

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form 10-K**

(Mark One)

☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

OR

☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Commission file number 001-31446
CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

45-0466694
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3700, Denver, Colorado 80203
(Address of principal executive offices)
(303) 295-3995
(Registrant's telephone number)

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Common Stock (\$0.01 par value) | New York Stock Exchange |

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 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 ☒ NO ☐

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 ☐ NO ☒

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 ☒ NO ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted 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 such files). YES ☒ NO ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the 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. ☒

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

Large accelerated filer ☒ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☐ Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). YES ☐ NO ☒

Aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of Cimarex Energy Co. as of June 30, 2018 was approximately \$9.54 billion .

Number of shares of Cimarex Energy Co. common stock outstanding as of January 31, 2019 was 95,755,298 .

Documents Incorporated by Reference: Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for its 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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GLOSSARY

Bbls— Barrels (of oil or natural gas liquids)

Bcf— Billion cubic feet (of natural gas)

BOE— Barrels of oil equivalent

GAAP— Generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S.

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

MBbls— Thousand barrels

MBOE— Thousand barrels of oil equivalent

Mcf— Thousand cubic feet

MMBbls— Million barrels

MMBtu— Million British thermal units

MMBOE— Million barrels of oil equivalent

MMcf— Million cubic feet

Net Acres or Net Wells— The sum of the fractional working interest owned in gross acres or gross wells expressed in whole numbers and fractions of whole numbers.

Net Production— Gross production multiplied by net revenue interest

NGL or NGLs— Natural gas liquids

PUD— Proved undeveloped

Tcf— Trillion cubic feet

Energy equivalent is determined using the ratio of one barrel of crude oil, condensate, or NGL to six Mcf of natural gas.

PART I

CAUTIONARY INFORMATION ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Throughout this Form 10-K, we make statements that may be deemed “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In particular, in our Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, we provide projections of our 2019 capital expenditures. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, that address activities, events, outcomes, and other matters that Cimarex plans, expects, intends, assumes, believes, budgets, predicts, forecasts, projects, estimates, or anticipates (and other similar expressions) will, should, or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on management’s current belief, based on currently available information, as to the outcome and timing of future events. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this Form 10-K. Forward-looking statements include statements with respect to, among other things:

- Fluctuations in the price we receive for our oil, gas, and NGL production, including local market price differentials;
- Operating costs and other expenses;
- Timing and amount of future production of oil, gas, and NGLs;
- Reductions in the quantity of oil, gas, and NGLs sold and prices received due to decreased industrywide demand and/or curtailments in production from specific properties or areas due to mechanical, transportation, marketing, weather, or other problems;
- Estimates of proved reserves, exploitation potential, or exploration prospect size;
- Our ability to complete our pending acquisition of Resolute Energy Corporation (“Resolute”) and to successfully integrate the business of Resolute;
- Our hedging activities and viability of hedge counterparties;
- The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting;
- Cash flow and anticipated liquidity;
- Amount, nature, and timing of capital expenditures;
- Availability of financing and access to capital markets;
- Administrative, legislative, and regulatory changes;
- Operating and capital expenditures that are either significantly higher or lower than anticipated because the actual cost of identified projects varied from original estimates and/or from the number of exploration and development opportunities being greater or fewer than currently anticipated;
- Exploration and development opportunities that we pursue may not result in economic, productive oil and gas properties;
- Drilling of wells;
- Increased financing costs due to a significant increase in interest rates;
- Proving up undeveloped acreage; and
- Full cost ceiling test impairments to the carrying values of our oil and gas properties.

We caution you that these forward-looking statements are subject to all of the risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, incident to the exploration for and development, production, and sale of oil, gas, and NGLs.

These risks include, but are not limited to, commodity price volatility, inflation, lack of availability of goods and services, environmental risks, drilling and other operating risks, regulatory changes, the uncertainty inherent in estimating proved oil and natural gas reserves and in projecting future rates of production, production type curves, well spacing, timing of development expenditures, and other risks described herein.

Reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that cannot be measured in an exact way. The accuracy of any reserve estimate depends on the quality of available data and the interpretation of such data by our engineers. As a result, estimates made by different engineers often vary from one another. In addition, the results of drilling, testing, and production activities may justify revisions of estimates that were made previously. If significant, such revisions could change the timing of future production and development drilling. Accordingly, reserve estimates are generally different from the quantities of oil and natural gas that are ultimately recovered.

Risk factors related to our pending acquisition of Resolute include, among others: the expected timing and likelihood of completion of the proposed transaction, the ability to successfully integrate the businesses, the occurrence of any event, change, or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the merger agreement, the possibility that stockholders of Resolute may not approve the merger agreement, the risk that the parties may not be able to satisfy the conditions to the proposed transaction in a timely manner or at all, risks related to disruption of management time from ongoing business operations due to the proposed transaction, the risk that any announcements relating to the proposed transaction could have adverse effects on the market price of Cimarex's common stock or Resolute's common stock, the risk of any unexpected costs or expenses resulting from the proposed transaction, the outcome of any litigation relating to the proposed transaction, the risk that the proposed transaction and its announcement could have an adverse effect on the ability of Cimarex and Resolute to retain customers and retain and hire key personnel and maintain relationships with their suppliers and customers and on their operating results and businesses generally, the risk the pending proposed transaction could distract management of both entities and they will incur substantial fees and costs, the risk that problems may arise in successfully integrating the businesses of the companies, which may result in the combined company not operating as effectively and efficiently as expected, the risk that the combined company may be unable to achieve synergies or other anticipated benefits of the proposed transaction or it may take longer than expected to achieve those synergies or benefits and other important factors, such as expenses related to integration, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. The acquisition is subject to an agreement and plan of merger entered into November 18, 2018 among the parties.

Should one or more of the risks or uncertainties described above or elsewhere in this Form 10-K cause our underlying assumptions to be incorrect, our actual results and plans could differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements, express or implied, included in this Form 10-K and attributable to Cimarex are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. This cautionary statement should also be considered in connection with any subsequent written or oral forward-looking statements that Cimarex or persons acting on its behalf may issue. Cimarex does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of filing this Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission, except as required by law.

ITEMS 1 AND 2. BUSINESS AND PROPERTIES***General***

Cimarex Energy Co., a Delaware corporation formed in 2002, is an independent oil and gas exploration and production company. Our operations are located mainly in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. On our website — www.cimarex.com — you will find our annual reports, proxy statements, and all of our Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings, which we make available free of charge. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report. Throughout this Form 10-K we use the terms “Cimarex,” “company,” “we,” “our,” and “us” to refer to Cimarex Energy Co. and its subsidiaries.

Our principal business objective is to increase shareholder value through the profitable long-term growth of our proved reserves and production while seeking to minimize our impact on the communities in which we operate for the long-term. Our strategy centers on maximizing cash flow from producing properties so that we can reinvest in exploration and development opportunities and provide cash returns to shareholders through increasing dividends. We consider merger and acquisition opportunities that enhance our competitive position and we occasionally divest non-core assets. Key elements to our approach include:

- Maintain a strong financial position;
- Invest in a diversified portfolio of drilling opportunities;
- Evaluate projects based on rate-of-return and rank investment decisions;
- Track predicted versus actual results in a centralized exploration management system to provide feedback to improve results;
- Attract quality employees and maintain integrated teams of geoscientists, landmen, and engineers; and
- Maximize profitability.

Conservative use of leverage has long been the key to our financial strategy. We believe that low leverage coupled with strong full-cycle returns enables us to better withstand volatility in commodity prices and provide competitive returns and growth to shareholders. See Item 5 Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities — Stock Performance Graph and Item 6 Selected Financial Data for additional financial and operating information for fiscal years 2014 - 2018.

Proved Oil and Gas Reserves

Our December 31, 2018 total proved reserves grew 6% from prior year-end. Proved undeveloped reserves as a percentage of total proved reserves decreased to 15% from 17% a year ago. We added 158.5 MMBOE of new reserves through extensions and discoveries. Net negative revisions totaled 22.7 MMBOE, which consisted primarily of a decrease of 38.6 MMBOE for the removal of PUD reserves whose development will likely be delayed beyond five years of initial disclosure, partially offset by an increase of 20.9 MMBOE for technical revisions. The change in our proved reserves is as follows:

| | Proved Reserves (MBOE) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Reserves at December 31, 2017 | 559,037 |
| Revisions of previous estimates | (22,667) |
| Extensions and discoveries | 158,512 |
| Purchases of reserves | 1 |
| Production | (81,010) |
| Sales of reserves | (22,678) |
| Reserves at December 31, 2018 | <u>591,195</u> |

A breakdown by commodity of our proved oil and gas reserves follows:

| | December 31, | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Proved reserves: | | | |
| Gas (MMcf) | 1,591,321 | 1,607,635 | 1,471,420 |
| Oil (MBbls) | 146,538 | 137,238 | 105,878 |
| NGL (MBbls) | 179,436 | 153,860 | 130,633 |
| Total (MBOE) | 591,195 | 559,037 | 481,748 |
| Percent developed | 85% | 83% | 79% |

The following table summarizes our estimated proved oil and gas reserves by region as of December 31, 2018 .

| | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) | % of Total Proved Reserves |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Mid-Continent | 861,440 | 29,908 | 82,826 | 256,307 | 43% |
| Permian Basin | 727,985 | 116,378 | 96,533 | 334,241 | 57% |
| Other | 1,896 | 252 | 77 | 647 | —% |
| | 1,591,321 | 146,538 | 179,436 | 591,195 | 100% |

See **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)** in Item 8 for further information regarding our reserves.

Production Volumes, Prices, and Costs

All of our oil and gas assets are located in the United States. We have varying levels of ownership interests in our properties consisting of working, royalty, and overriding royalty interests. Operated wells account for approximately 83% of our proved reserves.

Our 2018 production volumes totaled 221.9 MBOE per day, a 17% increase from 2017, and were comprised of 42% gas, 31% oil, and 27% NGLs. The following table presents our total and average daily production volumes by region.

| Years Ended December 31, | Total Production Volumes | | | | Average Daily Production Volumes | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) |
| 2018 | | | | | | | | |
| Permian Basin | 92,593 | 19,104 | 11,499 | 46,035 | 253.7 | 52.3 | 31.5 | 126.1 |
| Mid-Continent | 112,697 | 5,530 | 10,474 | 34,787 | 308.8 | 15.2 | 28.7 | 95.3 |
| Other | 547 | 76 | 21 | 188 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Total company | 205,837 | 24,710 | 21,994 | 81,010 | 563.9 | 67.7 | 60.3 | 221.9 |
| 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| Permian Basin | 79,521 | 16,271 | 8,858 | 38,382 | 217.9 | 44.6 | 24.3 | 105.2 |
| Mid-Continent | 107,463 | 4,547 | 8,503 | 30,960 | 294.4 | 12.5 | 23.3 | 84.8 |
| Other | 484 | 43 | 13 | 137 | 1.3 | 0.1 | — | 0.4 |
| Total company | 187,468 | 20,861 | 17,374 | 69,479 | 513.6 | 57.2 | 47.6 | 190.4 |
| 2016 | | | | | | | | |
| Permian Basin | 65,191 | 13,183 | 6,677 | 30,725 | 178.1 | 36.0 | 18.2 | 83.9 |
| Mid-Continent | 102,501 | 3,283 | 7,508 | 27,874 | 280.1 | 9.0 | 20.5 | 76.2 |
| Other | 535 | 62 | 15 | 166 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Total company | 168,227 | 16,528 | 14,200 | 58,765 | 459.6 | 45.2 | 38.8 | 160.6 |

At December 31, 2018, we had two fields that contained 15% or more of our total proved reserves. These fields are the Watonga-Chickasha in the Cana area of the Mid-Continent, which contained approximately 39% of our total proved reserves, and the Ford West in the Permian Basin, which contained approximately 16% of our total proved reserves. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Watonga-Chickasha was our only field that contained 15% or more of our total proved reserves. Production for these fields is presented in the following table.

| Years Ended December 31, | Total Production Volumes | | | | Average Daily Production Volumes | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) |
| 2018 | | | | | | | | |
| Watonga-Chickasha | 96,373 | 5,094 | 9,774 | 30,930 | 264.0 | 14.0 | 26.8 | 84.7 |
| Ford West | 30,958 | 3,748 | 3,804 | 12,711 | 84.8 | 10.3 | 10.4 | 34.8 |
| 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| Watonga-Chickasha | 88,557 | 4,156 | 7,829 | 26,744 | 242.6 | 11.4 | 21.4 | 73.3 |
| Ford West | 26,405 | 3,370 | 2,883 | 10,654 | 72.3 | 9.2 | 7.9 | 29.2 |
| 2016 | | | | | | | | |
| Watonga-Chickasha | 81,757 | 2,823 | 6,764 | 23,213 | 223.4 | 7.7 | 18.5 | 63.4 |
| Ford West | 20,034 | 2,258 | 1,927 | 7,525 | 54.7 | 6.2 | 5.3 | 20.6 |

The following table presents the average commodity prices received and production cost per unit of production by region.

| Years Ended December 31, | Average Realized Price | | | Production Cost (per BOE) |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | Gas (per Mcf) | Oil (per Bbl) | NGL (per Bbl) | |
| 2018 | | | | |
| Permian Basin | \$ 1.69 | \$ 54.95 | \$ 22.84 | \$ 4.30 |
| Mid-Continent | \$ 2.23 | \$ 62.31 | \$ 21.67 | \$ 2.69 |
| Other | \$ 2.97 | \$ 58.40 | \$ 26.46 | \$ 7.63 |
| Total Company | \$ 1.99 | \$ 56.61 | \$ 22.28 | \$ 3.62 |
| 2017 | | | | |
| Permian Basin | \$ 2.72 | \$ 46.96 | \$ 20.25 | \$ 4.70 |
| Mid-Continent | \$ 2.78 | \$ 47.42 | \$ 23.02 | \$ 2.60 |
| Other | \$ 2.74 | \$ 46.53 | \$ 23.11 | \$ 9.03 |
| Total Company | \$ 2.76 | \$ 47.06 | \$ 21.61 | \$ 3.77 |
| 2016 | | | | |
| Permian Basin | \$ 2.35 | \$ 38.45 | \$ 12.32 | \$ 5.16 |
| Mid-Continent | \$ 2.29 | \$ 37.65 | \$ 15.59 | \$ 2.57 |
| Other | \$ 2.00 | \$ 38.86 | \$ 14.80 | \$ 9.56 |
| Total Company | \$ 2.31 | \$ 38.30 | \$ 14.05 | \$ 3.95 |

Acquisitions and Divestitures

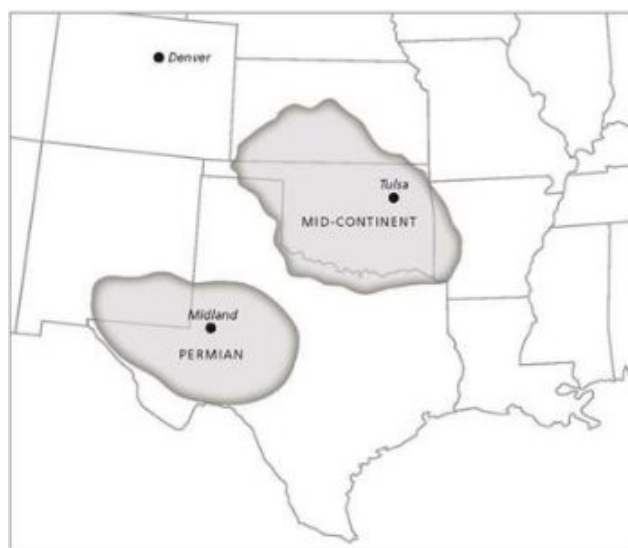
We consider property acquisitions, divestitures, and occasional mergers to enhance our competitive position. Moreover, sales of non-core assets are a source of liquidity that we can use to supplement funding of capital expenditures and acquisitions of core assets.

In 2018, we sold interests in various non-core oil and gas properties for cash proceeds totaling \$581 million. Included in these divestitures was a sale of oil and gas properties principally located in Ward County, Texas for which we have received, as of December 31, 2018, \$534.6 million in net cash proceeds. Final settlement, which will reflect customary post-closing adjustments, is scheduled to occur by the end of first quarter 2019.

In 2018, we made various oil and gas property acquisitions for \$26 million. Additionally, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger to acquire Resolute in a cash and stock transaction valued at a total purchase price of approximately \$1.6 billion, including cash, stock, and the assumption of Resolute's long-term debt. This pending acquisition will expand our footprint in Reeves County, Texas by 21,100 net acres that are complementary to our existing Reeves County position. The transaction, which is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter 2019, is subject to the approval of Resolute shareholders and the satisfaction of certain regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

Exploration and Development Overview

Cimarex has one reportable segment, exploration and production ("E&P"). Our E&P activities take place primarily in two areas: the Permian Basin and the Mid-Continent region. Almost all of our exploration and development ("E&D") capital is allocated between these two areas.



A summary of our 2018 exploration and development activity by region is as follows:

| | E&D Capital | Gross Wells Completed | Net Wells Completed | % Completed As Producers |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Permian Basin | \$ 1,092 | 129 | 79.9 | 100% |
| Mid-Continent | 472 | 220 | 42.2 | 100% |
| Other | 6 | — | — | —% |
| | <u>\$ 1,570</u> | <u>349</u> | <u>122.1</u> | <u>100%</u> |

The Permian Basin encompasses west Texas and southeast New Mexico. Cimarex's Permian Basin efforts are located in the western half of the Permian Basin known as the Delaware Basin. In 2018, we focused on drilling horizontal wells that yielded oil and liquids-rich gas from the Wolfcamp shale and the Bone Spring formation. Cimarex saw improved results in its Wolfcamp shale wells, as measured by production and reserves, with the further implementation of long laterals and continued improvement in well completion design and in the Bone Spring wells via larger well completions.

The Permian Basin produced 126.1 MBOE per day in 2018, which was 57% of our total company production. Total production from the region increased 20% in 2018 over 2017. In 2018, we invested \$1.09 billion, or 70% of our total E&D investment, in the Permian Basin.

Our Mid-Continent region consists of Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle. Our activity in 2018 in the Mid-Continent was focused in the Woodford shale and the Meramec horizon, both in Oklahoma. We continued to refine well completions and spacing in the Woodford shale and the Meramec horizon.

During 2018, production from the Mid-Continent averaged 95.3 MBOE per day, or 43% of total company production. Total production from the region increased 12% in 2018 over 2017. In 2018, we invested \$472 million, or 30% of our total E&D investment, in the Mid-Continent.

Drilling Activity

In 2018, we completed or participated in the completion of 349 gross (122.1 net) wells, of which we operated 146 gross (105.8 net) wells. At year-end, we were in the process of drilling or participating in 40 gross (12.6 net) wells and there were 83 gross (28.3 net) wells waiting on completion.

We completed the following number of developmental wells in the years indicated in the table below. During these years, we completed no exploratory wells.

| | Wells Completed | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | 2018 | | 2017 | | 2016 | |
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net |
| Developmental | | | | | | |
| Productive | 349 | 122.1 | 314 | 96.4 | 153 | 61.0 |
| Dry | — | — | 5 | 1.6 | 1 | — |
| Total | 349 | 122.1 | 319 | 98.0 | 154 | 61.0 |

At December 31, 2018 , we owned an interest in 10,362 gross (2,902 net) productive oil and gas wells. We had working interests in the following number of productive wells by region as of December 31, 2018 :

| | Gas | | Oil | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net |
| Mid-Continent | 3,992 | 1,513 | 791 | 197 |
| Permian Basin | 769 | 342 | 4,702 | 842 |
| Other | 93 | 6 | 15 | 2 |
| | 4,854 | 1,861 | 5,508 | 1,041 |

Acreage

The following table sets forth the gross and net acres of both developed and undeveloped leases held by Cimarex as of December 31, 2018 . Gross acres are the total number of acres in which we own a working interest. Net acres are the gross acres multiplied by our working interest.

| | Acreage | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Undeveloped | | Developed | | Total | |
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net |
| Mid-Continent | | | | | | |
| Kansas | 18,231 | 18,191 | — | — | 18,231 | 18,191 |
| Oklahoma | 97,203 | 65,250 | 687,246 | 305,702 | 784,449 | 370,952 |
| Texas | 17,975 | 12,302 | 128,956 | 54,255 | 146,931 | 66,557 |
| | 133,409 | 95,743 | 816,202 | 359,957 | 949,611 | 455,700 |
| Permian Basin | | | | | | |
| New Mexico | 74,227 | 54,657 | 175,974 | 119,892 | 250,201 | 174,549 |
| Texas | 69,566 | 50,852 | 182,717 | 121,933 | 252,283 | 172,785 |
| | 143,793 | 105,509 | 358,691 | 241,825 | 502,484 | 347,334 |
| Other | | | | | | |
| Arizona | 2,097,841 | 2,097,841 | 17,207 | — | 2,115,048 | 2,097,841 |
| California | 383,487 | 383,487 | — | — | 383,487 | 383,487 |
| Colorado | 40,232 | 18,867 | 41,384 | 1,642 | 81,616 | 20,509 |
| Gulf of Mexico | 25,000 | 13,000 | 28,848 | 6,381 | 53,848 | 19,381 |
| Louisiana | 132,842 | 129,792 | 2,868 | 168 | 135,710 | 129,960 |
| Michigan | 234 | 156 | 587 | 587 | 821 | 743 |
| Montana | 30,755 | 7,687 | 7,688 | 1,721 | 38,443 | 9,408 |
| Nevada | 1,007,167 | 1,007,167 | 440 | 1 | 1,007,607 | 1,007,168 |
| New Mexico | 1,641,126 | 1,633,819 | 18,331 | 2,436 | 1,659,457 | 1,636,255 |
| Texas | 8,888 | 2,696 | 23,549 | 4,784 | 32,437 | 7,480 |
| Utah | 80,527 | 59,433 | 31,912 | 1,495 | 112,439 | 60,928 |
| Wyoming | 96,454 | 13,944 | 41,629 | 3,829 | 138,083 | 17,773 |
| Other | 168,034 | 145,680 | 9,627 | 3,351 | 177,661 | 149,031 |
| | 5,712,587 | 5,513,569 | 224,070 | 26,395 | 5,936,657 | 5,539,964 |
| Total | 5,989,789 | 5,714,821 | 1,398,963 | 628,177 | 7,388,752 | 6,342,998 |

The table below summarizes by year and region our undeveloped acreage expirations in the next five years. In most cases, the drilling of a commercial well will hold the acreage beyond the expiration.

| | Acreage | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net |
| Mid-Continent | 1,940 | 1,543 | 10,942 | 10,923 | 6,682 | 6,682 | 1,848 | 1,848 | 284 | 284 |
| Permian Basin | 15,224 | 15,224 | 10,154 | 10,154 | 4,290 | 4,290 | 2,148 | 2,148 | 960 | 960 |
| Other | 180,509 | 176,413 | 34,934 | 34,901 | 10,706 | 10,626 | 31,961 | 30,940 | 7,105 | 6,963 |
| | 197,673 | 193,180 | 56,030 | 55,978 | 21,678 | 21,598 | 35,957 | 34,936 | 8,349 | 8,207 |
| % of undeveloped acreage | 3.3 | 3.4 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

At December 31, 2018 , we had no proved undeveloped reserves scheduled for development beyond the expiration dates of our undeveloped acreage.

Marketing

Our oil and gas production is sold under short-term arrangements at market-responsive prices. We sell our oil at prices tied directly or indirectly to field postings. Our gas is sold under price mechanisms related to either monthly or daily index prices on pipelines where we deliver our gas. We sell our NGLs at prices tied to monthly index prices where we deliver our NGLs.

We sell our oil, gas, and NGLs to a broad portfolio of customers, including major energy companies, pipeline companies, local distribution companies, and other end-users. In 2018, we made sales to two customers that each amounted to 10% or more of our consolidated revenues for 2018. Sales to those two customers accounted for 23% and 21%, respectively, of our consolidated revenues for 2018. If any one of our major customers were to stop purchasing our production, we believe there are a number of other purchasers to whom we could sell our production with some delay. If multiple significant customers were to discontinue purchasing our production, we believe there would be challenges initially, but ample markets to handle the disruption.

We regularly monitor the credit worthiness of all our customers and may require parent company guarantees, letters of credit, or prepayments when deemed necessary. Historically, losses associated with uncollectible receivables have not been significant.

Corporate Headquarters and Employees

Our corporate headquarters is located at 1700 Lincoln St., Suite 3700, Denver, Colorado 80203. On December 31, 2018 and 2017, Cimarex had 955 and 910 employees, respectively. None of our employees are subject to collective bargaining agreements.

Competition

The oil and gas industry is highly competitive, particularly for prospective undeveloped leases and purchases of proved reserves. There is also competition for rigs and related equipment used to drill for and produce oil and gas, however, to a lesser extent in the current market environment. Our competitive position also is highly dependent on our ability to recruit and retain geological, geophysical, and engineering expertise. We compete for prospects, proved reserves, oil-field services, and qualified oil and gas professionals with major and diversified energy companies and other independent operators that have larger financial, human, and technological resources than we do.

We compete with integrated, independent, and other energy companies for the sale and transportation of our oil, gas, and NGLs to marketing companies and end users. The oil and gas industry competes with other energy industries that supply fuel and power to industrial, commercial, and residential consumers. Many of these competitors have greater financial and human resources. The effect of these competitive factors cannot be predicted.

Proved Reserves Estimation Procedures

Proved oil and gas reserve quantities are based on estimates prepared by Cimarex in accordance with the SEC's rules for reporting oil and gas reserves. Our reserve definitions conform with definitions of Rule 4-10(a) (1)-(32) of Regulation S-X of the SEC. All of our reserve estimates are maintained by our internal Corporate Reservoir Engineering group, which is comprised of reservoir engineers and engineering technicians. The objectives and management of this group are separate from and independent of the exploration and production functions of the company. The primary objective of our Corporate Reservoir Engineering group is to maintain accurate forecasts on all properties of the company through ongoing monitoring and timely updates of operating and economic parameters (production forecasts, prices and regional differentials, operating expenses, ownership, etc.) in accordance with guidelines established by the SEC. This separation of function and responsibility is a key internal control.

Cimarex engineers are responsible for estimates of proved reserves. Corporate engineers interact with the exploration and production departments to ensure all available engineering and geologic data is taken into account prior to establishing or revising an estimate. After preparing the reserves update, the corporate engineers review their recommendations with the Vice President of Corporate Engineering. After approval from the Vice President of Corporate Engineering, the revisions are entered into our reserves database by the engineering technician.

During the course of the year, the Vice President of Corporate Engineering presents summary reserves information to senior management and to our Board of Directors for their review. From time to time, the Vice President of Corporate Engineering also will confer with the Vice President of Exploration, Chief Operating Officer, and the Chief Executive Officer regarding specific reserves-related issues. In addition, Corporate Reservoir Engineering maintains a set of basic guidelines and procedures to ensure that critical checks and reviews of the reserves database are performed on a regular basis.

Together, these internal controls are designed to promote a comprehensive, objective, and accurate reserves estimation process. As an additional confirmation of the reasonableness of our internal estimates, DeGolyer and MacNaughton, an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm, performed an independent evaluation of our estimated net reserves representing greater than 80% of the total future net revenue discounted at 10% attributable to the total interests owned by Cimarex as of December 31, 2018. The individual primarily responsible for overseeing the review is a Senior Vice President with DeGolyer and MacNaughton and a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas with over 34 years of experience in oil and gas reservoir studies and reserves evaluations.

The technical employee primarily responsible for overseeing the oil and gas reserves estimation process is Cimarex's Vice President of Corporate Engineering. This individual graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and has more than 24 years of practical experience in oil and gas reservoir evaluation. He has been directly involved in the annual reserves reporting process of Cimarex since 2002 and has served in his current role for the past 14 years.

Title to Oil and Gas Properties

We undertake title examination and perform curative work at the time we lease undeveloped acreage, prepare for the drilling of a prospect, or acquire proved properties. We believe title to our properties is good and defensible, and is in accordance with industry standards. Nevertheless, we are involved in title disputes from time to time that result in litigation. Our oil and gas properties are subject to customary royalty interests, liens incidental to operating agreements, tax liens, and other burdens and minor encumbrances, easements, and restrictions.

Government Regulation

Oil and gas production and transportation is subject to extensive federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Compliance with existing laws often is difficult and costly, but has not had a significant adverse effect on our operations or financial condition. In recent years, we have been most directly impacted by federal and state environmental regulations and energy conservation rules. We are also impacted by federal and state regulation of pipelines and other oil and gas transportation systems.

The states in which we conduct operations establish requirements for drilling permits, the method of developing fields, the size of well spacing units, drilling density within productive formations and the unitization or pooling of properties. In addition, state conservation laws include requirements for waste prevention, establish limits on the maximum rate of production from wells, generally prohibit the venting or flaring of natural gas, and impose certain requirements regarding the ratability of production.

Environmental Regulation. Various federal, state, and local laws regulating the discharge of materials into the environment, or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment, directly impact oil and gas exploration, development, and production operations, which consequently impact our operations and costs. These laws and regulations govern, among other things, emissions into the atmosphere, discharges of pollutants into waters, underground injection of waste water, the generation, storage, transportation, and disposal of waste materials, and protection of public health, natural resources, and wildlife. These laws and regulations may impose substantial liabilities for noncompliance and for any contamination resulting from our operations and may require the suspension or cessation of operations in affected areas.

