material respect. Nor do we need any approval to make changes that affect only debt securities to be issued after the changes take effect. We may also make changes or obtain waivers that do not adversely affect a particular debt security, even if they affect other debt securities. In those cases, we do not need to obtain the approval of the holder of the unaffected debt security; we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected debt securities.

Any other change to the indenture and the debt securities would require the following approval:

If the change affects only the debt securities of a particular series, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series.

If the change affects the debt securities of more than one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of all series affected by the change, with the debt securities of all the affected series voting together as one class for this purpose (and of any affected series that by its terms is entitled to vote separately as a series, as described below).

Edgar Filing: ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP - Form 424B3

If the terms of a series entitle the holders of debt securities of such series to vote as separate class on any change, it must be approved as required under those terms.

The same majority approval would be required for us to obtain a waiver of any of our covenants in the indenture. Our covenants include the promises we make about merging or selling substantially all of our assets, which we describe above under Mergers and Similar Transactions. If the holders approve a waiver of a covenant, we will not have to comply with it. The holders, however, cannot approve a waiver of any provision in a particular debt security, or in the indenture as it affects that debt security, that we cannot change without the approval of the holder of that debt security as described above, unless that holder approves the waiver.

Only holders of outstanding debt securities of the applicable series will be eligible to take any action under the indenture, such as giving a notice of default, declaring an acceleration, approving any change or waiver or giving the trustee an instruction with respect to debt securities of that series. Also, we will count only outstanding debt securities in determining whether the various percentage requirements for taking action have been met. Any debt securities owned by us or any of our affiliates or surrendered for cancellation or for payment or redemption of which money has been set aside in trust are not deemed to be outstanding.

Table of Contents

In some situations, we may follow special rules in calculating the principal amount of a debt security that is to be treated as outstanding for the purposes described above. This may happen, for example, if the principal amount is payable in a non-U.S. dollar currency, increases over time or is not to be fixed until maturity.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders that are entitled to take action under the indenture. In certain limited circumstances, only the trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders. If we or the trustee sets a record date for an approval or other action to be taken by holders, that vote or action may be taken only by persons or entities who are holders on the record date and must be taken during the period that we specify for this purpose, or that the trustee specifies if it sets the record date. We or the trustee, as applicable, may shorten or lengthen this period from time to time. This period, however, may not extend beyond the 180th day after the record date for the action. In addition, record dates for any global debt security may be set in accordance with procedures established by the depositary from time to time. Accordingly, record dates for global debt securities may differ from those for other debt securities.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

If any debt securities cease to be issued in registered global form, they will be issued:

only in fully registered form;

without interest coupons; and

unless we indicate otherwise in your prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000.

Holders may exchange their debt securities for debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. You may not exchange your debt securities for securities of a different series or having different terms, unless your prospectus supplement says you may.

Holders may exchange or transfer their debt securities at the office of the trustee. They may also replace lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated debt securities at that office. We have appointed the trustee to act as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders and transferring and replacing debt securities. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their debt securities, but they may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The transfer or exchange, and any replacement, will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership. The transfer agent may require an indemnity before replacing any debt securities.

If we have designated additional transfer agents for your debt security, they will be named in your prospectus supplement. We may appoint additional transfer agents or cancel the appointment of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If the debt securities of any series are redeemable and we redeem less than all those debt securities, we may block the transfer or exchange of those debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers of or exchange any debt security selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security being partially redeemed.

If a debt security is issued as a global debt security, only DTC or other depositary will be entitled to transfer and exchange the debt security as described in this subsection, since the depositary will be the sole holder of the debt security.

The rules for exchange described above apply to exchange of debt securities for other debt securities of the same series and kind. If a debt security is convertible, exercisable or exchangeable into or for a different kind of

Table of Contents

security, such as one that we have not issued, or for other property, the rules governing that type of conversion, exercise or exchange will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Payments

We will pay interest, principal and other amounts payable with respect to the debt securities of any series to the holders of record of those debt securities as of the record dates and otherwise in the manner specified below or in the prospectus supplement for that series.

We will make payments on a global debt security in accordance with the applicable policies of the depositary as in effect from time to time. Under those policies, we will pay directly to the depositary, or its nominee, and not to any indirect owners who own beneficial interests in the global debt security. An indirect owner's right to receive those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depositary and its participants.

