

Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.

Form S-3/A

January 06, 2005

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 6, 2005

Registration No. 333-120770

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 1

to

Form S-3

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

*(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)*

73-1493906

*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

**2838 Woodside Street
Dallas, TX 75204
(918) 492-7272**

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

**Robert A. Burk
Vice President and General Counsel
Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.**

**2838 Woodside Street
Dallas, TX 75204
(918) 492-7272**

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

Copies to:

Thomas P. Mason

**Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.
2300 First City Tower
1001 Fannin
Houston, Texas 77002-6760
(713) 758-2222**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective.

Edgar Filing: Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. - Form S-3/A

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

If any of the securities registered on this form are being offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 6, 2005

PROSPECTUS

ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERS, L.P.

15,883,234 Common Units

Representing Limited Partner Interests

This prospectus relates to (i) the proposed sale by La Grange Energy, L.P. (La Grange Energy) of up to 15,883,234 common units, representing limited partner interests of Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., (ii) to the extent not sold by La Grange Energy, the distribution of all or a portion of such common units by La Grange Energy to the holders of its equity interests, (iii) the distribution of all or a portion of the common units received by each of the holders of equity interests in La Grange that is an entity, including LE GP, LLC, ETC Holdings, L.P. and ET Company, Ltd., to the persons and entities that hold its equity interests and the subsequent distribution by each such holder that is an entity, including ET GP, LLC and ETC Investors, Ltd. to the persons and entities that hold its equity interests, and (iv) the subsequent resale of all or a portion of the common units received by such distributees. La Grange Energy and such distributees of common units are the selling unitholders named in this prospectus. The selling unitholders may sell the common units at various times and in various types of transactions, including sales in the open market, sales in negotiated transactions and sales by a combination of these methods. We will not receive any proceeds from the distribution of the common units from La Grange Energy or ETC Holdings, L.P. to the selling unitholders nor from any sales by the selling unitholders.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ETP.

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

The date of this prospectus is January 6, 2005

You should only rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents or that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since these dates. We will disclose any material changes in our affairs in an amendment to this prospectus, a prospectus supplement or a future filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>About Energy Transfer Partners</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	20
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	22
<u>Description of Units</u>	22
<u>Cash Distribution Policy</u>	31

Edgar Filing: Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. - Form S-3/A

<u>Selling Unitholders</u>	35
<u>Material Tax Considerations</u>	37
<u>Investments in Us by Employee Benefit Plans</u>	50
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	51
<u>Legal Matters</u>	52
<u>Experts</u>	52
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	53
<u>Consent of Grant Thornton LLP</u>	
<u>Consent of Ernst & Young LLP</u>	
<u>Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP</u>	

The following is a list of certain acronyms and terms generally used in the energy industry and throughout this document:

/d	per day
Bbls	barrels
Btu	British thermal unit, an energy measurement
Mcf	thousand cubic feet
MMBtu	million British thermal unit
MMcf	million cubic feet
Bcf	Billion cubic feet
NGL	natural gas liquid, such as propane, butane and natural gasoline

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling unitholders may sell from time to time up to 15,883,234 common units as described in this prospectus. This prospectus generally describes Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. and the common units. In connection with any offer or sale of common units by the selling unitholders, we may provide you with a prospectus supplement that adds to, updates or changes information in this prospectus. The information in this prospectus is accurate as of November 24, 2004. Therefore, before you invest in our securities, you should carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

ABOUT ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERS

We are a rapidly-growing master limited partnership engaged in the natural gas midstream and transportation business, with operations in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, and in the retail propane marketing business, with operations in 32 states.

Our midstream and transportation business owns and operates approximately 7,750 miles of natural gas gathering and transportation pipelines, four natural gas processing plants connected to our gathering systems, 13 natural gas treating facilities and two natural gas storage facilities. Our midstream segment focuses on the transportation, gathering, compression, treating, processing and marketing of natural gas, and its operations are currently concentrated in the Austin Chalk trend of southeast Texas, the Anadarko Basin of western Oklahoma, the Permian Basin of west Texas, the Barnett Shale in north Texas and the Bossier Sands in east Texas. Our transportation segment focuses on the transportation of natural gas through the Oasis pipeline, our recently completed Bossier pipeline and our recently acquired natural gas pipeline and storage assets that we refer to as the ET Fuel System. The Oasis pipeline is a 583-mile natural gas pipeline that directly connects the Waha Hub, a major natural gas trading center located in the Permian Basin of west Texas, to the Katy Hub, a major natural gas trading center near Houston, Texas. The Bossier pipeline, which became commercially operational in June 2004, connects natural gas supplies in east Texas to our Katy pipeline. The ET Fuel System, which serves some of the most active drilling areas in the United States, is comprised of approximately 2,000 miles of intrastate natural gas pipeline and related natural gas storage facilities located in Texas. With approximately 460 receipt and/or delivery points, including interconnects with pipelines providing direct access to power plants and interconnects with other intrastate and interstate pipelines, the ET Fuel System is strategically located near high-growth production areas and major markets such as the Waha Hub, the Katy Hub and the Carthage Hub, three major natural gas trading centers located in Texas.

We are the fourth largest retail propane marketer in the United States, serving more than 650,000 customers from 310 customer service locations. Our propane operations extend from coast to coast, with concentrations in the western, upper midwestern, northeastern and southeastern regions of the United States.

We were originally formed in conjunction with our initial public offering as Heritage Propane Partners, L.P. in June 1996. In January 2004, we combined the propane operations of Heritage Propane Partners with the natural gas midstream and transportation operations of La Grange Acquisition conducted under the name Energy Transfer Company. We refer to this combination, along with the incurrence of debt and the issuance of our equity securities in connection with that combination, as the Energy Transfer Transactions. In March 2004, we changed our name to Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common units involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following risk factors included below, together with all of the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus in evaluating an investment in our common units. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common units could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to our Business

The profitability of our midstream and transportation business is dependent upon natural gas prices and market demand for natural gas and NGLs, which are beyond our control and have been volatile.

Our midstream and transportation business is subject to significant risks due to fluctuations in commodity prices. During our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, we generated approximately 27% of our midstream and transportation gross margin from three types of contractual arrangements under which our margin is exposed to increases and decreases in the price of natural gas and NGLs—discount-to-index, percentage-of-proceeds and keep-whole arrangements.

