UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

þ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from to

Commission file number 1-33249

Legacy Reserves LP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	16-1751069 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
303 W. Wall Street, Suite 1400 Midland, Texas (Address of principal executive offices)	79701 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:
(432) 689-5200

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:
Units representing limited partner interests listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC.

Securities registered pursuant to 12(g) of the Act:
None.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes o No þ

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes o No þ

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes þ No o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes o No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filero	Accelerated filer þ	Non-accelerated filer o	Smaller reporting company o
		(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No þ

The aggregate market value of units held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately $242.9 million on June 30, 2009, based on $12.96 per unit, the last reported sales price of the units on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on such date.

40,070,201 units representing limited partner interests in the registrant were outstanding as of March 4, 2010.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Parts of the definitive proxy statement for the registrant's 2010 annual meeting of unitholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this annual report on Form 10-K.

LEGACY RESERVES LP

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Bbl. One stock tank barrel or 42 U.S. gallons liquid volume.

Bcf. Billion cubic feet.

Boe. One barrel of oil equivalent determined using a ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

Boe/d. Barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Btu. British thermal unit, which is the heat required to raise the temperature of a one-pound mass of water from 58.5 to 59.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Developed acreage. The number of acres that are allocated or assignable to productive wells or wells capable of production.

Development project. A drilling or other project which may target proven reserves, but which generally has a lower risk than that associated with exploration projects.

Development well. A well drilled within the proved area of an oil or natural gas reservoir to the depth of a stratigraphic horizon known to be productive.

Dry hole or well. A well found to be incapable of producing hydrocarbons in sufficient quantities such that proceeds from the sale of such production would exceed production expenses and taxes.

Field. An area consisting of a single reservoir or multiple reservoirs all grouped on or related to the same individual geological structural feature and/or stratigraphic condition.

Gross acres or gross wells. The total acres or wells, as the case may be, in which a working interest is owned.

Hydrocarbons. Oil, NGLs and natural gas are all collectively considered hydrocarbons.

MBbls. One thousand barrels of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

MBoe. One thousand barrels of crude oil equivalent, using a ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

Mcf. One thousand cubic feet.

MGal. One thousand gallons of natural gas liquids or other liquid hydrocarbons.

MMBbls. One million barrels of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

MMBoe. One million barrels of crude oil equivalent, using a ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

MMBtu. One million British thermal units.

MMcf. One million cubic feet.

Net acres or net wells. The sum of the fractional working interests owned in gross acres or gross wells, as the case may be.

NGLs. The combination of ethane, propane, butane and natural gasolines that when removed from natural gas become liquid under various levels of higher pressure and lower temperature.

NYMEX. New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil. Crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids.

Productive well. A well that is found to be capable of producing hydrocarbons in sufficient quantities such that proceeds from the sale of such production exceed production expenses and taxes.

Proved developed reserves. Reserves that can be expected to be recovered through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods. Additional oil and natural gas expected to be obtained through the application of fluid injection or other improved recovery techniques for supplementing the natural forces and mechanisms of primary recovery are included in “proved developed reserves” only after testing by a pilot project or after the operation of an installed program has confirmed through production response that increased recovery will be achieved.

Proved developed non-producing or PDNPs. Proved oil and natural gas reserves that are developed behind pipe or shut-in or that can be recovered through improved recovery only after the necessary equipment has been installed, or when the costs to do so are relatively minor. Shut-in reserves are expected to be recovered from (1) completion intervals which are open at the time of the estimate but which have not started producing, (2) wells that were shut-in for market conditions or pipeline connections, or (3) wells not capable of production for mechanical reasons. Behind-pipe reserves are expected to be recovered from zones in existing wells that will require additional completion work or future re-completion prior to the start of production.

Proved reserves. Proved oil and natural gas reserves are those quantities of oil and gas, which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible—from a given date forward, from known reservoirs, and under existing economic conditions, operating methods, and government regulations—prior to the time at which contracts providing the right to operate expire, unless evidence indicates that renewal is reasonably certain, regardless of whether deterministic or probabilistic methods are used for the estimation.

Proved undeveloped drilling location. A site on which a development well can be drilled consistent with spacing rules for purposes of recovering proved undeveloped reserves.

Proved undeveloped reserves or PUDs. Proved oil and natural gas reserves that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for re-completion. Reserves on undrilled acreage are limited to those drilling units offsetting productive units that are reasonably certain of production when drilled. Proved reserves for other undrilled units are claimed only where it can be demonstrated with certainty that there is continuity of production from the existing productive formation. Estimates for proved undeveloped reserves are not attributed to any acreage for which an application of fluid injection or other improved recovery technique is contemplated, unless such techniques have been proven effective by actual tests in the area and in the same reservoir.

Re-completion. The completion for production of an existing wellbore in another formation from that which the well has been previously completed.

Reserve acquisition cost. The total consideration paid for an oil and natural gas property or set of properties, which includes the cash purchase price and any value ascribed to units issued to a seller adjusted for any post-closing items.