Cimarex is committed to environmental protection and believes we are in material compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations. We obtain permits for our facilities and operations in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. There are no known issues that have a significant adverse effect on the permitting process or permit compliance status of any of our facilities or operations. Expenditures are required to comply with environmental regulations. These costs are a normal, recurring expense of operations and not an extraordinary cost of compliance with current government regulations.

We do not anticipate that we will be required under current environmental laws and regulations to expend amounts that will have a material adverse effect on our financial position or operations. However, due to continuing changes in these laws and regulations, we are unable to predict with any reasonable degree of certainty any potential delays in development plans that could arise, or our future costs of complying with governmental requirements. We maintain levels of insurance customary in the industry to limit our financial exposure in the event of a substantial environmental claim resulting from sudden, unanticipated and accidental discharges of oil, produced water, or other substances as well as additional coverage for certain other pollution events.

Gas Gathering and Transportation. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) requires interstate gas pipelines to provide open access transportation. FERC also enforces the prohibition of market manipulation by any entity, and the facilitation of the sale or transportation of natural gas in interstate commerce. Interstate pipelines have implemented these requirements, providing us with additional market access and more fairly applied transportation services and rates. FERC continues to review and modify its open access and other regulations applicable to interstate pipelines.

Under the Natural Gas Policy Act (“NGPA”), natural gas gathering facilities are expressly exempt from FERC jurisdiction. What constitutes “gathering” under the NGPA has evolved through FERC decisions and judicial review of such decisions. We believe that our gathering systems meet the test for non-jurisdictional “gathering” systems under the NGPA and that our facilities are not subject to federal regulations. Although exempt from FERC oversight, our natural gas gathering systems and services may receive regulatory scrutiny by state and federal agencies regarding the safety and operating aspects of the transportation and storage activities of these facilities.

In addition to using our own gathering facilities, we may use third-party gathering services or interstate transmission facilities (owned and operated by interstate pipelines) to ship our gas to markets.

Additional proposals and proceedings that might affect the oil and gas industry are pending before the U.S. Congress, FERC, Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), state legislatures, state agencies, local governments, and the courts. We cannot predict when or whether any such proposals may become effective and what effect they will have on our operations. We do not anticipate that compliance with existing federal, state, and local laws, rules, or regulations will have a material adverse effect upon our capital expenditures, earnings, or competitive position.

Federal and State Income and Other Local Taxation

Cimarex and the petroleum industry in general are affected by both federal and state income tax laws, as well as other local tax regulations involving ad valorem, personal property, franchise, severance, and other excise taxes. We have considered the effects of these provisions on our operations and do not anticipate that there will be any material undisclosed impact on our capital expenditures, earnings, or competitive position.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

See Part III, Item 10, Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance for information regarding our executive officers as of February 20, 2019 .

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The following risks and uncertainties, together with other information set forth in this Form 10-K, should be carefully considered by current and future investors in our securities. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties presently unknown to us or currently deemed immaterial also may impair our business operations. The occurrence of one or more of these risks or uncertainties could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations, which in turn could negatively impact the value of our securities.

Risks Concerning Cimarex and its Operations

Oil, gas, and NGL prices fluctuate due to a number of factors beyond our control, creating a component of uncertainty in our development plans and overall operations. Declines in prices adversely affect our financial results and rate of growth in proved reserves and production.

Oil and gas markets are volatile. We cannot predict future prices. The prices we receive for our production heavily influence our revenue, profitability, access to capital, and future rate of growth. The prices we receive depend on numerous factors beyond our control. These factors include, but are not limited to, changes in domestic and global supply and demand for oil and gas, the level of domestic and global oil and gas exploration and production activity, geopolitical instability, the actions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, weather conditions, technological advances affecting energy consumption, governmental regulations and taxes, and the price and technological advancement of alternative fuels.

Our proved oil and gas reserves and production volumes will decrease unless those reserves are replaced with new discoveries or acquisitions. Accordingly, for the foreseeable future, we expect to make substantial capital investments for the exploration and development of new oil and gas reserves. Historically, we have paid for these types of capital expenditures with cash flow provided by our production operations, our revolving credit facility, and proceeds from the sale of senior notes or equity. Low prices reduce our cash flow and the amount of oil and gas that we can economically produce and may cause us to curtail, delay, or defer certain exploration and development projects. Moreover, low prices may impact our abilities to borrow under our revolving credit facility and to raise additional debt or equity capital to fund acquisitions.

If prices decrease, we may be required to take write-downs of the carrying values of our oil and gas properties and/or our goodwill.

Accounting rules require that we periodically review the carrying value of our oil and gas properties and goodwill for possible impairment.

In 2016 we recognized a ceiling test impairment totaling \$757.7 million (\$481.4 million , net of tax). The impairment resulted primarily from the impact of decreases in the trailing twelve-month average prices for oil, gas, and NGLs utilized in determining the estimated future net cash flows from proved reserves. We did not recognize any ceiling test impairments in 2017 or 2018 since the calculated value of the ceiling limitation exceeded the carrying value of our oil and gas properties subject to the test. At December 31, 2018 , a decline of approximately 24% or more in the value of the ceiling limitation would have resulted in an impairment. Because the ceiling calculation uses trailing twelve-month average commodity prices, the effect of increases and decreases in period-over-period prices can significantly impact the ceiling limitation calculation. Impairment charges do not affect cash flow from operating activities, but do adversely affect our net income and various components of our balance sheet.

We evaluate our goodwill for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the possibility that goodwill may be impaired. We have had no goodwill impairments during the years ended December 31, 2018 , 2017, and 2016 .

Ineffective internal controls could impact our business and financial results.

Our internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements because of its inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error, the circumvention or overriding of controls, or fraud. Even effective internal controls can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, including any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or if we experience difficulties in their implementation, our business and financial results could be harmed and we could fail to meet our financial reporting obligations. For example, at December 31, 2016, management concluded that a deficiency in the design of our internal controls related to the full cost ceiling test calculation represented a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting and, therefore, that we did not maintain effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, as reported in our Form 10-K/A for that period. We have since remediated this material weakness, however, there is no guarantee that we won't experience material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting in the future or that we will be able to implement new controls to address such material weaknesses as necessary, which may result in untimely or inaccurate reporting of our financial statements.

U.S. or global financial markets may impact our business and financial condition.

A credit crisis or other turmoil in the U.S. or global financial system may have a negative impact on our business and our financial condition. Our ability to access the capital markets may be restricted at a time when we would like, or need, to raise financing. This could have an impact on our flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. Deteriorating economic conditions could have a negative impact on our lenders, the purchasers of our oil and gas production, and the working interest owners in properties we operate, causing them to fail to meet their obligations to us.

Failure to economically replace oil and gas reserves could negatively affect our financial results and future rate of growth.

In order to replace the reserves depleted by production and to maintain or increase our total proved reserves and overall production levels, we must either locate and develop new oil and gas reserves or acquire producing properties from others. This requires significant capital expenditures and can impose reinvestment risk for us, as we may not be able to continue to replace our reserves economically. While we occasionally may seek to acquire proved reserves, our main business strategy is to grow through exploration and drilling. Without successful exploration and development, our reserves, production, and revenues could decline rapidly, which would negatively impact the results of our operations.

Exploration and development involves numerous risks, including new governmental regulations and the risk that we will not discover any commercially productive oil or gas reservoirs. Additionally, it can be unprofitable, not only from drilling dry holes, but also from drilling productive wells that do not return a profit because of insufficient reserves or declines in commodity prices.

Our drilling operations may be curtailed, delayed, or canceled for many reasons. Factors such as unforeseen poor drilling conditions, title problems, unexpected pressure irregularities, equipment failures, accidents, adverse weather conditions, compliance with environmental and other governmental requirements, bans, moratoria, or other restrictions implemented by local governments and the cost of, or shortages or delays in the availability of, drilling and completion services could negatively impact our drilling operations.

Our proved reserve estimates may be inaccurate and future net cash flows are uncertain.

Estimates of total proved oil and gas reserves (consisting of proved developed and proved undeveloped reserves) and associated future net cash flow depend on a number of variables and assumptions. Refer to **CAUTIONARY INFORMATION ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS** in Part I of this report. Among others, changes in any of the following factors may cause actual results to vary considerably from our estimates:

- oil, gas, and NGL prices;
- timing of development expenditures;
- amount of required capital expenditures and associated economics;
- recovery efficiencies, decline rates, drainage areas, and reservoir limits;
- anticipated reservoir and production characteristics and interpretations of geologic and geophysical data;
- production rates, reservoir pressure, unexpected water encroachment, and other subsurface conditions;
- governmental regulation;
- access to assets restricted by local government action;
- operating costs;
- property, severance, excise, and other taxes incidental to oil and gas operations;

- workover and remediation costs; and
- federal and state income taxes.

Our proved oil and gas reserve estimates are prepared by Cimarex engineers in accordance with guidelines established by the SEC. DeGolyer and MacNaughton, independent petroleum engineers, performed an independent evaluation of our estimated net reserves representing greater than 80% of the total future net revenue discounted at 10%, as of December 31, 2018.

The cash flow amounts referred to in this filing should not be construed as the current market value of our proved reserves. In accordance with SEC guidelines, the estimated discounted net cash flow from proved reserves is based on the average of the previous twelve months' first-day-of-the-month prices and costs as of the date of the estimate, whereas actual future prices and costs may be materially different.

Our business depends on oil and gas pipeline and transportation facilities, some of which are owned by others.

In addition to the existence of adequate markets, our oil and gas production depends in large part on the proximity and capacity of pipeline systems, as well as storage, transportation, processing and fractionation facilities, most of which are owned by third parties. The inability to transport one commodity, such as gas, could also impair our ability to produce and sell other commodities, such as oil and NGLs, produced from the same wells. The lack of availability or the lack of capacity on these systems and facilities could result in the curtailment of production or the delay or discontinuance of drilling plans. This is more likely in remote areas with less established infrastructure, such as our Delaware Basin area where we and competitors have significant development activities. The lack of availability of or capacity in these facilities or the loss of these facilities due to construction delays, weather, fire, or other reasons, for an extended period of time could negatively affect our revenues.

A limited number of companies purchase a majority of our oil, gas, and NGLs. The loss of a significant purchaser could have a material adverse effect on our ability to sell production.

Federal and state regulation of oil and gas, local government activity, adverse court rulings, tax and energy policies, changes in supply and demand, pipeline pressures, damage to or destruction of pipelines, and general economic conditions could adversely affect our ability to produce and market oil and natural gas.

Commodity price derivative transactions may limit our potential gains and involve other risks.

To limit our exposure to price risk, we enter into derivative agreements from time to time. Commodity price derivatives limit volatility and increase the predictability of a portion of our cash flow. These transactions also limit our potential gains when oil and gas prices exceed the prices established by the derivatives.

In certain circumstances, derivative transactions may expose us to the risk of financial loss, including instances in which:

- the counterparties to our derivative agreements fail to perform;
- there is a sudden unexpected event that materially increases oil and gas prices; or
- there is a widening of price basis differentials between delivery points for our production and the delivery point assumed in the derivative agreement.

Because we account for derivative contracts under mark-to-market accounting, during periods we have derivative transactions in place we expect continued volatility in derivative gains and losses on our statement of operations as changes occur in the relevant price indexes.

The adoption of derivatives legislation could have an adverse effect on our ability to use derivative instruments as hedges against fluctuating commodity prices.

In July 2010, the Dodd-Frank Act was enacted, representing an extensive overhaul of the framework for regulation of U.S. financial markets. The Dodd-Frank Act called for various regulatory agencies, including the SEC

and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”), to establish regulations for implementation of many of its provisions. The Dodd-Frank Act contains significant derivatives regulations, including requirements that certain transactions be cleared on exchanges and that cash collateral (margin) be posted for such transactions. The Dodd-Frank Act provides for an exemption from the clearing and cash collateral requirements for commercial end-users, such as Cimarex, and it includes a number of defined terms used in determining how this exemption applies to particular derivative transactions and the parties to those transactions.

We have satisfied the requirements for the commercial end-user exception to the clearing requirement and intend to continue to engage in derivative transactions. In December 2015, the CFTC approved final rules on margin requirements that will have an impact on our derivative counterparties and an interim final rule exemption from the margin requirements for certain uncleared swaps with commercial end-users. The final rules did not impose additional requirements on commercial end-users. The ultimate effect of these new rules and any additional regulations is currently uncertain. New rules and regulations in this area may result in significant increased costs and disclosure obligations as well as decreased liquidity as entities that previously served as derivative counterparties exit the market.

We have been an early entrant into new or emerging resource plays. As a result, our drilling results in these areas are uncertain. The value of our undeveloped acreage may decline and we may incur impairment charges if drilling results are unsuccessful.

New or emerging oil and gas resource plays have limited or no production history. Consequently, in those areas it is difficult to predict our future drilling costs and results. Therefore, our cost of drilling, completing, and operating wells in these areas may be higher than initially expected. Similarly, our production may be lower than initially expected, and the value of our undeveloped acreage may decline if our results are unsuccessful. As a result, we may be required to impair the carrying value of our undeveloped acreage in new or emerging plays.

Furthermore, unless production is established during the primary term of certain of our undeveloped oil and gas leases, the leases will expire, and we will lose our right to develop those properties.

Competition in our industry is intense and many of our competitors have greater financial and technological resources.

We operate in the competitive area of oil and gas exploration and production. Many of our competitors are large, well-established companies that have larger operating staffs and greater capital resources. These competitors may be willing to pay more for exploratory prospects and productive oil and gas properties. They may also be able to define, evaluate, bid for, and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or human resources permit.

Because our activity is also concentrated in areas of heavy industry competition, there is heightened demand for personnel, equipment, power, services, facilities, and resources, resulting in higher costs than in other areas. Such intense competition also could result in delays in securing, or the inability to secure, the personnel, equipment, power, services, resources, or facilities necessary for our development activities, which could negatively impact our production volumes. We also face higher costs in remote areas where vendors can charge higher rates due to that remoteness and the inability to attract employees to those areas, as well as the vendors’ ability to deploy their resources in easier-to-access areas.

We are subject to complex laws and regulations that can adversely affect the cost, manner, and feasibility of doing business.

Exploration, production, and the sale of oil and gas are subject to extensive laws and regulations, including those implemented to protect the environment, human health and safety, and wildlife. Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies frequently require permitting and impose conditions on our activities. During the permitting process, these regulatory agencies often exercise considerable discretion in both the timing and scope of the permits, and the public, including special interest groups, often has an opportunity to influence the timing and outcome of the process. The requirements or conditions imposed by these agencies can be costly and can delay the commencement of our operations. In addition, a number of initiatives were put forth by the Obama administration in the form of Presidential or Secretarial Memoranda, which are still in effect, and have the potential to impact the cost of doing business or could result in substantial delays in permitting, drilling, and other oil and gas activities.

Failing to comply with any of the applicable laws and regulations, or Presidential initiatives, could result in the suspension or termination of our operations and subject us to administrative, civil, and criminal liabilities and penalties. Such costs could have a material adverse effect on both our financial condition and operations.

Environmental matters and costs can be significant.

As an owner, lessee, or operator of oil and gas properties, we are subject to various complex, stringent, and constantly evolving environmental laws and regulations. Our operations inherently create the risk of environmental liability to the government and private parties stemming from our use, generation, handling, and disposal of water and waste materials, as well as the release of hydrocarbons or other substances into the air, soil, or water. The environmental laws and regulations to which we are subject impose numerous obligations applicable to our operations, including: the acquisition of permits before conducting regulated activities associated with drilling for and producing oil and gas; the restriction of types, quantities, and concentration of materials that can be released into the environment; the limitation or prohibition of drilling activities on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands, waters of the United States, and other protected areas; the application of specific health and safety criteria addressing worker protection; and the imposition of substantial liabilities for pollution resulting from our operations. Numerous governmental authorities, such as the EPA and analogous state agencies have the power to enforce compliance with these laws and regulations and the permits issued under them. Such enforcement actions often involve taking difficult and costly compliance measures or corrective actions. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of sanctions, including administrative, civil, or criminal penalties, the imposition of investigatory or remedial obligations, and the issuance of orders limiting or prohibiting some or all of our operations. In addition, we may experience delays in obtaining, or be unable to obtain, required permits, which may delay or interrupt our operations and limit our growth and revenue.

Liabilities under certain environmental laws can be joint and several and may in some cases be imposed regardless of fault on our part such as where we own a working interest in a property operated by another party. We also could be held liable for damages or remediating lands or facilities previously owned or operated by others regardless of whether such contamination resulted from our own actions and regardless if we were in compliance with all applicable law at the time. Further, claims for damages to persons or property, including natural resources, may result from the environmental, health, and safety impacts of our operations. Because these environmental risks generally are not fully insurable and can result in substantial costs, such liabilities could have a material adverse effect on both our financial condition and operations.

Our financial condition and results of operations may be materially adversely affected if we incur costs and liabilities due to a failure to comply with environmental regulations or a release of hazardous substances into the environment.

Our operations are subject to environmental laws and regulations relating to the management and release of hazardous substances, pollutants, solid and hazardous wastes, and petroleum hydrocarbons. These laws generally regulate the generation, storage, treatment, discharge, transportation, and disposal of pollutants and solid and hazardous waste and may impose strict and, in some cases, joint and several liability for the investigation and remediation of affected areas where hazardous substances may have been released or disposed. The most significant of these environmental laws are as follows:

- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, referred to as CERCLA or the Superfund law, and comparable state laws, which imposes liability on generators, transporters, and arrangers of hazardous substances at sites where hazardous substance releases have occurred or are threatening to occur;
- The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (“OPA”), under which owners and operators of onshore facilities and pipelines, lessees or permittees of an area in which an offshore facility is located, and owners and operators of vessels are liable for removal costs and damages that result from a discharge of oil into navigable waters of the United States;
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”), as amended, and comparable state statutes, which governs the treatment, storage, and disposal of solid waste;
- The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, also known as the Clean Water Act (“CWA”), which governs the discharge of pollutants, including natural gas wastes, into federal and state waters;

- The Safe Drinking Water Act (“SDWA”), which governs the disposal of wastewater in underground injection wells; and
- The Clean Air Act (“CAA”) which governs the emission of pollutants into the air.

We believe we are in substantial compliance with the requirements of CERCLA, OPA, RCRA, CWA, SDWA, CAA and related state and local laws and regulations. We also believe we hold all necessary and up-to-date permits, registrations, and other authorizations required under such laws and regulations. Although the current costs of managing our wastes as they presently are classified are reflected in our budget, any legislative or regulatory reclassification of oil and gas exploration and production wastes could increase our costs to manage and dispose of such wastes and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operations.

Federal regulatory initiatives relating to the protection of threatened or endangered species could result in increased costs and additional operating restrictions or delays.

The Federal Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) was established to protect endangered and threatened species. Pursuant to the ESA, if a species is listed as threatened or endangered, restrictions may be imposed on activities adversely affecting that species’ habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”) may designate critical habitat and suitable habitat areas it believes are necessary for survival of a threatened or endangered species. A critical habitat or suitable habitat designation could result in further material restrictions to federal land use and may materially delay or prohibit land access for oil and gas development. Similar protections are offered to migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We conduct operations on federal oil and gas leases in areas where certain species are currently listed as threatened or endangered, or could be listed as such, under the ESA. Operations in areas where threatened or endangered species or their habitat are known to exist may require us to incur increased costs to implement mitigation or protective measures and also may restrict or preclude our drilling activities in those areas or during certain seasons, such as breeding and nesting seasons. On March 27, 2014, the FWS announced the listing of the lesser prairie chicken, whose habitat is over a five-state region, including Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, where we conduct operations, as a threatened species under the ESA. Listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species imposes restrictions on disturbances to critical habitat by landowners and drilling companies that would harass, harm, or otherwise result in a “taking” of this species. However, the FWS also announced a final rule that will limit regulatory impacts on landowners and businesses from the listing if those landowners and businesses have entered into certain range-wide conservation planning agreements, such as those developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (“WAFWA”), pursuant to which such parties agreed to take steps to protect the lesser prairie chicken’s habitat and to pay a mitigation fee if its actions harm the lesser prairie chicken’s habitat. We entered into a voluntary Candidate Conservation Agreement (“CCA”) with the WAFWA, whereby we agreed to take certain actions and limit certain activities, such as limiting drilling on certain portions of our acreage during nesting seasons, in an effort to protect the lesser prairie chicken. On February 9, 2018, the FWS announced the listing of the Texas Hornshell, a fresh water mussel species in areas including New Mexico and Texas where we operate in the Permian Basin, as an endangered species. We also intend to enter into a CCA concerning voluntary conservation actions with respect to the Texas Hornshell. Participating in CCAs could result in increased costs to us from species protection measures, time delays or limitations on drilling activities, which costs, delays or limitations may be significant. While a federal judge in Texas vacated the listing of the lesser prairie chicken in 2015, listing petitions continue to be filed with the FWS which could impact our operations. Many non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) work closely with the FWS regarding the listing of many species, including species with broad and even nationwide ranges. The recent listing of the Mexican Long Nosed bat, whose habitat includes the Permian Basin where we operate, is an example of the NGOs’ influence on ESA listing decisions. The increase in endangered species listings may impact our ability to explore for or produce oil and gas in certain areas and increase our costs.

Our hydraulic fracturing activities are subject to risks that could negatively impact our operations and profitability.

We use hydraulic fracturing for the completion of almost all of our wells. Hydraulic fracturing is a process that involves pumping fluid and proppant at high pressure into a hydrocarbon bearing formation to create and hold open fractures. Those fractures enable gas or oil to move through the formation’s pores to the well bore. Typically, the fluid used in this process is primarily water. In plays where hydraulic fracturing is necessary for successful development, the demand for water may exceed the supply. A lack of readily available water or a significant increase in the cost of water could cause delays or increased completion costs.

While hydraulic fracturing historically has been regulated by state oil and gas commissions, the practice has become increasingly controversial in certain parts of the country, resulting in increased scrutiny and regulation from federal agencies. For example, the EPA has asserted federal regulatory authority over certain hydraulic fracturing activities under the SDWA involving the use of diesel fuels and published permitting guidance in February 2014 addressing the use of diesel in fracturing operations. Although the EPA has delegated the permitting authority for the SDWA's Underground Injection Control Class II programs in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico where we maintain operational acreage, the EPA is encouraging state programs to review and consider the use of such draft guidance.

In addition, on March 26, 2015, the federal BLM published a final rule governing hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands. The rule requires public disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands, confirmation that wells used in fracturing operations meet appropriate construction standards, development of appropriate plans for managing flowback water that returns to the surface, increased standards for interim storage of recovered waste fluids, and submission to the BLM of detailed information on the geology, depth, and location of preexisting wells. This rule originally was scheduled to take effect on June 24, 2015. However, the rule is the subject of several pending lawsuits filed by industry groups, two Indian tribes, and at least four states, alleging that federal law does not give the BLM authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing. The federal judge has enjoined the rule while the case is pending. The district court held that BLM did not have jurisdiction to promulgate the rule. The Obama Justice Department appealed and that appeal is pending.

There are also certain governmental reviews either underway or being proposed that focus on environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing practices. The EPA prepared a study of the potential environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water and groundwater. The EPA's draft report was released on June 4, 2015. The findings of the report suggest that hydraulic fracturing does not pose a systemic risk to groundwater although there are risks to both groundwater and soils posed by inadequate water handling practices in certain situations. A public comment period on the report was open until August 28, 2015, and a series of public hearings were conducted by the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board ("SAB") throughout the fall of 2015. The EPA issued its final report and has reached two different topline conclusions, although the content of the study itself remains unchanged. Other governmental agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of the Interior, have evaluated or are evaluating various other aspects of hydraulic fracturing. These ongoing or proposed studies could spur initiatives to further regulate hydraulic fracturing.

Additionally, Congress from time to time has considered the adoption of legislation to provide for federal regulation of hydraulic fracturing and to require disclosure of the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process. Most producing states, including Texas and Colorado, have adopted, and other states are considering adopting, regulations that could impose more stringent permitting, public disclosure, and well construction requirements on hydraulic fracturing operations or otherwise seek to ban fracturing activities altogether.

Any of the above factors could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows and could make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing to stimulate production from dense subsurface rock formations and, in the event of local prohibitions against commercial production of natural gas, may preclude our ability to drill wells. In addition, our fracturing activities could become subject to additional permitting requirements and result in permitting delays as well as potential increases in costs. Restrictions on hydraulic fracturing could also reduce the amount of oil and gas that we are ultimately able to produce from our reserves.

The adoption of climate change legislation or regulations restricting emission of greenhouse gases, investor pressure concerning climate-related disclosures, and lawsuits could result in increased operating costs and reduced demand for the oil and gas we produce as well as reductions in the availability of capital.

Studies have suggested that emission of certain gases, commonly referred to as greenhouse gases ("GHGs"), may be impacting the earth's climate. Methane, a primary component of natural gas, and carbon dioxide, also present in natural gas as a secondary product, sometimes considered an impurity or a by-product of the burning of oil and natural gas, are examples of GHGs. The U.S. Congress and various states have been evaluating, and in some cases implementing, climate-related legislation and other regulatory initiatives that restrict emissions of GHGs. In December 2009, the EPA published its findings that emissions of GHGs present an endangerment to public health and the environment because emissions of such gases are contributing to the warming of the earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. Based on these findings, the EPA adopted regulations under existing provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act that establish Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") and Title V permit reviews for GHG emissions from certain large stationary sources. Facilities required to obtain PSD and/or Title V permits under EPA's GHG

Tailoring Rule for their GHG emissions also may be required to meet “Best Available Control Technology” standards that will be established by the states or, in some cases, by the EPA on a case-by-case basis. The EPA has also adopted rules requiring the monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions from specified sources in the United States, including, among others, certain oil and gas production facilities on an annual basis, which includes certain of our operations. In recent proposed rulemaking, EPA is widening the scope of annual GHG reporting to include not only activities associated with completion and workover of gas wells with hydraulic fracturing and activities associated with oil and gas production operations, but also completions and workovers of oil wells with hydraulic fracturing, gathering and boosting systems, and transmission pipelines.

While Congress has from time to time considered legislation to reduce emissions of GHGs, there has not been significant activity in the form of adopted legislation to reduce GHG emissions at the federal level in recent years. In the absence of such federal climate legislation, a number of state and regional efforts have emerged that are aimed at tracking and/or reducing GHG emissions by means of cap and trade programs that typically require major sources of GHG emissions, such as electric power plants, to acquire and surrender emission allowances in return for emitting those GHGs. In January 2015, President Obama announced a series of administration actions to reduce methane emissions, including rulemaking by the EPA and the BLM as well as updating of standards by the Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration. The previous administration intended to promulgate proposed climate change rulemaking aimed at reducing GHG emissions by 45% by 2025 compared to 2012 levels. These proposals target both new and existing sources. On January 22, 2016, the Department of the Interior announced its proposed emissions mandate on oil and gas producers who operate on federal and Indian lands. While this rule was finalized in November of 2016, it is currently being challenged by several states and industry. While we expect new legislation and regulations to increase the cost of business, at this time it is not possible to quantify the impact on our business. Any such future laws and final regulations that require reporting of GHGs or otherwise limit emissions of GHGs from our equipment and operations could require us to incur costs to develop and implement best management practices aimed at reducing GHG emissions, install and maintain emissions control technologies, as well as monitor and report on GHG emissions associated with our operations, which would increase our operating costs, and such requirements also could adversely affect demand for the oil and gas that we produce.

The following is a summary of potential climate-related risks that could adversely affect Cimarex:

Transition Risks. Transition risks are risks related to the transition to a lower-carbon economy and include policy, legal, technology, and market risks.

Policy and Legal Risks. Policy risks include policy actions that attempt to contract actions that contribute to adverse effects of climate change or policy actions that seek to promote adaptation to climate change. Examples include implementing carbon-pricing mechanisms to reduce GHG emissions (which would increase the costs of our doing business), shifting energy use toward lower emission sources (which could lower demand for our oil and gas production, resulting in lower prices and lower revenues), adopting energy-efficiency solutions (which also could lower demand for our oil and gas production, resulting in lower prices and lower revenues), encouraging greater water efficiency measures (which would increase our costs of production), and promoting more sustainable land-use practices (which also would increase our costs of production and could impact our ability to operate in certain areas). Policy actions also may include restrictions or bans on oil and gas activities, which could lead to write-downs or impairments of our assets. Legal and litigation risks include potential lawsuits claiming failure to mitigate impacts of climate change, failure to adapt to climate change, and the insufficiency of disclosure around material financial risks.

Technology Risk. Technological improvements or innovations that support the transition to a lower-carbon, more energy efficient economic system may have a significant impact on Cimarex. The development and use of emerging technologies such as renewable energy, battery storage, and energy efficiency may lower demand for oil and gas, resulting in lower prices and revenues, and increase our costs.