For a portion of the natural gas gathered at the Southeast Texas System and the Elk City System, we purchase natural gas from producers at the wellhead at a price that is at a discount to a specified index price and then gather and deliver the natural gas to pipelines where we typically resell the natural gas at the index price. Generally, the gross margins we realize under these discount-to-index arrangements decrease in periods of low natural gas prices because these gross margins are based on a percentage of the index price. Accordingly, a decrease in the price of natural gas could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

For a portion of the natural gas gathered at the Southeast Texas System and the Elk City System, we enter into percentage-of-proceeds arrangements and keep-whole arrangements, pursuant to which we agree to gather and process natural gas received from the producers. Under percentage-of-proceeds arrangements, we generally sell the residue gas and NGLs at market prices and remit to the producers an agreed upon percentage of the proceeds based on an index price. In other cases, instead of remitting cash payments to the producer, we deliver an agreed upon percentage of the residue gas and NGL volumes to the producer and sell the volumes we keep to third parties at market prices. Under these arrangements our revenues and gross margins decline when natural gas prices and NGL prices decrease. Accordingly, a decrease in the price of natural gas or NGLs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. Under keep-whole arrangements, we generally sell the NGLs produced from our gathering and processing operations to third parties at market prices. Because the extraction of the NGLs from the natural gas during processing reduces the Btu content of the natural gas, we must either purchase natural gas at market prices for return to producers or make a cash payment to producers equal to the value of this natural gas. Under these arrangements, our revenues and gross margins decrease when the price of natural gas increases relative to the price of NGLs if we are not able to bypass our processing plants and sell the unprocessed natural gas. Accordingly, an increase in the price of natural gas relative to the price of NGLs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

In the past, the prices of natural gas and NGLs have been extremely volatile, and we expect this volatility to continue. For example, during our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the NYMEX settlement price for the prompt month contract ranged from a high of \$6.68 per MMBtu to a low of \$4.43 per MMBtu. A composite of the Mt. Belvieu average NGLs price based upon our average NGLs composition during our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004 ranged from a high of approximately \$0.79 per gallon to a low of approximately \$0.48 per gallon.

Average realized natural gas sales prices for our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004 exceeded our historical realized natural gas prices. For example, our average realized natural gas price increased \$0.13, or 2.6%, from \$5.03 per MMBtu for the 11 months ended August 31, 2003 to \$5.16 per MMBtu for our

Table of Contents

fiscal year ended August 31, 2004. On November 8, 2004, the NYMEX settlement price for December natural gas deliveries was \$7.60 per MMBtu, which was 47% higher than our average natural gas price for our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004. Natural gas prices are subject to significant fluctuations, and there can be no assurance that natural gas prices will remain at the high levels recently experienced.

Our Oasis Pipeline, Bossier Pipeline and ET Fuel System receive fees for transporting natural gas for our customers. Although a significant amount of the pipeline capacity of the Bossier Pipeline and various pipeline segments of the ET Fuel System is committed under long-term fee-based contracts, the remaining capacity of our transportation pipelines is subject to fluctuation in demand based on the markets and prices for natural gas and NGLs, which factors may result in decisions by natural gas producers to reduce production of natural gas during periods of lower prices for natural gas and NGLs or may result in decisions by end users of natural gas and NGLs to reduce consumption of these fuels during periods of higher prices for these fuels.

The markets and prices for natural gas and NGLs depend upon factors beyond our control. These factors include demand for oil, natural gas and NGLs, which fluctuate with changes in market and economic conditions, and other factors, including:

- the impact of weather on the demand for oil and natural gas;
- the level of domestic oil and natural gas production;
- the availability of imported oil and natural gas;
- actions taken by foreign oil and gas producing nations;
- the availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation systems;
- the price, availability and marketing of competitive fuels;
- the demand for electricity;
- the impact of energy conservation efforts; and
- the extent of governmental regulation and taxation.

Our success depends upon our ability to continually contract for new sources of natural gas supply.

In order to maintain or increase throughput levels on our gathering and transportation pipeline systems and asset utilization rates at our treating and processing plants, we must continually contract for new natural gas supplies and natural gas transportation services. We may not be able to obtain additional contracts for natural gas supplies for our natural gas gathering systems, and we may not be able to maintain or increase the levels of natural gas throughput on our transportation pipeline. The primary factors affecting our ability to connect new supplies of natural gas to our gathering systems include our success in contracting for existing natural gas supplies that are not committed to other systems and the level of drilling activity near our gathering systems or in areas that provide access to our transportation pipelines or markets to which our systems connect. The primary factors affecting our ability to attract customers to our transportation pipelines, including Oasis Pipeline, the Bossier Pipeline or the ET Fuel System, consist of our access to other natural gas pipelines, natural gas markets, natural gas-fired power plants and other industrial end-users and the level of drilling in areas connected to these pipelines and systems.

Fluctuations in energy prices can greatly affect production rates and investments by third parties in the development of new oil and natural gas reserves. Drilling activity generally decreases as oil and natural gas prices decrease. We have no control over the level of drilling activity in our areas of operations, the amount of reserves underlying the wells and the rate at which production from a well will decline, sometimes referred to as the decline rate. In addition, we have no control over producers or their production decisions, which are affected by, among other things, prevailing and projected energy prices,

Table of Contents

demand for hydrocarbons, the level of reserves, geological considerations, governmental regulation and the availability and cost of capital.

A substantial portion of our assets, including our gathering systems and our processing and treating plants, are connected to natural gas reserves and wells for which the production will naturally decline over time. In particular, the Southeast Texas System covers portions of the Austin Chalk, Buda, Georgetown, Edwards, Wilcox and other producing formations in southeast Texas, which we collectively refer to as the Austin Chalk trend, and the Elk City System covers portions of the Anadarko basin in western Oklahoma. Both of these natural gas producing regions have generally been characterized by high initial flow rates followed by steep initial declines in production. Accordingly, our cash flows associated with these systems will also decline unless we are able to access new supplies of natural gas by connecting additional production to these systems.

Our transportation pipelines are also dependent upon natural gas production in areas served by our pipelines or in areas served by other gathering systems or transportation pipelines that connect with our transportation pipelines. A material decrease in natural gas production in our areas of operation or in other areas that are connected to our areas of operation by third party gathering systems or pipelines, as a result of depressed commodity prices or otherwise, would result in a decline in the volume of natural gas we handle, which would reduce our revenues and operating income. In addition, our future growth will depend, in part, upon whether we can contract for additional supplies at a greater rate than the rate of natural decline in our currently connected supplies.

The volumes of natural gas we transport on our pipelines may be reduced in the event that the prices at which natural gas is purchased and sold at the Waha Hub, the Katy Hub and the Carthage Hub, the three major natural gas trading hubs served by our pipelines, become unfavorable in relation to prices for natural gas at other natural gas trading hubs or in other markets as customers may elect to transport their natural gas to these other hubs or markets using pipelines other than those we operate.