R/P ratio (reserve life). The reserves as of the end of a period divided by the production volumes for the same period.

Reserve replacement. The replacement of oil and natural gas produced with reserve additions from acquisitions, reserve additions and reserve revisions.

Reserve replacement cost. An amount per Boe equal to the sum of costs incurred relating to oil and natural gas property acquisition, exploitation, development and exploration activities (as reflected in our year-end financial statements for the relevant year) divided by the sum of all additions and revisions to estimated proved reserves, including reserve purchases. The calculation of reserve additions for each year is based upon the reserve report of our independent engineers. Management uses reserve replacement cost to compare our company to others in terms of our historical ability to increase our reserve base in an economic manner. However, past performance does not necessarily reflect future reserve replacement cost performance. For example, increases in oil and natural gas prices in recent years have increased the economic life of reserves, adding additional reserves with no required capital expenditures.

On the other hand, increases in oil and natural gas prices have increased the cost of reserve purchases and reserves added through development projects. The reserve replacement cost may not be indicative of the economic value added of the reserves due to differing lease operating expenses per barrel and differing timing of production.

Reservoir. A porous and permeable underground formation containing a natural accumulation of producible oil and/or natural gas that is confined by impermeable rock or water barriers and is individual and separate from other reserves.

Standardized measure. The present value of estimated future net revenues to be generated from the production of proved reserves, determined in accordance with assumptions required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission (using prices as of the period end date and costs over the prior period for periods prior to 2009 and the average annual prices based on the un-weighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month of periods beginning on or after January 1, 2009) without giving effect to non-property related expenses such as general and administrative expenses, debt service and future income tax expenses or to depreciation, depletion and amortization, and discounted using an annual discount rate of 10%. Because we are a limited partnership that allocates our taxable income to our unitholders, no provisions for federal or state income taxes have been provided for in the calculation of standardized measure. Standardized measure does not give effect to commodity derivative transactions.

Undeveloped acreage. Lease acreage on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of commercial quantities of oil and natural gas regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves.

Working interest. The operating interest that gives the owner the right to drill, produce and conduct operating activities on the property and the right to a share of production.

Workover. Operations on a producing well to restore or increase production.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT
REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This document contains forward-looking statements that are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, which may include statements about:

- our business strategy;
- the amount of oil and natural gas we produce;
- the price at which we are able to sell our oil and natural gas production;
- our ability to acquire additional oil and natural gas properties at economically attractive prices;
- our drilling locations and our ability to continue our development activities at economically attractive costs;
- the level of our lease operating expenses, general and administrative costs and finding and development costs, including payments to our general partner;
- the level of our capital expenditures;
- the level of cash distributions to our unitholders;
- our future operating results; and
- our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

All of these types of statements, other than statements of historical fact included in this document, are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “could,” “should,” “expect,” “plan,” “project,” “intend,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “predict,” “potential,” “pursue,” “target,” “continue,” the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology.

The forward-looking statements contained in this document are largely based on our expectations, which reflect estimates and assumptions made by our management. These estimates and assumptions reflect our best judgment based on currently known market conditions and other factors. Although we believe such estimates and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently uncertain and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are beyond our control. In addition, management’s assumptions about future events may prove to be inaccurate. All readers are cautioned that the forward-looking statements contained in this document are not guarantees of future performance, and our expectations may not be realized or the forward-looking events and circumstances may not occur. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements due to factors described in Item 1A. under “Risk Factors.” The forward-looking statements in this document speak only as of the date of this document; we disclaim any obligation to update these statements unless required by securities law, and we caution you not to unduly rely on them.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

References in this annual report on Form 10-K to "Legacy Reserves," "Legacy," "we," "our," "us," or like terms refer to Legacy Reserves LP and it subsidiaries.

Legacy Reserves LP

We are an independent oil and natural gas limited partnership headquartered in Midland, Texas, and are focused on the acquisition and development of oil and natural gas properties primarily located in the Permian Basin, Mid-continent and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States. We were formed in October 2005 to own and operate the oil and natural gas properties that we acquired from our founding investors ("Founding Investors") and three charitable foundations in connection with the closing of our private equity offering on March 15, 2006. On January 18, 2007, we completed our initial public offering.

Our primary business objective is to generate stable cash flows allowing us to make cash distributions to our unitholders and to support and increase quarterly cash distributions per unit over time through a combination of acquisitions of new properties and development of our existing oil and natural gas properties.

We have grown primarily through two activities: the acquisition of producing oil and natural gas properties and the development of producing properties as opposed to higher risk exploration of unproved properties.

Our oil and natural gas production and reserve data as of December 31, 2009 are as follows:

- we had proved reserves of approximately 37.1 MMBoe, of which 72% were oil and natural gas liquids and 84% were classified as proved developed producing, 1% were proved developed non-producing, and 15% were proved undeveloped;
- our proved reserves had a standardized measure of $360.2 million; and
- our proved reserves to production ratio was approximately 12.3 years based on the average daily net production of 8,250 Boe/d for the three months ended December 31, 2009.