We will make payments on a debt security in non-global, registered form as follows. We will pay interest that is due on an interest payment date by check mailed on the interest payment date to the holder at his or her address shown on the trustee's records as of the close of business on the regular record date. We will make all other payments by check at the paying agent described below, against surrender of the debt security. All payments by check will be made in next-day funds i.e., funds that become available on the day after the check is cashed.

Alternatively, if a non-global debt security has a face amount of at least \$1,000,000 and the holder asks us to do so, we will pay any amount that becomes due on the debt security by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account at a bank in New York City, on the due date. To request wire payment, the holder must give the paying agent appropriate wire transfer instructions at least five business days before the requested wire payment is due. In the case of any interest payment due on an interest payment date, the instructions must be given by the person or entity who is the holder on the relevant regular record date. In the case of any other payment, payment will be made only after the debt security is surrendered to the paying agent. Any wire instructions, once properly given, will remain in effect unless and until new instructions are given in the manner described above.

Book-entry and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.

Paying Agents

We may appoint one or more financial institutions to act as our paying agents, at whose designated offices debt securities in non-global entry form may be surrendered for payment at their maturity. We call each of those offices a paying agent. We may add, replace or terminate paying agents from time to time. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent. We will specify in the prospectus supplement for your debt security the initial location of each paying agent for that debt security. We must notify the trustee of changes in the paying agents.

Notices

Notices to be given to holders of a global debt security will be given only to the depositary, in accordance with its applicable policies as in effect from time to time. Notices to be given to holders of debt securities not in global form will be sent by mail to the respective addresses of the holders as they appear in the trustee's records, and will be deemed given when mailed. Neither the failure to give any notice to a particular holder, nor any defect in a notice given to a particular holder, will affect the sufficiency of any notice given to another holder.

Book-entry and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive notices.

Our Relationship With the Trustee

The prospectus supplement for your debt security will describe any material relationships we may have with the trustee.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

As of the date of this prospectus, we are authorized to issue up to 1,000,000,000 shares of common stock. As of June 30, 2006, we had approximately 463,500,000 shares of common stock issued and 459,500,000 shares of common stock outstanding and had reserved 44,900,000 additional shares of common stock for issuance under our various stock and compensation incentive plans and direct purchase and dividend reimbursement plan.

The following summary is not complete and is not intended to give full effect to provisions of statutory or common law. You should refer to the applicable provisions of the following documents:

our restated certificate of incorporation, which is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to our Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-60496) dated May 9, 2001;

the amendment to our restated certificate of incorporation, which is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Form 8-K dated July 28, 2000;

the amendment to our restated certificate of incorporation, which is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(d) to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006;

our by-laws, as amended, which are incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(b) to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004; and

the description of our common stock set forth in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on September 3, 1986, and the Form 8-A12B filed with the SEC on October 30, 1998 as amended by the Form 8-A12B/A filed with the SEC on April 27, 2000.

Common Stock

Dividends. The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available for their payment subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock.

Voting Rights. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders.

Rights Upon Liquidation. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share equally in any of our assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock have received their liquidation preferences in full.

Miscellaneous. The outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive or redemption rights. Shares of our common stock are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock.

Preferred Stock

Our restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors, without further stockholder action, to provide for the issuance of up to 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, in one or more series, and to fix the designations, terms, and relative rights and preferences, including the dividend rate, voting rights, conversion rights, redemption and sinking fund provisions and liquidation values of each of these series. We may amend from time to time our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock. Any amendment like this would require the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares. As of the date of this prospectus, 200,000 shares of preferred stock have been reserved for issuance as 5.46% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B, of which approximately 46,450 shares are outstanding. In addition, our board of directors has authorized shares of Series C preferred stock for issuance under our rights agreement, none of which currently is outstanding.

Table of Contents

One of the effects of authorized but undesignated Series C preferred stock may be to enable our board of directors to render more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a tender offer, proxy contest, merger or otherwise, and as a result, to protect the continuity of our management. The issuance of shares of Series C preferred stock by our board of directors as described above may adversely affect the rights of the holders of our common stock. For example, Series C preferred stock issued by us may rank superior to the our common stock as to dividend rights, liquidation preference or both, may have full or limited voting rights and may be convertible into shares of our common stock. Accordingly, the issuance of shares of Series C preferred stock may discourage bids for our common stock or may otherwise adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Law and Certain Charter and Bylaw Provisions

Our restated certificate of incorporation, bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL contain certain provisions that could discourage potential takeover attempts and make it more difficult for our stockholders to change management or receive a premium for their shares.