We depend on certain key producers for our supply of natural gas on the Southeast Texas System and the Elk City System, the loss of any of these key producers could adversely affect our financial results.

For our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Chesapeake Energy Corp. supplied us with approximately 41% of the Southeast Texas System's natural gas supply, and Chesapeake Energy Corp. and Kaiser-Francis Oil Company and its affiliates supplied us with approximately 55% of the Elk City System's natural gas supply. To the extent that these and other producers may reduce the volumes of natural gas that they supply us, we would be adversely affected unless we were able to acquire comparable supplies of natural gas from other producers.

We depend on key customers to transport natural gas on our Bossier Pipeline and ET Fuel System.

We have entered into a nine-year fee-based transportation contract with XTO Energy, Inc. pursuant to which XTO Energy has committed to transport approximately 200 MMcf/d on our Bossier Pipeline. We have also entered into an eight-year fee-based transportation contract with TXU Portfolio Management Company, L.P., a subsidiary of TXU Corp., which we refer to as TXU Shipper, to transport a minimum of 115.6 million MMBtu per year, subject to adjustments, of natural gas on the ET Fuel System to TXU's electric generating power plants. We have also entered into two eight-year natural gas storage contract with TXU Shipper to store natural gas at the two natural gas storage facilities that are part of the ET Fuel System. Each of the contracts with TXU Shipper may be extended by TXU Shipper for two additional five-year terms. The failure of XTO Energy or TXU Shipper to fulfill their contractual obligations under these contracts could have a material adverse effect on our cash flow and results of operations if we were not able to replace these customers under arrangements that provide similar terms as these existing contracts.

Table of Contents

Federal, state or local regulatory measures could adversely affect our business.

As a natural gas gatherer and intrastate pipeline company, we are generally exempt from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, regulation under the Natural Gas Act of 1938, or NGA, but FERC regulation still significantly affects our business and the market for our products. In recent years, FERC has pursued pro-competitive policies in our regulation of interstate natural gas pipelines. However, we cannot assure you that FERC will continue this approach as it considers matters such as pipeline rates and rules and policies that may affect rights of access to natural gas transportation capacity. In addition, the rates, terms and conditions of some of the transportation services we provide on the Oasis Pipeline are subject to FERC regulation under Section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act, or NGPA. Under Section 311, rates charged for transportation must be fair and equitable, and amounts collected in excess of fair and equitable rates are subject to refund with interest.

Our intrastate natural gas transportation pipelines are subject to state regulation in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, the states in which we operate these types of pipelines. Our transportation pipelines located in Texas are subject to regulation as common purchasers and as gas utilities by the Texas Railroad Commission, or TRRC. The TRRC's jurisdiction extends to both rates and pipeline safety. The rates we charge for transportation services are deemed just and reasonable under Texas law unless challenged in a complaint. Should a complaint be filed or should regulation become more active, our business may be adversely affected.

Our pipeline operations are also subject to ratable take and common purchaser statutes in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, the states where we operate. Ratable take statutes generally require gatherers to take, without undue discrimination, natural gas production that may be tendered to the gatherer for handling. Similarly, common purchaser statutes generally require gatherers to purchase without undue discrimination as to source of supply or producer. These statutes have the effect of restricting our right as an owner of gathering facilities to decide with whom we contract to purchase or transport natural gas. Federal law leaves any economic regulation of natural gas gathering to the states, and some of the states in which we operate have adopted complaint-based or other limited economic regulation of natural gas gathering activities. States in which we operate that have adopted some form of complaint-based regulation, like Oklahoma and Texas, generally allow natural gas producers and shippers to file complaints with state regulators in an effort to resolve grievances relating to natural gas gathering rates and access. Other state and local regulations also affect our business.

The states in which we conduct operations administer federal pipeline safety standards under the Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, which requires certain pipelines to comply with safety standards in constructing and operating the pipelines, and subjects pipelines to regular inspections. Certain of our gathering facilities are exempt from the requirements of this Act. In respect to recent pipeline accidents in other parts of the country, Congress and the Department of Transportation have passed or are considering heightened pipeline safety requirements.

Failure to comply with applicable regulations under the NGA, NGPA, Pipeline Safety Act and certain state laws can result in the imposition of administrative, civil and criminal remedies.

Our business involves hazardous substances and may be adversely affected by environmental regulation.

Many of the operations and activities of our midstream and transportation business and our propane business are subject to significant federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. These include, for example, laws and regulations that impose obligations related to air emissions and discharge of wastes from our pipelines, plants and facilities and the cleanup of hazardous substances that may have been released at properties currently or previously owned or operated by us or at locations to which we have sent wastes for disposal. Various governmental authorities have the power to enforce compliance with these regulations and the permits issued under them, and violators are subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, including civil fines, injunctions or both. Liability may be incurred without regard to fault for the remediation of contaminated areas. Private parties, including the owners of properties through which our gathering systems pass, may also have the right to pursue legal actions to enforce compliance as

Table of Contents

well as to seek damages for non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations or for personal injury or property damage.

There is inherent risk of the incurrence of environmental costs and liabilities in our business due to our handling of natural gas and other petroleum products, air emissions related to our operations, historical industry operations, waste disposal practices and the prior use of natural gas flow meters containing mercury. In addition, the possibility exists that stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could significantly increase our compliance costs and the cost of any remediation that may become necessary. We may incur material environmental costs and liabilities. Furthermore, our insurance may not provide sufficient coverage in the event an environmental claim is made against us.

Our business may be adversely affected by increased costs due to stricter pollution control requirements or liabilities resulting from non-compliance with required operating or other regulatory permits. New environmental regulations might adversely affect our products and activities, including gathering, compression, treating, processing and transportation, as well as waste management and air emissions. Federal and state agencies could also impose additional safety requirements, any of which could affect our profitability.

Our business involves many hazards and operational risks, some of which may not be fully covered by insurance.

Our midstream and transportation operations are subject to the many hazards inherent in the gathering, compression, treating, processing and transportation of natural gas and NGLs, including:

damage to pipelines, related equipment and surrounding properties caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires and other natural disasters and acts of terrorism;

inadvertent damage from construction and farm equipment;

leaks of natural gas, NGLs and other hydrocarbons; and

fires and explosions.

Our midstream and transportation operations are primarily concentrated in Texas, and a natural disaster or other hazard affecting this area could have a material adverse effect on these operations.

Propane is a flammable, combustible gas, and our propane operations are subject to all operating risks and hazards normally incident to handling, storing and delivering combustible liquids like propane.