Market Risk. Markets could be affected by climate change through shifts in supply and demand for certain commodities, especially carbon-intensive commodities such as oil and gas and other products dependent on oil and gas, as climate-related risks and opportunities are increasingly taken into account. This could lower demand for our oil and gas production, resulting in lower prices and lower revenues. Market risk also may take the form of limited access to capital as investors shift investments to less carbon-intensive industries and alternative energy industries. In addition, there have also been efforts in recent years to influence the investment community, including investment advisers and certain sovereign wealth, pension, and endowment funds promoting divestment of fossil fuel equities and pressuring lenders to limit funding to companies engaged in the extraction of fossil fuel reserves. Such environmental

activism and initiatives aimed at limiting climate change and reducing air pollution could interfere with our business activities, operations, and ability to access capital. Furthermore, claims have been made against certain energy companies alleging that GHG emissions from oil, NGL, and gas operations constitute a public nuisance under federal and/or state common law. As a result, private individuals or public entities may seek to enforce environmental laws and regulations against us and could allege personal injury, property damages, or other liabilities. While we are currently not a party to any such litigation, we could be named in actions making similar allegations. An unfavorable ruling in any such case could significantly impact our operations and could have an adverse impact on our financial condition.

Reputation Risk. Climate change has been identified as a potential source of reputational risk tied to changing customer or community perceptions of an organization's contribution to or detraction from the transition to a lower-carbon economy. This could lower demand for our oil and gas production, resulting in lower prices and lower revenues as consumers avoid carbon-intensive industries. This may also put pressure on investment managers to shift investments to less carbon-intensive industries and alternative energy industries, limiting our access to capital.

Physical Risks. Potential physical risks resulting from climate change may be event driven (including increased severity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes or floods) or longer-term shifts in climate patterns that may cause sea level rise or chronic heat waves. Potential physical risks may cause direct damage to assets and indirect impacts such as supply chain disruption. Potential physical risks also include changes in water availability, sourcing, and quality, which could impact drilling and completions operations. These physical risks could cause increased costs, production disruptions, and lower revenues.

Legislation or regulatory initiatives intended to address seismic activity could restrict our ability to engage in hydraulic fracturing during completion operations and to dispose of saltwater produced in connection with our oil and gas production, which could limit our ability to produce oil and gas economically and have a material adverse effect on our business.

We dispose of large volumes of saltwater produced in connection with our drilling and production operations pursuant to permits issued to us or third-party operators of disposal wells by governmental authorities overseeing produced water disposal activities. While these permits are issued pursuant to existing laws and regulations, these legal requirements are subject to change, which could result in the imposition of more stringent operating constraints or new monitoring and reporting requirements, owing to, among other things, concerns of the public or governmental authorities regarding such gathering or disposal activities.

There exists a growing concern that hydraulic fracturing during well completion operations and the injection of produced water into underground disposal wells triggers seismic activity in certain areas, including Oklahoma and Texas, where we operate. In response to these concerns, regulators in some states are pursuing initiatives designed to impose additional requirements in connection with hydraulic fracturing and in the permitting of saltwater disposal wells or otherwise to assess any relationship between seismicity and these oil and gas operations. For example, in 2014, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission began adopting rules for operators of saltwater disposal wells in certain seismically-active areas, or Areas of Interest, in the Arbuckle formation, requiring operators to monitor and record well pressure and discharge volume on a daily basis and further requiring operators of wells permitted for disposal of 20,000 barrels per day or more of saltwater to conduct mechanical integrity testing. Throughout 2015 and 2016, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Oil and Gas Conservation Division, or OGCD, issued a series of directives, expanding the areas of interest for induced seismicity and enhanced disposal restrictions and limiting the depths at which produced water could be injected or, in the alternative, reducing disposal volumes. Additional regulations and restrictions are possible as more is understood about this issue. In addition to and separate from induced seismicity associated with injection, the OGCD has issued guidelines to operators to follow when engaged in well stimulation activities, which some studies now seem to correlate with a small number of low intensity seismic events.

In addition, in 2014 the Texas Railroad Commission, or TRC, published a new rule governing permitting or re-permitting of disposal wells in Texas that would require, among other things, the submission of information on seismic events occurring within a specified radius of the disposal well location, as well as logs, geologic cross sections, and structure maps relating to the disposal area in question. If a permittee or a prospective permittee fails to demonstrate that the saltwater or other fluids are confined to the disposal zone or if scientific data indicates such a disposal well is likely to be or determined to be contributing to seismic activity, then the TRC may deny, modify, suspend, or terminate the permit application or existing operating permit for that well.

The adoption and implementation of any new laws, regulations, or directives that restrict our ability to stimulate wells or to dispose of produced water, by changing the depths of disposal wells, reducing the volume of oil and gas wastewater disposed in such wells, restricting disposal well locations or otherwise, or by requiring us or third parties who dispose of our saltwater to shut down disposal wells, could increase disposal costs or require us to shut in a substantial number of our oil and gas wells or otherwise have a material adverse effect on our ability to produce oil and gas economically and, accordingly, could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations. We could also face lawsuits alleging that seismic activity occurred as a result of completions or water disposal activities, resulting in damage to persons and property.

A substantial portion of our producing properties are located in limited geographic areas, making us vulnerable to risks associated with having geographically concentrated operations.

A substantial portion of our producing properties are geographically concentrated in the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico and our Cana area in the Mid-Continent region in Oklahoma, with these two areas comprising approximately 57% and 43% , respectively, of our oil, gas, and NGL production and approximately 64% and 36% , respectively, of our oil, gas, and NGL revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018 . Approximately 57% of our estimated proved reserves were located in the Permian Basin and approximately 43% of our estimated proved reserves were located in the Mid-Continent region as of December 31, 2018 .

Because of this concentration in limited geographic areas, the success and profitability of our operations may be disproportionately exposed to regional factors relative to our competitors that have more geographically dispersed operations. These factors include, among others: (i) the prices of oil and gas produced from wells in the regions and other regional supply and demand factors, including gathering, pipeline, and rail transportation capacity constraints; (ii) the availability of rigs, equipment, oil field services, supplies, and labor; (iii) the availability of processing and refining facilities; and (iv) infrastructure capacity. In addition, our operations in the Permian Basin and Mid-Continent region, as well as other areas, may be adversely affected by severe weather events such as floods, lightning, ice and other storms, and tornadoes, which can intensify competition for the items described above during months when drilling is possible and may result in periodic shortages. The concentration of our operations in limited geographic areas also increases our exposure to changes in local laws and regulations including concerning hydraulic fracturing and wastewater disposal as discussed above in “Legislation or regulatory initiatives intended to address seismic activity could restrict our ability to engage in hydraulic fracturing during completion operations and to dispose of saltwater produced in connection with our oil and gas production, which could limit our ability to produce oil and gas economically and have a material adverse effect on our business”, certain lease stipulations designed to protect wildlife, and unexpected events that may occur in the regions such as natural disasters, seismic events, industrial accidents, or labor difficulties. Any one of these events has the potential to cause producing wells to be shut-in, delay operations, decrease cash flows, increase operating and capital costs and prevent development of lease inventory before expiration. Any of the risks described above could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

We use some of the latest available horizontal drilling and completion techniques, which involve risk and uncertainty in their application.

Our horizontal drilling operations utilize some of the latest drilling and completion techniques. The risks of such techniques include, but are not limited to, the following:

- landing the wellbore in the desired drilling zone;
- staying in the desired drilling zone while drilling horizontally through the formation;
- running casing the entire length of the wellbore;
- being able to run tools and other equipment consistently through the horizontal wellbore;
- the ability to fracture stimulate the planned number of stages;
- the ability to run tools the entire length of the wellbore during completion operations; and
- the ability to successfully clean out the wellbore after completion of the final fracture stimulation stage.

Any of the above factors could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

Many of our properties are in areas that may have been partially depleted or drained by offset wells and certain of our wells may be adversely affected by actions other operators may take when drilling, completing, or operating wells that they own.

Many of our properties are in areas that may have already been partially depleted or drained by earlier offset drilling. The owners of leasehold interests adjoining any of our properties could take actions, such as drilling and completing additional wells, which could adversely affect our operations. When a new well is completed and produced, the pressure differential in the vicinity of the well causes the migration of reservoir fluids toward the new wellbore (and potentially away from existing wellbores). As a result, the drilling and production of these potential locations could cause a depletion of our proved reserves and may inhibit our ability to further develop our proved reserves. In addition, completion operations and other activities conducted on adjacent or nearby wells could cause production from our wells to be shut in for indefinite periods of time, could result in increased lease operating expenses and could adversely affect the production and reserves from our wells after they re-commence production. We have no control over the operations or activities of offsetting operators.

We may be subject to information technology system failures, network disruptions, and breaches in data security and our business, financial position, results of operations, and cash flows could be negatively affected by such security threats and disruptions.

As an oil and gas producer, we face various security threats, including cybersecurity threats such as attempts to gain unauthorized access to sensitive information or to render data or systems unusable; threats to the security of our facilities and infrastructure or third-party facilities and infrastructure, such as gathering and processing facilities, pipelines and refineries; and threats from terrorist acts. Cybersecurity attacks are becoming more sophisticated and include, but are not limited to, malicious software, attempts to gain unauthorized access to data and systems, and other electronic security breaches that could lead to disruptions in critical systems, unauthorized release of confidential or otherwise protected information, and corruption of data, and “ransomware” attacks where data is locked unless a payment is made, any of which could have an adverse effect on our reputation, business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows. While we have not suffered any material losses relating to such attacks, there can be no assurance that we will not suffer such losses in the future.

We rely heavily on our information systems, and the availability and integrity of these systems are essential for us to conduct our business and operations. In addition to cybersecurity and data security threats, other information system failures and network disruptions could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business. We could experience system failures due to power or telecommunications failures, human error, natural disasters, fire, sabotage, hardware or software malfunction or defects, computer viruses, intentional acts of vandalism or terrorism and similar acts or occurrences. Such system failures could result in the unanticipated disruption of our operations, communications, or processing of transactions, as well as loss of, or damage to, sensitive information, facilities, infrastructure and systems essential to our business and operations, the failure to meet regulatory standards and the reporting of our financial results, and other disruptions to our operations, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations, and cash flows.

A cyber attack involving our information systems and related infrastructure, or those of our business associates, could disrupt our business and negatively impact our operations in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- unauthorized access to seismic data, reserves information, strategic information, or other sensitive or proprietary information could have a negative impact on our ability to compete for oil and gas resources;
- data corruption or operational disruption of production-related infrastructure could result in a loss of production, or accidental discharge;
- a cyber attack on a vendor or service provider could result in supply chain disruptions, which could delay or halt our major development projects;
- a cyber attack on third-party gathering, pipeline, or rail transportation systems could delay or prevent us from transporting and marketing our production, resulting in a loss of revenues; and

- a cyber attack on our accounting or accounts payable systems could expose us to liability to employees and third parties if their personal identifying information is obtained.

These events could damage our reputation and lead to financial losses from remedial actions, loss of business, or potential liability, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

While management has taken steps to address these concerns by implementing network security and internal control measures to monitor and mitigate security threats and to increase security for our information, facilities, and infrastructure, our implementation of such procedures and controls may result in increased costs, and there can be no assurance that a system failure or data security breach will not occur and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. In addition, as cybersecurity threats continue to evolve, we may be required to expend additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures or to investigate or remediate any cybersecurity or information technology infrastructure vulnerabilities.

Our limited ability to influence operations and associated costs on non-operated properties could result in economic losses that are partially beyond our control.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, other companies operated approximately 19% of our net production. Our success in properties operated by others depends upon a number of factors outside of our control. These factors include timing and amount of capital expenditures, the operator's expertise and financial resources, approval of other participants in drilling wells, selection of technology, and maintenance of safety and environmental standards. Our dependence on the operator and other working interest owners for these projects could prevent the realization of our targeted returns on capital in drilling or acquisition activities.

Our business involves many operating risks that may result in substantial losses for which insurance may be unavailable or inadequate.

Our operations are subject to hazards and risks inherent in drilling for oil and gas, such as fires, natural disasters, explosions, formations with abnormal pressures, casing collapses, uncontrollable flows of underground gas, blowouts, surface cratering, pipeline ruptures, or cement failures. Other such risks include theft, vandalism, and environmental hazards such as gas leaks, oil spills, and discharges of toxic gases. Any of these risks can cause substantial losses resulting from:

- injury or loss of life;
- damage to, loss of or destruction of, property, natural resources and equipment;
- pollution and other environmental damages;
- regulatory investigations, civil litigation, and penalties;
- damage to our reputation;
- suspension of our operations; and
- costs related to repair and remediation.

In addition, our liability for environmental hazards may include conditions created by the previous owners of properties that we purchase or lease.

We maintain insurance coverage against some, but not all, potential losses. We do not believe that insurance coverage for all environmental damages that could occur is available at a reasonable cost. Losses could occur for uninsurable or uninsured risks, or in amounts in excess of existing insurance coverage. The occurrence of an event that is not fully covered by insurance could harm our financial condition and results of operation.

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

At December 31, 2018, our long-term debt consisted of \$750 million of 4.375% senior notes due in 2024 and \$750 million of 3.90% senior notes due in 2027. In addition to interest expense and principal on our long-term debt, we have demands on our cash resources including, among others, capital expenditures, operating expenses, and contractual commitments, as well as the pending anticipated closing of the acquisition of Resolute in the first quarter of 2019.

Our ability to pay the principal and interest on our long-term debt and to satisfy our other liabilities will depend upon future performance and our ability to repay or refinance our debt as it becomes due. Our future operating performance and ability to refinance will be affected by economic and capital market conditions, results of operations, and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. Our ability to meet our debt service obligations also may be impacted by changes in prevailing interest rates, as borrowing under our existing revolving credit facility bears interest at floating rates.

We may not generate sufficient cash flow from operations. Without sufficient cash flow, there may not be adequate future sources of capital to enable us to service our indebtedness or to fund our other liquidity needs. If we are unable to service our indebtedness and fund our operating costs, we will be forced to adopt alternative strategies that may include:

- reducing or delaying capital expenditures;
- seeking additional debt financing or equity capital;
- selling assets; or
- restructuring or refinancing debt.

We may be unable to complete any such strategies on satisfactory terms, if at all. Our inability to generate sufficient cash flows to satisfy our debt obligations or contractual commitments, or to refinance our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms, would materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The instruments governing our indebtedness contain various covenants limiting the discretion of our management in operating our business.

The indenture governing our senior notes and our credit agreement contain various restrictive covenants that may limit management's discretion in certain respects. In particular, these agreements limit Cimarex's and its subsidiaries' ability to, among other things:

- create certain liens;
- consolidate, merge, or transfer all, or substantially all, of our assets and our restricted subsidiaries; or
- enter into sale and leaseback transactions.

In addition, our revolving credit agreement requires us to maintain a total debt to capitalization ratio (as defined in the credit agreement) of not more than 65%. See Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

If we fail to comply with the restrictions in the indenture governing our senior notes or the agreement governing our credit facility or any other subsequent financing agreements, a default may allow the creditors, if the agreements so provide, to accelerate the related indebtedness as well as any other indebtedness to which a cross-acceleration or cross-default provision applies. In addition, lenders may be able to terminate any commitments they had made to make available further funds.

Our acquisition activities may not be successful, which may hinder our replacement of reserves and adversely affect our results of operations.

The successful acquisition of properties requires an assessment of several factors, including:

- geological risks and recoverable reserves;
- future oil and gas prices and their appropriate market differentials;
- operating costs; and
- potential environmental risks and other liabilities.

The accuracy of these assessments is inherently uncertain. In connection with these assessments, we perform a review of the subject properties we believe to be generally consistent with industry practices. Our review will not reveal all existing or potential problems nor will it permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to fully assess their deficiencies and capabilities. Inspections will not likely be performed on every well or facility, and structural and environmental problems are not necessarily observable even when an inspection is undertaken. Furthermore, the seller may be unwilling or unable, such as in a corporate acquisition such as our acquisition of Resolute, to provide effective contractual protection against all or part of the identified problems. For additional risks related to our pending acquisition of Resolute, see below “**Risks Concerning Cimarex’s Pending Merger with Resolute Energy Corporation** .”

We may lose leases if production is not established within the time periods specified in the leases.

Unless production is established within the spacing units covering the undeveloped acres on which some of the locations are identified, the leases for such acreage will expire and the amounts spent for those leases will be lost. The combined net acreage expiring in the next three years represents approximately 4.7% of our total net undeveloped acreage at December 31, 2018 . At that date, we had leases representing 193,180 net acres expiring in 2019 , 55,978 net acres expiring in 2020 , and 21,598 net acres expiring in 2021 . Our actual drilling activities may materially differ from those presently identified, which could adversely affect our business.

Our disposition activities may be subject to factors beyond our control, and in certain cases we may retain unforeseen liabilities for certain matters .

We regularly sell non-core assets in order to increase capital resources available for other core assets and to create organizational and operational efficiencies. We also occasionally sell interests in core assets for the purpose of accelerating the development of and increasing efficiencies in such core assets. Various factors could materially affect our ability to dispose of such assets, including the approvals of governmental agencies or third parties, and the availability of purchasers willing to acquire the assets with terms we deem acceptable.

Sellers at times retain certain liabilities or agree to indemnify buyers for certain matters related to the sold assets. The magnitude of any such retained liability or indemnification obligation is difficult to quantify at the time of the transaction and ultimately could be material. Also, as is typical in divestiture transactions, third parties may be unwilling to release the company from guarantees or other credit support provided prior to the sale of the divested assets. As a result, after a divestiture, the company may remain secondarily liable for the obligations guaranteed or supported to the extent that the buyer of the assets fails to perform these obligations. In addition, with respect to offshore assets, if purchasers declare bankruptcy, the United States Department of Interior may pursue former owners for decommissioning expenses, which can be substantial. See Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion regarding our asset retirement obligations.

Competition for experienced technical personnel may negatively impact our operations.

Our exploratory and development drilling success depends, in part, on our ability to attract and retain experienced professional personnel. The loss of any key executives or other key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our operations. As we continue to develop our asset base and the scope of our operations, our future profitability will depend on our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel, particularly individuals with a strong background in geology, geophysics, engineering, and operations.

We are involved in various legal proceedings, the outcome of which could have an adverse effect on our liquidity.

In the normal course of business, we are involved with various lawsuits and related disputed claims, including but not limited to claims concerning title, royalty payments, environmental issues, personal injuries, and contractual issues. Although we currently believe the resolution of these lawsuits and claims, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations, our assessment of our current litigation and other legal proceedings could change in light of the discovery of facts with respect to legal actions or other proceedings pending against us not presently known to us or determinations by judges, juries, or other finders of fact that are not in accord with our evaluation of the possible liability or outcome of such proceedings. Therefore, there can be no assurance that outcomes of future legal proceedings would not have an adverse effect on our liquidity and capital resources. For litigation risks related to our pending acquisition of Resolute, see below “ **Risks Concerning Cimarex’s Pending Merger with Resolute Energy Corporation** .”

Certain federal income tax deductions currently available with respect to oil and gas exploration and development may be limited or eliminated as a result of recently enacted or future legislation.

On December 22, 2017, the United States enacted H.R.1, commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act or U.S. Tax Reform. H.R.1, among other things, includes changes to U.S. federal tax rates, imposes new limitations on the utilization of net operating losses and the deductibility of interest and executive compensation, temporarily allows for the expensing of capital expenditures, and eliminates the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax. Various proposed regulations have been issued regarding H.R.1. Until final regulations are issued the full impact of changes to the company is not known at this time. In addition, various proposals have been made recommending the elimination of certain key U.S. federal income tax incentives currently available to oil and gas exploration and production companies. Future legislation may be introduced in Congress which would implement many of these proposals. These changes include, but are not limited to: (i) the repeal of the percentage depletion allowance for oil and gas properties; (ii) the elimination of current deductions for intangible drilling and development costs; and (iii) an extension of the amortization period for certain geological and geophysical expenditures. It is unclear, however, whether any such changes will be enacted or how soon such changes could be effective.

The passage of this legislation or any other similar change in U.S. federal income tax law could eliminate or postpone certain tax deductions that are currently available with respect to oil and gas exploration and development, and any such change could have an adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows, including the payment of cash taxes earlier than expected.

Risks Concerning Cimarex’s Pending Merger with Resolute Energy Corporation

The merger is subject to conditions, including certain conditions that may not be satisfied, or completed on a timely basis, if at all.

The merger is subject to a number of other conditions beyond Cimarex’s and Resolute’s control that may prevent, delay, or otherwise materially adversely affect its completion, including the approval of the merger proposal by Resolute’s stockholders at its meeting currently scheduled for February 22, 2019. Neither Cimarex nor Resolute can predict whether and when these other conditions will be satisfied. Any delay in completing the merger could cause the combined company not to realize some or all of the synergies expected to be achieved if the merger is successfully completed within its expected time frame.

Cimarex and Resolute will incur substantial transaction fees and merger-related costs in connection with the merger.

Cimarex and Resolute have incurred and expect to continue to incur non-recurring transaction fees, which include legal and advisory fees and substantial merger-related costs associated with completing the merger, combining the operations of the two companies, and achieving desired synergies. Additional unanticipated costs may be incurred in the course of the integration of the businesses of Cimarex and Resolute. The companies cannot be certain that the realization of other benefits related to the integration of the two businesses will offset the transaction and merger-related costs in the near term, or at all.

Completion of the merger may trigger change in control or other provisions in certain agreements to which Resolute is a party.

The completion of the merger may trigger change in control or other provisions in certain agreements to which Resolute is a party. If Cimarex and Resolute are unable to negotiate waivers of those provisions, the counterparties may exercise their rights and remedies under the agreements, potentially terminating the agreements or seeking monetary damages. Even if Cimarex and Resolute are able to negotiate waivers, the counterparties may require a fee for such waivers or seek to renegotiate the agreements on terms less favorable to Resolute or the combined company.

Lawsuits have been filed against Resolute, the directors of Resolute, Cimarex, and the subsidiaries of Cimarex created to effect the acquisition of Resolute challenging the adequacy of the disclosures made in the proxy statement/prospectus concerning the merger and an adverse ruling in one or more of these lawsuits may prevent the merger from being completed.

As of January 25, 2019, Resolute, the directors of Resolute, and in two of the cases, Cimarex, Merger Sub 1, and Merger Sub 2, have been named as defendants in five purported stockholder class actions challenging the adequacy of the disclosures to Resolute stockholders made in the proxy statement/prospectus concerning the merger. Three complaints were filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, one complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and one complaint was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Additional lawsuits arising out of the merger may be filed in the future. There can be no assurance that defendants will be successful in the outcome of the pending or any potential future lawsuits. A preliminary injunction could delay or jeopardize the completion of the merger.

Risks Relating to the Combined Company Following the Merger

If completed, the merger may not achieve its intended results, and Cimarex and Resolute may be unable to successfully integrate their operations.

Cimarex and Resolute entered into the merger agreement with the expectation that the merger will result in various benefits, including, among other things, expanding Cimarex's asset base and creating synergies. Achieving the anticipated benefits of the merger is subject to a number of uncertainties, including whether the businesses of Cimarex and Resolute can be integrated in an efficient and effective manner.

It is possible that the integration process could take longer than anticipated and could result in the loss of valuable employees, the disruption of each company's ongoing businesses, processes, and systems or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures, practices, policies, and compensation arrangements, any of which could adversely affect the combined company's ability to achieve the anticipated benefits of the merger. The combined company's results of operations could also be adversely affected by any issues attributable to either company's operations that arise from or are based on events or actions that occur prior to the closing of the merger. The companies may have difficulty addressing possible differences in corporate cultures and management philosophies. The integration process is subject to a number of uncertainties, and no assurance can be given whether anticipated benefits will be realized or, if realized, the timing of their realization. Failure to achieve these anticipated benefits could result in increased costs or decreases in the amount of expected revenues and could adversely affect the combined company's future business, financial condition, operating results, and prospects.

The combined company is expected to incur expenses related to the integration of Cimarex and Resolute.

The combined company is expected to incur expenses in connection with the integration of Cimarex and Resolute. There are a large number of processes, policies, procedures, operations, technologies, and systems that must be integrated, including purchasing, accounting and finance, sales, billing, payroll, pricing, revenue management, maintenance, marketing, and benefits. While Cimarex and Resolute have assumed that a certain level of expenses will be incurred, there are many factors beyond their control that could affect the total amount or the timing of the integration expenses. Moreover, many of the expenses that will be incurred are, by their nature, difficult to estimate accurately. These integration expenses likely will result in the combined company taking charges against earnings following the completion of the merger, and the amount and timing of such charges are uncertain at present.

Uncertainties associated with the merger may cause a loss of management personnel and other key employees, which could adversely affect the future business and operations of the combined company.

Cimarex and Resolute are dependent on the experience and industry knowledge of their officers and other key employees to execute their business plans. Each company's success until the merger and the combined company's success after the merger will depend in part upon the ability of Cimarex and Resolute to retain key management personnel and other key employees. Current and prospective employees of Cimarex and Resolute may experience uncertainty about their roles within the combined company following the merger, which may have an adverse effect on the ability of Cimarex and Resolute to attract or retain key management and other key personnel. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the combined company will be able to attract or retain key management personnel and other key employees of Cimarex and Resolute to the same extent that Cimarex and Resolute have previously been able to attract or retain their own employees.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The information set forth under the heading “Litigation” in Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K, is incorporated by reference in response to this item. For information regarding litigation related to the pending acquisition of Resolute, which Cimarex believes is without merit and intends to defend vigorously, see “Risk Factors—Risks Concerning Cimarex’s Pending Merger with Resolute Energy Corporation.” Cimarex does not believe the ultimate resolution of the pending acquisition litigation will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II**ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT’S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

Our \$0.01 par value common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the symbol XEC. A cash dividend was paid to stockholders in each quarter of 2018 . Future dividend payments will depend on the company’s level of earnings, financial requirements, and other factors considered relevant by the Board of Directors.

The closing price of Cimarex stock as reported on the NYSE on January 31, 2019 , was \$75.34 . At January 31, 2019 , Cimarex’s 95,755,298 shares of outstanding common stock were held by approximately 1,618 stockholders of record.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table sets forth information regarding repurchases of our common stock during the year ended December 31, 2018 . The shares repurchased represent shares of our common stock that employees elected to surrender to satisfy their tax withholding obligations upon the vesting of shares of restricted stock. Cimarex does not consider this a share buyback program.

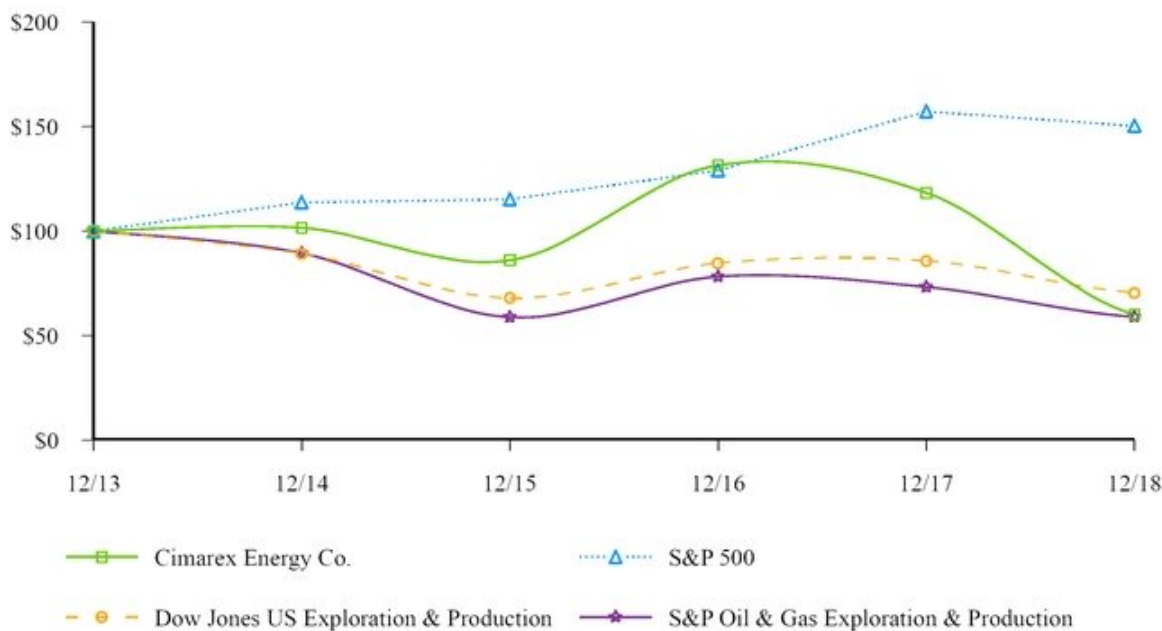
| Period | Total number of shares purchased | Average price paid per share | Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs | Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| January 1-31, 2018 | 2,421 | \$ 126.16 | — | — |
| April 1-30, 2018 | 3,527 | 98.86 | — | — |
| May 1-31, 2018 | 2,970 | 98.37 | — | — |
| July 1-31, 2018 | 49,241 | 99.80 | — | — |
| September 1-30, 2018 | 6,123 | 89.73 | — | — |
| November 1-30, 2018 | 1,174 | 91.37 | — | — |
| December 1-31, 2018 | 74,790 | 75.22 | — | — |
| Total | 140,246 | \$ 86.58 | — | — |

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph shows the cumulative five-year total return on Cimarex Energy Co.'s common stock relative to the cumulative total returns of the S&P 500 index, the Dow Jones US Exploration & Production index, and the S&P Oil & Gas Exploration & Production index. The graph tracks the performance of a \$100 investment in our common stock and in each of the indexes (with the reinvestment of all dividends) from December 31, 2013 to December 31, 2018. The stock price performance included in this graph is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance.

