

Walton Nathan  
Form 4  
January 31, 2018

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Walton Nathan

(Last) (First) (Middle)

2000 AVENUE OF THE STARS,  
12TH FLOOR

(Street)

LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
Gastar Exploration Inc. [GST]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)

01/30/2018

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Amount or Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/30/2018                           |  | A                              |   | 62,500<br>(1) (2) (3)   | A  | \$ 0 115,410 (4) D                |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Walton Nathan<br>2000 AVENUE OF THE STARS, 12TH FLOOR<br>LOS ANGELES, CA 90067 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Nathan Walton, by Naseem Sagati as Attorney in Fact 01/31/2018

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The reported shares were acquired pursuant to a restricted share grant and will fully vest on January 30, 2019.  
These securities are held by the Reporting Person for the benefit of Ares Management LLC, which is affiliated with certain investment vehicles (collectively, "Ares") that hold common stock of the Issuer. The Reporting Person is associated with Ares. Pursuant to the policies of Ares, the Reporting Person holds these securities as a nominee on behalf, and for the sole benefit, of Ares and has assigned all economic, pecuniary and voting rights in respect of these securities to Ares.
- (2) The amounts reported in this Form 4 do not include any securities of the Issuer held by Ares. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities of the Issuer owned by Ares and such securities of the Issuer issued to the Reporting Person, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein, and the filing of this Form 4 shall not be deemed an admission that the Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of or has any pecuniary interest in any such securities for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or for any other purpose.
- (3) Includes 62,500 shares acquired on January 30, 2018 that will vest subject to disclosed vesting schedule.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.