These risks could result in substantial losses due to personal injury and/or loss of life, severe damage to and destruction of property and equipment and pollution or other environmental damage and may result in curtailment or suspension of our related operations. As a result, we have been, and are likely to be, a defendant in various legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. In addition, the occurrence of a serious accident involving propane, whether or not we are involved, may have an adverse effect on the public's desire to use propane. We are not fully insured against all risks incident to our business. Our insurance may not be adequate to protect us from all material expenses related to potential future claims for personal injury and property damage and we may not be able to continue purchasing such levels of insurance at economical prices. We do not have property insurance on all of our underground pipeline systems that would cover damage to the pipelines. We are not insured against all environmental accidents that might occur, other than those considered to be sudden and accidental. We have minimal business interruption insurance that covers our operations. Under the terms of our general liability and workers compensation policies, claims of up to \$1 million are insured. We also have excess liability coverage for claims up to \$35 million per occurrence after the payment of a \$1 million deductible. If a significant accident or event occurs that is not fully insured, it could adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Any reduction in the capacity of, or the allocations to, our shippers in interconnecting, third-party pipelines could cause a reduction of volumes transported in our pipelines, which would adversely affect our revenues and cash flow.

Users of our pipelines are dependent upon connections to and from third-party pipelines to receive and deliver natural gas and NGLs. Any reduction of capacities of these interconnecting pipelines due to testing, line repair, reduced operating pressures, or other causes could result in reduced volumes transported in our pipelines. Similarly, if additional shippers begin transporting volumes of natural gas and NGLs over interconnecting pipelines, the allocations to existing shippers in these pipelines would be reduced, which could also reduce volumes transported in our pipelines. Any reduction in volumes transported in our pipelines would adversely affect our revenues and cash flow.

We encounter competition from other midstream and transportation companies and propane companies.

We experience competition in all of our markets. Our principal areas of competition include obtaining natural gas supplies for the Southeast Texas System and Elk City System and natural gas transportation customers for the Oasis Pipeline, the Bossier Pipeline and the ET Fuel System. Our competitors include major integrated oil companies, interstate and intrastate pipelines and companies that gather, compress, treat, process, transport and market natural gas. The Oasis Pipeline competes directly with two other major intrastate pipelines that link the Waha Hub and the Houston area, one of which is owned by Duke Energy Field Services, LLC and the other one of which is owned by El Paso Corporation and American Electric Power Service Corporation. The Southeast Texas System competes with natural gas gathering and processing systems owned by Duke Energy Field Services, LLC. The Elk City System competes with natural gas gathering and processing systems owned by Enogex, Inc., Oneok Gas Gathering, L.L.C., CenterPoint Energy Field Services, Inc. and Enbridge Inc., as well as producer owned systems. The Bossier Pipeline competes with other natural gas transportation pipelines that serve the Bossier Sands area in east Texas and the Barnett Shale area of the Fort Worth Basin in north Texas. The ET Fuel System competes with a number of other natural gas pipelines, including interstate and intrastate pipelines that link the Waha Hub and the Dallas/ Ft. Worth area and other pipelines that serve the east central Texas and south Texas markets. Pipelines that we compete with in these areas include those owned by Atmos Energy Corporation, Gulfterra Energy Partners, L.P., and Enbridge, Inc. Many of our competitors have greater financial resources and access to larger natural gas supplies than we do.

Our propane business competes with a number of large national and regional propane companies, some of whom have greater financial resources than we do, and several thousand small independent propane companies. Because of the relatively low barriers to entry into the retail propane market, there is potential for small independent propane retailers, as well as other companies that may not be engaged in retail propane distribution, to compete with our retail outlets. As a result, we are always subject to the risk of additional competition in the future. Generally, warmer-than-normal weather further intensifies competition. Most of our propane retail branch locations compete with several other marketers or distributors in their service areas. The principal factors influencing competition with other retail propane marketers are:

- price,
- reliability and quality of service,
- responsiveness to customer needs,
- safety concerns,
- long-standing customer relationships,
- the inconvenience of switching tanks and suppliers, and
- the lack of growth in the industry.

Table of Contents

Expanding our business by constructing new pipelines and treating and processing facilities subjects us to risks.

One of the ways we may grow our business is through the construction of additions to our existing gathering, compression, treating, processing and transportation system. The construction of a new pipeline or the expansion of an existing pipeline, by adding additional horsepower or pump stations or by adding a second pipeline along an existing pipeline, and the construction of new processing or treating facilities, involve numerous regulatory, environmental, political and legal uncertainties beyond our control and require the expenditure of significant amounts of capital that we will be required to finance through borrowings, the issuance of additional equity or from operating cash flow. If we undertake these projects, they may not be completed on schedule or at all or at the budgeted cost. Moreover, our revenues may not increase immediately upon the expenditure of funds on a particular project. For instance, if we build a new pipeline, the construction will occur over an extended period of time, and we will not receive any material increases in revenues until after completion of the project. Moreover, we may construct facilities to capture anticipated future growth in production in a region in which such growth does not materialize. As a result, new facilities may not be able to attract enough throughput to achieve our expected investment return, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. As a result, the success of a pipeline construction project will likely depend upon the level of natural gas exploration and development drilling activity in the areas proposed to be serviced by the project as well as our ability to obtain commitments from producers in this area to utilize the newly constructed pipelines.

We depend on Koch Hydrocarbons, L.P. to purchase and fractionate the NGLs produced at the Elk City processing plant.

All of the NGLs produced at the Elk City processing plant are transported by Koch Hydrocarbons and delivered for fractionation to Medway, Oklahoma. There are no other fractionation plants or other NGL markets connected to the Elk City processing plant. As a result, if Koch Hydrocarbons refuses or is unable to transport or fractionate these NGLs, our only alternative in the short term would be to transport NGLs by truck to another fractionation plant or another NGL market, which would likely result in additional costs and adversely affect our ability to market the NGLs.

We are exposed to the credit risk of our customers, and an increase in the nonpayment and nonperformance by our customers could reduce our ability to make distributions to our unitholders.

Risks of nonpayment and nonperformance by our customers are a major concern in our business. Participants in the energy industry have been subjected to heightened scrutiny from the financial markets in light of recent collapses and failures of other energy companies. We are subject to risks of loss resulting from nonpayment or nonperformance by our customers. Any increase in the nonpayment and nonperformance by our customers could reduce our ability to make distributions to our unitholders.

We may not be able to bypass the La Grange processing plant, which would expose us to the risk of unfavorable processing margins.