COMPARISON OF FIVE-YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN*

Among Cimarex Energy Co., the S&P 500 Index,
the Dow Jones US Exploration & Production Index, and the S&P Oil & Gas Exploration & Production Index



* \$100 invested in 12/31/13 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends. Fiscal year ending December 31.

A tabular presentation of the data in the above graph is provided below.

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cimarex Energy Co. | \$ 100.00 | \$ 101.56 | \$ 86.11 | \$ 131.44 | \$ 118.33 | \$ 60.17 |
| S&P 500 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 113.69 | \$ 115.26 | \$ 129.05 | \$ 157.22 | \$ 150.33 |
| Dow Jones US Exploration & Production | \$ 100.00 | \$ 89.23 | \$ 68.05 | \$ 84.71 | \$ 85.81 | \$ 70.57 |
| S&P Oil & Gas Exploration & Production | \$ 100.00 | \$ 89.41 | \$ 58.87 | \$ 78.22 | \$ 73.29 | \$ 58.99 |

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected financial data set forth below should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes thereto provided in Item 8 of this report.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | | | | | |
| | (in thousands, except per share amounts) | | | | | | | | | |
| Operating results: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oil, gas, and NGL sales | \$ | 2,297,645 | \$ | 1,874,003 | \$ | 1,221,218 | \$ | 1,417,538 | \$ | 2,372,829 |
| Total revenues (1) | \$ | 2,339,017 | \$ | 1,918,249 | \$ | 1,257,345 | \$ | 1,452,619 | \$ | 2,424,176 |
| Net income (loss) (2) | \$ | 791,851 | \$ | 494,329 | \$ | (408,803) | \$ | (2,579,604) | \$ | 526,498 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Earnings (loss) per share to common stockholders: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Basic | \$ | 8.32 | \$ | 5.19 | \$ | (4.38) | \$ | (27.75) | \$ | 6.01 |
| Diluted | \$ | 8.32 | \$ | 5.19 | \$ | (4.38) | \$ | (27.75) | \$ | 6.00 |
| Cash dividends declared per share | \$ | 0.68 | \$ | 0.32 | \$ | 0.32 | \$ | 0.64 | \$ | 0.64 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash flow data: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities (3) | \$ | 1,550,994 | \$ | 1,096,564 | \$ | 625,849 | \$ | 725,728 | \$ | 1,632,925 |
| Net cash used by investing activities | \$ | (1,085,618) | \$ | (1,265,897) | \$ | (692,410) | \$ | (1,008,605) | \$ | (1,740,467) |
| Net cash (used) provided by financing activities (3) | \$ | (65,244) | \$ | (83,009) | \$ | (59,945) | \$ | 656,397 | \$ | 508,873 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | December 31, | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | | | | | |
| | (in thousands, except proved reserves amounts) | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance sheet data: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | 800,666 | \$ | 400,534 | \$ | 652,876 | \$ | 779,382 | \$ | 405,862 |
| Oil and gas properties, net (2) | \$ | 3,715,330 | \$ | 3,241,530 | \$ | 2,354,267 | \$ | 2,741,282 | \$ | 6,637,796 |
| Goodwill | \$ | 620,232 | \$ | 620,232 | \$ | 620,232 | \$ | 620,232 | \$ | 620,232 |
| Total assets (2) (4) | \$ | 6,062,084 | \$ | 5,042,639 | \$ | 4,237,724 | \$ | 4,708,422 | \$ | 8,442,554 |
| Deferred income tax liability (asset) | \$ | 334,473 | \$ | 101,618 | \$ | (55,835) | \$ | 157,162 | \$ | 1,657,456 |
| Long-term obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-term debt (principal) | \$ | 1,500,000 | \$ | 1,500,000 | \$ | 1,500,000 | \$ | 1,500,000 | \$ | 1,500,000 |
| Other | \$ | 200,564 | \$ | 206,249 | \$ | 184,444 | \$ | 197,216 | \$ | 193,629 |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ | 3,329,786 | \$ | 2,568,278 | \$ | 2,042,989 | \$ | 2,458,357 | \$ | 4,331,966 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proved Reserves: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oil (MBbls) | | 146,538 | | 137,238 | | 105,878 | | 107,798 | | 118,992 |
| Gas (Bcf) | | 1,591 | | 1,608 | | 1,471 | | 1,517 | | 1,667 |
| NGL (MBbls) | | 179,436 | | 153,860 | | 130,633 | | 124,277 | | 125,273 |
| Total (MBOE) | | 591,195 | | 559,037 | | 481,748 | | 484,901 | | 522,054 |

- (1) Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ("ASC 606"), utilizing the modified retrospective approach. Because we utilized the modified retrospective approach, there was no impact to prior periods' reported amounts. Application of ASC 606 has no impact on our net income or cash flows from operations; however, certain costs classified as Transportation, processing, and other operating in the statement of operations under prior accounting standards are now reflected

as deductions from revenue. The adoption of ASC 606 reduced revenue for the year ended December 31, 2018 by \$44.8 million from what it would have been under prior accounting standards.

- (2) During 2016 and 2015, we recorded non-cash full cost ceiling test impairments of our oil and gas properties totaling \$757.7 million (\$481.4 million , net of tax) and \$4.03 billion (\$2.56 billion , net of tax), respectively.
- (3) We adopted Accounting Standards Update 2016-09, *Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting* (“ASU 2016-09”) on January 1, 2017. Pursuant to ASU 2016-09, we adjusted the statements of cash flows for all prior periods presented. For the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, and 2014, we decreased cash outflows for operating activities and cash inflows for financing activities by \$26.6 million, \$34.2 million, and \$13.6 million, respectively, for the payment of employee tax withholdings on the net settlement of equity-classified awards and for excess tax benefits, as applicable.
- (4) At December 31, 2015, we adopted new accounting guidance which requires debt issuance costs (except for those related to revolving credit facilities) to be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of the related debt liability rather than as an asset. Such costs were previously recorded as deferred assets. Prior periods have been adjusted to conform to this guidance.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this report and also with **RISK FACTORS** in Item 1A of this report. This discussion also includes forward-looking statements. Refer to **CAUTIONARY INFORMATION ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS** in Part I of this report for important information about these types of statements.

OVERVIEW

Cimarex is an independent oil and gas exploration and production company. Our operations are entirely located in the United States, mainly in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. Currently our operations are focused in two main areas: the Permian Basin and the Mid-Continent. Our Permian Basin region encompasses west Texas and southeast New Mexico. Our Mid-Continent region consists of Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle.

Our principal business objective is to increase shareholder value through the profitable long-term growth of our proved reserves and production while seeking to minimize our impact on the communities in which we operate for the long-term. Our strategy centers on maximizing cash flow from producing properties so that we can reinvest in exploration and development opportunities and provide cash returns to shareholders through increasing dividends. We consider merger and acquisition opportunities that enhance our competitive position and we occasionally divest non-core assets.

On August 31, 2018 , we closed on the divestiture of oil and gas properties principally located in Ward County, Texas for a sales price of \$544.5 million , as adjusted to reflect the resolution of all asserted defects. As of December 31, 2018 , we have received \$534.6 million in net cash proceeds as adjusted for customary closing adjustments to reflect an effective date of April 1, 2018 and transaction costs. Final settlement, which will reflect customary post-closing adjustments, is scheduled to occur by the end of first quarter 2019. This divestiture did not significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves, therefore, in accordance with the full cost method of accounting, no gain or loss was recognized. This divestiture is part of our continuous portfolio optimization and high-grading of our investment opportunities.

On November 18, 2018, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger to acquire Resolute Energy Corporation (“Resolute”) in a cash and stock transaction valued at a total purchase price of approximately \$1.6 billion , including the assumption of Resolute’s long-term debt, which was \$710 million as of September 30, 2018. Under the terms of the agreement, Resolute shareholders will have the right to receive 0.3943 shares of Cimarex common stock, \$35.00 per share in cash, or a combination of \$14.00 per share in cash and 0.2366 shares of Cimarex common stock. The amount of stock and cash is subject to proration for a total stock and cash mix of 60% and 40% , respectively. This pending acquisition will expand Cimarex’s footprint in Reeves County, Texas by 21,100 net acres that are complementary to our existing Reeves County position. The transaction, which is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter 2019, is subject to the approval of Resolute shareholders, which includes voting agreements with certain

shareholders that collectively beneficially own approximately 26% of the outstanding Resolute voting power and the satisfaction of certain regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

We believe that detailed technical analysis, operational focus, and a disciplined capital investment process mitigate risk and position us to continue to achieve profitable increases in proved reserves and production. Our drilling inventory and limited long-term commitments provide the flexibility to respond quickly to industry volatility.

Our investments are generally funded with cash flow provided by operating activities together with cash on hand, bank borrowings, sales of non-strategic assets, and, from time to time, public financing based on our monitoring of capital markets and our balance sheet. Conservative use of leverage has long been a part of our financial strategy. We believe that maintaining a strong balance sheet mitigates financial risk and enables us to withstand unpredictable fluctuations in commodity prices.

Market Conditions

The oil and gas industry is cyclical and commodity prices can fluctuate significantly. We expect this volatility to persist. Commodity prices are affected by many factors outside of our control, including changes in market supply and demand, inventory storage levels, weather conditions, and other factors.

During 2018, as compared to 2017, market prices for oil have improved, while market prices for gas have declined. During 2018, average NYMEX oil and gas prices were \$64.77 per barrel and \$3.09 per Mcf, respectively, representing an increase of 27% and a decrease of 1%, respectively, from the average NYMEX oil and gas prices for 2017. Local market prices for oil and gas can be impacted by pipeline capacity constraints limiting takeaway and increasing basis differentials. Gas production growth and pipeline constraints in the Permian Basin and Mid-Continent region and oil production growth and pipeline constraints in the Permian Basin have resulted in higher basis differentials and, therefore, lower realized prices. The average prices per barrel of oil and Mcf of gas that we realized were less than the WTI Cushing and Henry Hub indices by the amounts shown in the table below for the periods indicated.

| 2018 | Average Price Differentials | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Year | Fourth Quarter | Third Quarter | Second Quarter | First Quarter |
| Permian Basin oil | \$ 9.82 | \$ 11.64 | \$ 14.34 | \$ 8.05 | \$ 3.12 |
| Mid-Continent oil | \$ 2.46 | \$ 2.33 | \$ 1.08 | \$ 2.18 | \$ 2.34 |
| Permian Basin gas | \$ 1.40 | \$ 2.21 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 1.31 | \$ 0.78 |
| Mid-Continent gas | \$ 0.86 | \$ 0.83 | \$ 0.94 | \$ 1.03 | \$ 0.70 |
| | | | | | |
| 2017 | | | | | |
| Permian Basin oil | \$ 3.98 | \$ 3.99 | \$ 4.06 | \$ 4.14 | \$ 3.96 |
| Mid-Continent oil | \$ 3.52 | \$ 2.65 | \$ 2.99 | \$ 4.19 | \$ 5.10 |
| Permian Basin gas | \$ 0.39 | \$ 0.37 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 0.42 | \$ 0.43 |
| Mid-Continent gas | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.38 | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.23 |

Pipeline expansion projects in the Permian Basin are expected to ease capacity constraints as they come online over the next few years, which is reflected in the current futures markets that show narrowing differentials. However, if pipeline constraints remain, higher differentials will persist or potentially worsen. Our revenue, profitability, and future growth are highly dependent on the prices we receive for our oil and gas production. See **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS Revenues** below for further information regarding our realized commodity prices.

2018 Summary of Operating and Financial Results

- Total daily production volumes increased 17% to 221.9 MBOE per day.
- Oil volumes increased 18% to 67.7 MBbls per day.
- Gas volumes increased 10% to 563.9 MMcf per day.
- NGL volumes increased 27% to 60.3 MBbls per day.
- Total production revenue increased 23% to \$2.30 billion .
- Year-end proved reserves increased 6% to 591.2 MMBOE, as compared to 559.0 MMBOE at year-end 2017 .
- Exploration and development capital investments were \$1.57 billion , as compared to \$1.28 billion in 2017 .
- Cash flow provided by operating activities increased 41% to \$1.55 billion .
- Cash on hand at December 31, 2018 was \$800.7 million .

For the year ended December 31, 2018 , we had net income of \$791.9 million (\$8.32 per diluted share) as compared to net income of \$494.3 million (\$5.19 per diluted share) in 2017 . Production revenue in 2018 was positively impacted by increased production volumes across all products as well as increased realized oil and NGL commodity prices. Lower realized gas prices negatively impacted 2018. Year-over-year changes are discussed further in the **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS** section that follows.

Proved Reserves

Our proved reserves by region at December 31, 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

| | December 31, 2018 | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) |
| Permian Basin | 727,985 | 116,378 | 96,533 | 334,241 |
| Mid-Continent | 861,440 | 29,908 | 82,826 | 256,307 |
| Other | 1,896 | 252 | 77 | 647 |
| Total | 1,591,321 | 146,538 | 179,436 | 591,195 |

| | December 31, 2017 | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | NGL (MBbls) | Total (MBOE) |
| Permian Basin | 573,757 | 105,198 | 68,530 | 269,354 |
| Mid-Continent | 1,032,695 | 31,853 | 85,292 | 289,261 |
| Other | 1,183 | 187 | 38 | 422 |
| Total | 1,607,635 | 137,238 | 153,860 | 559,037 |

Year-end 2018 proved reserves increased approximately 6% to 591.2 MMBOE, compared to 559.0 MMBOE at year-end 2017 . Proved gas reserves were 1.59 Tcf, proved oil reserves were 146.5 MMBbls, and proved NGL reserves were 179.4 MMBbls. Reserves in the Permian Basin accounted for 57% of our total proved reserves with nearly all of the remainder in our Mid-Continent region. See **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)** in Item 8 for a more detailed discussion regarding year-over-year changes in our proved reserves.

The process of estimating quantities of oil, gas, and NGL reserves is complex. Significant decisions are required in the evaluation of all available geological, geophysical, engineering, and economic data. Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure that our reserve estimates represent the most accurate assessments possible, subjective decisions and available data for our various fields make these estimates generally less precise than other estimates included in financial statement disclosures. See **Proved Reserves Estimation Procedures** in Items 1 and 2 for a discussion of our reserve estimation process and Item 1A **RISK FACTORS**, which includes a discussion of factors that affect our proved reserves estimates.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (“ASC 606”), utilizing the modified retrospective approach, which we applied to contracts that were not completed as of that date. Because we utilized the modified retrospective approach, there was no impact to prior periods’ reported amounts. Application of ASC 606 has no impact on our net income or cash flows from operations; however, certain costs classified as Transportation, processing, and other operating in the statement of operations under prior accounting standards are now reflected as deductions from revenue under ASC 606. The following table presents the impact on our Oil sales, Gas sales, and NGL sales and on our Transportation, processing, and other operating costs from the application of ASC 606 in the current reporting period:

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2018 | | | 2017 | 2016 |
| | Pre-ASC 606 Adoption | Impact of ASC 606 | Post-ASC 606 Adoption | As Reported | As Reported |
| Oil sales | \$ 1,398,813 | \$ — | \$ 1,398,813 | \$ 981,646 | \$ 632,934 |
| Gas sales | 425,233 | (16,482) | 408,751 | 516,936 | 388,786 |
| NGL sales | 518,410 | (28,329) | 490,081 | 375,421 | 199,498 |
| Total oil, gas, and NGL sales | <u>\$ 2,342,456</u> | <u>\$ (44,811)</u> | <u>\$ 2,297,645</u> | <u>\$ 1,874,003</u> | <u>\$ 1,221,218</u> |
| Transportation, processing, and other operating costs | <u>\$ 245,613</u> | <u>\$ (44,811)</u> | <u>\$ 200,802</u> | <u>\$ 231,640</u> | <u>\$ 190,725</u> |

Almost all our revenues are derived from sales of our oil, natural gas, and NGL production. Increases or decreases in our revenues, profitability, and future production growth are highly dependent on the commodity prices we receive. Prices are market driven and we expect that future prices will continue to fluctuate due to supply and demand factors, availability of transportation, seasonality, geopolitical, and economic factors. See Item 7A **QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK** for more information regarding the sensitivity of our revenues to price fluctuations.

2018 Compared to 2017

Revenues

A decrease in realized gas prices as well as the impact of ASC 606, as discussed above, negatively impacted our revenues in 2018 as compared to 2017. However, increases in production volumes and realized oil and NGL prices in 2018 as compared to 2017 more than offset declines in gas sales, causing our revenues to increase by \$423.6 million, or 23%, from prior year. The following table shows our production revenues for 2018 and 2017 as well as the change in revenues due to changes in prices and volumes.

| Production Revenue (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 | | Price / Volume Variance | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | | | Price | Volume | Total |
| Oil sales | \$ 1,398,813 | \$ 981,646 | \$ 417,167 | 42 % | \$ 235,981 | \$ 181,186 | \$ 417,167 |
| Gas sales | 408,751 | 516,936 | (108,185) | (21)% | (158,494) | 50,309 | (108,185) |
| NGL sales | 490,081 | 375,421 | 114,660 | 31 % | 14,736 | 99,924 | 114,660 |
| | <u>\$ 2,297,645</u> | <u>\$ 1,874,003</u> | <u>\$ 423,642</u> | <u>23 %</u> | <u>\$ 92,223</u> | <u>\$ 331,419</u> | <u>\$ 423,642</u> |

The table below presents our production volumes by commodity, our average realized commodity prices, and certain major U.S. index prices. The sale of our Permian Basin oil production is typically tied to the WTI Midland benchmark price and the sale of our Mid-Continent oil production is typically tied to the WTI Cushing benchmark price. During 2018 and 2017, 77% and 78%, respectively, of our oil production was in the Permian Basin with the majority of the remainder in the Mid-Continent region. Our realized prices do not include settlements of commodity derivative contracts.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | | | |
| Oil | | | | | |
| Total volume — MBbbls | 24,710 | 20,861 | | 3,849 | 18 % |
| Total volume — MBbbls per day | 67.7 | 57.2 | | 10.5 | 18 % |
| Percentage of total production | 31% | 30% | | | |
| Average realized price — per barrel | \$ 56.61 | \$ 47.06 | \$ 9.55 | | 20 % |
| Average WTI Midland price — per barrel | \$ 58.31 | \$ 50.45 | \$ 7.86 | | 16 % |
| Average WTI Cushing price — per barrel | \$ 64.77 | \$ 50.94 | \$ 13.83 | | 27 % |
| | | | | | |
| Gas | | | | | |
| Total volume — MMcf | 205,837 | 187,468 | | 18,369 | 10 % |
| Total volume — MMcf per day | 563.9 | 513.6 | | 50.3 | 10 % |
| Percentage of total production | 42% | 45% | | | |
| Average realized price — per Mcf | \$ 1.99 (1) | \$ 2.76 | \$ (0.77) | | (28)% |
| Average Henry Hub price — per Mcf | \$ 3.09 | \$ 3.11 | \$ (0.02) | | (1)% |
| | | | | | |
| NGL | | | | | |
| Total volume — MBbbls | 21,994 | 17,374 | | 4,620 | 27 % |
| Total volume — MBbbls per day | 60.3 | 47.6 | | 12.7 | 27 % |
| Percentage of total production | 27% | 25% | | | |
| Average realized price — per barrel | \$ 22.28 (2) | \$ 21.61 | \$ 0.67 | | 3 % |
| | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Total production — MBOE | 81,010 | 69,479 | | 11,531 | 17 % |
| Total production — MBOE per day | 221.9 | 190.4 | | 31.5 | 17 % |
| Average realized price — per BOE | \$ 28.36 (3) | \$ 26.97 | \$ 1.39 | | 5 % |

(1) ASC 606 reduced the average realized gas price by \$0.08 per Mcf for the year ended December 31, 2018.

(2) ASC 606 reduced the average realized NGL price by \$1.29 per barrel for the year ended December 31, 2018.

(3) ASC 606 reduced the average realized total price by \$0.56 per BOE for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Our 2018 daily production volumes were 221.9 MBOE, a 17% increase from 2017. This increase is the result of increased drilling and completion activity during 2018 as compared to 2017. See *Production Volumes, Prices, and Costs* and *Exploration and Development Overview* in Items 1 and 2 of this report for production information by region and a discussion of our drilling activities.

Other Revenues

We transport, process, and market some third-party gas that is associated with our equity gas. We market and sell gas for other working interest owners under short term agreements and may earn a fee for such services. The table below reflects income from third-party gas gathering and processing and our net marketing margin for marketing third-party gas.

| Gas Gathering and Marketing (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | |
| Gas gathering and other | \$ 41,180 | \$ 43,751 | \$ (2,571) |
| Gas marketing | \$ 192 | \$ 495 | \$ (303) |

Fluctuations in revenues from gas gathering and gas marketing activities are a function of increases and decreases in volumes, commodity prices, and gathering rate charges. The decreases from 2017 are primarily due to lower rates and decreases in prices and volumes.

Operating Costs and Expenses

Costs associated with producing oil and gas are substantial. Among other factors, some of these costs vary with commodity prices, some trend with the volume of production, others are a function of the number of wells we own, some depend on the prices charged by service companies, and some fluctuate based on a combination of the foregoing.

Total operating costs and expenses of \$1.29 billion in 2018 were 11% higher than the \$1.17 billion incurred in 2017. The primary drivers of the increase were depletion, taxes other than income, production expense, and other operating expense, with these being partially offset by lower transportation and processing and increased gains on derivative instruments. The following table shows our operating costs and expenses for the years indicated and a discussion of year-over-year differences follows.

| Operating Costs and Expenses (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 | Per BOE | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|-------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | | 2018 | 2017 |
| Depreciation, depletion, and amortization | \$ 590,473 | \$ 446,031 | \$ 144,442 | \$ 7.29 | \$ 6.42 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 7,142 | 15,624 | (8,482) | \$ 0.09 | \$ 0.22 |
| Production | 293,213 | 262,180 | 31,033 | \$ 3.62 | \$ 3.77 |
| Transportation, processing, and other operating | 200,802 | 231,640 | (30,838) | \$ 2.48 | \$ 3.33 |
| Gas gathering and other | 41,964 | 35,840 | 6,124 | \$ 0.52 | \$ 0.52 |
| Taxes other than income | 125,169 | 89,864 | 35,305 | \$ 1.55 | \$ 1.29 |
| General and administrative | 80,850 | 79,996 | 854 | \$ 1.00 | \$ 1.15 |
| Stock compensation | 22,895 | 26,256 | (3,361) | \$ 0.28 | \$ 0.38 |
| Gain on derivative instruments, net | (85,959) | (21,210) | (64,749) | N/A | N/A |
| Other operating expense, net | 15,500 | 1,314 | 14,186 | N/A | N/A |
| | <u>\$ 1,292,049</u> | <u>\$ 1,167,535</u> | <u>\$ 124,514</u> | | |

Depreciation, Depletion, and Amortization

Depletion of our producing properties is computed using the units-of-production method. The economic life of each producing well depends upon the estimated proved reserves for that well, which in turn depend upon the assumed realized sales price for future production. Therefore, fluctuations in oil and gas prices will impact the level of proved reserves used in the calculation. Higher prices generally have the effect of increasing reserves, which reduces depletion expense. Conversely, lower prices generally have the effect of decreasing reserves, which increases depletion expense. The cost of replacing production also impacts our depletion expense. In addition, changes in estimates of reserve quantities, estimates of operating and future development costs, reclassifications of properties from unproved to proved,

and impairments of oil and gas properties will also impact depletion expense. While the increase in oil prices has more than offset the decrease in gas prices during 2018 as compared to 2017, thus increasing our reserves, the increase in production combined with our ongoing exploration and development capital expenditures throughout 2018 have resulted in an overall increase in depletion expense.

Fixed assets consist primarily of gathering and plant facilities, vehicles, airplanes, office furniture, and computer equipment and software. These items are recorded at cost and are depreciated on the straight-line method based on expected lives of the individual assets, which range from 3 to 30 years. Depreciation, depletion, and amortization (“DD&A”) consisted of the following for the years indicated:

| DD&A Expense (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 | Per BOE | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | | 2018 | 2017 |
| Depletion | \$ 538,919 | \$ 399,328 | \$ 139,591 | \$ 6.65 | \$ 5.75 |
| Depreciation | 51,554 | 46,703 | 4,851 | 0.64 | 0.67 |
| | <u>\$ 590,473</u> | <u>\$ 446,031</u> | <u>\$ 144,442</u> | <u>\$ 7.29</u> | <u>\$ 6.42</u> |

Asset Retirement Obligation

Asset retirement obligation expense is typically primarily comprised of accretion expense. In periods subsequent to the initial measurement of an asset retirement obligation liability at present value, a period-to-period increase in the carrying amount of the liability is recognized as accretion expense, which represents the effect of the passage of time on the amount of the liability. An equivalent amount is added to the carrying amount of the liability. Also included in asset retirement obligation expense are gains and losses recognized on the settlement of asset retirement obligation liabilities.

Asset retirement obligation expense decreased 54% , or \$8.5 million , compared to 2017. The expense in 2017 included \$10.5 million for the estimated liability to decommission two offshore properties in the Gulf of Mexico in which we were a prior lessee. In January 2018, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (“BSEE”) notified us and other prior lessees that the current lessee of the properties had filed a petition for relief under the bankruptcy code and, as a result, had defaulted on its obligation to decommission the properties. Consequently, BSEE ordered us and other prior lessees to decommission all wells, pipelines, platforms, and other facilities related to these properties. Our estimate of our liability may change as we refine our understanding of the extent of our obligations under the orders from BSEE and obtain additional information on decommissioning costs.

Production

Production expense generally consists of costs for labor, equipment, maintenance, saltwater disposal, compression, power, treating, and miscellaneous other costs (lease operating expense). Production expense also includes well workover activity necessary to maintain production from existing wells. Production expense consists of lease operating expense and workover expense as follows:

| Production Expense (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 | Per BOE | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | | 2018 | 2017 |
| Lease operating expense | \$ 241,885 | \$ 215,148 | \$ 26,737 | \$ 2.99 | \$ 3.10 |
| Workover expense | 51,328 | 47,032 | 4,296 | 0.63 | 0.67 |
| | <u>\$ 293,213</u> | <u>\$ 262,180</u> | <u>\$ 31,033</u> | <u>\$ 3.62</u> | <u>\$ 3.77</u> |

Through efficiency gains and increasing daily production by 17% during 2018 as compared to 2017 , we reduced our per unit lease operating expense by 4% between these two periods. On an absolute basis, lease operating expense in 2018 increased 12% , or \$26.7 million , compared to 2017. The increase was primarily caused by increases in the following costs: (i) equipment rental, primarily additional compressors, (ii) saltwater disposal costs, due to increased water volumes, (iii) tank battery and processing equipment and maintenance, primarily due to the addition of new wells, (iv) contract pumpers, (v) environmental compliance, primarily emissions-related, (vi) electricity, primarily due to the addition of new wells, and (vii) chemicals and treating, due to increased water volumes.

Workover expense increased 9% , or \$4.3 million , during 2018 as compared to 2017 . During 2018, we had more workover projects than we did in 2017. During 2018, we incurred the majority of our workover expense on major well workovers and artificial lift conversions, with artificial lift conversions being the largest increase from 2017. Partially offsetting the increase in expense on workover projects was the receipt of insurance proceeds during 2018 related to a previous flood and line rupture. Remediation and repairs for these events were charged to workover expense at the time incurred. Generally, workover costs will fluctuate based on the amount of maintenance and remedial activity required during the period.

Transportation, Processing, and Other Operating

Transportation, processing, and other operating costs principally consist of expenditures to prepare and transport production from the wellhead, including gathering, fuel, compression, and processing costs. Costs vary by region and will fluctuate with increases or decreases in production volumes, contractual fees, and changes in fuel and compression costs.

Transportation, processing, and other operating costs in 2018 were 13% , or \$30.8 million , lower than in 2017 . This decrease is due to our adoption of ASC 606 effective January 1, 2018, whereby certain transportation and processing costs are now reclassified out of transportation, processing, and other operating costs and are treated as a deduction from revenue. The adoption of ASC 606 reduced Transportation, processing, and other operating costs by \$44.8 million in 2018 . The reduction was partially offset by increased costs due to increased production volumes. See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding the adoption of ASC 606.

Gas Gathering and Other

Gas gathering and other includes costs associated with operating our gas gathering and processing infrastructure, including product costs and operating and maintenance expenses. Gas gathering and other in 2018 was 17% , or \$6.1 million , higher than in 2017 . The increase was primarily due to overall increases in operating costs partially offset by lower product costs associated with processing third-party production due to lower volumes and prices.

Taxes Other than Income

Taxes other than income consist of production (or severance) taxes, ad valorem taxes, and other taxes. State and local taxing authorities assess these taxes, with production taxes being based on the volume or value of production and ad valorem taxes being based on the value of properties. Production taxes make up the majority of this expense for us, with revenue-based production taxes being the largest component of these taxes. In 2018 , taxes other than income increased 39% , or \$35.3 million , from 2017 . This increase is primarily due to the increase in revenue in 2018 as well as due to increased ad valorem taxes in 2018 due to higher assessed valuations and new wells. Both years include credits for tax refunds. We had \$15.7 million in credits in 2018 , primarily for Texas marketing cost deduction refunds. We had \$9.6 million in credits in 2017 , primarily for Texas high-cost gas well refunds. Taxes other than income were 5.4% and 4.8% of production revenues for 2018 and 2017 , respectively.