Impact of New Accounting Standards on Oil and Gas Reporting

In December 2008, the SEC released Final Rule, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting. Our oil and gas production reserve data as of December 31, 2009 has been prepared under these new rules, the major impact of which requires the use of a 12-month average price based on the un-weighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month of periods beginning on or after January 1, 2009 rather than the last-day-of-the-year price applicable to reserve reports for periods prior to December 31, 2009. In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2010-03, Extractive Activities – Oil and Gas (Topic 932) Oil and Gas Reserve Estimation and Disclosures ("ASU 2010-03"), which aligns the oil and natural gas reserve estimation and disclosure requirements of ASU 2010-03 with the requirements in the SEC's Final Rule. For comparison purposes, our proved reserves under the previous rules would have been approximately 41.2 MMBoe, compared to 37.1 MMBoe under the Final Rule. In addition, our standardized measure under the previous rules would have been $613.3 million compared to $360.2 million under the Final Rule. In addition, the use of average prices for the fourth quarter of 2009 increased our recognized depletion expense by $2.1 million.

Acquisition Activities

We have historically added reserves and production through acquisitions of proved oil and natural gas properties. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we closed eight acquisitions of oil and natural gas properties with an aggregate purchase price of approximately $12.0 million, including non-cash asset retirement obligations. In addition, we entered into a purchase and sale agreement on December 17, 2009 with St. Mary Land & Exploration

Company (“St. Mary”) to purchase from St. Mary the working interests in 13 operated oil fields in the Big Horn and Wind River Basins in Wyoming. The Wyoming acquisition closed on February 17, 2010, with final cash consideration after closing adjustments of $118.7 million, in addition to the $6.5 million deposit previously paid. The Wyoming acquisition was funded primarily with the $95.6 million of net proceeds before offering costs from our January 2010 offering of units and additional borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Additionally, on February 18, 2010, the capital budget was increased by our board of directors to $31 million from the previously approved $25.3 million to include development activities associated with the Wyoming acquisition.

Development Activities

We have also added reserves and production through development projects on our existing and acquired properties. Our development projects include accessing additional productive formations in existing well-bores, formation stimulation, artificial lift equipment enhancement, infill drilling on closer well spacing, secondary (waterflood) and tertiary (miscible CO_2 and nitrogen) recovery projects, drilling for deeper formations and completing tight formations.

As of December 31, 2009, we identified 168 gross (111.6 net) proved undeveloped drilling locations, 90 of which were identified and economically viable at December 31, 2008 and 31 of which were identified but not economically viable at December 31, 2008, and 40 gross (17.6 net) re-completion and re-fracture stimulation projects. Excluding acquisitions, we expect to make capital expenditures of approximately $31 million during the year ending December 31, 2010, including drilling 44 gross (32.7 net) development wells and executing 39 gross (23.6 net) re-completions and re-fracture stimulations. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we drilled 22 gross (5.7 net) wells, of which four were identified as proved undeveloped locations as of December 31, 2008 and the remainder were proved undeveloped locations identified during the year ended December 31, 2009.

Oil and Natural Gas Derivative Activities

Our business strategy includes entering into oil and natural gas derivative contracts which are designed to mitigate price risk for a majority of our oil, NGL and natural gas production over a three- to five-year period. We have entered into these derivative contracts for approximately 73% of our expected oil, NGL and natural gas production from total proved reserves for the year ending December 31, 2010. We have also entered into these derivative contracts for over 42%, on average, of our expected oil, NGL and natural gas production from total proved reserves for 2011 through 2014. The majority of our derivative contracts are in the form of fixed price swaps for NYMEX WTI oil, Mont Belvieu OPIS natural gas liquids components, NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas, West Texas Waha natural gas, ANR-Oklahoma natural gas and Rocky Mountain CIG natural gas. We have also entered into basis swaps to receive floating NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas prices less a fixed basis differential and pay prices based on the floating Waha index, a natural gas hub in West Texas. The prices that we receive for our Permian Basin natural gas sales follow Waha more closely than NYMEX Henry Hub. The basis swaps thereby provide a better match between our natural gas sales and the settlement payments on our natural gas swaps. We have entered into basis swaps covering approximately 100% of our NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas basis differential risk on our NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas swaps.

Business Strategy

The key elements of our business strategy are to:

- Make accretive acquisitions of producing properties generally characterized by long-lived reserves with stable production and reserve development potential;
- Add proved reserves and maximize cash flow and production through development projects and operational efficiencies;
- Maintain financial flexibility; and
- Reduce commodity price risk through oil, NGL and natural gas derivative transactions.