Because of our ownership of the Oasis Pipeline, we can generally elect to bypass the La Grange processing plant when processing margins are unfavorable and instead deliver pipeline-quality gas by blending rich gas from the Southeast Texas System with lean gas transported on the Oasis Pipeline. In some circumstances, such as when we do not have a sufficient amount of lean gas to blend with the volume of rich gas that we receive at the La Grange processing plant, we may have to process the rich gas. If we have to process when processing margins are unfavorable, our results of operations will be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

We may not be able to retain existing customers or acquire new customers, which would reduce our revenues and limit our future profitability.

The renewal or replacement of existing contracts with our customers at rates sufficient to maintain current revenues and cash flows depends on a number of factors beyond our control, including competition from other pipelines, and the price of, and demand for, natural gas in the markets we serve.

For our fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, approximately 12% of our sales of natural gas were to industrial end-users and utilities. As a consequence of the increase in competition in the industry and volatility of natural gas prices, end-users and utilities are increasingly reluctant to enter into long-term purchase contracts. Many end-users purchase natural gas from more than one natural gas company and have the ability to change providers at any time. Some of these end-users also have the ability to switch between gas and alternate fuels in response to relative price fluctuations in the market. Because there are numerous companies of greatly varying size and financial capacity that compete with us in the marketing of natural gas, we often compete in the end-user and utilities markets primarily on the basis of price. The inability of our management to renew or replace our current contracts as they expire and to respond appropriately to changing market conditions could have a negative effect on our profitability.

Our storage business depends on neighboring pipelines to transport natural gas.

To obtain natural gas, our storage business depends on the pipelines to which they have access. Many of these pipelines are owned by parties not affiliated with us. Any interruption of service on those pipelines or adverse change in their terms and conditions of service could have a material adverse effect on our ability, and the ability of our customers, to transport natural gas to and from our facilities and a corresponding material adverse effect on our storage revenues. In addition, the rates charged by those interconnected pipelines for transportation to and from our facilities affect the utilization and value of our storage services. Significant changes in the rates charged by those pipelines or the rates charged by other pipelines with which the interconnected pipelines compete could also have a material adverse effect on our storage revenues.

Our pipeline integrity program may impose significant costs and liabilities on us.

In December 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a final rule requiring pipeline operators to develop integrity management programs to comprehensively evaluate their pipelines, and take measures to protect pipeline segments located in what the rule refers to as high consequence areas. The final rule resulted from the enactment of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. The final rule was effective as of January 14, 2004. Based on the results of our current pipeline integrity testing programs, we estimate that compliance with this final rule for our existing transportation assets will result in capital costs of \$0.2 million during 2004 and \$4.5 million during 2005 to 2010, as well as operating and maintenance costs of \$0.2 million during 2004 and \$1.8 million during 2005 to 2010. We are continuing to assess the impact of this final rule on the ET Fuel System and cannot predict any estimated compliance costs for those assets at this time. Integrity testing and assessment of all of these assets will continue, and the potential exists that results of such testing and assessment could cause us to incur even greater capital and operating expenditures for repairs or upgrades deemed necessary to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of our pipelines.

Since weather conditions may adversely affect demand for propane, our financial condition is vulnerable to warm winters.

Weather conditions have a significant impact on the demand for propane for both heating and agricultural purposes because many of our customers rely heavily on propane as a heating fuel. Typically, we sell approximately two-thirds of our retail propane volume during the peak-heating season of October through March. Our results of operations can be adversely affected by warmer winter weather which results in lower sales volumes. In addition, to the extent that warm weather or other factors adversely affect our operating and financial results, our access to capital and our acquisition activities may be

Table of Contents

limited. Variations in weather in one or more of the regions where we operate can significantly affect the total volume of propane that we sell and the profits realized on these sales. Agricultural demand for propane is also affected by weather during the harvest season as poor harvests or dry weather reduce demand for propane used in crop drying.

Sudden and sharp propane price increases that cannot be passed on to customers may adversely affect our profit margins.

The propane industry is a margin-based business in which gross profits depend on the excess of sales prices over supply costs. As a result, our profitability is sensitive to changes in energy prices, and in particular, changes in wholesale prices of propane. When there are sudden and sharp increases in the wholesale cost of propane, we may not be able to pass on these increases to our customers through retail or wholesale prices. Propane is a commodity and the price we pay for it can fluctuate significantly in response to changes in supply or other market conditions over which we have no control. In addition, the timing of cost pass-throughs can significantly affect margins. Sudden and extended wholesale price increases could reduce our gross profits and could, if continued over an extended period of time, reduce demand by encouraging our retail customers to conserve or convert to alternative energy sources.

Our results of operations and our ability to make distributions or pay interest or principal on debt securities could be negatively impacted by price and inventory risk related to our propane business and management of these risks.

We generally attempt to minimize our cost and inventory risk related to our propane business by purchasing propane on a short-term basis, under supply contracts that typically have a one-year term and at a cost that fluctuates based on the prevailing market prices at major delivery points. In order to help ensure adequate supply sources are available during periods of high demand, we may purchase large volumes of propane during periods of low demand or low price, which generally occur during the summer months, for storage in our facilities, at major storage facilities or for future delivery. This strategy may not be effective in limiting our cost and inventory risks if, for example, market, weather or other conditions prevent or allocate the delivery of physical product during periods of peak demand. If the market price falls below the cost at which we made such purchases, it could adversely affect our profits.

Some of our propane sales are pursuant to commitments at fixed prices. To mitigate the price risk related to our anticipated sales volumes under the commitments, we may purchase and store physical product and/or enter into fixed price over-the-counter energy commodity forward contracts and options. Generally, over-the-counter energy commodity forward contracts have terms of less than one year. We enter into such contracts and exercise such options at volume levels that we believe are necessary to manage these commitments. The risk management of our inventory and contracts for the future purchase of product could impair our profitability if the customers do not fulfill their obligations.

We also engage in other trading activities, and may enter into other types of over-the-counter energy commodity forward contracts and options. These trading activities are based on our management's estimates of future events and prices and are intended to generate a profit. However, if those estimates are incorrect or other market events outside of our control occur, such activities could generate a loss in future periods and potentially impair our profitability.

We are dependent on our principal propane suppliers, which increases the risk of an interruption in supply.

During fiscal 2004, we purchased approximately 24.9% of our propane from Enterprise Products Operating L.P., approximately 18.8% of our propane from Dynegy Liquids Marketing and Trade and approximately 19% of our propane from MP Energy, the Canadian partnership in which we own a 60% interest. If supplies from these sources were interrupted, the cost of procuring replacement supplies and transporting those supplies from alternative locations might be materially higher and, at least on a short-term basis, margins could be adversely affected. Supply from Canada is subject to the additional risk of

Table of Contents

disruption associated with foreign trade such as trade restrictions, shipping delays and political, regulatory and economic instability.