General and Administrative

General and administrative (“G&A”) expense consists primarily of salaries and related benefits, office rent, legal and consulting fees, systems costs, and other administrative costs incurred. Our G&A expense is reported net of amounts reimbursed to us by working interest owners of the oil and gas properties we operate and net of amounts capitalized pursuant to the full cost method of accounting. The amount of expense capitalized varies and depends on whether the cost incurred can be directly identified with acquisition, exploration, and development activities. The percentage of gross G&A capitalized was 47% and 49% during 2018 and 2017 , respectively. The table below shows our G&A costs.

| General and Administrative Expense (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | |
| Gross G&A | \$ 152,827 | \$ 156,389 | \$ (3,562) |
| Less amounts capitalized to oil and gas properties | (71,977) | (76,393) | 4,416 |
| G&A expense | \$ 80,850 | \$ 79,996 | \$ 854 |

Stock Compensation

Stock compensation expense consists of non-cash charges resulting from the amortization of the cost of restricted stock and stock option awards, net of amounts capitalized to oil and gas properties. We have recognized stock-based compensation cost as follows:

| Stock Compensation Expense (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | |
| Restricted stock awards: | | | |
| Performance stock awards | \$ 23,083 | \$ 26,020 | \$ (2,937) |
| Service-based stock awards | 20,385 | 19,746 | 639 |
| | 43,468 | 45,766 | (2,298) |
| Stock option awards | 2,456 | 2,599 | (143) |
| Total stock compensation cost | 45,924 | 48,365 | (2,441) |
| Less amounts capitalized to oil and gas properties | (23,029) | (22,109) | (920) |
| Stock compensation expense | <u>\$ 22,895</u> | <u>\$ 26,256</u> | <u>\$ (3,361)</u> |

Periodic stock compensation expense will fluctuate based on the grant date fair value of awards, the number of awards, the requisite service period of the awards, employee forfeitures, and the timing of the awards. The decrease in total stock compensation cost in 2018 as compared to 2017 is primarily due to performance stock award forfeitures during the second quarter 2018. Our accounting policy is to account for forfeitures in compensation cost when they occur, therefore, all the previously recognized expense on the forfeited award is reversed at the time of forfeiture.

Gain on Derivative Instruments, Net

Net gains and losses on our derivative instruments are a function of fluctuations in the underlying commodity index prices as compared to the contracted prices and the monthly cash settlements (if any) of the instruments. We have elected not to designate our derivatives as hedging instruments for accounting purposes and, therefore, we do not apply hedge accounting treatment to our derivative instruments. Consequently, changes in the fair value of our derivative instruments and cash settlements on the instruments are included as a component of operating costs and expenses as either a net gain or loss on derivative instruments. Cash settlements of our contracts are included in cash flows from operating activities in our statements of cash flows. The following table presents the components of Gain on derivative instruments, net for the years indicated. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our derivative instruments.

| Gain on Derivative Instruments, Net (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | |
| Decrease (increase) in fair value of derivative instruments, net: | | | |
| Gas contracts | \$ 15,742 | \$ (40,226) | \$ 55,968 |
| Oil contracts | (126,130) | 17,383 | (143,513) |
| | (110,388) | (22,843) | (87,545) |
| Cash (receipts) payments on derivative instruments, net: | | | |
| Gas contracts | (13,794) | (4,557) | (9,237) |
| Oil contracts | 38,223 | 6,190 | 32,033 |
| | 24,429 | 1,633 | 22,796 |
| Gain on derivative instruments, net | <u>\$ (85,959)</u> | <u>\$ (21,210)</u> | <u>\$ (64,749)</u> |

Other Operating Expense, Net

Other operating expense, net increased \$14.2 million in 2018 as compared to 2017. This expense is comprised primarily of litigation settlements and allowance for doubtful accounts adjustments. The increase in expense in 2018 is due to a \$14.2 million increase in litigation settlements.

Other Income and Expense

| Other Income and Expense (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | |
| Interest expense | \$ 68,224 | \$ 74,821 | \$ (6,597) |
| Capitalized interest | (20,855) | (22,948) | 2,093 |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | — | 28,187 | (28,187) |
| Other, net | (22,908) | (11,342) | (11,566) |
| | <u>\$ 24,461</u> | <u>\$ 68,718</u> | <u>\$ (44,257)</u> |

The majority of our interest expense relates to interest on our senior unsecured notes. Also included in interest expense is the amortization of debt issuance costs and discount, as well as miscellaneous interest expense. See **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES Long-Term Debt** below for further information regarding our debt. The decrease in interest expense in 2018 as compared to 2017 is due to the completion of a tender offer and redemption of \$750 million 5.875% senior notes and the issuance of \$750 million 3.90% senior notes, both of which occurred during the second quarter of 2017. The \$28.2 million loss on early extinguishment of debt incurred during 2017 was also associated with the debt tender offer and redemption. The loss was composed primarily of tender and redemption premiums of \$22.6 million and the write-off of \$5.3 million of unamortized debt issuance costs. The original maturity date of the 5.875% notes was May 1, 2022.

We capitalize interest on non-producing leasehold costs, the in-progress costs of drilling and completing wells, and constructing midstream assets. Capitalized interest will fluctuate based on the rates applicable to borrowings outstanding during the period and the amount of costs subject to interest capitalized. The amount of costs subject to interest capitalization was lower in 2018 as compared to 2017, thus reducing our capitalized interest in 2018. Also contributing to lower capitalized interest in 2018 was a lower average interest rate on borrowings outstanding due to the replacement of our 5.875% notes with 3.90% notes in the second quarter of 2017.

Other, net includes interest income of \$11.1 million and \$5.4 million in 2018 and 2017, respectively. The increase in interest income in 2018 is primarily due to the cash proceeds we received from our Ward County property divestiture at the end of August 2018, which we subsequently invested the majority of in short-term interest-bearing accounts. Additionally, interest rates have increased throughout 2017 and 2018. Other components of Other, net include miscellaneous income and expense items that vary from period to period, including gain or loss related to the sale or value of oil and gas well equipment and supplies, gain or loss on miscellaneous fixed asset sales, and income and expense associated with other non-operating activities.

Income Tax Expense (Benefit)

The components of our provision for income taxes are as follows:

| Income Tax Expense (Benefit) (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2018 / 2017 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | |
| Current tax benefit | \$ (2,624) | \$ (2,812) | \$ 188 |
| Deferred tax expense | 233,280 | 190,479 | 42,801 |
| | <u>\$ 230,656</u> | <u>\$ 187,667</u> | <u>\$ 42,989</u> |
| Combined federal and state effective income tax rate | 22.6% | 27.5% | |

On December 22, 2017, the United States enacted H.R.1 (Public Law 115-97), commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act or U.S. Tax Reform. H.R.1, among other things, includes changes to U.S. federal tax rates, imposes new limitations on the utilization of net operating losses and the deductibility of interest and executive compensation, allows for the expensing of capital expenditures, and eliminates the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax. We remeasured the deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2017 to reflect the reduction in the U.S. income tax rate from 35% to 21% for years after 2017 and, as a result of this remeasurement, we recorded an income tax benefit of \$61.1 million and a corresponding \$61.1 million decrease in the net deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2017. We believe the accounting for the effects of H.R.1 recognized in the December 31, 2017 financial statements is materially complete. During 2018, no other adjustments were made. As a result of H.R.1, we expect our effective

tax rate in future periods will be lower than in periods prior to enactment. In addition, the limitations on utilization of net operating losses and deductibility of interest and executive compensation may result in the payment of cash taxes earlier than expected.

Our combined federal and state effective tax rates, as shown above, differ from the statutory rate primarily due to state income taxes, non-deductible expenses, revisions, and the impact of changes in tax law. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding our income taxes.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

2017 Compared to 2016

Summary

For the year ended December 31, 2017, we had net income of \$494.3 million (\$5.19 per diluted share), up from a net loss of \$408.8 million (\$4.38 per diluted share) in 2016. Production revenue in 2017 was positively impacted by increased realized commodity prices and production volumes. Lower commodity prices negatively impacted 2016, including resulting in \$757.7 million of impairments of our oil and gas properties in that year. Year-over-year changes are discussed further as follows. Also refer to the “ 2018 Compared to 2017 ” section above for general information regarding various statement of operations line items.

Revenues

Realized prices and production volumes were higher in 2017 as compared to 2016, which caused our revenues to increase by \$652.8 million, or 53%, from the prior year. The following table shows our production revenue for the years indicated as well as the change in revenue due to changes in prices and volumes.

| Production Revenue (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 | | Price / Volume Variance | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | | | Price | Volume | Total |
| Oil sales | \$ 981,646 | \$ 632,934 | \$ 348,712 | 55% | \$ 182,742 | \$ 165,970 | \$ 348,712 |
| Gas sales | 516,936 | 388,786 | 128,150 | 33% | 84,361 | 43,789 | 128,150 |
| NGL sales | 375,421 | 199,498 | 175,923 | 88% | 131,347 | 44,576 | 175,923 |
| | <u>\$ 1,874,003</u> | <u>\$ 1,221,218</u> | <u>\$ 652,785</u> | 53% | <u>\$ 398,450</u> | <u>\$ 254,335</u> | <u>\$ 652,785</u> |

The table below presents our production volumes by commodity, our average realized commodity prices, and certain major U.S. index prices. The sale of our Permian Basin oil production is typically tied to the WTI Midland benchmark price and the sale of our Mid-Continent oil production is typically tied to the WTI Cushing benchmark price. During 2017 and 2016, 78% and 80%, respectively, of our oil production was in the Permian Basin with the majority of the remainder in the Mid-Continent region. Our realized prices do not include settlements of commodity derivative contracts.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----|
| | 2017 | 2016 | | |
| Oil | | | | |
| Total volume — MBbbls | 20,861 | 16,528 | 4,333 | 26% |
| Total volume — MBbbls per day | 57.2 | 45.2 | 12.0 | 27% |
| Percentage of total production | 30% | 28% | | |
| Average realized price — per barrel | \$ 47.06 | \$ 38.30 | \$ 8.76 | 23% |
| Average WTI Midland price — per barrel | \$ 50.45 | \$ 43.34 | \$ 7.11 | 16% |
| Average WTI Cushing price — per barrel | \$ 50.94 | \$ 43.32 | \$ 7.62 | 18% |
| Gas | | | | |
| Total volume — MMcf | 187,468 | 168,227 | 19,241 | 11% |
| Total volume — MMcf per day | 513.6 | 459.6 | 54.0 | 12% |
| Percentage of total production | 45% | 48% | | |
| Average realized price — per Mcf | \$ 2.76 | \$ 2.31 | \$ 0.45 | 19% |
| Average Henry Hub price — per Mcf | \$ 3.11 | \$ 2.46 | \$ 0.65 | 26% |
| NGL | | | | |
| Total volume — MBbbls | 17,374 | 14,200 | 3,174 | 22% |
| Total volume — MBbbls per day | 47.6 | 38.8 | 8.8 | 23% |
| Percentage of total production | 25% | 24% | | |
| Average realized price — per barrel | \$ 21.61 | \$ 14.05 | \$ 7.56 | 54% |
| Total | | | | |
| Total production — MBOE | 69,479 | 58,765 | 10,714 | 18% |
| Total production — MBOE per day | 190.4 | 160.6 | 29.8 | 19% |
| Average realized price — per BOE | \$ 26.97 | \$ 20.78 | \$ 6.19 | 30% |

Other Revenues

We transport, process, and market some third-party gas that is associated with our equity gas. We market and sell gas for other working interest owners under short term agreements and may earn a fee for such services. The table below reflects income from third-party gas gathering and processing and our net marketing margin for marketing third-party gas.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|
| | 2017 | 2016 | | |
| Gas Gathering and Marketing (in thousands): | | | | |
| Gas gathering and other | \$ 43,751 | \$ 36,033 | \$ 7,718 | |
| Gas marketing | \$ 495 | \$ 94 | \$ 401 | |

Fluctuations in revenues from gas gathering and gas marketing activities are a function of increases and decreases in volumes, commodity prices, and gathering rate charges. The increases from 2016 are primarily due to an increase in prices.

Operating Costs and Expenses

Total operating costs and expenses of \$1.17 billion in 2017 were 36% lower than the \$1.83 billion incurred in 2016. Most of the decrease resulted from ceiling test impairments of our oil and gas properties of \$757.7 million recorded in 2016; we recorded no ceiling test impairments in 2017. Also contributing to the decrease was the net gain on derivative instruments in 2017 compared to a net loss in 2016. Otherwise, all other categories of operating costs and expenses increased in 2017. The following table shows our operating costs and expenses for the years indicated and a discussion of year-over-year differences follows.

| Operating Costs and Expenses (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 | Per BOE | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | \$ — | \$ 757,670 | \$ (757,670) | N/A | N/A |
| Depreciation, depletion, and amortization | 446,031 | 392,348 | 53,683 | \$ 6.42 | \$ 6.68 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 15,624 | 7,828 | 7,796 | \$ 0.22 | \$ 0.13 |
| Production | 262,180 | 232,002 | 30,178 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 3.95 |
| Transportation, processing, and other operating | 231,640 | 190,725 | 40,915 | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.25 |
| Gas gathering and other | 35,840 | 31,785 | 4,055 | \$ 0.52 | \$ 0.54 |
| Taxes other than income | 89,864 | 61,946 | 27,918 | \$ 1.29 | \$ 1.05 |
| General and administrative | 79,996 | 73,901 | 6,095 | \$ 1.15 | \$ 1.26 |
| Stock compensation | 26,256 | 24,523 | 1,733 | \$ 0.38 | \$ 0.42 |
| (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net | (21,210) | 55,749 | (76,959) | N/A | N/A |
| Other operating expense, net | 1,314 | 755 | 559 | N/A | N/A |
| | <u>\$ 1,167,535</u> | <u>\$ 1,829,232</u> | <u>\$ (661,697)</u> | | |

Ceiling Test Impairment

We use the full cost method of accounting for our oil and gas operations. Accounting rules require us to perform a quarterly ceiling test calculation to test our capitalized oil and gas property costs for possible impairment. If the net capitalized cost of our oil and gas properties, as adjusted for income taxes, exceeds the ceiling limitation, the excess is charged to expense. The ceiling limitation is equal to the sum of: (i) the present value discounted at 10% of estimated future net revenues from proved reserves, (ii) the cost of properties not being amortized, and (iii) the lower of cost or estimated fair value of unproven properties included in the costs being amortized, as adjusted for income taxes. Estimated future net revenues are determined based on trailing twelve-month average commodity prices and estimated proved reserve quantities, operating costs, and capital expenditures.

At each quarter-end date during the year ended December 31, 2017, the net capitalized cost of our oil and gas properties, as adjusted for income taxes, did not exceed the ceiling limitation, and, therefore, we did not recognize a ceiling test impairment during the year. The commodity prices used in the December 31, 2017 ceiling calculation, based on the required trailing twelve-month average prices, were \$2.98 per Mcf of gas and \$51.34 per barrel of oil. A decline of approximately 19% or more in the value of the ceiling limitation would have resulted in an impairment at December 31, 2017. During the year ended December 31, 2016, we recognized ceiling test impairments totaling \$757.7 million (\$481.4 million, net of tax). These impairments were primarily the result of decreases in the trailing twelve-month average prices for oil, gas, and NGLs utilized in determining the estimated future net revenues from proved reserves. Because the ceiling calculation uses trailing twelve-month average commodity prices, the effect of increases and decreases in period-over-period prices can significantly impact the ceiling limitation calculation. In addition, other factors that impact the ceiling limitation calculation include, but are not limited to, incremental proved reserves that may be added each period, revisions to previous reserve estimates, capital expenditures, operating costs, depletion expense, and all related tax effects. Depending on fluctuations in these factors, including a decline in prices, we may incur full cost ceiling test impairments in future quarters.

The calculated ceiling limitation is not intended to be indicative of the fair market value of our proved reserves or future results. Impairment charges do not affect cash flow from operating activities, but do adversely affect our net income and various components of our balance sheet. Any impairment of oil and gas properties is not reversible at a later date.

Depreciation, Depletion, and Amortization

Depletion increased by \$53.3 million , or 15% , during 2017 as compared to 2016. While prices increased in 2017 from 2016, thus increasing our reserves, so too did our exploration and development expenditures and activities, thus increasing our proved oil and gas properties and future development costs, causing an overall increase in depletion expense. DD&A consisted of the following for the years indicated:

| DD&A Expense (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 | Per BOE | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Depletion | \$ 399,328 | \$ 346,003 | \$ 53,325 | \$ 5.75 | \$ 5.89 |
| Depreciation | 46,703 | 46,345 | 358 | 0.67 | 0.79 |
| | <u>\$ 446,031</u> | <u>\$ 392,348</u> | <u>\$ 53,683</u> | <u>\$ 6.42</u> | <u>\$ 6.68</u> |

Asset Retirement Obligation

Asset retirement obligation expense is typically primarily comprised of accretion expense. Asset retirement obligation expense includes \$10.5 million in 2017 for the estimated liability to decommission two offshore properties in the Gulf of Mexico in which we were a prior lessee. See the “ 2018 Compared to 2017 ” section above for more information regarding this matter.

Production

Production costs consisted of lease operating expense and workover expense as follows:

| Production Expense (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 | Per BOE | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Lease operating expense | \$ 215,148 | \$ 189,291 | \$ 25,857 | \$ 3.10 | \$ 3.22 |
| Workover expense | 47,032 | 42,711 | 4,321 | 0.67 | 0.73 |
| | <u>\$ 262,180</u> | <u>\$ 232,002</u> | <u>\$ 30,178</u> | <u>\$ 3.77</u> | <u>\$ 3.95</u> |

Due to increased daily production in 2017, we reduced our per unit lease operating expense by 4% from 2016. On an absolute basis, lease operating expense in 2017 increased 14% , or \$25.9 million , compared to 2016 . The increase was primarily caused by: (i) increased saltwater disposal costs primarily attributed to the addition of new wells and recompleted wells, (ii) increased labor costs primarily due to additional employees and salary and bonus increases, (iii) increased equipment maintenance costs, primarily the result of the addition of new wells, (iv) increased gas lift and fuel compression costs, and (v) increased chemicals and treating costs.

Workover expense increased by 10% , or \$4.3 million , during 2017 as compared to 2016 . During 2017, we had costlier major well workover projects than during 2016, which increased expense. This increase was partially offset by the receipt of partial insurance proceeds during 2017 related to a flooding event in 2015 and the subsequent remediation and repairs, the bulk of which took place in 2016. Generally, workover costs will fluctuate based on the amount of maintenance and remedial activity required during the period.

Transportation, Processing, and Other Operating

Transportation, processing, and other operating costs in 2017 were 21% , or \$40.9 million , higher than in 2016 . This increase was primarily due to increased production volumes and, to a lesser extent, increased transportation and processing rates in 2017 as compared to 2016.

Gas Gathering and Other

Gas gathering and other in 2017 was 13% , or \$4.1 million , higher than in 2016 . This increase was primarily due to higher product costs associated with processing third-party production due to higher commodity prices. These increased product costs were offset by increases in associated revenue.

Taxes Other than Income

In 2017, taxes other than income increased 45%, or \$27.9 million, from 2016. This increase was primarily due to the increase in revenue seen between the comparable periods. Taxes other than income were 4.8% and 5.1% of production revenues for 2017 and 2016, respectively. The percentage decreased from 2016 due to the approval of reduced tax rates on several of our high-cost gas wells in Texas and, as part of that process, approved severance tax refunds of \$9.1 million.

General and Administrative

G&A costs consisted of the following:

| General and Administrative Expense (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2017 | 2016 | |
| Gross G&A | \$ 156,389 | \$ 146,432 | \$ 9,957 |
| Less amounts capitalized to oil and gas properties | (76,393) | (72,531) | (3,862) |
| G&A expense | \$ 79,996 | \$ 73,901 | \$ 6,095 |

The percentage of gross G&A capitalized was 49% and 50% during 2017 and 2016, respectively. G&A expense during 2017 was 8%, or \$6.1 million, higher than during 2016. This increase is primarily due to the following increases: (i) other employee compensation, primarily due to increased incentive bonus expense, (ii) insurance, (iii) consulting, (iv) salaries and wages, due to additional employees and salary increases, and (v) charitable donations. These increases were partially offset by decreased severance expense due to a voluntary early retirement incentive program, which included severance pay, that was offered to certain employees during 2016.

Stock Compensation

We recognized stock-based compensation cost as follows:

| Stock Compensation Expense (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2017 | 2016 | |
| Restricted stock awards: | | | |
| Performance stock awards | \$ 26,020 | \$ 24,183 | \$ 1,837 |
| Service-based stock awards | 19,746 | 18,391 | 1,355 |
| | 45,766 | 42,574 | 3,192 |
| Stock option awards | 2,599 | 2,565 | 34 |
| Total stock compensation cost | 48,365 | 45,139 | 3,226 |
| Less amounts capitalized to oil and gas properties | (22,109) | (20,616) | (1,493) |
| Stock compensation expense | \$ 26,256 | \$ 24,523 | \$ 1,733 |

Periodic stock compensation expense will fluctuate based on the grant date fair value of awards, the number of awards, the requisite service period of the awards, employee forfeitures, and the timing of the awards. The increase in total stock compensation cost in 2017 as compared to 2016 is primarily due to awards granted either during or subsequent to 2016. These increases were partially offset by awards vesting prior to or during 2017.

(Gain) Loss on Derivative Instruments, Net

The following table presents the components of (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net for the periods indicated. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our derivative instruments.

| (Gain) Loss on Derivative Instruments, Net (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2017 | 2016 | |
| Decrease (increase) in fair value of derivative instruments, net: | | | |
| Gas contracts | \$ (40,226) | \$ 27,462 | \$ (67,688) |
| Oil contracts | 17,383 | 35,724 | (18,341) |
| | (22,843) | 63,186 | (86,029) |
| Cash (receipts) payments on derivative instruments, net: | | | |
| Gas contracts | (4,557) | (6,467) | 1,910 |
| Oil contracts | 6,190 | (970) | 7,160 |
| | 1,633 | (7,437) | 9,070 |
| (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net | \$ (21,210) | \$ 55,749 | \$ (76,959) |

Other Income and Expense

| Other Income and Expense (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2017 | 2016 | |
| Interest expense | \$ 74,821 | \$ 83,272 | \$ (8,451) |
| Capitalized interest | (22,948) | (21,248) | (1,700) |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | 28,187 | — | 28,187 |
| Other, net | (11,342) | (10,707) | (635) |
| | \$ 68,718 | \$ 51,317 | \$ 17,401 |

The decrease in interest expense in 2017 as compared to 2016 was due to the completion of a tender offer and redemption of \$750 million 5.875% senior notes and the issuance of \$750 million 3.90% senior notes, which occurred during the second quarter of 2017. The \$28.2 million loss on early extinguishment of debt incurred during 2017 was also associated with the debt tender offer and redemption. The loss was composed primarily of tender and redemption premiums of \$22.6 million and the write-off of \$5.3 million of unamortized debt issuance costs. The original maturity date of the 5.875% notes was May 1, 2022.

There were higher capitalized costs subject to interest capitalization in 2017 as compared to 2016 due to our increased capitalized expenditures. However, the impact of the increase in capitalized interest was largely offset by the lower interest rate on borrowings outstanding due to the replacement of our 5.875% notes with 3.90% notes in the second quarter of 2017.

Other, net includes interest income of \$5.4 million and \$3.7 million in 2017 and 2016, respectively. Interest rates were raised once at the end of 2016 and three times in 2017, increasing our interest income earned on our short-term investments. Other components of Other, net consist of miscellaneous income and expense items that vary from period to period, including gain or loss related to the sale or value of oil and gas well equipment and supplies, gain or loss on miscellaneous asset sales, and income and expense associated with other non-operating activities.

Income Tax Expense (Benefit)

The components of Income Tax Expense (Benefit) were as follows:

| Income Tax Expense (Benefit) (in thousands): | Years Ended December 31, | | Variance Between 2017 / 2016 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | |
| Current tax benefit | \$ (2,812) | \$ (1,115) | \$ (1,697) |
| Deferred tax expense (benefit) | 190,479 | (213,286) | 403,765 |
| | <u>\$ 187,667</u> | <u>\$ (214,401)</u> | <u>\$ 402,068</u> |
| Combined federal and state effective income tax rate | 27.5% | 34.4% | |

On December 22, 2017, the United States enacted H.R.1 (Public Law 115-97), commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act or U.S. Tax Reform. We remeasured the deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2017 to reflect the reduction in the U.S. income tax rate from 35% to 21% for years after 2017 and, as a result of this remeasurement, we recorded an income tax benefit of \$61.1 million and a corresponding \$61.1 million decrease in the net deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2017. See the “2018 Compared to 2017” section above for more information regarding this matter.

Our combined federal and state effective tax rates, as shown above, differed from the statutory rate at the time of 35% primarily due to state income taxes, non-deductible expenses, revisions, and the impact of changes in tax law. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding our income taxes.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Overview

We strive to maintain an adequate liquidity level to address volatility and risk. Sources of liquidity include our cash flow from operations, cash on hand, available borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility, proceeds from sales of non-core assets, including our Ward County asset sale that closed in August 2018, and, from time to time, public financings based on our monitoring of capital markets and our balance sheet.

Our liquidity is highly dependent on prices we receive for the oil, gas, and NGLs we produce. Prices we receive are determined by prevailing market conditions and greatly influence our revenue, cash flow, profitability, access to capital, and future rate of growth. See **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS Revenues** above for further information regarding the impact realized prices have had on our 2018 earnings.

In connection with the expected closing of our acquisition of Resolute, we anticipate utilizing cash on hand to fund the cash portion of the merger consideration, acquisition fees and expenses, and the repayment of the outstanding balance on Resolute’s revolving credit facility, all of which we estimate will be between \$600 million and \$630 million. In addition, we intend to redeem and repay the \$600 million senior notes of Resolute. This transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2019.

We deal with volatility in commodity prices primarily by maintaining flexibility in our capital investment program. We have a balanced and abundant drilling inventory and limited long-term commitments, which enables us to respond quickly to industry volatility. Based on current economic conditions, and assuming the successful acquisition of Resolute, our 2019 exploration and development (“E&D”) expenditures are projected to range from \$1.35 billion to \$1.45 billion. Investments in gathering, processing, and other infrastructure are expected to be an additional \$60 million to \$70 million for 2019. See **Capital Expenditures** below for information regarding our 2018 E&D activities.

We periodically use derivative instruments to mitigate volatility in commodity prices. At December 31, 2018, we had derivative contracts covering a portion of our 2019 and 2020 production. Depending on changes in oil and gas futures markets and management’s view of underlying supply and demand trends, we may increase or decrease our derivative positions from current levels. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding our derivative instruments.

We believe our conservative use of leverage, strong balance sheet, and hedging activities will mitigate our exposure to lower prices. Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2018 were \$800.7 million . At December 31, 2018 , our long-term debt consisted of \$1.50 billion of senior unsecured notes, with \$750 million 4.375% notes due in 2024 and \$750 million 3.90% notes due in 2027. At December 31, 2018 , we had no borrowings and \$2.5 million in letters of credit outstanding under our credit facility, leaving an unused borrowing availability of \$997.5 million . See **Long-Term Debt** below for more information regarding our debt.

Our debt to total capitalization ratio at December 31, 2018 was 31% , down from 37% at December 31, 2017 . This ratio is calculated by dividing the principal amount of long-term debt by the sum of (i) the principal amount of long-term debt and (ii) total stockholders' equity, with all numbers coming directly from the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Management uses this ratio as one indicator of our financial condition and believes professional research analysts and rating agencies use this ratio for this purpose and to compare our financial condition to other companies' financial conditions.

We expect our operating cash flow and other capital resources to be adequate to meet our needs for planned capital expenditures, working capital, debt service, and dividends declared for the next twelve months.

Analysis of Cash Flow Changes

The following table presents the totals of the major cash flow classification categories from our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the periods indicated.

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 1,550,994 | \$ 1,096,564 | \$ 625,849 |
| Net cash used by investing activities | \$ (1,085,618) | \$ (1,265,897) | \$ (692,410) |
| Net cash used by financing activities | \$ (65,244) | \$ (83,009) | \$ (59,945) |

Net cash provided by operating activities in 2018 was \$1.55 billion , up \$454.4 million , or 41% , from \$1.10 billion in 2017 . The increase was primarily a result of higher revenues due to higher production volumes and realized oil and NGL prices in 2018 . Also contributing to the increase was a decreased investment in working capital, primarily caused by the timing of cash receipts of accounts receivable. These increases were partially offset by increased net operating expenses, primarily production expense and taxes other than income, and increased cash outflows for settlements of derivative instruments. Net cash provided by operating activities in 2017 was \$1.10 billion , up \$470.7 million , or 75% , from \$625.8 million in 2016. The increase was primarily a result of higher revenue due to higher realized prices and production volumes in 2017. This increase was partially offset by increased operating expenses and an increased investment in working capital. See **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS** above for more information regarding year-over-year changes in revenue and operating expenses.

