

ClearBridge Energy MLP Total Return Fund Inc.
Form N-Q
October 26, 2012

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

FORM N-Q

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY**

Investment Company Act file number 811-22693

ClearBridge Energy MLP Total Return Fund Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor, New York, NY
(Address of principal executive offices)

10018
(Zip code)

Robert I. Frenkel, Esq.

Legg Mason & Co., LLC

100 First Stamford Place

Stamford, CT 06902
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 1-(888) 777-0102

Date of fiscal year end: November 30

Date of reporting period: August 31, 2012

ITEM 1. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

CLEARBRIDGE ENERGY MLP TOTAL RETURN FUND INC.

FORM N-Q

AUGUST 31, 2012

CLEARBRIDGE ENERGY MLP TOTAL RETURN FUND INC.

Schedule of investments (unaudited)

August 31, 2012

| SECURITY | SHARES/UNITS | VALUE |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS 123.8% | | |
| Diversified Energy Infrastructure 36.1% | | |
| Energy Transfer Equity LP | 1,000,000 | \$ 43,950,000 |
| Energy Transfer Partners LP | 180,000 | 7,689,600 |
| Enterprise Products Partners LP | 1,137,000 | 60,715,800 |
| Genesis Energy LP | 222,000 | 7,175,040 |
| Kinder Morgan Management LLC | 875,791 | 64,913,629* |
| ONEOK Partners LP | 359,535 | 20,428,779 |
| Regency Energy Partners LP | 560,000 | 12,958,400 |
| Williams Partners LP | 968,000 | 49,929,440 |
| Total Diversified Energy Infrastructure | | 267,760,688 |
| Exploration & Production 6.6% | | |
| Eagle Rock Energy Partners LP | 920,000 | 8,694,000 |
| Linn Energy LLC | 1,020,000 | 40,555,200 |
| Total Exploration & Production | | 49,249,200 |
| Gathering/Processing 46.3% | | |
| Access Midstream Partners LP | 1,265,602 | 38,132,588 |
| Copano Energy LLC | 1,590,000 | 48,797,100 |
| Crestwood Midstream Partners LP | 1,027,000 | 25,264,200 |
| DCP Midstream Partners LP | 562,588 | 24,270,047(a) |
| EQT Midstream Partners LP | 1,050,000 | 28,833,000* |
| Exterran Partners LP | 394,900 | 8,411,370 |
| MarkWest Energy Partners LP | 1,208,000 | 64,144,800 |
| PVR Partners LP | 1,631,000 | 39,731,160 |
| Rose Rock Midstream LP | 166,000 | 4,749,260 |
| Targa Resources Partners LP | 782,250 | 31,696,770 |
| Western Gas Partners LP | 619,055 | 29,559,876 |
| Total Gathering/Processing | | 343,590,171 |
| Global Infrastructure 1.9% | | |
| Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP | 421,000 | 14,389,780 |
| Liquids Transportation & Storage 19.1% | | |
| Buckeye Partners LP | 190,000 | 9,389,800 |
| Calumet Specialty Products Partners LP | 194,000 | 5,530,940 |
| Enbridge Energy Partners LP | 850,000 | 25,041,000 |
| Holly Energy Partners LP | 75,000 | 5,051,250 |
| Magellan Midstream Partners LP | 94,000 | 7,799,180 |
| NuStar Energy LP | 155,000 | 7,861,600 |
| NuStar GP Holdings LLC | 333,000 | 10,146,510 |
| Oiltanking Partners LP | 108,948 | 4,007,107 |
| Plains All American Pipeline LP | 688,583 | 59,583,087 |
| Sunoco Logistics Partners LP | 117,108 | 5,463,088 |
| Tesoro Logistics LP | 35,678 | 1,554,491 |
| Total Liquids Transportation & Storage | | 141,428,053 |
| Natural Gas Transportation & Storage 3.8% | | |
| Boardwalk Pipeline Partners LP | 184,000 | 4,973,520 |

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| | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| El Paso Pipeline Partners LP | 581,000 | 21,026,390 |
| TC Pipelines LP | 49,000 | 2,225,580 |
| Total Natural Gas Transportation & Storage | | 28,225,490 |
| Propane 4.3% | | |
| Inergy LP | 1,258,000 | 27,122,480 |
| Suburban Propane Partners LP | 133,000 | 5,147,100 |
| Total Propane | | 32,269,580 |
| Shipping 5.7% | | |
| Golar LNG Partners LP | 319,000 | 10,148,985 |
| Teekay LNG Partners LP | 365,000 | 14,497,800 |

See Notes to Schedule of Investments.

CLEARBRIDGE ENERGY MLP TOTAL RETURN FUND INC.