Marketing and Major Purchasers

For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, Legacy sold oil and natural gas production representing 10% or more of total revenues to purchasers as detailed in the table below:

	2009	2008	2007
Teppco Crude Oil, LP	22%	18%	13%
Plains Marketing, LP	10%	10%	13%
Navajo Crude Oil Marketing	5%	5%	11%

Our oil sales prices are based on formula pricing and calculated either using a discount to NYMEX WTI oil or using the appropriate buyer's posted price, plus Platt's P-Plus monthly average, less the Midland-Cushing differential less a transportation fee.

If we were to lose any one of our oil or natural gas purchasers, the loss could temporarily cause a loss or deferral of production and sale of our oil and natural gas in that particular purchaser's service area. If we were to lose a purchaser, we believe we could identify a substitute purchaser. However, if one or more of our larger purchasers ceased purchasing oil or natural gas altogether, the loss of any such purchasers could have a detrimental effect on our production volumes in general and on our ability to find substitute purchasers for our production volumes in a timely manner.

Competition

We operate in a highly competitive environment for acquiring properties, marketing oil and natural gas and securing trained personnel. Many of our competitors possess and employ financial, technical and personnel resources substantially greater than ours. As a result, our competitors may be able to pay more for productive oil and natural gas properties and development projects and to evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or personnel resources permit. Our ability to acquire additional properties and to find and develop reserves in the future will depend on our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment. Also, there is substantial competition for capital available for investment in the oil and natural gas industry.

Seasonal Nature of Business

Generally, but not always, the demand for natural gas decreases during the summer months and increases during the winter months thereby affecting the price we receive for natural gas. Seasonal anomalies, such as mild winters or hotter than normal summers, sometimes lessen this fluctuation. Demand for natural gas and NGLs can be particularly weak in the fall and spring which, coupled with high inventory levels, could result in the shut-in and deferral of production.

Environmental Matters and Regulation

General. Our operations are subject to stringent and complex federal, state and local laws and regulations governing environmental protection as well as the discharge of materials into the environment. These laws and regulations may, among other things:

- require the acquisition of various permits before drilling commences;
- restrict the types, quantities and concentration of various substances that can be released into the environment in connection with oil and natural gas drilling and production activities;
- limit or prohibit drilling activities on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands and other protected areas; and
- require remedial measures to mitigate pollution from former and ongoing operations, such as requirements to close pits and plug abandoned wells.

These laws, rules and regulations may also restrict the rate of oil and natural gas production below the rate that would otherwise be possible. The regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases the cost of doing business in the industry and consequently affects profitability. Additionally, Congress and federal and state agencies frequently revise environmental laws and regulations, and any changes that result in more stringent and costly waste handling, disposal and cleanup requirements for the oil and natural gas industry could have a significant impact on our operating costs.

The following is a summary of some of the existing laws, rules and regulations to which our operations are subject.

Waste Handling. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, and comparable state statutes, regulate the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, disposal and cleanup of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. Under the auspices of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, or the EPA, the individual states administer some or all of the provisions of RCRA, sometimes in conjunction with their own, more stringent requirements. Drilling fluids, produced waters, and most of the other wastes associated with the exploration, development, and production of crude oil or natural gas are currently regulated under RCRA's non-hazardous waste provisions. However, it is possible that certain oil and natural gas drilling and production wastes now classified as non-hazardous could be classified as hazardous wastes in the future. Any such change could result in an increase in our costs to manage and dispose of wastes, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA, also known as the Superfund law, imposes joint and several liability, without regard to fault or legality of conduct, on classes of persons who are considered to be responsible for the release of a hazardous substance into the environment. These persons include the owner or operator of the site where the release occurred and anyone who disposed or arranged for the disposal of a hazardous substance released at the site. Under CERCLA, such persons may be subject to joint and several liability for the costs of cleaning up the hazardous substances that have been released into the environment, for damages to natural resources and for the costs of certain health studies. In addition, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third-parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the hazardous substances released into the environment.

We currently own, lease, or operate numerous properties that have been used for oil and natural gas development and production for many years. Although we believe that we have utilized operating and waste disposal practices that were standard in the industry at the time, hazardous substances, wastes, or hydrocarbons may have been released on or under the properties owned or leased by us, or on or under other locations, including off-site locations, where such substances have been taken for disposal. In addition, some of our properties have been operated by third parties or by previous owners or operators whose treatment and disposal of hazardous substances, wastes, or hydrocarbons were not under our control. These properties and the substances disposed or released on them may be subject to CERCLA, RCRA, and analogous state laws. Under such laws, we could be required to remove previously disposed of substances and wastes, remediate contaminated property, or perform remedial plugging or pit closure operations to prevent future contamination.