In 2018 , net cash used by investing activities was \$1.09 billion , compared to \$1.27 billion and \$692.4 million in 2017 and 2016 , respectively. The majority of our cash flows used by investing activities are for E&D capital expenditures, which, as reflected in the statements of cash flows, were \$1.57 billion , \$1.23 billion , and \$699.6 million in 2018 , 2017 , and 2016 , respectively. Our other capital expenditures, which are primarily for our midstream assets, were \$103.5 million , \$45.4 million , and \$22.2 million in 2018 , 2017 , and 2016 , respectively. In 2018, cash outflows for capital expenditures were partially offset by proceeds from asset sales of \$584.4 million , which includes \$534.6 million in net cash proceeds from the August 2018 divestiture of oil and gas properties principally located in Ward County, Texas for which the final cash settlement, which will reflect customary post-closing adjustments, is scheduled to occur by the end of first quarter 2019. Net cash proceeds from other asset sales totaled \$49.9 million , \$12.6 million , and \$29.4 million in 2018 , 2017 , and 2016 , respectively. These asset sales are primarily for the divestiture of non-core oil and gas properties.

Net cash used by financing activities was \$65.2 million , \$83.0 million , and \$59.9 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. All years include the payment of dividends, the payment of income tax withholdings made on behalf of our employees upon the net settlement of employee stock awards, and the receipt of proceeds from stock option exercises. Dividends paid were \$55.2 million , \$30.5 million , and \$38.0 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. During the years presented, we have declared cash dividends quarterly, paying them in the following quarter. We paid dividends totaling \$0.58 per share, \$0.32 per share, and \$0.40 per share in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. We paid employee income tax withholdings on the net settlement of stock awards totaling \$12.1 million ,

\$21.7 million, and \$26.6 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. Cash proceeds received from stock option exercises were \$2.2 million, \$0.4 million, and \$4.8 million, in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. Additionally, 2017 included: (i) the early extinguishment of \$750 million 5.875% senior notes, which included \$22.6 million of tender and redemption premiums and (ii) the issuance of \$750 million 3.90% senior notes at 99.748% of par for proceeds of \$748.1 million, paying \$6.3 million in underwriting, financing, and other costs.

Capital Expenditures

The following table reflects capitalized expenditures for oil and gas acquisitions, exploration, and development activities, net of property sales:

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Acquisitions: | | | |
| Proved | \$ 62 | \$ 938 | \$ 2,678 |
| Unproved | 26,216 | 6,853 | 11,865 |
| | 26,278 | 7,791 | 14,543 |
| Exploration and development: | | | |
| Land and seismic | 82,791 | 140,516 | 61,870 |
| Exploration and development | 1,487,453 | 1,140,548 | 672,882 |
| | 1,570,244 | 1,281,064 | 734,752 |
| Property sales | (581,799) | (11,680) | (24,687) |
| | \$ 1,014,723 | \$ 1,277,175 | \$ 724,608 |

Amounts in the table above are presented on an accrual basis. Oil and gas capital expenditures and sales of oil and gas assets in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows reflect capital expenditures on a cash basis, when payments are made and proceeds received.

We increased our 2018 E&D expenditures 23% to \$1.57 billion compared to \$1.28 billion in 2017. Approximately 70% of our 2018 E&D expenditures were in the Permian Basin and 30% were in the Mid-Continent. During 2018, we completed or participated in the completion of 349 gross (122.1 net) wells, of which we operated 146 gross (105.8 net) wells. See Items 1 and 2 of this report for further information regarding our oil and gas properties.

Approximately 85% of our planned 2019 E&D capital investment of \$1.35 billion to \$1.45 billion is expected to be invested in the Permian Basin and most of the remainder in the Mid-Continent.

As has been our historical practice, we regularly review our capital expenditures throughout the year and will adjust our investments based on increases or decreases in commodity prices, service costs, and drilling success. We have the flexibility to adjust our capital expenditures based upon market conditions.

We intend to fund our 2019 capital program and the acquisition of Resolute with cash flow from our operating activities, cash on hand, and borrowings under our credit facility. Sales of non-core assets and possible capital markets transactions may also be used to supplement funding of capital expenditures and acquisitions. The timing of capital expenditures and the receipt of cash flows do not necessarily match, which may cause us to borrow and repay funds under our credit facility from time-to-time. See **Long-Term Debt** — *Bank Debt* below for further information regarding our credit facility.

On November 18, 2018, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger to acquire Resolute in a cash and stock transaction valued at a total purchase price of approximately \$1.6 billion, including the assumption of Resolute's long-term debt, which was \$710 million as of September 30, 2018. Under the terms of the agreement, Resolute shareholders will have the right to receive 0.3943 shares of Cimarex common stock, \$35.00 per share in cash, or a combination of \$14.00 per share in cash and 0.2366 shares of Cimarex common stock. The amount of stock and cash is subject to proration for a total stock and cash mix of 60% and 40%, respectively. Assuming completion of the acquisition, Resolute's former stockholders will own approximately 6.4% of our outstanding common stock based on shares outstanding for both companies as of January 18, 2019. The cash portion of the merger consideration, acquisition fees and expenses, and the repayment of the outstanding balance on Resolute's revolving credit facility, all of which

are estimated to be between \$600 million and \$630 million, are expected to be funded through cash on hand. In addition, we intend to redeem and repay the \$600 million senior notes of Resolute. This acquisition will expand Cimarex's footprint in Reeves County, Texas by 21,100 net acres that are complementary to our existing Reeves County position. The transaction, which is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter 2019, is subject to the approval of Resolute shareholders and the satisfaction of certain regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

We have made, and will continue to make, expenditures to comply with environmental and safety regulations and requirements. These costs are considered a normal recurring cost of our ongoing operations. While we expect current pending legislation or regulations to increase the cost of business, we do not anticipate that we will be required to expend amounts that will have a material adverse effect on our financial position or operations, nor are we aware of any pending regulatory changes that would have a material impact, based on current laws and regulations. However, compliance with new legislation or regulations could increase our costs or adversely affect demand for oil or gas and result in a material adverse effect on our financial position or operations. See Item 1A **RISK FACTORS** for a description of risks related to current and potential future environmental and safety regulations and requirements that could adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt at December 31, 2018 and 2017 consisted of the following:

| (in thousands) | December 31, 2018 | | | December 31, 2017 | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Principal | Unamortized Debt Issuance Costs and Discount (1) | Long-term Debt, net | Principal | Unamortized Debt Issuance Costs and Discount (1) | Long-term Debt, net |
| 4.375% Senior Notes | \$ 750,000 | \$ (4,439) | \$ 745,561 | \$ 750,000 | \$ (5,383) | \$ 744,617 |
| 3.90% Senior Notes | 750,000 | (7,007) | 742,993 | 750,000 | (7,697) | 742,303 |
| Total long-term debt | \$ 1,500,000 | \$ (11,446) | \$ 1,488,554 | \$ 1,500,000 | \$ (13,080) | \$ 1,486,920 |

(1) At December 31, 2018, the unamortized debt issuance costs and discount related to the 3.90% notes were \$5.4 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. At December 31, 2017, the unamortized debt issuance costs and discount related to the 3.90% notes were \$5.9 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. The 4.375% notes were issued at par.

Bank Debt

In October 2015, we entered into a senior unsecured revolving credit facility ("Credit Facility") with an aggregate commitment of \$1.0 billion, which matures October 16, 2020. There is no borrowing base subject to the discretion of the lenders based on the value of our proved reserves under the Credit Facility. As of December 31, 2018, we had no bank borrowings outstanding under the Credit Facility, but did have letters of credit of \$2.5 million outstanding, leaving an unused borrowing availability of \$997.5 million.

At our option, borrowings under the Credit Facility may bear interest at either (a) LIBOR plus 1.125 - 2.0% based on the credit rating for our senior unsecured long-term debt, or (b) a base rate (as defined in the credit agreement) plus 0.125 - 1.0%, based on the credit rating for our senior unsecured long-term debt. Unused borrowings are subject to a commitment fee of 0.125 - 0.35%, based on the credit rating for our senior unsecured long-term debt.

The Credit Facility contains representations, warranties, covenants, and events of default that are customary for investment grade, senior unsecured bank credit agreements, including a financial covenant for the maintenance of a defined total debt-to-capital ratio of no greater than 65%. As of December 31, 2018, we were in compliance with all of the financial and non-financial covenants.

At December 31, 2018 and 2017, we had \$2.2 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, of unamortized debt issuance costs associated with our Credit Facility that were recorded as deferred assets and included in "Other assets" in our balance sheets. The costs are being amortized to interest expense ratably over the life of the Credit Facility.

On February 5, 2019 , we entered into an Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. Among other things, the amended and restated credit facility increases the aggregate commitment to \$1.25 billion with an option to increase the commitment to \$1.5 billion , and extends the maturity date to February 5, 2024 .

Senior Notes

On April 10, 2017, we completed a cash tender offer to purchase any of our 5.875% senior unsecured notes for cash consideration of \$1,031.67 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but not including, the settlement date, with \$253.5 million aggregate principal amount of the notes validly tendered. We settled these tendered notes for \$268.1 million , including accrued interest. On May 12, 2017, we completed a redemption of the 5.875% notes remaining outstanding for \$1,029.38 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but not including, the redemption date, settling the notes for \$512.0 million , including accrued interest. We recognized a loss on early extinguishment of debt related to these transactions of \$28.2 million , composed primarily of tender and redemption premiums of \$22.6 million and the write-off of \$5.3 million of unamortized debt issuance costs. The original maturity date of the 5.875% notes was May 1, 2022 .

On April 10, 2017, we issued \$750 million aggregate principal amount of 3.90% senior unsecured notes due May 15, 2027 at 99.748% of par to yield 3.93% per annum. We received \$741.8 million in net cash proceeds, after deducting underwriters' fees, discount, and debt issuance costs. The notes bear an annual interest rate of 3.90% and interest is payable semiannually on May 15 and November 15, with the first payment occurring November 15, 2017. Along with cash on hand, we used the proceeds to fund the settlement of the tendered and redeemed 5.875% notes.

In June 2014, we issued \$750 million aggregate principal amount of 4.375% senior unsecured notes at par. These notes are due June 1, 2024 and interest is payable semiannually on June 1 and December 1.

Each of our senior unsecured notes is governed by an indenture containing certain covenants, events of default, and other restrictive provisions with which we were in compliance as of December 31, 2018 . The effective interest rate on the 4.375% notes and the 3.90% notes, including the amortization of debt issuance costs and discount, as applicable, is 4.50% and 4.01% , respectively.

Working Capital Analysis

Our working capital fluctuates primarily as a result of our realized commodity prices, increases or decreases in our production volumes, changes in receivables and payables related to our operating and E&D activities, changes in our oil and gas well equipment and supplies, and changes in the carrying value of our derivative instruments.

At December 31, 2018 , we had working capital of \$715.4 million , an increase of \$459.4 million , or 179% , compared to working capital of \$256.1 million at December 31, 2017 .

Working capital increases consisted primarily of the following:

- Cash and cash equivalents increased \$400.1 million . This is primarily due to the receipt of \$534.6 million in net cash proceeds from the August 2018 divestiture of oil and gas properties principally located in Ward County, Texas.
- Our net current derivative instruments increased in value by \$101.2 million from a net current liability at December 31, 2017 to a net current asset at December 31, 2018 .

Working capital decreases consisted primarily of the following:

- Operations-related accounts payable and accrued liabilities increased \$33.6 million .
- Accrued liabilities related to our E&D expenditures increased \$8.9 million .

Dividends

A quarterly cash dividend has been paid to stockholders every quarter since the first quarter of 2006. In February 2016, the quarterly dividend declared was decreased from \$0.16 per share to \$0.08 per share, where it remained through the fourth quarter of 2017. In the first and second quarters of 2018, we declared dividends of \$0.16 per share and in the third and fourth quarters of 2018, we declared dividends of \$0.18 per share. Future dividend payments will depend on our level of earnings, financial requirements, and other factors considered relevant by our Board of Directors. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding dividends.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We may enter into off-balance sheet arrangements and transactions that can give rise to material off-balance sheet obligations. As of December 31, 2018, our material off-balance sheet arrangements consisted of operating lease agreements, which are included in the table below.

Contractual Obligations and Material Commitments

At December 31, 2018, we had the following contractual obligations and material commitments:

| Contractual obligations (in thousands) : | Payments Due by Period | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | 1/1/19 - 12/31/19 | 1/1/20 - 12/31/21 | 1/1/22 - 12/31/23 | 1/1/24 and Thereafter |
| Long-term debt-principal (1) | \$ 1,500,000 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1,500,000 |
| Long-term debt-interest (1) | 429,094 | 60,844 | 124,125 | 124,125 | 120,000 |
| Operating leases (2) | 109,832 | 23,007 | 43,431 | 22,563 | 20,831 |
| Unconditional purchase obligations (3) | 64,593 | 24,263 | 27,967 | 6,900 | 5,463 |
| Derivative liabilities | 29,894 | 27,627 | 2,267 | — | — |
| Asset retirement obligation (4) | 166,904 | 14,146 | — (4) | — (4) | — (4) |
| Other long-term liabilities (5) | 36,926 | 1,390 | 2,903 | 5,048 | 27,585 |
| | <u>\$ 2,337,243</u> | <u>\$ 151,277</u> | <u>\$ 200,693</u> | <u>\$ 158,636</u> | <u>\$ 1,673,879</u> |

- (1) The interest payments presented above include the accrued interest payable on our long-term debt as of December 31, 2018 as well as future payments calculated using the long-term debt's fixed rates, stated maturity dates, and principal amounts outstanding as of December 31, 2018. See Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our debt.
- (2) Operating leases include various lease commitments for commercial real estate, which consists primarily of office space, and compressor equipment.
- (3) Of the total Unconditional purchase obligations, \$36.0 million represents obligations for the purchase of sand for well completions and \$27.8 million represents obligations for firm transportation agreements for gas pipeline capacity.
- (4) We have excluded the presentation of the timing of the cash flows associated with our long-term asset retirement obligations because we cannot make a reasonably reliable estimate of the future period of cash settlement. The long-term asset retirement obligation is included in the total asset retirement obligation presented.
- (5) Other long-term liabilities include contractual obligations associated with our employee supplemental savings plan, gas balancing liabilities, and other miscellaneous liabilities. All of these liabilities are accrued on our Consolidated Balance Sheet. The current portion associated with these long-term liabilities is also presented in the table above.

The following discusses various commercial commitments that we have made that may include potential future cash payments if we fail to meet various performance obligations. These are not reflected in the table above.

At December 31, 2018, we had estimated commitments of approximately: (i) \$498.3 million to finish drilling, completing, or performing other work on wells and various other infrastructure projects in progress and (ii) \$24.9 million to finish gathering system construction in progress.

At December 31, 2018, we had firm sales contracts to deliver approximately 316.9 Bcf of natural gas over the next 6.1 years. If we do not deliver this gas, our estimated financial commitment, calculated using the January 2019 index price, would be approximately \$814.7 million. The value of this commitment will fluctuate due to price volatility and actual volumes delivered. However, we believe no financial commitment will be due based on our current proved reserves and production levels from which we can fulfill these volumetric obligations.

In connection with gas gathering and processing agreements, we have volume commitments over the next 9.0 years. If we do not deliver the committed gas or NGLs, as the case may be, the estimated maximum amount that would be payable under these commitments, calculated as of December 31, 2018, would be approximately \$336.0 million. However, we believe no financial commitment will be due based on our current proved reserves and production levels from which we can fulfill these volumetric obligations.

We have minimum volume delivery commitments associated with agreements to reimburse connection costs to various pipelines. If we do not deliver this gas, the estimated maximum amount that would be payable under these commitments, calculated as of December 31, 2018, would be approximately \$57.3 million. Of this total, we have accrued a liability of \$2.5 million representing the estimated amount we will have to pay due to insufficient forecasted volumes at particular connection points.

All of the noted commitments were routine and made in the ordinary course of our business.

Taking into account current commodity prices and anticipated levels of production, we believe that our net cash flow generated from operations and our other capital resources will be adequate to meet future obligations.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operation are based on our Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. We analyze and base our estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Changes in facts and circumstances or additional information may result in revised estimates, and actual results may differ from these estimates.

Our significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to our Consolidated Financial Statements. We have identified the following policies as being of particular importance to the portrayal of our financial position and results of operations and which require the application of significant judgment by management.

Oil and Gas Reserves

The process of estimating quantities of oil and gas reserves is complex, requiring significant decisions in the evaluation of all available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data. The data for a given field may also change substantially over time due to numerous factors including, but not limited to, additional development activity, evolving production history and continual reassessment of the viability of production under varying economic conditions. As a result, material revisions to existing reserve estimates may occur from time to time. Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure that our reserve estimates represent the most accurate assessments possible, subjective decisions and available data for our various fields make these estimates generally less precise than other estimates included in financial statement disclosures.

At year-end 2018, 15% of our total proved reserves are categorized as proved undeveloped reserves. Our reserve engineers review and revise these reserve estimates regularly, as new information becomes available.

We use the units-of-production method to amortize the cost associated with our oil and gas properties. Changes in estimates of reserve quantities and commodity prices will cause corresponding changes in depletion expense, or in some cases, a full cost ceiling impairment charge in the period of the revision. See **Full Cost Accounting** below for further information regarding the ceiling limitation calculation. See **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)** in Item 8 for additional reserve data.

Full Cost Accounting

We use the full cost method of accounting for our oil and gas operations. All costs associated with property acquisition, exploration, and development activities are capitalized. Exploration and development costs include dry hole costs, geological and geophysical costs, direct overhead related to exploration and development activities, and other costs incurred for the purpose of finding oil and gas reserves. Salaries and benefits paid to employees directly involved in the acquisition, exploration, and development of properties, as well as other internal costs that can be directly identified with acquisition, exploration, and development activities, are also capitalized. Under the full cost method of accounting, no gain or loss is recognized upon the disposition of oil and gas properties unless such disposition would significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to production expense in the period incurred.

Under the full cost method of accounting, we are required to perform quarterly ceiling test calculations to test our oil and gas properties for possible impairment. If the net capitalized cost of our oil and gas properties, as adjusted for income taxes, exceeds the ceiling limitation, the excess is charged to expense. The ceiling limitation is equal to the sum of: (i) the present value discounted at 10% of estimated future net revenues from proved reserves, (ii) the cost of properties not being amortized, and (iii) the lower of cost or estimated fair value of unproven properties included in the costs being amortized, as adjusted for income taxes. We currently do not have any unproven properties that are being amortized. Estimated future net revenues are determined based on trailing twelve-month average commodity prices and estimated proved reserve quantities, operating costs, and capital expenditures.

The quarterly ceiling test is primarily impacted by commodity prices, changes in estimated reserve quantities, reserves produced, overall exploration and development costs, depletion expense, and deferred taxes. If pricing conditions decline, or if there is a negative impact on one or more of the other components of the calculation, we may incur full cost ceiling test impairments in future quarters. The calculated ceiling limitation is not intended to be indicative of the fair market value of our proved reserves or future results. Impairment charges do not affect cash flow from operating activities, but do adversely affect our net income and various components of our balance sheet. Any impairment of oil and gas properties is not reversible at a later date.

Depletion of proved oil and gas properties is computed on the units-of-production method, whereby capitalized costs, including future development costs and asset retirement costs, are amortized over total estimated proved reserves. Changes in our estimate of proved reserve quantities, commodity prices, and impairment of oil and gas properties will cause corresponding changes in depletion expense in periods subsequent to these changes.

The capitalized costs of unproved properties, including those in wells in progress, are excluded from the costs being amortized. We do not have major development projects that are excluded from costs being amortized. On a quarterly basis, we evaluate excluded costs for inclusion in the costs to be amortized. Significant unproved properties are evaluated individually. Unproved properties that are not considered individually significant are aggregated for evaluation purposes and related costs are transferred to the costs to be amortized quarterly based on the application of historical factors.

Income Taxes

Our oil and gas exploration and production operations are subject to taxation on income in numerous jurisdictions. We record deferred tax assets and liabilities to account for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our financial statements and our tax returns. We routinely assess the realizability of our deferred tax assets. Numerous judgments and assumptions are inherent in this assessment, including the determination of future taxable income, which is affected by factors such as future operating conditions (particularly as related to prevailing oil and gas prices) and changing tax laws. If we conclude that it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized, the tax asset would be reduced by a valuation allowance.

We regularly assess and, if required, establish accruals for tax contingencies that could result from assessments of additional tax by taxing jurisdictions where the company operates. See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our income taxes.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of recent accounting pronouncements and their anticipated effect on our business.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to market risk including the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in commodity prices and interest rates.

Price Fluctuations

Our major market risk is pricing applicable to our oil, gas, and NGL production. The prices we receive for our production are based on prevailing market conditions and are influenced by many factors that are beyond our control. Pricing for oil, gas, and NGL production has been volatile and unpredictable. During 2018, our total production revenue was comprised of 61% oil sales, 18% gas sales, and 21% NGL sales. The following table shows how hypothetical changes in the realized prices we receive for our commodity sales would have impacted revenue for the periods indicated. See **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS—Market Conditions** for further information regarding prices.

| | Change in Realized Price | | Impact on Revenue |
|-----|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Year Ended December 31, 2018 |
| | | | (in thousands) |
| Oil | ± \$1.00 | per barrel | ± \$24,710 |
| Gas | ± \$0.10 | per Mcf | ± \$20,584 |
| NGL | ± \$1.00 | per barrel | ± \$21,994 |
| | | | ± \$67,288 |

We periodically enter into derivative contracts to hedge a portion of our price risk associated with our future oil and gas production. At December 31, 2018, we had oil and gas derivatives covering a portion of our 2019 and 2020 production, which were recorded as current and non-current assets and liabilities. At December 31, 2018, these derivatives had a gross asset fair value of \$111.2 million and a gross liability fair value of \$29.9 million. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our derivative instruments.

While these contracts limit the downside risk of adverse price movements, they may also limit future cash flow from favorable price movements. The following table shows how hypothetical changes in the forward prices used to calculate the fair value of our derivatives would have impacted the fair value as of December 31, 2018.

| | Change in Forward Price | | Impact on Fair Value |
|-----|-------------------------|----|----------------------|
| | | | December 31, 2018 |
| | | | (in thousands) |
| Oil | -\$1.00 | \$ | 7,718 |
| Oil | +\$1.00 | \$ | (7,539) |
| Gas | -\$0.10 | \$ | 5,670 |
| Gas | +\$0.10 | \$ | (5,606) |

Interest Rate Risk

At December 31, 2018, our long-term debt consisted of \$750 million of 4.375% senior unsecured notes that will mature on June 1, 2024 and \$750 million of 3.90% senior unsecured notes that will mature on May 15, 2027. Because all of our outstanding long-term debt is at a fixed rate, we consider our interest rate exposure to be minimal. See Note 3 and Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our debt.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**CIMAREX ENERGY CO.****INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES**

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All other supplemental information and schedules have been omitted because they are not applicable or the information required is shown in the consolidated financial statements or related notes thereto.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Stockholders and Board of Directors

Cimarex Energy Co.:

Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Cimarex Energy Co. and subsidiaries (“the Company”) as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes (collectively, “the consolidated financial statements”). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2018, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated February 20, 2019 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Basis for Opinion

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

KPMG LLP

We have served as the Company’s auditor since 2002.

Denver, Colorado
February 20, 2019

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except share and per share information)

| | December 31, | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 800,666 | \$ 400,534 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance: | | |
| Trade | 122,065 | 100,356 |
| Oil and gas sales | 315,063 | 344,552 |
| Gas gathering, processing, and marketing | 17,072 | 15,266 |
| Oil and gas well equipment and supplies | 55,553 | 49,722 |
| Derivative instruments | 101,939 | 15,151 |
| Prepaid expenses | 7,554 | 8,518 |
| Other current assets | 4,227 | 1,536 |
| Total current assets | 1,424,139 | 935,635 |
| Oil and gas properties at cost, using the full cost method of accounting: | | |
| Proved properties | 18,566,757 | 17,513,460 |
| Unproved properties and properties under development, not being amortized | 436,325 | 476,903 |
| | 19,003,082 | 17,990,363 |
| Less—accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization, and impairment | (15,287,752) | (14,748,833) |
| Net oil and gas properties | 3,715,330 | 3,241,530 |
| Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation of \$324,631 and \$290,114, respectively | 257,686 | 210,922 |
| Goodwill | 620,232 | 620,232 |
| Derivative instruments | 9,246 | 2,086 |
| Other assets | 35,451 | 32,234 |
| | <u>\$ 6,062,084</u> | <u>\$ 5,042,639</u> |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable: | | |
| Trade | \$ 76,927 | \$ 68,883 |
| Gas gathering, processing, and marketing | 29,887 | 29,503 |
| Accrued liabilities: | | |
| Exploration and development | 124,674 | 115,762 |
| Taxes other than income | 33,622 | 23,687 |
| Other | 221,159 | 212,400 |
| Derivative instruments | 27,627 | 42,066 |
| Revenue payable | 194,811 | 187,273 |
| Total current liabilities | 708,707 | 679,574 |
| Long-term debt: | | |
| Principal | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Less—unamortized debt issuance costs and discount | (11,446) | (13,080) |
| Long-term debt, net | 1,488,554 | 1,486,920 |
| Deferred income taxes | 334,473 | 101,618 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 152,758 | 158,421 |
| Derivative instruments | 2,267 | 4,268 |
| Other liabilities | 45,539 | 43,560 |
| Total liabilities | 2,732,298 | 2,474,361 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 10) | | |
| Stockholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 15,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued | — | — |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 200,000,000 shares authorized, 95,755,797 and 95,437,434 shares issued, respectively | 958 | 954 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 2,785,188 | 2,764,384 |
| Retained earnings (accumulated deficit) | 542,885 | (199,259) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 755 | 2,199 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 3,329,786 | 2,568,278 |
| | <u>\$ 6,062,084</u> | <u>\$ 5,042,639</u> |

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)
(in thousands, except per share information)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Revenues: | | | |
| Oil sales | \$ 1,398,813 | \$ 981,646 | \$ 632,934 |
| Gas and NGL sales | 898,832 | 892,357 | 588,284 |
| Gas gathering and other | 41,180 | 43,751 | 36,033 |
| Gas marketing | 192 | 495 | 94 |
| | <u>2,339,017</u> | <u>1,918,249</u> | <u>1,257,345</u> |
| Costs and expenses: | | | |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | — | — | 757,670 |
| Depreciation, depletion, and amortization | 590,473 | 446,031 | 392,348 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 7,142 | 15,624 | 7,828 |
| Production | 293,213 | 262,180 | 232,002 |
| Transportation, processing, and other operating | 200,802 | 231,640 | 190,725 |
| Gas gathering and other | 41,964 | 35,840 | 31,785 |
| Taxes other than income | 125,169 | 89,864 | 61,946 |
| General and administrative | 80,850 | 79,996 | 73,901 |
| Stock compensation | 22,895 | 26,256 | 24,523 |
| (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net | (85,959) | (21,210) | 55,749 |
| Other operating expense, net | 15,500 | 1,314 | 755 |
| | <u>1,292,049</u> | <u>1,167,535</u> | <u>1,829,232</u> |
| Operating income (loss) | 1,046,968 | 750,714 | (571,887) |
| Other (income) and expense: | | | |
| Interest expense | 68,224 | 74,821 | 83,272 |
| Capitalized interest | (20,855) | (22,948) | (21,248) |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | — | 28,187 | — |
| Other, net | (22,908) | (11,342) | (10,707) |
| Income (loss) before income tax | 1,022,507 | 681,996 | (623,204) |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | 230,656 | 187,667 | (214,401) |
| Net income (loss) | <u>\$ 791,851</u> | <u>\$ 494,329</u> | <u>\$ (408,803)</u> |
| Earnings (loss) per share to common stockholders: | | | |
| Basic | <u>\$ 8.32</u> | <u>\$ 5.19</u> | <u>\$ (4.38)</u> |
| Diluted | <u>\$ 8.32</u> | <u>\$ 5.19</u> | <u>\$ (4.38)</u> |
| Comprehensive income (loss): | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 791,851 | \$ 494,329 | \$ (408,803) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | |
| Change in fair value of investments, net of tax of \$(425), \$106, and \$289, respectively | (1,444) | 1,254 | 504 |
| Total comprehensive income (loss) | <u>\$ 790,407</u> | <u>\$ 495,583</u> | <u>\$ (408,299)</u> |

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in thousands)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 791,851 | \$ 494,329 | \$ (408,803) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | — | — | 757,670 |
| Depreciation, depletion, and amortization | 590,473 | 446,031 | 392,348 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 7,142 | 15,624 | 7,828 |
| Deferred income taxes | 233,280 | 190,479 | (213,286) |
| Stock compensation | 22,895 | 26,256 | 24,523 |
| (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net | (85,959) | (21,210) | 55,749 |
| Settlements on derivative instruments | (24,429) | (1,633) | 7,437 |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | — | 28,187 | — |
| Changes in non-current assets and liabilities | (1,779) | 1,891 | 3,867 |
| Other, net | 105 | 5,677 | 1,805 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts receivable | 5,421 | (186,157) | (49,340) |
| Other current assets | (1,957) | (17,931) | 20,880 |
| Accounts payable and other current liabilities | 13,951 | 115,021 | 25,171 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 1,550,994 | 1,096,564 | 625,849 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Oil and gas capital expenditures | (1,566,583) | (1,233,126) | (699,558) |
| Other capital expenditures | (103,459) | (45,352) | (22,228) |
| Sales of oil and gas assets | 580,652 | 11,680 | 21,487 |
| Sales of other assets | 3,772 | 901 | 7,889 |
| Net cash used by investing activities | (1,085,618) | (1,265,897) | (692,410) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | |
| Borrowings of long-term debt | — | 748,110 | — |
| Repayments of long-term debt | — | (750,000) | — |
| Call premium, financing, and underwriting fees | (100) | (29,312) | (101) |
| Dividends paid | (55,243) | (30,532) | (38,024) |
| Employee withholding taxes paid upon the net settlement of equity-classified stock awards | (12,142) | (21,669) | (26,624) |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 2,241 | 394 | 4,804 |
| Net cash used by financing activities | (65,244) | (83,009) | (59,945) |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | 400,132 | (252,342) | (126,506) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 400,534 | 652,876 | 779,382 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 800,666 | \$ 400,534 | \$ 652,876 |

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(in thousands)

| | Common Stock | | Additional Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit) | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|---|--------------|--------|----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2015 | 94,821 | \$ 948 | \$ 2,762,976 | \$ (306,008) | \$ 441 | \$ 2,458,357 |
| Dividends paid on stock awards subsequently forfeited | — | — | 2 | 35 | — | 37 |
| Dividends declared (\$0.32 per share) | — | — | (22,805) | (7,583) | — | (30,388) |
| Net loss | — | — | — | (408,803) | — | (408,803) |
| Unrealized change in fair value of investments, net of tax | — | — | — | — | 504 | 504 |
| Issuance of restricted stock awards | 479 | 5 | (5) | — | — | — |
| Common stock reacquired and retired | (208) | (3) | (26,622) | — | — | (26,625) |
| Restricted stock forfeited and retired | (32) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exercise of stock options | 64 | 1 | 4,803 | — | — | 4,804 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 45,103 | — | — | 45,103 |
| Balance, December 31, 2016 | 95,124 | 951 | 2,763,452 | (722,359) | 945 | 2,042,989 |
| Dividends paid on stock awards subsequently forfeited | — | — | 11 | 32 | — | 43 |
| Dividends declared (\$0.32 per share) | — | — | (30,489) | — | — | (30,489) |
| Net income | — | — | — | 494,329 | — | 494,329 |
| Unrealized change in fair value of investments, net of tax | — | — | — | — | 1,254 | 1,254 |
| Issuance of restricted stock awards | 552 | 5 | (5) | — | — | — |
| Common stock reacquired and retired | (204) | (2) | (21,667) | — | — | (21,669) |
| Restricted stock forfeited and retired | (41) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exercise of stock options | 6 | — | 394 | — | — | 394 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 48,321 | — | — | 48,321 |
| Cumulative effect adjustment of adopting ASU 2016-09 (Note 6) | — | — | 4,393 | 28,739 | — | 33,132 |
| Other | — | — | (26) | — | — | (26) |
| Balance, December 31, 2017 | 95,437 | 954 | 2,764,384 | (199,259) | 2,199 | 2,568,278 |
| Dividends paid on stock awards subsequently forfeited | — | — | 34 | 18 | — | 52 |
| Dividends declared (\$0.68 per share) | — | — | (15,196) | (49,725) | — | (64,921) |
| Net income | — | — | — | 791,851 | — | 791,851 |
| Unrealized change in fair value of investments, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (1,444) | (1,444) |
| Issuance of restricted stock awards | 593 | 6 | (6) | — | — | — |
| Common stock reacquired and retired | (139) | — | (12,142) | — | — | (12,142) |
| Restricted stock forfeited or canceled and retired | (168) | (2) | 2 | — | — | — |
| Exercise of stock options | 33 | — | 2,241 | — | — | 2,241 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 45,871 | — | — | 45,871 |
| Balance, December 31, 2018 | 95,756 | \$ 958 | \$ 2,785,188 | \$ 542,885 | \$ 755 | \$ 3,329,786 |

See accompanying notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Cimarex Energy Co., a Delaware corporation, is an independent oil and gas exploration and production company. Our operations are mainly located in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Basis of Presentation

Our Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or GAAP. Our significant accounting policies are discussed below. The accounts of Cimarex and its subsidiaries are presented in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements. All intercompany accounts and transactions were eliminated in consolidation. Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2018 financial statement presentation.