Delaware law. We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, an anti-takeover law. In general, the statute prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder. A business combination includes a merger, sale of 10% or more of our assets and certain other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the stockholder. For purposes of Section 203, an interested stockholder is defined to include any person that is:

the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation;

an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock outstanding, at any time within three years immediately before the relevant date; and

an affiliate or associate of the persons described in the foregoing bullet points.

However, the above provisions of Section 203 do not apply if:

our board approves the transaction that made the stockholder an interested stockholder before the date of that transaction;

after the completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, that stockholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding shares owned by our officers and directors; or

on or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combinations approved by our board and authorized at a meeting of our stockholders by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder. Stockholders may, by adopting an amendment to the corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws, elect for the corporation not to be governed by Section 203, effective 12 months after adoption. Neither our certificate of incorporation nor our bylaws exempts us from the restrictions imposed under Section 203. It is anticipated that the provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with our board.

Charter and bylaw provisions. Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that any action required or permitted to be taken by our stockholders may only be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of the stockholders, and may not be taken by written consent of the stockholders. Special meetings of stockholders may only be called by the board.

Edgar Filing: ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP - Form 424B3

Directors may be removed, for cause only, with the approval of the holders of a majority of the shares then entitled to vote at an election of directors. Vacancies resulting from any increase in the number of directors may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, provided a quorum is present. Any other vacancy may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, even if less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director.

Table of Contents

In the event of a proposed merger or tender offer, proxy contest or other attempt to gain control of us which is not approved by our board of directors, it would be possible for our board of directors to authorize the issuance of one or more series of preferred stock with voting rights or other rights and preferences which would impede the success of the proposed merger, tender offer, proxy contest or other attempt to gain control of us. This authority may be limited by applicable law, our restated certificate of incorporation and the applicable rules of the stock exchanges upon which our common stock is listed. The consent of the holders of our common stock would not be required for any issuance of preferred stock in these situations.

Limitation of Liability; Indemnification

Our restated certificate of incorporation contains certain provisions permitted under the DGCL relating to the liability of directors. These provisions eliminate a director's personal liability for monetary damages resulting from a breach of fiduciary duty, except that a director will be personally liable:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under Section 174 of the DGCL relating to unlawful stock repurchases or dividends; and

for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit.

These provisions do not limit or eliminate our rights or those of any stockholder to seek non-monetary relief, such as an injunction or rescission, in the event of a breach of a director's fiduciary duty. These provisions will not alter a director's liability under federal securities laws.

Our bylaws also provide that we must indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law and that we must advance expenses, as incurred, to our directors and officers in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, subject to very limited exceptions.

Stock Exchange

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol APC.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our common stock is Mellon Investor Services LLC, South Hackensack, New Jersey. Its phone number is (888) 470-5786.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered under this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us, or any underwriters, dealers or agents, by counsel we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2005, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

Certain information with respect to the oil and gas reserves associated with Anadarko's oil and gas prospects is confirmed in the review letter of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., an independent petroleum consulting firm, and has been included in this document, and incorporated by reference into this document, upon the authority of said firm as experts with respect to the matters covered by such review letter and in giving such review letter.

The consolidated financial statements of Kerr-McGee at December 31, 2005 and 2004 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2005 incorporated in this Form S-3 by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on September 8, 2006, have been audited by Ernst & Young, LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, and are so incorporated in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Certain information with respect to the oil and gas reserves associated with Kerr-McGee's oil and gas prospects is confirmed in the review letter of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., an independent petroleum consulting firm, and has been included or incorporated by reference into this document, upon the authority of said firm as experts with respect to the matters covered by such review letter and in giving such review letter.

The audited historical financial statements of Western Gas Resources, Inc. at December 31, 2005 and 2004 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Form S-3 by reference to our current report on Form 8-K/A filed on September 8, 2006, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Certain information with respect to the oil and gas reserves associated with Western Gas Resources, Inc.'s oil and gas prospects is derived from the reports of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., an independent petroleum consulting firm, and has been included or incorporated by reference into this document, upon the authority of said firm as experts with respect to the matters covered by such reports and in giving such reports.

Table of Contents