Water Discharges. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or the Clean Water Act, and analogous state laws, impose restrictions and strict controls with respect to the discharge of pollutants, including spills and leaks of oil and other substances, into waters of the United States. The discharge of pollutants into regulated waters is prohibited, except in accordance with the terms of a permit issued by the EPA or an analogous state agency. Federal and state regulatory agencies can impose administrative, civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance with discharge permits or other requirements of the Clean Water Act and analogous state laws and regulations.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990, as amended or OPA, which amends the Clean Water Act, establishes strict liability for owners and operators of facilities that cause a release of oil into waters of the United States. In addition, owners and operators of facilities that store oil above threshold amounts must develop and implement spill response plans.

Safe Drinking Water Act. Our injection well facilities may be regulated under the Underground Injection Control, or UIC, program established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, or SWDA. The state and federal regulations implementing that program require mechanical integrity testing and financial assurance for wells covered under the program. The federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended the UIC provisions of the federal SWDA to exclude hydraulic fracturing from the definition of underground injection. Congress is currently considering bills to repeal this exemption.

Air Emissions. The Federal Clean Air Act, and comparable state laws, regulates emissions of various air pollutants through air emissions permitting programs and the imposition of other requirements. In addition, the EPA has developed, and continues to develop, stringent regulations governing emissions of toxic air pollutants at specified sources. Federal and state regulatory agencies can impose administrative, civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance with air permits or other requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act and associated state laws and regulations.

National Environmental Policy Act. Oil and natural gas exploration and production activities on federal lands are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. NEPA requires federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior, to evaluate major agency actions having the potential to significantly impact the environment. In the course of such evaluations, an agency may prepare an Environmental Assessment that assesses the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of a proposed project and, if necessary, will prepare a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement that may be made available for public review and comment. All of our current exploration and production activities, as well as proposed exploration and development plans, on federal lands require governmental permits that are subject to the requirements of NEPA. This process has the potential to delay the development of oil and natural gas projects.

OSHA and Other Laws and Regulation. We are subject to the requirements of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and comparable state statutes. The OSHA hazard communication standard, the EPA community right-to-know regulations under Title III of CERCLA and similar state statutes require that we organize and/or disclose information about hazardous materials used or produced in our operations. We believe that we are in compliance with these applicable requirements and with other OSHA and comparable requirements.

Recent studies have suggested that emissions of certain gases may be contributing to warming of the Earth’s atmosphere. In response to these studies, many nations have agreed to limit emissions of “greenhouse gases” pursuant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as the “Kyoto Protocol.” Methane, a primary component of natural gas, and carbon dioxide, a byproduct of the burning of oil and natural gas, and refined petroleum products, are “greenhouse gases” regulated by the Kyoto Protocol. Although the United States is not participating in the Kyoto Protocol, several states have adopted legislation and regulations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. On June 26, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which would establish an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce “greenhouse gases” that some believe cause global warming and other climate changes. Emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane would be reduced over time while allowances, which would authorize sources to continue to emit greenhouse gases, would be expected to increase over time. The Senate is also working on legislation aimed at restricting domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Although it is not possible to predict whether legislation might be passed, the Obama Administration has expressed support for the passage of legislation controlling greenhouse gases. Any such legislation might result in increased costs or adversely affect demand for the oil and natural gas we produce. States and regional efforts to regulate greenhouse gases could adversely affect our operations and demand for our product in the future. Additionally, the U.S. Supreme Court only recently held in a case, Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA, that greenhouse gases fall within the federal Clean Air Act’s definition of “air pollutant,” which could result in the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources under certain Clean Air Act programs. On December 7, 2009, the EPA announced its findings that emissions of greenhouse gases present an “endangerment to human health and the environment.” EPA based this finding on a conclusion that greenhouse gases are contributing to the warming of the earth’s atmosphere and other climate changes. EPA has announced plans to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. EPA has proposed regulations that would require a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles. It could be argued that such regulations may trigger permit review for greenhouse gas emissions from certain stationary sources. In addition, in late September 2009, the EPA issued its final rule requiring the reporting of greenhouse gases from large greenhouse gas emissions sources in the United States beginning in 2011 for emissions in 2010. The reporting requirements for oil and natural gas systems were deferred; however, oil and natural gas systems could still be subject to the rule if they have greenhouse gas emissions greater than 25,000 metric tons. New legislation or regulatory programs that restrict emissions of greenhouse gases in areas in which we conduct business could have an adverse affect on our operations and demand for our services. Currently, our operations are not adversely impacted by existing state and local climate change initiatives and, at this time, it is not possible to accurately estimate how potential future laws or regulations addressing greenhouse gas emissions would impact our business.

We believe that we are in substantial compliance with all existing environmental laws and regulations applicable to our current operations and that our continued compliance with existing requirements will not have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations. For instance, we did not incur any material capital expenditures for remediation or pollution control activities for the year ended December 31, 2009. Additionally, as of the date of this document, we are not aware of any environmental issues or claims that require material capital expenditures during 2010. However, we cannot assure you that the passage of more stringent laws or regulations in the future will not have a negative impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Other Regulation of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry

The oil and natural gas industry is extensively regulated by numerous federal, state and local authorities. Legislation affecting the oil and natural gas industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing the regulatory burden. Also, numerous departments and agencies, both federal and state, are authorized by statute to issue rules and regulations binding on the oil and gas industry and its individual members, some of which carry substantial penalties for failure to comply. Although the regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases our cost of doing business and, consequently, affects our profitability, these burdens generally do not affect us any differently or to any greater or lesser extent than they affect other companies in the oil and natural gas industry with similar types, quantities and locations of production.