Segment Information

We have determined that our business is comprised of only one segment because our gathering, processing, and marketing activities are ancillary to our production operations.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of our financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Areas of significance requiring the use of management's judgments include the estimation of proved oil and gas reserves used in calculating depletion, the estimation of future net revenues used in computing ceiling test limitations, the estimation of future abandonment obligations used in recording asset retirement obligations, and the assessment of goodwill. Estimates and judgments also are required in determining allowances for doubtful accounts, impairments of unproved properties and other assets, valuation of deferred tax assets, fair value measurements, and contingencies. We analyze our estimates and base them on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

The process of estimating quantities of oil and gas reserves is complex, requiring significant decisions in the evaluation of all available geological, geophysical, engineering, and economic data. The data for a given field may also change substantially over time as a result of numerous factors including, but not limited to, additional development activity, evolving production history, and continual reassessment of the viability of production under varying economic conditions. As a result, material revisions to existing reserve estimates may occur from time to time. Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure that our reserve estimates represent the most accurate assessments possible, subjective decisions, and available data for our various fields make these estimates generally less precise than other estimates included in financial statement disclosures.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in banks and investments readily convertible into cash, which have original maturities of three months or less. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates market value.

Oil and Gas Well Equipment and Supplies

Our oil and gas well equipment and supplies are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value, where net realizable value is based on estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal, and transportation. Declines in the price of oil and gas well equipment and supplies in future periods could cause us to recognize impairments on these assets. An impairment would not affect cash flow from operating activities, but would adversely affect our net income and stockholders' equity.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*****Oil and Gas Properties***

We use the full cost method of accounting for our oil and gas operations. All costs associated with property acquisition, exploration, and development activities are capitalized. Exploration and development costs include dry hole costs, geological and geophysical costs, direct overhead related to exploration and development activities, and other costs incurred for the purpose of finding oil and gas reserves. Salaries and benefits paid to employees directly involved in the acquisition, exploration, and development of properties, as well as other internal costs that can be directly identified with acquisition, exploration and development activities, are also capitalized. Under the full cost method of accounting, no gain or loss is recognized upon the disposition of oil and gas properties unless such disposition would significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to production expense in the period incurred.

Under the full cost method of accounting, we are required to perform quarterly ceiling test calculations to test our oil and gas properties for possible impairment. If the net capitalized cost of our oil and gas properties, as adjusted for income taxes, exceeds the ceiling limitation, the excess is charged to expense. The ceiling limitation is equal to the sum of: (i) the present value discounted at 10% of estimated future net revenues from proved reserves, (ii) the cost of properties not being amortized, and (iii) the lower of cost or estimated fair value of unproven properties included in the costs being amortized, as adjusted for income taxes. We currently do not have any unproven properties that are being amortized. Estimated future net revenues are determined based on trailing twelve-month average commodity prices and estimated proved reserve quantities, operating costs, and capital expenditures.

We did not recognize a ceiling test impairment during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 because the net capitalized cost of our oil and gas properties, as adjusted for income taxes, did not exceed the ceiling limitation. At December 31, 2018, a decline in the value of the ceiling limitation of approximately 24% or more would have resulted in an impairment. For the year ended December 31, 2016, full year impairments totaled \$757.7 million (\$481.4 million, net of tax). These impairments resulted primarily from the impact of decreases in the trailing twelve-month average prices for oil, gas, and NGLs utilized in determining the future net revenues from proved reserves. The quarterly ceiling test is primarily impacted by commodity prices, changes in estimated reserve quantities, reserves produced, overall exploration and development costs, depletion expense, and deferred taxes. If pricing conditions decline, or if there is a negative impact on one or more of the other components of the calculation, we may incur full cost ceiling test impairments in future quarters. The calculated ceiling limitation is not intended to be indicative of the fair market value of our proved reserves or future results. Impairment charges do not affect cash flow from operating activities, but do adversely affect our net income and various components of our balance sheet. Any impairment of oil and gas properties is not reversible at a later date.

Depletion of proved oil and gas properties is computed on the units-of-production method, whereby capitalized costs, including future development costs and asset retirement costs, are amortized over total estimated proved reserves. Changes in our estimate of proved reserve quantities, commodity prices, and impairment of oil and gas properties will cause corresponding changes in depletion expense in periods subsequent to these changes.

The capitalized costs of unproved properties, including those in wells in progress, are excluded from the costs being amortized. We do not have major development projects that are excluded from costs being amortized. On a quarterly basis, we evaluate excluded costs for inclusion in the costs to be amortized. Significant unproved properties are evaluated individually. Unproved properties that are not considered individually significant are aggregated for evaluation purposes and related costs are transferred to the costs to be amortized quarterly based on the application of historical factors.

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets consist primarily of gathering and plant facilities, vehicles, airplanes, office furniture, and computer equipment and software. These items are recorded at cost and are depreciated on the straight-line method based on expected lives of the individual assets, which range from 3 to 30 years.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price of business combinations over the fair value of the net assets acquired and is tested for impairment at least annually. In performing the goodwill test, we compare the fair value of our reporting unit with its carrying amount. If the carrying amount of the reporting unit were to exceed its fair value, an impairment charge would be recognized in the amount of this excess, limited to the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. We evaluate our goodwill for impairment in the fourth quarter of each year and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the possibility that goodwill may be impaired. Based upon our assessment as of October 31, 2018, goodwill was not impaired. It is possible that goodwill could become impaired in the future if commodity prices or other economic factors become unfavorable.

Revenue Recognition
Oil, Gas, and NGL Sales

Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (“ASC 606”), utilizing the modified retrospective approach, which we applied to contracts that were not completed as of that date. Because we utilized the modified retrospective approach, there was no impact to prior periods’ reported amounts. Application of ASC 606 has no impact on our net income or cash flows from operations; however, certain costs classified as Transportation, processing, and other operating in the statement of operations under prior accounting standards are now reflected as deductions from revenue under ASC 606. The following table presents the impact on our Oil sales, Gas sales, and NGL sales and on our Transportation, processing, and other operating costs from the application of ASC 606 in the current reporting period:

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | | | 2017 | 2016 |
| | Pre-ASC 606 Adoption | Impact of ASC 606 | Post-ASC 606 Adoption | As Reported | As Reported |
| Oil sales | \$ 1,398,813 | \$ — | \$ 1,398,813 | \$ 981,646 | \$ 632,934 |
| Gas sales | 425,233 | (16,482) | 408,751 | 516,936 | 388,786 |
| NGL sales | 518,410 | (28,329) | 490,081 | 375,421 | 199,498 |
| Total oil, gas, and NGL sales | \$ 2,342,456 | \$ (44,811) | \$ 2,297,645 | \$ 1,874,003 | \$ 1,221,218 |
| Transportation, processing, and other operating costs | \$ 245,613 | \$ (44,811) | \$ 200,802 | \$ 231,640 | \$ 190,725 |

Revenue is recognized from the sales of oil, gas, and NGLs when the customer obtains control of the product, when we have no further obligations to perform related to the sale, and when collectability is probable. All of our sales of oil, gas, and NGLs are made under contracts with customers, which typically include variable consideration based on monthly pricing tied to local indices and monthly volumes delivered. The nature of our contracts with customers does not require us to constrain that variable consideration or to estimate the amount of transaction price attributable to future performance obligations for accounting purposes. As of December 31, 2018, we had open contracts with customers with terms of one month to multiple years, as well as “evergreen” contracts that renew on a periodic basis if not canceled by us or the customer. Performance obligations under our contracts with customers are typically satisfied at a point-in-time through monthly delivery of oil, gas, and/or NGLs. Our contracts with customers typically require payment within one month of delivery.

Our gas and NGLs are sold under a limited number of contract structure types common in our industry. Under these contracts the gas and its components, including NGLs, may be sold to a single purchaser or the residue gas and NGLs may be sold to separate purchasers. Regardless of the contract structure type, the terms of these contracts compensate us for the value of the residue gas and NGLs at current market prices for each product, and are disaggregated in the tables above on that basis. Our oil typically is sold at specific delivery points under contract terms that also are common in our industry.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***Gas Gathering*

When we transport and/or process third-party gas associated with our equity gas, we recognize revenue for the fees charged to third-parties for such services.

Gas Marketing

When we market and sell gas for working interest owners, we act as agent under short-term sales and supply agreements and may earn a fee for such services. Revenues from such services are recognized as gas is delivered.

Gas Imbalances

Revenue from the sale of gas is recorded on the basis of gas actually sold by us. If our aggregate sales volumes for a well are greater (or less) than our proportionate share of production from the well, a liability (or receivable) is established to the extent there are insufficient proved reserves available to make-up the overproduced (or underproduced) imbalance. Imbalances have not been significant in the periods presented.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses are reported net of amounts reimbursed by working interest owners of the oil and gas properties operated by Cimarex and net of amounts capitalized pursuant to the full cost method of accounting.

Derivatives

Our derivative contracts are recorded on the balance sheet at fair value. Our firm sales contracts qualify for the normal purchase and normal sale exception. Contracts that qualify for this treatment do not require mark-to-market accounting treatment. See Note 4 for additional information regarding our derivative instruments.

Income Taxes

We record deferred tax assets and liabilities to account for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the financial statements and tax returns. We classify all deferred tax assets and liabilities as non-current. We routinely assess the realizability of our deferred tax assets. We routinely assess the realizability of our deferred tax assets. Numerous judgments and assumptions are inherent in this assessment, including the determination of future taxable income, which is affected by factors such as future operating conditions (particularly as related to prevailing oil and gas prices) and changing tax laws. If we conclude that it is more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized, the tax asset is reduced by a valuation allowance. We regularly assess and, if required, establish accruals for tax contingencies that could result from assessments of additional tax by taxing jurisdictions where the company operates. See Note 9 for additional information regarding our income taxes.

Contingencies

A provision for contingencies is charged to expense when the loss is probable and the cost can be reasonably estimated. Determining when expenses should be recorded for these contingencies and the appropriate amounts for accrual is a complex estimation process that includes subjective judgment. In many cases, this judgment is based on interpretation of laws and regulations, which can be interpreted differently by regulators and/or courts of law. We closely monitor known and potential legal, environmental, and other contingencies and determine when we should record losses for these items based on information available to us. See Note 10 for additional information regarding our contingencies.

Asset Retirement Obligations

We recognize the present value of the fair value of liabilities for retirement obligations associated with tangible long-lived assets in the period in which there is a legal obligation associated with the retirement of such assets and the amount can be reasonably estimated. The associated asset retirement costs are capitalized as part of the carrying amount

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

of the long-lived asset. This liability includes costs related to the abandonment of wells, the removal of facilities and equipment, and site restorations. In periods subsequent to the initial measurement of an asset retirement obligation at present value, a period-to-period increase in the carrying amount of the liability is recognized as accretion expense, which represents the effect of the passage of time on the amount of the liability. An equivalent amount is added to the carrying amount of the liability. If the fair value of a recorded asset retirement obligation changes, a revision is recorded to both the asset retirement obligation and the asset retirement capitalized cost. Capitalized costs are included as a component of the DD&A calculations. The current portion of our asset retirement obligations is recorded in “Accrued liabilities — Other” in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and cash payments for settlements of retirement obligations are classified as cash used in operating activities in the accompanying consolidated statements of cash flows. See Note 8 for additional information regarding our asset retirement obligations.

Stock-based Compensation

We recognize compensation cost related to all stock-based awards in the financial statements based on their estimated grant date fair value. We grant various types of stock-based awards including stock options, restricted stock (including awards with service-based vesting and market condition-based vesting provisions), and restricted stock units. The fair value of stock option awards is determined using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Service-based restricted stock and units are valued using the market price of our common stock on the grant date. The fair value of the market condition-based restricted stock is based on the grant date market value of the award utilizing a statistical analysis. Compensation cost is recognized ratably over the applicable vesting period. To the extent compensation cost relates to employees directly involved in oil and gas acquisition, exploration, and development activities, such amounts are capitalized to oil and gas properties. Amounts not capitalized to oil and gas properties are recognized as stock compensation expense. See Note 6 for additional information regarding our stock-based compensation.

Earnings (Loss) per Share

We calculate earnings (loss) per share recognizing that unvested share-based payment awards that contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents are “participating securities” and, therefore, should be included in computing earnings per share using the two-class earnings allocation method. The two-class method is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for each class of common stock and participating security according to dividends declared (or accumulated) and participation rights in undistributed earnings. Our unvested share-based payment awards, consisting of restricted stock and units, qualify as participating securities. See Note 7 for additional information regarding our earnings per share.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*. The key provision of Topic 842 is that a lessee must recognize (i) liabilities to make lease payments and (ii) right-of-use assets on its balance sheet. The ASU permits lessees to make a policy election to not recognize lease assets and liabilities for leases with terms of less than twelve months. Under current GAAP, a determination of whether a lease is a capital or operating lease is made at lease inception and no assets or liabilities are recognized for operating leases. Under Topic 842, the determination to be made at the inception of a contract is whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. Leases convey the right to control the use of an identified asset in exchange for consideration. Only the lease components of a contract must be accounted for in accordance with Topic 842. Non-lease components, such as activities that transfer a good or service to the customer, shall be accounted for under other applicable Topics. An entity may make a policy election to not separate lease and non-lease components and account for the non-lease components together with the lease components as a single lease component. Topic 842 retains a distinction between finance and operating leases concerning the recognition and presentation of the expense and payments related to leases in the statements of operations and comprehensive income and cash flows, however, both types of leases require the recognition of assets and liabilities on the balance sheet. Topic 842 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods within those fiscal years, with early adoption permitted. We will adopt Topic 842 effective January 1, 2019, recognizing a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings in the period of adoption. The primary effect of adoption will be to record assets and liabilities for contracts currently accounted for as operating leases, such as leases for office space, compressors, and other equipment.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In January 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-01, *Leases (Topic 842) Land Easement Practical Expedient for Transition to Topic 842*. This ASU provides an optional transition practical expedient to not evaluate under Topic 842 (discussed above) existing or expired land easements that were not previously accounted for as leases under the current leases guidance in Topic 840. An entity that elects this practical expedient should evaluate new or modified land easements under Topic 842 beginning at the date that the entity adopts Topic 842. Under the full cost method of accounting, we capitalize to oil and gas properties all property acquisition, exploration, and development costs, which include the costs of land easements. We plan to elect this practical expedient and continue to apply our current accounting policy to account for land easements that existed before our adoption of Topic 842 and will evaluate new or modified land easements under Topic 842 upon our adoption of Topic 842.

2. CAPITAL STOCK

Authorized capital stock consists of 200 million shares of common stock and 15 million shares of preferred stock. At December 31, 2018, there were 95.8 million shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock outstanding. See our Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for detailed capital stock activity.

Dividends

A cash dividend has been paid to stockholders in every quarter since the first quarter of 2006. A dividend of \$0.18 per share was declared in both the third and fourth quarters of 2018 while a dividend of \$0.16 per share was declared in the first and second quarters of 2018. In each quarter of 2017 and 2016 an \$0.08 per share dividend was declared. We typically declare dividends in one quarter and pay them in the next quarter. At December 31, 2018, we had dividends payable of \$17.3 million that was included in "Accrued liabilities — other". Dividends declared are recorded as a reduction of retained earnings to the extent retained earnings are available at the close of the period prior to the date of the declared dividend. Dividends in excess of retained earnings are recorded as a reduction of additional paid-in capital. During 2018, the dividend declared during the first quarter was recorded as a reduction of additional paid-in capital, while the remaining three dividends declared were recorded as a reduction of retained earnings. All dividends declared during 2017 and 2016 were recorded as a reduction of additional paid-in capital. Nonforfeitable dividends paid on stock awards that subsequently forfeit are reclassified out of retained earnings or additional paid-in capital, as applicable, to compensation expense in the period in which the forfeitures occur. Future dividend payments will depend on our level of earnings, financial requirements, and other factors considered relevant by our Board of Directors.

3. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt at December 31, 2018 and 2017 consisted of the following:

| (in thousands) | December 31, 2018 | | | December 31, 2017 | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Principal | Unamortized Debt Issuance Costs and Discount (1) | Long-term Debt, net | Principal | Unamortized Debt Issuance Costs and Discount (1) | Long-term Debt, net |
| 4.375% Senior Notes | \$ 750,000 | \$ (4,439) | \$ 745,561 | \$ 750,000 | \$ (5,383) | \$ 744,617 |
| 3.90% Senior Notes | 750,000 | (7,007) | 742,993 | 750,000 | (7,697) | 742,303 |
| Total long-term debt | <u>\$ 1,500,000</u> | <u>\$ (11,446)</u> | <u>\$ 1,488,554</u> | <u>\$ 1,500,000</u> | <u>\$ (13,080)</u> | <u>\$ 1,486,920</u> |

(1) At December 31, 2018, the unamortized debt issuance costs and discount related to the 3.90% notes were \$5.4 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. At December 31, 2017, the unamortized debt issuance costs and discount related to the 3.90% notes were \$5.9 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. The 4.375% notes were issued at par.

Bank Debt

In October 2015, we entered into a Credit Agreement for a senior unsecured revolving credit facility ("Credit Facility") with an aggregate commitment of \$1.0 billion, which matures October 16, 2020. There is no borrowing base subject to the discretion of the lenders based on the value of our proved reserves under the Credit Facility. As of

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2018, we had no bank borrowings outstanding under the Credit Facility, but did have letters of credit of \$2.5 million outstanding, leaving an unused borrowing availability of \$997.5 million.

At our option, borrowings under the Credit Facility may bear interest at either (a) LIBOR plus 1.125 - 2.0% based on the credit rating for our senior unsecured long-term debt, or (b) a base rate (as defined in the credit agreement) plus 0.125 - 1.0%, based on the credit rating for our senior unsecured long-term debt. Unused borrowings are subject to a commitment fee of 0.125 - 0.35%, based on the credit rating for our senior unsecured long-term debt.

The Credit Facility contains representations, warranties, covenants, and events of default that are customary for investment grade, senior unsecured bank credit agreements, including a financial covenant for the maintenance of a defined total debt-to-capital ratio of no greater than 65%. As of December 31, 2018, we were in compliance with all of the financial covenants.

At December 31, 2018 and 2017, we had \$2.2 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, of unamortized debt issuance costs associated with our Credit Facility which were recorded as deferred assets and included in "Other assets" in our balance sheets. The costs are being amortized to interest expense ratably over the life of the Credit Facility.

Subsequent Event

On February 5, 2019, we entered into an Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. Among other things, the amended and restated credit facility increases the aggregate commitment to \$1.25 billion with an option to increase the commitment to \$1.5 billion, and extends the maturity date to February 5, 2024.

Senior Notes

On April 10, 2017, we completed a cash tender offer to purchase any of our 5.875% notes for cash consideration of \$1,031.67 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but not including, the settlement date, with \$253.5 million aggregate principal amount of the notes validly tendered. We settled these tendered notes for \$268.1 million, including accrued interest. On May 12, 2017, we completed a redemption of the 5.875% notes remaining outstanding for \$1,029.38 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but not including, the redemption date, settling the notes for \$512.0 million, including accrued interest. We recognized a loss on early extinguishment of debt related to these transactions of \$28.2 million, composed primarily of tender and redemption premiums of \$22.6 million and the write-off of \$5.3 million of unamortized debt issuance costs. The original maturity date of the 5.875% notes was May 1, 2022.

On April 10, 2017, we issued \$750 million aggregate principal amount of 3.90% senior unsecured notes due May 15, 2027 at 99.748% of par to yield 3.93% per annum. We received \$741.8 million in net cash proceeds, after deducting underwriters' fees, discount, and debt issuance costs. The notes bear an annual interest rate of 3.90% and interest is payable semiannually on May 15 and November 15, with the first payment occurring November 15, 2017. Along with cash on hand, we used the proceeds to fund the settlement of the tendered and redeemed 5.875% notes.

In June 2014, we issued \$750 million aggregate principal amount of 4.375% senior unsecured notes at par. These notes are due June 1, 2024 and interest is payable semiannually on June 1 and December 1.

Each of our senior unsecured notes is governed by an indenture containing certain covenants, events of default, and other restrictive provisions with which we were in compliance as of December 31, 2018. The effective interest rate on the 4.375% notes and the 3.90% notes, including the amortization of debt issuance costs and discount, as applicable, is 4.50% and 4.01%, respectively. At December 31, 2018, we had accrued interest related to our notes of \$6.4 million that was included in "Accrued liabilities — other".

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
4. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

We periodically use derivative instruments to mitigate volatility in commodity prices. While the use of these instruments limits the downside risk of adverse price changes, their use may also limit future cash flow from favorable price changes. Depending on changes in oil and gas futures markets and management's view of underlying supply and demand trends, we may increase or decrease our derivative positions from current levels.

As of December 31, 2018, we have entered into oil and gas collars and oil basis swaps. Under our collars, we receive the difference between the published index price and a floor price if the index price is below the floor price or we pay the difference between the ceiling price and the index price if the index price is above the ceiling price. No amounts are paid or received if the index price is between the floor and the ceiling prices. By using a collar, we have fixed the minimum and maximum prices we can receive on the underlying production. Our basis swaps are settled based on the difference between a published index price minus a fixed differential and the applicable local index price under which the underlying production is sold. By using a basis swap, we have fixed the differential between the published index price and certain of our physical pricing points. For our Permian oil production, the basis swaps fix the price differential between the WTI NYMEX (Cushing Oklahoma) price and the WTI Midland price. For our Permian and Mid-Continent gas production, the contract prices in our collars are consistent with the index prices used to sell our production. The following tables summarize our outstanding derivative contracts as of December 31, 2018:

| Oil Collars | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2019: | | | | | |
| WTI (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (Bbls) | 2,790,000 | 2,821,000 | 2,208,000 | 1,472,000 | 9,291,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 53.94 | \$ 53.94 | \$ 55.67 | \$ 58.50 | \$ 55.07 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 66.88 | \$ 66.88 | \$ 70.03 | \$ 71.94 | \$ 68.43 |
| 2020: | | | | | |
| WTI (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (Bbls) | 728,000 | — | — | — | 728,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 60.00 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 60.00 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 75.85 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 75.85 |

(1) The index price for these collars is West Texas Intermediate ("WTI") as quoted on the New York Mercantile Exchange ("NYMEX").

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| Gas Collars | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2019: | | | | | |
| PEPL (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 10,800,000 | 10,920,000 | 8,280,000 | 5,520,000 | 35,520,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 2.05 | \$ 2.05 | \$ 1.93 | \$ 1.93 | \$ 2.00 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 2.42 | \$ 2.42 | \$ 2.34 | \$ 2.42 | \$ 2.40 |
| Perm EP (2) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 7,200,000 | 7,280,000 | 5,520,000 | 2,760,000 | 22,760,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.69 | \$ 1.69 | \$ 1.48 | \$ 1.37 | \$ 1.60 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 1.92 | \$ 1.92 | \$ 1.74 | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.84 |
| Waha (3) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 2,700,000 | 2,730,000 | 2,760,000 | 2,760,000 | 10,950,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.38 | \$ 1.38 | \$ 1.38 | \$ 1.38 | \$ 1.38 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.67 |
| 2020: | | | | | |
| PEPL (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 2,730,000 | — | — | — | 2,730,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.97 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.97 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 2.51 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 2.51 |
| Perm EP (2) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 910,000 | — | — | — | 910,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.40 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.40 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 1.70 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.70 |
| Waha (3) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 1,820,000 | — | — | — | 1,820,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.40 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.40 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 1.73 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.73 |

(1) The index price for these collars is Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line, Tex/OK Mid-Continent Index (“PEPL”) as quoted in Platt’s Inside FERC.

(2) The index price for these collars is El Paso Natural Gas Company, Permian Basin Index (“Perm EP”) as quoted in Platt’s Inside FERC.

(3) The index price for these collars is Waha West Texas Natural Gas Index (“Waha”) as quoted in Platt’s Inside FERC.

| Oil Basis Swaps | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2019: | | | | | |
| WTI Midland (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (Bbls) | 2,610,000 | 2,639,000 | 2,208,000 | 1,472,000 | 8,929,000 |
| Weighted Avg Differential (2) | \$ (5.46) | \$ (5.46) | \$ (6.50) | \$ (7.79) | \$ (6.10) |
| 2020: | | | | | |
| WTI Midland (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (Bbls) | 637,000 | 637,000 | — | — | 1,274,000 |
| Weighted Avg Differential (2) | \$ (0.40) | \$ (0.40) | \$ — | \$ — | \$ (0.40) |

(1) The index price we pay under these basis swaps is WTI Midland as quoted by Argus Americas Crude.

(2) The index price we receive under these basis swaps is WTI as quoted on the NYMEX less the weighted average differential shown in the table.