Historically, a substantial portion of the propane we purchase has originated from one of the industry's major markets located in Mont Belvieu, Texas and has been shipped to us through major common carrier pipelines. Any significant interruption in the service at Mont Belvieu or other major market points, or on the common carrier pipelines we use would adversely affect our ability to obtain propane.

Competition from alternative energy sources may cause us to lose propane customers, thereby reducing our revenues.

Competition in our propane business from alternative energy sources has been increasing as a result of reduced regulation of many utilities. Propane is generally not competitive with natural gas in areas where natural gas pipelines already exist because natural gas is a less expensive source of energy than propane. The gradual expansion of natural gas distribution systems and the availability of natural gas in many areas that previously depended upon propane could cause us to lose customers, thereby reducing our revenues. Fuel oil also competes with propane and is generally less expensive than propane. In addition, the successful development and increasing usage of alternative energy sources could adversely affect our operations.

If we do not continue to make additional propane acquisitions on economically acceptable terms, our future financial performance will be affected.

The propane industry is not a growth industry in part because of increased competition from alternative energy sources. In addition, because of long-standing customer relationships that are typical in the retail propane industry, the inconvenience of switching tanks and suppliers, and propane's higher cost relative to other energy sources, such as natural gas, we may have difficulty in increasing our retail customer base except through acquisitions. Therefore, our ability to grow our propane business will depend primarily upon our ability to acquire other retail propane distributors. Any acquisition may involve one or more of the following risks, including:

an increase in our indebtedness, which may affect credit ratings and our ability to make distributions to unitholders;

the inability to integrate the operations of the acquired business into our existing operations and make cost-saving changes such that the acquisition will be accretive to earnings and distributions to unitholders;

the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns;

the assumption of unknown liabilities and/or the inability or failure of the sellers to indemnify us under the acquisition agreements; and

greater-than-expected loss of customers or employees from the acquired business.

Energy efficiency and technological advances may affect the demand for propane and adversely affect our operating results.

The national trend toward increased conservation and technological advances, including installation of improved insulation and the development of more efficient furnaces and other heating devices, has decreased the demand for propane by retail customers. Stricter conservation measures in the future or technological advances in heating, conservation, energy generation or other devices could adversely affect our operations.

Table of Contents

Risks Inherent in an Investment in Us

Cash distributions are not guaranteed and may fluctuate with our performance and other external factors.

The amount of cash we can distribute on our common units or other partnership securities depends upon the amount of cash we generate from our operations. The amount of cash we generate from our operations will fluctuate from quarter to quarter and will depend upon, among other things:

the amount of natural gas transported on the Oasis Pipeline and in our gathering systems;

the level of throughput in our processing and treating operations;

the fees we charge and the margins we realize for our services;

the price of natural gas;

the relationship between natural gas and NGL prices;

the weather in our operating areas;

the cost to us of the propane we buy for resale and the prices we receive for our propane;

the level of competition from other propane companies and other energy providers;

the level of our operating costs; and

prevailing economic conditions.

In addition, the actual amount of cash available for distribution will also depend on other factors, such as:

the level of capital expenditures we make;

the cost of acquisitions, if any;

our debt service requirements;

fluctuations in our working capital needs;

our ability to make working capital borrowings under our credit facilities to make distributions;

restrictions on distributions contained in our debt agreements; and

the amount, if any, of cash reserves established by the general partner in its discretion for the proper conduct of our business.

Because of all these factors, we cannot guarantee that we will have sufficient available cash to pay a specific level of cash distributions to our unitholders.

Furthermore, you should be aware that the amount of cash we have available for distribution depends primarily upon our cash flow, including cash flow from financial reserves and working capital borrowings, and is not solely a function of profitability, which will be affected by non-cash items. As a result, we may make cash distributions during periods when we record net losses and may not make cash distributions during periods when we record net income.

We may be unable to successfully integrate the operations of acquired businesses or systems with our operations and to realize all of the anticipated benefits of the acquisition of these operations.

In June 2004, we completed the acquisition of the midstream natural gas assets of TXU Fuel Company, which we refer to as the ET Fuel System. In November 2004, we completed the acquisition of certain East Texas midstream natural gas assets of Devon Energy Corporation. As part of our business strategy, we expect to continue to make acquisitions of midstream and transportation assets and propane distribution assets.

Table of Contents

The process of combining the operations we acquire could cause an interruption of, or loss of momentum in, the activities of our business and the loss of key personnel. The diversion of management's attention and any delays or difficulties encountered in connection with the acquisition and the integration of acquired operations could harm our business, results of operations, financial condition or prospects after the acquisitions. Furthermore, the integration of these operations may not result in the realization of the full benefits anticipated to result from these acquisitions.

We may sell additional limited partner interests, diluting existing interests of unitholders.

Our partnership agreement allows us to issue an unlimited number of additional limited partner interests, including securities senior to the common units, without the approval of the unitholders. The issuance of additional common units or other equity securities will have the following effects:

the proportionate ownership interest of our unitholders in us will decrease;

the amount of cash available for distribution on each common unit or partnership security may decrease;

the relative voting strength of each previously outstanding common unit may be diminished; and

the market price of the common units or partnership securities may decline.

Future sales of our units or other limited partner interests in the trading market could reduce the market price of unitholders' limited partner interests.

As of the date of this prospectus, La Grange Energy owned 15,883,234 common units, all of which are being registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. La Grange Energy intends to sell and/or distribute its common units to the holders of its equity interests, and, in the future, those holders may dispose of some or all of these units. If these holders were to dispose of a substantial portion of these units in the trading markets, it could reduce the market price of our outstanding common units. Our partnership agreement and the registration rights agreement granted to La Grange Energy allows La Grange Energy to cause us to register for sale units held by La Grange Energy and its affiliates. These registration rights allow La Grange Energy and its affiliates to request registration of their common units and to include any of those units in a registration of other securities by us. The ability of those holders to sell common units is subject to restrictions contained in agreements among those holders that are intended to facilitate the orderly sales of common units from time to time by those holders.

Our increased debt level may limit our future financial and operating flexibility.