Legislation continues to be introduced in Congress and development of regulations continues in the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies concerning the security of industrial facilities, including oil and natural gas facilities. Our operations may be subject to such laws and regulations. Presently, it is not possible to accurately estimate the costs we could incur to comply with any such facility security laws or regulations, but such expenditures could be substantial.

Drilling and Production. Our operations are subject to various types of regulation at federal, state and local levels. These types of regulation include requiring permits for the drilling of wells, drilling bonds and reports concerning operations. Most states, and some counties and municipalities, in which we operate also regulate one or more of the following:

- the location of wells;
- the method of drilling and casing wells;
- the surface use and restoration of properties upon which wells are drilled;
- the plugging and abandoning of wells; and
- notice to surface owners and other third parties.

State laws regulate the size and shape of drilling and spacing units or pro-ration units governing the pooling of oil and natural gas properties. Some states allow forced pooling or integration of tracts to facilitate exploration while other states rely on voluntary pooling of lands and leases. In some instances, forced pooling or unitization may be implemented by third parties and may reduce our interest in the unitized properties. In addition, state conservation laws establish maximum rates of production from oil and natural gas wells, generally prohibit the venting or flaring of natural gas and impose requirements regarding the ratability of production. These laws and regulations may limit the amount of oil and natural gas we can produce from our wells or limit the number of wells or the locations at which we can drill. Moreover, each state generally imposes a production or severance tax with respect to the production and sale of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids within its jurisdiction.

Natural gas regulation. The availability, terms and cost of transportation significantly affect sales of natural gas. The interstate transportation and sale for resale of natural gas is subject to federal regulation, including regulation of the terms, conditions and rates for interstate transportation, storage and various other matters, primarily by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or the FERC. Federal and state regulations govern the price and terms for access to natural gas pipeline transportation. The FERC's regulations for interstate natural gas transmission in some circumstances may also affect the intrastate transportation of natural gas.

Although natural gas prices are currently unregulated, Congress historically has been active in the area of natural gas regulation. We cannot predict whether new legislation to regulate natural gas might be proposed, what proposals, if any, might actually be enacted by Congress or the various state legislatures, and what effect, if any, the proposals might have on the operations of the underlying properties. Sales of condensate and natural gas liquids are not currently regulated and are made at market prices.

State regulation. The various states regulate the drilling for, and the production, gathering and sale of, oil and natural gas, including imposing severance taxes and requirements for obtaining drilling permits. For example, Texas currently imposes a 4.6% severance tax on oil production and a 7.5% severance tax on natural gas production. States also regulate the method of developing new fields, the spacing and operation of wells and the prevention of waste of natural gas resources. States may regulate rates of production and may establish maximum daily production allowable from natural gas wells based on market demand or resource conservation, or both. States do not regulate wellhead prices or engage in other similar direct economic regulation, but there can be no assurance that they will not do so in the future. The effect of these regulations may be to limit the amounts of natural gas that may be produced from our wells, and to limit the number of wells or locations we can drill.

The petroleum industry is also subject to compliance with various other federal, state and local regulations and laws. Some of those laws relate to resource conservation and equal employment opportunity. We do not believe that compliance with these laws will have a material adverse effect on us.

Employees

As of December 31, 2009, we had 95 full-time employees, including 10 petroleum engineers, 7 accountants and 3 landmen, none of whom are subject to collective bargaining agreements. We also contract for the services of independent consultants involved in land, engineering, regulatory, accounting, financial and other disciplines as needed. We believe that we have a favorable relationship with our employees.

Offices

We currently lease approximately 29,933 square feet of office space in Midland, Texas at 303 W. Wall Street, Suite 1400, where our principal offices are located. The lease for our Midland office expires in August 2011.

Available Information

We make available free of charge on our website, www.legacylp.com, our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such information with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

The information on our website is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a part of this annual report on Form 10-K or incorporated into any of our other filings with the SEC.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Risks Related to our Business

We may not have sufficient available cash to pay the full amount of our current quarterly distribution or any distribution at all following establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses, including payments to our general partner.