Schedule of investments (unaudited) (cont d)

August 31, 2012

| SECURITY | SHARES/UNITS | VALUE |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Shipping continued | | |
| Teekay Offshore Partners Private | 642,236 \$ | 17,321,426(a) |
| Total Shipping | | 41,968,211 |
| TOTAL MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS (Cost \$872,898,686) | | 918,881,173 |
| ROYALTY TRUSTS 1.1% | | |
| Exploration & Production 1.1% | | |
| Sandridge Mississippian Trust I(Cost - \$8,318,036) | 315,000 | 7,890,750 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS 124.9% (Cost \$881,216,722) | | 926,771,923 |
| Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets (24.9)% | | (184,467,796) |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS 100.0% | \$ | 742,304,127 |

* Non-income producing security.

(a) Security is valued in good faith in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors (See Note 1).

Aggregate cost for federal income tax purposes is substantially the same.

See Notes to Schedule of Investments.

Notes to schedule of investments (unaudited)

1. Organization and significant accounting policies

ClearBridge Energy MLP Total Return Fund Inc. (the Fund) was incorporated in Maryland on April 10, 2012 and is registered as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act). The Board of Directors authorized 100 million shares of \$0.001 par value common stock. The Fund's investment objective is to provide a high level of total return with emphases on cash distributions and capital appreciation. The Fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing primarily in master limited partnerships (MLPs) in the energy sector. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its managed assets in MLPs in the energy sector (the 80% policy). For purposes of the 80% policy, the Fund considers investments in MLPs to include investments that offer economic exposure to public and private MLPs in the form of equity securities of MLPs, securities of entities holding primarily general partner or managing member interests in MLPs, indirect interests in MLPs (such as I-Shares) and debt securities of MLPs. Entities in the energy sector are engaged in the business of exploring, developing, producing, gathering, transporting, processing, storing, refining, distributing, mining or marketing of natural gas, natural gas liquids (including propane), crude oil, refined petroleum products or coal.

The following are significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund and are in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

(a) Investment valuation. Equity securities for which market quotations are available are valued at the last reported sales price or official closing price on the primary market or exchange on which they trade. The valuations for fixed income securities (which may include, but are not limited to, corporate, government, municipal, mortgage-backed, collateralized mortgage obligations and asset-backed securities) and certain derivative instruments are typically the prices supplied by independent third party pricing services, which may use market prices or broker/dealer quotations or a variety of valuation techniques and methodologies. The independent third party pricing services use inputs that are observable such as issuer details, interest rates, yield curves, prepayment speeds, credit risks/spreads, default rates and quoted prices for similar securities. Short-term fixed income securities that will mature in 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, unless it is determined that using this method would not reflect an investment's fair value. If independent third party pricing services are unable to supply prices for a portfolio investment, or if the prices supplied are deemed by the manager to be unreliable, the market price may be determined by the manager using quotations from one or more broker/dealers or at the transaction price if the security has recently been purchased and no value has yet been obtained from a pricing service or pricing broker. When reliable prices are not readily available, such as when the value of a security has been significantly affected by events after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded, but before the Fund calculates its net asset value, the Fund values these securities as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Fund's Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the valuation process and has delegated the supervision of the daily valuation process to the Legg Mason North American Fund Valuation Committee (the Valuation Committee). The Valuation Committee, pursuant to the policies adopted by the Board of Directors, is responsible for making fair value determinations, evaluating the effectiveness of the Fund's pricing policies, and reporting to the Board of Directors. When determining the reliability of third party pricing information for investments owned by the Fund, the Valuation Committee, among other things, conducts due diligence reviews of pricing vendors, monitors the daily change in prices and reviews transactions among market participants.

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The Valuation Committee will consider pricing methodologies it deems relevant and appropriate when making fair value determinations. Examples of possible methodologies include, but are not limited to, multiple of earnings; discount from market of a similar freely traded security; discounted cash-flow analysis; book value or a multiple thereof; risk premium/yield analysis; yield to maturity; and/or fundamental investment analysis. The Valuation Committee will also consider factors it deems relevant and appropriate in light of the facts and circumstances. Examples of possible factors include, but are not limited to, the type of security; the issuer's financial statements; the purchase price of the security; the discount from market value of unrestricted securities of the same class at the time of purchase; analysts' research and observations from financial institutions; information regarding any transactions or offers with respect to the security; the existence of merger proposals or tender offers affecting the security; the price and extent of public trading in similar securities of the issuer or comparable companies; and the existence of a shelf registration for restricted securities.

For each portfolio security that has been fair valued pursuant to the policies adopted by the Board of Directors, the fair value price is compared against the last available and next available market quotations. The Valuation Committee reviews the results of such back testing monthly and fair valuation occurrences are reported to the Board of Directors quarterly.

Notes to schedule of investments (unaudited) (continued)

The Fund uses valuation techniques to measure fair value that are consistent with the market approach and/or income approach, depending on the type of security and the particular circumstance. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable securities. The income approach uses valuation techniques to discount estimated future cash flows to present value.