As of August 31, 2004, we had approximately \$1,116.4 million of consolidated debt outstanding. Our total indebtedness represented 60% of our total book capitalization at August 31, 2004. Our level of indebtedness affects our operations in several ways, including, among other things:

a significant portion of our cash flow from operations will be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt and will not be available for other purposes, including payment of distributions;

covenants contained in our existing debt arrangements requires us to meet financial tests that may adversely affect our flexibility in planning for and reacting to changes in our business;

our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and general partnership purposes may be limited;

we may be at a competitive disadvantage relative to similar companies that have less debt; and

we may be more vulnerable to adverse economic and industry conditions as a result of our significant debt level.

Table of Contents

Our debt agreements may limit our ability to make distributions to unitholders and our financial flexibility.

We currently maintain credit arrangements that relate to our two primary business segments, the midstream and transportation segment and the propane segment. Our subsidiary Energy Transfer Company maintains the credit arrangements related to the midstream and transportation segment, which we refer to as the Midstream Facilities, which consist of a \$725.0 million term loan facility and a \$225.0 revolving credit facility. Our subsidiary Heritage Operating maintains the credit arrangements related to our propane segment which consist of senior secured term notes issued to certain insurance company lenders and a \$150.0 million bank credit facility consisting of a \$75.0 million acquisition facility and a \$75.0 million revolving credit facility.

The Energy Transfer Company credit facility contains restrictive covenants applicable to Energy Transfer Company, including limitations on the level of additional indebtedness, creation of liens and sale of assets. These covenants also require Energy Transfer Company to maintain ratios of (1) consolidated funded indebtedness to consolidated EBITDA (as such terms are defined in the Energy Transfer Company credit facility) of not more than 4.75 to 1 until June 2, 2005 and not more than 4.0 to 1 thereafter, (2) adjusted consolidated funded indebtedness to adjusted consolidated EBITDA (as these terms are defined in the Energy Transfer Company credit facility) of not more than 5.25 to 1 until November 30, 2005 and not more than 5.0 to 1 thereafter, and (3) consolidated EBITDA to consolidated interest expense (as these terms are defined in the Energy Transfer Company credit facility) of not less than 2.75 to 1. The credit facility also provides that Energy Transfer Company may make distributions to us or make other specified payments (each referred to as a restricted payment) during each fiscal quarter, if: (a) the amount of such restricted payment, together with all other restricted payments during such quarter, does not exceed available cash (defined in a manner similar to the definition of available cash in our partnership agreement) with respect to the immediately preceding quarter; and (b) no event of default exists before such restricted payment and after giving effect thereto.

As of August 31, 2004, Heritage Operating had outstanding \$208.2 million in senior secured debt with insurance companies and \$47.5 million in secured debt under its bank credit facility. This leverage may adversely affect its ability to finance its future operations and its capital needs, limit its ability to pursue acquisitions and other business opportunities and make its results of operations more susceptible to adverse economic conditions. Heritage Operating may in the future incur additional debt to finance acquisitions or for general business purposes, which could result in a significant increase in its leverage. The payment of principal and interest on its debt will reduce the cash available to us to make distributions on our common units. We will not be able to make any distributions to our unitholders if there is or will be an event of default under these debt agreements. The ability of Heritage Operating to make principal and interest payments depends on its future performance, which is subject to many factors, several of which will be outside its control. Heritage Operating has granted liens on substantially all of its personal property (other than vehicles) to secure its existing debt. If an event of default occurs, the secured lenders can foreclose on the collateral.

The debt agreements of Heritage Operating contain provisions relating to changes in ownership and changes of our general partner. If these provisions are triggered, the outstanding debt under these agreements may become due. If that happens, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to pay the debt. The general partner and its partners are not prohibited from entering into a transaction that would trigger these change-in-ownership provisions. The notes and the bank credit facility also contain restrictive covenants that limit the ability of Heritage Operating to incur additional debt and to engage in certain transactions. The debt agreements contain covenants that require Heritage Operating to maintain ratios of consolidated funded indebtedness to consolidated EBITDA (as these terms are similarly defined in the debt agreements) of not more than 5.25 to 1 until November 30, 2005 and not more than 5.00 to 1 for the bank credit facility and not more than 5.25 to 1 for the note agreements and consolidated EBITDA to consolidated interest expense (as these terms are similarly defined in the debt agreements) of not less than 2.25 to 1. Other covenants also limit the ability of Heritage Operating to incur additional indebtedness, grant liens on its properties or assets, or make loans, advances, investments and engage in transactions with

Table of Contents

affiliates. These covenants could reduce its ability to capitalize on business opportunities as they arise. Any new indebtedness could be reasonably expected to have similar or greater restrictions.

Failure to comply with the various restrictive and affirmative covenants of the Energy Transfer Company credit facility or the Heritage Operating bank credit facility and the note agreements could negatively impact our ability to incur additional debt and to pay distributions.

Our ability to access the capital markets for future offerings may be limited by adverse market conditions resulting from, among other things, general economic conditions, contingencies and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and beyond our control. If we are unable to access the capital markets for future offerings, we might be forced to seek extensions for some of our short-term maturities or to refinance some of our debt obligations through bank credit, as opposed to long-term public or private debt securities or equity securities. The price and terms upon which we might receive such extensions or additional bank credit could be more onerous than those contained in our existing debt agreements. Any such arrangements could, in turn, increase the risk that our leverage may adversely affect our future financial and operating flexibility.

We may not be able to fully execute our growth strategy if we encounter illiquid capital markets or increased competition for qualified assets.

Our strategy contemplates growth through the development and acquisition of a wide range of midstream, transportation, propane and other energy infrastructure assets while maintaining a strong balance sheet. This strategy includes constructing and acquiring additional assets and businesses to enhance our ability to compete effectively and diversify our asset portfolio, thereby providing more stable cash flow. We regularly consider and enter into discussions regarding, and are currently contemplating, the acquisition of additional assets and businesses, stand alone development projects or other transactions that we believe will present opportunities to realize synergies and increase our market position.

We may require substantial new capital to finance the future development and acquisition of assets and businesses. Limitations on our access to capital will impair our ability to execute this strategy. Expensive capital will limit our ability to develop or acquire accretive assets. We may not be able to raise the necessary funds on satisfactory terms, if at all.

Consistent with our acquisition strategy, we are continuously engaged in discussions with potential sellers regarding the possible acquisition of additional assets or businesses. Such acquisition efforts may involve our participation in processes that involve a number of potential buyers, commonly referred to as "auction" processes, as well as situations where we believe we are the only party or one of a very limited number of potential buyers in negotiations with the potential seller. We can give you no assurance that our current or future acquisition efforts will be successful or that any such acquisition will be completed on terms considered favorable to us.