We may not have sufficient available cash each quarter to pay the full amount of our current quarterly distribution or any distribution at all. The amount of cash we distribute in any quarter to our unitholders may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter and may be significantly less than our current quarterly distribution. Under the terms of our partnership agreement, the amount of cash otherwise available for distribution will be reduced by our operating expenses and the amount of any cash reserves that our general partner establishes to provide for future operations, future capital expenditures, future debt service requirements and future cash distributions to our unitholders. Further, our debt agreements contain restrictions on our ability to pay distributions. The amount of cash we can distribute on our units principally depends upon the amount of cash we generate from our operations, which will fluctuate from quarter to quarter based on, among other things:

- the amount of oil, NGL and natural gas we produce;
- the price at which we are able to sell our oil, NGL and natural gas production;
- the amount and timing of settlements on our commodity and interest rate derivatives;
- whether we are able to acquire additional oil and natural gas properties at economically attractive prices;
- whether we are able to continue our development projects at economically attractive costs;
- the level of our lease operating expenses, general and administrative costs and development costs, including payments to our general partner;
- the level of our interest expense, which depends on the amount of our indebtedness and the interest payable thereon; and
- the level of our capital expenditures.

If we are not able to acquire additional oil and natural gas reserves on economically acceptable terms, our reserves and production will decline, which would adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition and our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders.

We will be unable to sustain distributions at the current level without making accretive acquisitions or substantial capital expenditures that maintain or grow our asset base. Oil and natural gas reserves are characterized by declining production rates, and our future oil and natural gas reserves and production and, therefore, our cash flow and our ability to make distributions are highly dependent on our success in economically finding or acquiring additional recoverable reserves and efficiently developing and exploiting our current reserves. Further, the rate of estimated decline of our oil and natural gas reserves may increase if our wells do not produce as expected. We may not be able to find, acquire or develop additional reserves to replace our current and future production at acceptable costs, which would adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders.

Our future growth may be limited because we distribute all of our available cash to our unitholders, and the recent disruptions in the financial markets may prevent us from obtaining the financing necessary for growth and acquisitions.

Since we will distribute all of our available cash (as defined in our partnership agreement) to our unitholders, our growth may not be as fast as businesses that reinvest their available cash to expand ongoing operations. Further, since we depend on financing provided by commercial banks and other lenders and the issuance of debt and equity securities to finance any significant growth or acquisitions, the recent disruptions in the global financial markets and the associated severe tightening of credit supply may prevent us from obtaining adequate financing from these sources, and, as a result, our ability to grow, both in terms of additional drilling and acquisitions, will be limited.

If commodity prices decline and remain depressed for a prolonged period, a significant portion of our development projects may become uneconomic and cause write downs of the value of our oil and gas properties, which may adversely affect our financial condition and our ability to make distributions to our unitholders.

Lower oil and natural gas prices may not only decrease our revenues, but also reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce economically. For example, the drastically lower oil and natural gas prices experienced in the fourth quarter of 2008 rendered more than half of the development projects we had planned at such time uneconomic and resulted in a substantial downward adjustment to our estimated proved reserves. Further, deteriorating commodity prices may cause us to recognize impairments in the value of our oil and gas properties. In addition, if our estimates of development costs increase, production data factors change or drilling results deteriorate, accounting rules may require us to write down, as a non-cash charge to earnings, the carrying value of our oil and natural gas properties for impairments. We may incur impairment charges in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in the period taken.

Due to regional fluctuations in the actual prices received for our production, the derivative contracts we enter into may not provide us with sufficient protection against price volatility since they are based on indexes related to different and remote regional markets.

We sell our natural gas into local markets, the majority of which is produced in West Texas, Southeast New Mexico, the Texas Panhandle and Central Oklahoma and shipped to the Midwest, West Coast and Texas Gulf Coast. These regions account for over 90% of our natural gas sales. Our existing natural gas swaps are based on Waha and ANR-Oklahoma directly or through basis swaps.While we are paid a local price indexed to or closely related to Waha and ANR-Oklahoma, these indexes are heavily influenced by prices received in remote regional consumer markets less transportation costs and thus may not be effective in protecting us against local price volatility.

Fluctuations in price and demand for our natural gas may force us to shut in a significant number of our producing wells, which may adversely impact our revenues and ability to pay distributions to our unitholders.

We are subject to great fluctuations in the prices we are paid for our natural gas due to a number of factors including regional demand, weather, demand for NGLs which are recovered from our gas stream, and new natural gas pipelines such as the REX pipeline from the Rocky Mountains to the Midwest which competes with our natural gas in the Midwest. Drilling in shale resources has developed large amounts of new natural gas supplies that have depressed the prices paid for our natural gas, and we expect the shale resources to continue to be drilled and developed by our competitors. We also face the potential risk of shut-in natural gas due to high levels of natural gas and NGL inventory in storage, weak demand due to mild weather and the effects of the economic downturn on industrial demand. Lack of NGL storage in Mont Belvieu where our West Texas and New Mexico NGLs are shipped for processing could cause the processors of our natural gas to curtail or shut-in our natural gas wells and potentially force us to shut-in oil wells that produce associated natural gas. For example, following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, when certain Permian Basin natural gas processors were forced to shut down their plants due to the shutdown of the Texas Gulf Coast NGL fractionators, we were able to produce our oil wells and vent or flare the associated natural gas. There is no certainty we will be able to vent or flare natural gas again due to potential changes in regulations. Furthermore we may encounter problems in restarting production of previously shut-in wells.