GAAP establishes a disclosure hierarchy that categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to value assets and liabilities at measurement date. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

- Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical investments
- Level 2 other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.)
- Level 3 significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments)

The inputs or methodologies used to value securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the inputs used in valuing the Fund's assets carried at fair value:

| DESCRIPTION | QUOTED PRICES (LEVEL 1) | ASSETS OTHER SIGNIFICANT OBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 2) | SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 3) | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Master limited partnerships | \$ 877,289,700 | \$ 41,591,473 | | \$ 918,881,173 |
| Royalty trusts | 7,890,750 | | | 7,890,750 |
| Total investments | \$ 885,180,450 | \$ 41,591,473 | | \$ 926,771,923 |

See Schedule of Investments for additional detailed categorizations.

(b) Repurchase agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with institutions that its investment adviser has determined are creditworthy. Each repurchase agreement is recorded at cost. Under the terms of a typical repurchase agreement, the Fund acquires a debt security subject to an obligation of the seller to repurchase, and of the Fund to resell, the security at an agreed-upon price and time, thereby determining the yield during the Fund's holding period. When entering into repurchase agreements, it is the Fund's policy that its custodian or a third party custodian, acting on the Fund's behalf, take possession of the underlying collateral securities, the market value of which, at all times, at least equals the principal amount of the repurchase transaction, including accrued interest. To the extent that any repurchase transaction

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maturity exceeds one business day, the value of the collateral is marked-to-market and measured against the value of the agreement in an effort to ensure the adequacy of the collateral. If the counterparty defaults, the Fund generally has the right to use the collateral to satisfy the terms of the repurchase transaction. However, if the market value of the collateral declines during the period in which the Fund seeks to assert its rights or if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller of the security, realization of the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited.

(c) Master limited partnerships. Entities commonly referred to as MLPs are generally organized under state law as limited partnerships or limited liability companies. The Fund intends to primarily invest in MLPs receiving partnership taxation treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), and whose interests or units are traded on securities exchanges like shares of corporate stock. To be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, an MLP whose units are traded on a securities exchange must receive at least 90% of its income from qualifying sources such as interest, dividends, real estate rents, gain from the sale or disposition of real property, income and gain from mineral or natural resources activities, income and gain from the transportation or storage of certain fuels, and, in certain circumstances, income and gain from commodities or futures, forwards and options with respect to commodities. Mineral or natural resources activities include exploration, development, production, processing, mining, refining, marketing and transportation (including pipelines), of oil and gas, minerals, geothermal energy, fertilizer, timber or industrial source carbon dioxide. An MLP consists of a general partner and limited partners (or in the case of MLPs organized as limited liability companies, a managing member and members). The general partner or managing member typically controls the operations and management of the MLP and has an ownership stake in the partnership. The limited partners or members, through their ownership of limited partner or member interests, provide capital to the entity, are intended to have no role in the operation and management of the entity and receive cash distributions. The MLPs themselves generally do not pay U.S. federal income taxes. Thus, unlike investors in corporate securities, direct MLP investors are generally not subject to double taxation (i.e., corporate level tax and tax on corporate dividends). Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy and/or natural resources sector.

Notes to schedule of investments (unaudited) (continued)

(d) Concentration risk. Concentration in the energy sector may present more risks than if the Fund were broadly diversified over numerous sectors of the economy. A downturn in the energy sector of the economy could have a larger impact on the Fund than on an investment company that does not concentrate in the sector. At times, the performance of securities of companies in the sector may lag the performance of other sectors or the broader market as a whole.

(e) Security transactions. Security transactions are accounted for on a trade date basis.

2. Investments

At August 31, 2012, the aggregate gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments for federal income tax purposes were substantially as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Gross unrealized appreciation | \$ | 49,240,916 |
| Gross unrealized depreciation | | (3,685,715) |
| Net unrealized appreciation | \$ | 45,555,201 |

3. Derivative instruments and hedging activities

Financial Accounting Standards Board Codification Topic 815 requires enhanced disclosure about an entity's derivative and hedging activities.

During the period ended August 31, 2012, the Fund did not invest in any derivative instruments.

4. Recent accounting pronouncement

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-04, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820) - Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs (ASU No. 2011-04). ASU No. 2011-04 establishes common requirements for measuring fair value and for disclosing information about fair value measurements. ASU No. 2011-04 is effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Management has evaluated ASU No. 2011-04 and concluded that it does not materially impact the financial statement amounts; however, as required, additional disclosure has been included about fair value measurement.

ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) are effective as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of the disclosure controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act and 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are likely to materially affect the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 3. EXHIBITS.

Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, are attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ClearBridge Energy MLP Total Return Fund Inc.

By /s/ R. Jay Gerken
R. Jay Gerken
Chief Executive Officer

Date: October 26, 2012

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By /s/ R. Jay Gerken
R. Jay Gerken
Chief Executive Officer

Date: October 26, 2012

By /s/ Richard F. Sennett
Richard F. Sennett
Principal Financial Officer

Date: October 26, 2012