In addition, we are experiencing increased competition for the assets we purchase or contemplate purchasing. Increased competition for a limited pool of assets could result in us losing to other bidders more often or acquiring assets at higher prices. Either occurrence would limit our ability to fully execute our growth strategy. Our inability to execute our growth strategy may materially adversely impact the market price of our securities.

The general partner is not elected by the unitholders and cannot be removed without its consent.

Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, unitholders have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business, and therefore limited ability to influence management's decisions regarding our business. Unitholders did not elect our general partner and will have no right to elect our general partner on an annual or other continuing basis. Although our general partner has a fiduciary duty to manage us in a manner beneficial to Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. and the unitholders, the directors of our general partner and its general partner, U.S. Propane, L.L.C., have a fiduciary duty to manage the general partner and its general partner in a manner beneficial to the owners of those entities.

Table of Contents

Furthermore, if the unitholders are dissatisfied with the performance of our general partner, they will have little ability to remove our general partner. The general partner generally may not be removed except upon the vote of the holders of 66 2/3% of the outstanding units voting together as a single class, including units owned by the general partner and its affiliates. Prior to any sales or distributions pursuant to this prospectus, the owner of our general partner and its affiliates held approximately 35.58% of all the units, with an additional 2.13% of units held by our officers and directors. Consequently, it will be difficult to remove the general partner without the consent of the general partner and our affiliates.

Furthermore, unitholders' voting rights are further restricted by the partnership agreement provision providing that any units held by a person that owns 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, other than the general partner and its affiliates, cannot be voted on any matter.

The control of our general partner may be transferred to a third party without unitholder consent.

The general partner may transfer its general partner interest to a third party in a merger or in a sale of all or substantially all of its assets without the consent of the unitholders. Furthermore, there is no restriction in the partnership agreement on the ability of the general partner of our general partner from transferring its general partner interest in our general partner to a third party. Any new owner of the general partner would be in a position to replace the officers of the general partner with its own choices and to control the decisions taken by such officers.

Unitholders may be required to sell their units to the general partner at an undesirable time or price.

If at any time less than 20% of the outstanding units of any class are held by persons other than the general partner and its affiliates, the general partner will have the right to acquire all, but not less than all, of those units at a price no less than their then-current market price. As a consequence, a unitholder may be required to sell his common units at an undesirable time or price. The general partner may assign this purchase right to any of its affiliates or to us.

Cost reimbursements due our general partner may be substantial and reduce our ability to pay the distributions to unitholders.

Prior to making any distributions on the units, we will reimburse our general partner for all expenses it has incurred on our behalf. In addition, our general partner and its affiliates may provide us with services for which we will be charged reasonable fees as determined by the general partner. The reimbursement of these expenses and the payment of these fees could adversely affect our ability to make distributions to the unitholders. Our general partner has sole discretion to determine the amount of these expenses and fees.

Unitholders may have liability to repay distributions.

Under certain circumstances unitholders may have to repay us amounts wrongfully returned or distributed to them. Under Delaware law, we may not make a distribution to you if the distribution causes our liabilities to exceed the fair value of our assets. Liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and non-recourse liabilities are not counted for purposes of determining whether a distribution is permitted. Delaware law provides that a limited partner who receives such a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution violated Delaware law will be liable to the limited partnership for the distribution amount for three years from the distribution date. Under Delaware law, an assignee who becomes a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of the assignor to make contributions to the partnership. However, such an assignee is not obligated for liabilities unknown to him at the time he or she became a limited partner if the liabilities could not be determined from the partnership agreement.

Table of Contents

Our partnership agreement limits our general partner's fiduciary duties to our unitholders and restricts the remedies available to unitholders for actions taken by our general partner that might otherwise constitute breaches of fiduciary duty.

Our partnership agreement contains provisions that waive or consent to conduct by our general partner and its affiliates that reduce the obligations to which our general partner would otherwise be held by state-law fiduciary duty standards. The following is a summary of the material restrictions contained in our partnership agreement on the fiduciary duties owed by our general partner to the limited partners. Our partnership agreement:

permits our general partner to make a number of decisions in its sole discretion. This entitles our general partner to consider only the interests and factors that it desires, and it has no duty or obligation to give any consideration to any interest of, or factors affecting, us, our affiliates or any limited partner;

provides that our general partner is entitled to make other decisions in its reasonable discretion ;

generally provides that affiliated transactions and resolutions of conflicts of interest not involving a required vote of unitholders must be fair and reasonable to us and that, in determining whether a transaction or resolution is fair and reasonable, our general partner may consider the interests of all parties involved, including its own. Unless our general partner has acted in bad faith, the action taken by our general partner shall not constitute a breach of its fiduciary duty; and

provides that our general partner and its officers and directors will not be liable for monetary damages to us, our limited partners or assignees for errors of judgment or for any acts or omissions if our general partner and those other persons acted in good faith.

In order to become a limited partner of our partnership, a common unitholder is required to agree to be bound by the provisions in the partnership agreement, including the provisions discussed above.

The general partner's absolute discretion in determining the level of cash reserves may adversely affect our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders.

Our partnership agreement requires the general partner to deduct from operating surplus cash reserves that in its reasonable discretion are necessary to fund our future operating expenditures. In addition, the partnership agreement permits the general partner to reduce available cash by establishing cash reserves for the proper conduct of our business, to comply with applicable law or agreements to which we are a party or to provide funds for future distributions to partners. These cash reserves will affect the amount of cash available for distribution to unitholders.

Our general partner has conflicts of interest and limited fiduciary responsibilities, which may permit our general partner to favor its own interests to the detriment of unitholders.

Prior to any sales or distributions pursuant to this prospectus, the owner of our general partner and its affiliates directly and indirectly owned an aggregate limited partner interest of approximately 35.58% and our officers and directors owned approximately 2.13% of the limited partner interests in us. Conflicts of interest could arise in the future as a result of relationships between our general partner and its affiliates, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand. As a result of these conflicts our general partner may favor its own interests and those of its affiliates over the interests of the unitholders. The nature of these conflicts includes the following considerations:

Remedies available to unitholders for actions that might, without the limitations, constitute breaches of fiduciary duty. Unitholders are deemed to have consented to some actions and conflicts of interest that might otherwise be deemed a breach of fiduciary or other duties under applicable state law.

Our general partner is allowed to take into account the interests of parties in addition to us in resolving conflicts of interest, thereby limiting its fiduciary duties to the unitholders.

Table of Contents

Our general partner's affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in other businesses or activities, including those in direct competition with us.

Our general partner determines the amount and timing of asset purchases and sales, capital expenditures, borrowings and reserves, each of which can affect the amount of cash