Our commodity derivative activities may limit our ability to profit from price gains, could result in cash losses and expose us to counterparty risk and as a result could reduce our cash available for distributions.

We have entered into, and we may in the future enter into, oil and natural gas derivative contracts intended to offset the effects of commodity price volatility related to a significant portion of our oil and natural gas production. Many derivative instruments that we employ require us to make cash payments to the extent the applicable index exceeds a predetermined price, thereby limiting our ability to realize the benefit of increases in oil and natural gas prices.

There is always substantial risk that counterparties in any derivative transaction cannot or will not perform under our derivative contracts. If a counterparty fails to perform and the derivative transaction is terminated, our cash flow, and ability to pay distributions could be adversely impacted.

Further, if our actual production and sales for any period are less than our expected production covered by derivative contracts and sales for that period (including reductions in production due to involuntary shut-ins or operational delays) or if we are unable to perform our drilling activities as planned, we might be forced to satisfy all or a portion of our derivative contracts without the benefit of the cash flow from our sale of the underlying physical commodity, resulting in a substantial diminution of our liquidity. Under our revolving credit facility, we are prohibited from entering into derivative contracts covering all of our production, and we therefore retain the risk of a price decrease on our volumes not covered by derivative contracts.

The substantial restrictions and financial covenants of our revolving credit facility, any negative redetermination of our borrowing base by our lenders and any potential disruptions of the financial markets could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders.

We depend on our revolving credit facility for future capital needs. Our revolving credit facility limits the amounts we can borrow to a borrowing base amount, determined by the lenders in their sole discretion. As of March 4, 2010, our borrowing base was $340 million and we had $70.6 million available for borrowing.

Our existing revolving credit facility matures on April 1, 2012. We may not be able to enter into a new revolving credit facility or may have to agree to a new revolving credit facility with terms and conditions much less favorable than our existing revolving credit facility. As a result, all amounts then outstanding under our revolving credit facility would become immediately due and payable. Any replacement credit facility may be on less attractive terms and impose more severe restrictive covenants on us, and the credit commitments and borrowing base available under such new credit facility may be significantly lower than the current commitments and borrowing base. As a result, our ability to fund our operations and growth projects may be severely limited, adversely affecting our financial condition and ability to pay distributions to our unitholders.

Our revolving credit facility restricts, among other things, our ability to incur debt and pay distributions, and requires us to comply with certain financial covenants and ratios. We may not be able to comply with these restrictions and covenants in the future and will be affected by the levels of cash flow from our operations and events or circumstances beyond our control, such as the recent disruptions in the financial markets. Our failure to comply with any of the restrictions and covenants under our revolving credit facility could result in a default under our revolving credit facility. A default under our revolving credit facility could cause all of our existing indebtedness to be immediately due and payable.

We are prohibited from borrowing under our revolving credit facility to pay distributions to unitholders if the amount of borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility reaches or exceeds 90% of the borrowing base, which is the amount of money available for borrowing, as determined semi-annually by our lenders in their sole discretion. The lenders will redetermine the borrowing base based on an engineering report with respect to our oil and natural gas reserves, which will take into account the prevailing oil and natural gas prices at such time. Any time our borrowings exceed 90% of the then specified borrowing base, our ability to pay distributions to our unitholders in any such quarter is solely dependent on our ability to generate sufficient cash from our operations.

Outstanding borrowings in excess of the borrowing base must be repaid, and, if mortgaged properties represent less than 80% of total value of oil and gas properties used to determine the borrowing base, we must pledge other oil and natural gas properties as additional collateral. We may not have the financial resources in the future to make any mandatory principal prepayments required under our revolving credit facility.

The occurrence of an event of default or a negative redetermination of our borrowing base, such as a result of lower commodity prices or a deterioration in the condition of the financial markets, could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and our ability to make distributions to our unitholders.

Please read “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation — Financing Activities.”

Our estimated reserves are based on many assumptions that may prove inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves.

No one can measure underground accumulations of oil and natural gas in an exact way. Oil and natural gas reserve engineering requires subjective estimates of underground accumulations of oil and natural gas and assumptions concerning future oil and natural gas prices, production levels, and operating and development costs. As a result, estimated quantities of proved reserves and projections of future production rates and the timing of development expenditures may prove to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves which could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders.

Further, the present value of future net cash flows from our proved reserves may not be the current market value of our estimated natural gas and oil reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements, we base the estimated discounted future net cash flows from our proved reserves on the 12-month average oil and gas index prices, calculated as the un-weighted arithmetic average for the first-day-of-the-month price for each month and costs in effect on the date of the estimate, holding the prices and costs constant throughout the life of the properties. Actual future prices and costs may differ materially from those used in the net present value estimate, and future net present value estimates using then curren