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The following tables summarize our derivative contracts entered into subsequent to December 31, 2018 through February 15, 2019:

| Oil Collars | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2019: | | | | | |
| WTI (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (Bbls) | 62,000 | 182,000 | 184,000 | 184,000 | 612,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 62.60 | \$ 62.60 | \$ 62.60 | \$ 62.60 | \$ 62.60 |
| 2020: | | | | | |
| WTI (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (Bbls) | 182,000 | 182,000 | — | — | 364,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 50.00 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 62.60 | \$ 62.60 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 62.60 |

(1) The index price for these collars is WTI as quoted on the NYMEX.

| Gas Collars | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2019: | | | | | |
| PEPL (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 1,770,000 | 2,730,000 | 2,760,000 | 2,760,000 | 10,020,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.95 | \$ 1.95 | \$ 1.95 | \$ 1.95 | \$ 1.95 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 2.26 | \$ 2.26 | \$ 2.26 | \$ 2.26 | \$ 2.26 |
| Perm EP (2) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 590,000 | 910,000 | 920,000 | 920,000 | 3,340,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 2.13 | \$ 2.13 | \$ 2.13 | \$ 2.13 | \$ 2.13 |
| Waha (3) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 590,000 | 910,000 | 920,000 | 920,000 | 3,340,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 1.90 | \$ 1.90 | \$ 1.90 | \$ 1.90 | \$ 1.90 |
| 2020: | | | | | |
| PEPL (1) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 2,730,000 | 2,730,000 | — | — | 5,460,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.95 | \$ 1.95 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.95 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 2.26 | \$ 2.26 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 2.26 |
| Perm EP (2) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 910,000 | 910,000 | — | — | 1,820,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.50 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 2.13 | \$ 2.13 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 2.13 |
| Waha (3) | | | | | |
| Volume (MMBtu) | 910,000 | 910,000 | — | — | 1,820,000 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Floor | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.50 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.50 |
| Weighted Avg Price - Ceiling | \$ 1.90 | \$ 1.90 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.90 |

(1) The index price for these collars is PEPL as quoted in Platt's Inside FERC.

(2) The index price for these collars is Perm EP as quoted in Platt's Inside FERC.

(3) The index price for these collars is Waha as quoted in Platt's Inside FERC.

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Derivative Gains and Losses

Net gains and losses on our derivative instruments are a function of fluctuations in the underlying commodity index prices as compared to the contracted prices and the monthly cash settlements (if any) of the instruments. We have elected not to designate our derivatives as hedging instruments for accounting purposes and, therefore, we do not apply hedge accounting treatment to our derivative instruments. Consequently, changes in the fair value of our derivative instruments and cash settlements on the instruments are included as a component of operating costs and expenses as either a net gain or loss on derivative instruments. Cash settlements of our contracts are included in cash flows from operating activities in our statements of cash flows. The following table presents the components of (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net for the periods indicated.

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Decrease (increase) in fair value of derivative instruments, net: | | | |
| Gas contracts | \$ 15,742 | \$ (40,226) | \$ 27,462 |
| Oil contracts | (126,130) | 17,383 | 35,724 |
| | (110,388) | (22,843) | 63,186 |
| Cash (receipts) payments on derivative instruments, net: | | | |
| Gas contracts | (13,794) | (4,557) | (6,467) |
| Oil contracts | 38,223 | 6,190 | (970) |
| | 24,429 | 1,633 | (7,437) |
| (Gain) loss on derivative instruments, net | \$ (85,959) | \$ (21,210) | \$ 55,749 |

Derivative Fair Value

Our derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on our balance sheet using Level 2 inputs and are subject to master netting arrangements, which allow us to offset recognized asset and liability fair value amounts on contracts with the same counterparty. Our accounting policy is to not offset asset and liability positions in our balance sheets.

The following tables present the amounts and classifications of our derivative assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, as well as the potential effect of netting arrangements on our recognized derivative asset and liability amounts.

| (in thousands) | Balance Sheet Location | December 31, 2018 | |
|---|--|-------------------|-----------|
| | | Asset | Liability |
| Oil contracts | Current assets — Derivative instruments | \$ 94,240 | \$ — |
| Gas contracts | Current assets — Derivative instruments | 7,699 | — |
| Oil contracts | Non-current assets — Derivative instruments | 9,246 | — |
| Oil contracts | Current liabilities — Derivative instruments | — | 23,378 |
| Gas contracts | Current liabilities — Derivative instruments | — | 4,249 |
| Oil contracts | Non-current liabilities — Derivative instruments | — | 311 |
| Gas contracts | Non-current liabilities — Derivative instruments | — | 1,956 |
| Total gross amounts presented in the balance sheet | | 111,185 | 29,894 |
| Less: gross amounts not offset in the balance sheet | | (29,894) | (29,894) |
| Net amount | | \$ 81,291 | \$ — |

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| (in thousands) | Balance Sheet Location | December 31, 2017 | |
|---|--|-------------------|-----------|
| | | Asset | Liability |
| Gas contracts | Current assets — Derivative instruments | \$ 15,151 | \$ — |
| Gas contracts | Non-current assets — Derivative instruments | 2,086 | — |
| Oil contracts | Current liabilities — Derivative instruments | — | 42,066 |
| Oil contracts | Non-current liabilities — Derivative instruments | — | 4,268 |
| Total gross amounts presented in the balance sheet | | 17,237 | 46,334 |
| Less: gross amounts not offset in the balance sheet | | (17,237) | (17,237) |
| Net amount | | \$ — | \$ 29,097 |

We are exposed to financial risks associated with our derivative contracts from non-performance by our counterparties. We mitigate our exposure to any single counterparty by contracting with a number of financial institutions, each of which have a high credit rating and is a member of our bank credit facility. Our member banks do not require us to post collateral for our derivative liability positions, nor do we require our counterparties to post collateral for our benefit. In the future we may enter into derivative instruments with counterparties outside our bank group to obtain competitive terms and to spread counterparty risk.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (exit price). The FASB has established a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels. Level 1 inputs are the highest priority and consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities. Level 2 are inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 are unobservable inputs for an asset or liability.

The following table provides fair value measurement information for certain assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2018 and 2017.

| (in thousands) | December 31, 2018 | | December 31, 2017 | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Book Value | Fair Value | Book Value | Fair Value |
| Financial Assets (Liabilities): | | | | |
| 4.375% Notes due 2024 | \$ (750,000) | \$ (744,578) | \$ (750,000) | \$ (797,010) |
| 3.90% Notes due 2027 | \$ (750,000) | \$ (701,273) | \$ (750,000) | \$ (767,813) |
| Derivative instruments — assets | \$ 111,185 | \$ 111,185 | \$ 17,237 | \$ 17,237 |
| Derivative instruments — liabilities | \$ (29,894) | \$ (29,894) | \$ (46,334) | \$ (46,334) |

Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment, including the consideration of factors specific to the asset or liability. The fair value (Level 1) of our fixed rate notes was based on their last traded value before period end. The fair value of our derivative instruments (Level 2) was estimated using option pricing models. These models use certain variables including forward price and volatility curves and the strike prices for the instruments. The fair value estimates are adjusted relative to non-performance risk as appropriate. See Note 4 for further information on the fair value of our derivative instruments.

Other Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of our cash, cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities approximate fair value because of the short-term maturities and/or liquid nature of these assets and liabilities. Included in “Accrued liabilities — other” at December 31, 2018 are: (i) accrued operating expenses (e.g. production, transportation, and gathering expenses) of approximately \$69.1 million, (ii) accrued general and administrative, primarily payroll-related, costs of approximately \$47.4 million, and (iii) an accrual of approximately \$35.8 million representing the amount by which checks issued, but not yet presented to our banks, exceeded balances inapplicable.

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bank accounts. Included in “Accrued liabilities — other” at December 31, 2017 are: (i) accrued operating expenses (e.g. production, transportation, and gathering expenses) of approximately \$61.3 million and (ii) accrued general and administrative, primarily payroll-related, costs of approximately \$54.6 million .

Most of our accounts receivable balances are uncollateralized and result from transactions with other companies in the oil and gas industry. Concentration of customers may impact our overall credit risk because our customers may be similarly affected by changes in economic or other conditions within the industry.

We conduct credit analyses prior to making any sales to new customers or increasing credit for existing customers and may require parent company guarantees, letters of credit, or prepayments when deemed necessary.

We routinely assess the recoverability of all material accounts receivable to determine their collectability. We accrue a reserve to the allowance for doubtful accounts when it is probable that a receivable will not be collected and the amount of the reserve may be reasonably estimated. At December 31, 2018 and 2017 , the allowance for doubtful accounts totaled \$2.7 million and \$2.2 million , respectively.

Major Customers

In each of the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 , we made sales to two customers that each amounted to 10% or more of our consolidated revenues for the respective year. Sales to those two customers accounted for 23% and 21% , respectively, of our consolidated revenues in 2018 and 21% and 13% , respectively, of our consolidated revenues in 2017. In 2016, we made sales to one customer that amounted to 10% or more of our consolidated revenues that year. Sales to that customer accounted for 20% of our consolidated revenues in 2016.

If any one of our major customers was to stop purchasing our production, we believe there are a number of other purchasers to whom we could sell our production with some delay. If multiple significant customers were to discontinue purchasing our production, we believe there would be challenges initially, but ample markets to handle the disruption.

6. STOCK-BASED AND OTHER COMPENSATION***Equity Incentive Plan***

Our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan (the “2014 Plan”) was approved by stockholders in May 2014 and our previous plan was terminated at that time. Outstanding awards under the previous plan were not impacted. A total of 6.6 million shares of common stock may be issued under the 2014 Plan, including shares available from the previous plan. The 2014 Plan provides for grants of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units, dividend equivalents, and other stock-based awards.

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Stock-based Compensation Cost

We have recognized non-cash stock-based compensation cost as shown below. Historical amounts may not be representative of future amounts as the value of future awards may vary from historical amounts.

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Restricted stock awards: | | | |
| Performance stock awards | \$ 23,083 | \$ 26,020 | \$ 24,183 |
| Service-based stock awards | 20,385 | 19,746 | 18,391 |
| | 43,468 | 45,766 | 42,574 |
| Stock option awards | 2,456 | 2,599 | 2,565 |
| Total stock compensation cost | 45,924 | 48,365 | 45,139 |
| Less amounts capitalized to oil and gas properties | (23,029) | (22,109) | (20,616) |
| Stock compensation expense | \$ 22,895 | \$ 26,256 | \$ 24,523 |

Periodic stock compensation expense will fluctuate based on the grant date fair value of awards, the number of awards, the requisite service period of the awards, employee forfeitures, and the timing of the awards. The decrease in total stock compensation cost in 2018 as compared to 2017 is primarily due to performance stock award forfeitures during the second quarter 2018. Our accounting policy is to account for forfeitures in compensation cost when they occur.

We adopted Accounting Standards Update 2016-09, *Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting* ("ASU 2016-09") on January 1, 2017. The amendments within ASU 2016-09 related to the timing of when excess tax benefits and tax benefits on dividends on nonvested equity shares are recognized and accounting for forfeitures were adopted using a modified retrospective method. In accordance with this method, we recorded a cumulative-effect adjustment that increased beginning deferred income tax assets by \$33.1 million, reduced beginning accumulated deficit by \$28.7 million, and increased beginning additional paid-in capital by \$4.4 million. The amendments within ASU 2016-09 related to the presentation in the statement of cash flows of excess tax benefits and cash outflows attributable to the payment of employee tax withholdings on the net settlement of equity-classified awards were adopted using a retrospective method. In accordance with this method, we adjusted the statement of cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2016 by increasing both net cash provided by operating activities and net cash used by financing activities by \$26.6 million for the payment of employee tax withholdings on the net settlement of equity-classified awards. There were no cash flows related to excess tax benefits during the year ended December 31, 2016.

Restricted Stock

The following table provides information about restricted stock awards granted during the last three years.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| | 2018 | | 2017 | | 2016 | |
| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value |
| Performance stock awards | 123,533 | \$ 90.26 | 300,525 | \$ 89.46 | 269,915 | \$ 117.63 |
| Service-based stock awards | 469,438 | \$ 81.29 | 251,312 | \$ 94.04 | 208,724 | \$ 114.61 |
| Total restricted stock awards | 592,971 | \$ 83.16 | 551,837 | \$ 91.55 | 478,639 | \$ 116.31 |

Performance stock awards were granted to eligible executives and are subject to service and market condition-based vesting determined by our stock price performance relative to a defined peer group's stock price performance. For awards granted prior to 2018, after three years of continued service, an executive will be entitled to vest in 50% to

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100% of the award. For awards granted in 2018, after three years of continued service, an executive will be entitled to vest in 0% to 200% of the award. In accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), certain of the amounts awarded may not be deductible for tax purposes. Service-based stock awards granted to other eligible employees and non-employee directors have vesting schedules ranging from one to five years. The majority of our service-based stock awards cliff vest five years from the grant date.

Compensation cost for the performance stock awards is based on the grant date fair value of the award utilizing a Monte Carlo simulation model. Compensation cost for the service-based stock awards is based upon the grant date market value of the award. Such costs are recognized ratably over the applicable vesting period.

The following table provides information on restricted stock activity during the year.

| | Service-based | | Performance (subject to market conditions) | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value |
| Outstanding as of January 1, 2018 | 910,251 | \$ 103.98 | 834,379 | \$ 97.83 |
| Vested | (213,983) | \$ 80.17 | (170,045) | \$ 87.12 |
| Granted | 469,438 | \$ 81.29 | 123,533 | \$ 90.26 |
| Canceled (1) | — | \$ — | (75,533) | \$ 87.13 |
| Forfeited | (29,824) | \$ 102.35 | (62,238) | \$ 98.01 |
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2018 | 1,135,882 | \$ 99.12 | 650,096 | \$ 100.42 |

(1) These performance shares were canceled since the market condition was not satisfied as of the end of the performance period.

The total vest date market value of restricted stock that vested was \$34.1 million in 2018, \$54.4 million in 2017, and \$67.9 million in 2016.

Unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested restricted stock at December 31, 2018 was \$102.3 million. We expect to recognize that cost over a weighted average period of 2.9 years.

Restricted Units

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, we had 8,838 restricted units outstanding. These represent restricted units held by a non-employee director who has elected to defer payment of common stock represented by the units until termination of his service on the Board of Directors.

Stock Options

Options outstanding as of December 31, 2018 expire seven to ten years from the grant date and have service-based vesting whereby the awards vest in increments of one-third on each of the first three anniversary dates of the grant. The exercise price for an option under the 2014 Plan is the closing price of our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") on the date of grant. The previous plans provided that all grants have an exercise price of the average of the high and low prices of our common stock as reported by the NYSE on the date of grant.

Compensation cost related to stock options is based on the grant date fair value of the award and is recognized ratably over the applicable vesting period. We estimate the fair value using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Expected volatilities are based on the historical volatility of our common stock. We also use historical data to estimate the expected years until exercise. We use U.S. Treasury bond rates in effect at the grant date for our risk-free interest rates.

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The following summarizes information regarding options granted, including the assumptions used to determine the fair value of those options.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Options granted | 92,050 | 96,100 | 89,850 |
| Weighted average grant date fair value | \$ 26.71 | \$ 28.37 | \$ 33.38 |
| Weighted average exercise price | \$ 83.28 | \$ 92.37 | \$ 114.07 |
| Total fair value (in thousands) | \$ 2,458 | \$ 2,727 | \$ 2,999 |
| Expected years until exercise | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| Expected stock volatility | 34.7% | 35.0% | 36.7% |
| Dividend yield | 0.9% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Risk-free interest rate | 2.7% | 1.7% | 1.0% |

Information about outstanding stock options is summarized below.

| | Number of Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Term | Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Outstanding as of January 1, 2018 | 382,688 | \$ 100.17 | | |
| Exercised | (33,233) | \$ 67.44 | | |
| Granted | 92,050 | \$ 83.28 | | |
| Canceled | (5,345) | \$ 117.27 | | |
| Forfeited | (15,828) | \$ 95.70 | | |
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2018 | 420,332 | \$ 99.01 | 4.2 years | \$ 526 |
| Exercisable as of December 31, 2018 | 250,091 | \$ 104.43 | 3.1 years | \$ 526 |

The following table provides information regarding options exercised and the grant date fair value of options vested.

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cash received from option exercises | \$ 2,241 | \$ 394 | \$ 4,804 |
| Intrinsic value of options exercised | \$ 1,030 | \$ 257 | \$ 2,994 |
| Grant date fair value of options vested | \$ 2,547 | \$ 2,227 | \$ 2,486 |

The following summary reflects the status of non-vested stock options as of December 31, 2018 and changes during the year.

| | Number of Options | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Non-vested as of January 1, 2018 | 172,906 | \$ 31.08 | \$ 102.15 |
| Vested | (78,887) | \$ 32.28 | \$ 105.37 |
| Granted | 92,050 | \$ 26.71 | \$ 83.28 |
| Forfeited | (15,828) | \$ 29.61 | \$ 95.70 |
| Non-vested as of December 31, 2018 | 170,241 | \$ 28.29 | \$ 91.05 |

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As of December 31, 2018 , there was \$3.6 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options. We expect to recognize that cost over a weighted average period of 1.4 years .

Other Compensation

We maintain and sponsor a contributory 401(k) plan for our employees. Employer contributions related to the plan were \$13.1 million , \$10.4 million , and \$6.7 million for 2018 , 2017 , and 2016 , respectively. Included in the 2018 and 2017 amounts are accrued employer discretionary contributions. No such employer discretionary contributions occurred in 2016.

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7. EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE

The calculations of basic and diluted net earnings (loss) per common share under the two-class method are presented below. Earnings (loss) per share are based on actual figures rather than the rounded figures presented.

| (in thousands, except per share information) | Year Ended December 31, 2018 | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Income (Numerator) | Shares (Denominator) | Per-Share Amount |
| Net income | \$ 791,851 | | |
| Less: net income attributable to participating securities | (11,087) | | |
| Basic earnings per share | | | |
| Income available to common stockholders | 780,764 | 93,793 | \$ 8.32 |
| Effects of dilutive securities | | | |
| Options (1) | 3 | 27 | |
| Diluted earnings per share | | | |
| Income available to common stockholders and assumed conversions | \$ 780,767 | 93,820 | \$ 8.32 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2017 | | | |
| (in thousands, except per share information) | Income (Numerator) | Shares (Denominator) | Per-Share Amount |
| Net income | \$ 494,329 | | |
| Less: net income attributable to participating securities | (8,551) | | |
| Basic earnings per share | | | |
| Income available to common stockholders | 485,778 | 93,466 | \$ 5.19 |
| Effects of dilutive securities | | | |
| Options (1) | 3 | 43 | |
| Diluted earnings per share | | | |
| Income available to common stockholders and assumed conversions | \$ 485,781 | 93,509 | \$ 5.19 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2016 | | | |
| (in thousands, except per share information) | Income (Numerator) | Shares (Denominator) | Per-Share Amount |
| Net loss | \$ (408,803) | | |
| Less: net loss attributable to participating securities (2) | — | | |
| Basic loss per share | | | |
| Loss available to common stockholders | (408,803) | 93,379 | \$ (4.38) |
| Effects of dilutive securities | | | |
| Options (1) | — | — | |
| Diluted loss per share | | | |
| Loss available to common stockholders and assumed conversions | \$ (408,803) | 93,379 | \$ (4.38) |

(1) Inclusion of certain shares would have an anti-dilutive effect; therefore, 387.7 thousand , 302.9 thousand , and 2.1 million shares were excluded from the calculations for the years ended December 31, 2018 , 2017 , and 2016 , respectively.

(2) Participating securities do not participate in losses.

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8. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

The following table reflects the components of the change in the carrying amount of the asset retirement obligation for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 .

| (in thousands) | 2018 | 2017 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Asset retirement obligation at January 1, | \$ 169,469 | \$ 154,523 |
| Liabilities incurred | 9,899 | 17,996 |
| Liability settlements and disposals | (21,550) | (12,947) |
| Accretion expense | 7,318 | 7,534 |
| Revisions of estimated liabilities | 1,768 | 2,363 |
| Asset retirement obligation at December 31, | 166,904 | 169,469 |
| Less current obligation | 14,146 | 11,048 |
| Long-term asset retirement obligation | \$ 152,758 | \$ 158,421 |

Liabilities incurred in 2017 includes \$10.5 million for the estimated liability to decommission two offshore properties in the Gulf of Mexico in which we were a prior lessee. In January 2018, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (“BSEE”) notified us and other prior lessees that the current lessee of the properties had filed a petition for relief under the bankruptcy code and, as a result, had defaulted on its obligation to decommission the properties. Consequently, BSEE ordered us and other prior lessees to decommission all wells, pipelines, platforms, and other facilities related to these properties. Our estimate of our liability may change as we refine our understanding of the extent of our obligations under the orders from BSEE and obtain additional information on decommissioning costs.

During 2018 and 2017 , the liability settlements and disposals included \$13.7 million and \$0.5 million , respectively, related to properties that were sold.

9. INCOME TAXES

The components of the provision for income taxes are as follows:

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Current taxes: | | | |
| Federal benefit | \$ (3,007) | \$ (2,810) | \$ — |
| State expense (benefit) | 383 | (2) | (1,115) |
| | (2,624) | (2,812) | (1,115) |
| Deferred taxes: | | | |
| Federal expense (benefit) | 211,717 | 173,859 | (201,529) |
| State expense (benefit) | 21,563 | 16,620 | (11,757) |
| | 233,280 | 190,479 | (213,286) |
| | \$ 230,656 | \$ 187,667 | \$ (214,401) |

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Federal income tax expense (benefit) for the years presented differs from the amounts that would be provided by applying the U.S. federal income tax rate, primarily due to the effect of state income taxes, non-deductible expenses, revisions, and changes in tax laws and tax rates enacted in the period. Reconciliations of the income tax expense (benefit) calculated at the federal statutory rate of 21% for 2018 and 35% for 2017 and 2016 to the total income tax expense (benefit) are as follows:

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Provision at statutory rate | \$ 214,726 | \$ 238,699 | \$ (218,122) |
| Effect of state taxes | 18,795 | 10,074 | (10,237) |
| Revision of previous balances | — | — | 7,181 |
| Tax credits and other permanent differences | 1,583 | 5,442 | 5,296 |
| Change in valuation allowance, net | (1,376) | 486 | 1,481 |
| Stock-based compensation | (3,072) | (5,888) | — |
| Impact of reduction in federal statutory rate | — | (61,146) | — |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | \$ 230,656 | \$ 187,667 | \$ (214,401) |

As a result of the enactment of H.R.1 (Public Law 115-97) on December 22, 2017, the company remeasured the deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2017 to reflect the reduction in the U.S. income tax rate from 35% to 21% for years after 2018. As a result of this remeasurement, we recorded an income tax benefit of \$61.1 million and a corresponding \$61.1 million decrease in net deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2017. We believe the accounting for the effects of H.R.1 recognized in the December 31, 2017 financial statements is materially complete. During 2018, no other adjustments were made. As a result of H.R.1, we expect our effective tax rate in future periods will be lower than in periods prior to enactment. In addition, the limitations on utilization of net operating losses and deductibility of interest and executive compensation may result in the payment of cash taxes earlier than expected.

The components of net deferred taxes are as follows:

| (in thousands) | December 31, | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Assets: | | |
| Stock compensation and other accrued amounts | \$ 8,229 | \$ 31,044 |
| Net operating loss carryforward, net of valuation allowance | 266,011 | 313,738 |
| Credit carryforward | 3,513 | 3,995 |
| | 277,753 | 348,777 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | (612,226) | (450,395) |
| Net deferred tax liabilities | \$ (334,473) | \$ (101,618) |

At December 31, 2018, we had a U.S. net tax operating loss carryforward of approximately \$1.16 billion, which would expire in years 2032 through 2037. We believe that the carryforward will be utilized before it expires. We recorded a \$7.0 million increase to the net operating loss carryforward at December 31, 2018 and a corresponding \$5.6 million increase to the valuation allowance related to state net operating losses. The total valuation allowance on state net operating losses at December 31, 2018 was \$109.3 million since it is not more likely than not that these additional state net operating losses will be utilized before they expire. There are no other valuation allowances. We also had enhanced oil recovery and marginal well credits of \$3.5 million at December 31, 2018.

At December 31, 2018 and 2017, we had no unrecognized tax benefits that would impact our effective rate and we have made no provisions for interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The tax years 2015 through 2017 remain open to examination by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States. We file tax returns with various

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

state taxing authorities which remain open to examination for tax years 2014 through 2017 . We do not anticipate the need for any significant income tax payments in the near term.

10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES***Lease Commitments***

We have various commitments for office space under operating lease arrangements. During the years ended December 31, 2018 , 2017 , and 2016 , rent expense for these operating leases approximated \$13.2 million , \$13.1 million , and \$12.9 million , respectively.

Shown below are future minimum cash payments required under these leases as of December 31, 2018 .

| (in thousands) | |
|--|------------------|
| 2019 | \$ 9,849 |
| 2020 | 10,790 |
| 2021 | 11,000 |
| 2022 | 11,130 |
| 2023 | 11,433 |
| Later years | 20,831 |
| Total future minimum lease payments | \$ 75,033 |

We have various commitments for compressor equipment under operating lease arrangements totaling \$34.8 million with lease terms expiring in the next 1 - 35 months .

Other Commitments

At December 31, 2018 , we had estimated commitments of approximately: (i) \$498.3 million to finish drilling, completing, or performing other work on wells and various other infrastructure projects in progress and (ii) \$24.9 million to finish gathering system construction in progress.

At December 31, 2018 , we had firm sales contracts to deliver approximately 316.9 Bcf of gas over the next 6.1 years . If we do not deliver this gas, our estimated financial commitment, calculated using the January 2019 index price, would be approximately \$814.7 million . The value of this commitment will fluctuate due to price volatility and actual volumes delivered. However, we believe no financial commitment will be due based on our current proved reserves and production levels from which we can fulfill these volumetric obligations.

In connection with gas gathering and processing agreements, we have volume commitments over the next 9.0 years . If we do not deliver the committed gas or NGLs, as the case may be, the estimated maximum amount that would be payable under these commitments, calculated as of December 31, 2018 , would be approximately \$336.0 million . However, we believe no financial commitment will be due based on our current proved reserves and production levels from which we can fulfill these volumetric obligations.

We have minimum volume delivery commitments associated with agreements to reimburse connection costs to various pipelines. If we do not deliver this gas, the estimated maximum amount that would be payable under these commitments, calculated as of December 31, 2018 , would be approximately \$57.3 million . Of this total, we have accrued a liability of \$2.5 million representing the estimated amount we will have to pay due to insufficient forecasted volumes at particular connection points.

At December 31, 2018 , we have various firm transportation agreements for gas pipeline capacity with end dates ranging from 2019 - 2025 under which we will have to pay an estimated \$27.8 million over the remaining terms of the agreements. These agreements were entered into to support our residue marketing efforts, and we believe we have sufficient reserves that will utilize this firm transportation.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

All of the noted commitments were routine and made in the ordinary course of our business.

Litigation

In the ordinary course of business, we are involved with various litigation matters. When a loss contingency exists, we assess whether it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability has been incurred and, if so, we determine if the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated, all in accordance with guidance established by the FASB, and adjust our accruals accordingly. Though some of the related claims may be significant, the resolution of them, we believe, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations after consideration of current accruals.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Helmerich & Payne, Inc. (“H&P”) provides contract drilling services to Cimarex. Cimarex incurred drilling costs of approximately \$80.1 million, \$52.6 million, and \$18.3 million related to these services during the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. Hans Helmerich, a director of Cimarex, is Chairman of the Board of Directors of H&P.

12. SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cash paid during the period for: | | | |
| Interest expense (net of capitalized amounts of \$19,969, \$23,113, and \$20,308, respectively) | \$ 45,357 | \$ 52,245 | \$ 59,282 |
| Income taxes | \$ — | \$ 3 | \$ 13 |
| Cash received for income tax refunds | \$ 760 | \$ 111 | \$ 1,450 |

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****13. ACQUISITIONS AND DIVESTITURES**

On August 31, 2018, we closed on the divestiture of oil and gas properties principally located in Ward County, Texas for a sales price of \$544.5 million, as adjusted to reflect the resolution of all asserted defects. As of December 31, 2018, we have received \$534.6 million in net cash proceeds as adjusted for customary closing adjustments to reflect an effective date of April 1, 2018 and transaction costs. Final settlement, which will reflect customary post-closing adjustments, is scheduled to occur by the end of first quarter 2019. This divestiture did not significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves, therefore, in accordance with the full cost method of accounting, no gain or loss was recognized.

On November 18, 2018, we entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger to acquire Resolute Energy Corporation (“Resolute”) in a cash and stock transaction valued at a total purchase price of approximately \$1.6 billion, including the assumption of Resolute’s long-term debt, which had an outstanding principal balance of \$710.0 million as of September 30, 2018. Under the terms of the agreement, Resolute shareholders will have the right to receive 0.3943 shares of Cimarex common stock, \$35.00 per share in cash, or a combination of \$14.00 per share in cash and 0.2366 shares of Cimarex common stock. The amount of stock and cash is subject to proration for a total stock and cash mix of 60% and 40%, respectively. The transaction, which is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter 2019, is subject to the approval of Resolute shareholders and the satisfaction of certain regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)

Oil and Gas Reserve Information— Proved reserve quantities are based on estimates prepared by Cimarex in accordance with guidelines established by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

Reserve definitions comply with definitions of Rule 4-10(a) (1)-(32) of Regulation S-X of the SEC. All of our reserve estimates are maintained by our internal Corporate Reservoir Engineering group, which is comprised of reservoir engineers and engineering technicians. The objectives and management of this group are separate from and independent of the exploration and production functions of our company. The technical employee primarily responsible for overseeing the reserve estimation process is our Vice President of Corporate Engineering. This individual graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and has more than 24 years of practical experience in reserve evaluation. He has been directly involved in the annual reserve reporting process of Cimarex since 2002 and has served in his current role for the past 14 years.

DeGolyer and MacNaughton, an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm, performed an independent evaluation of our estimated net reserves representing greater than 80% of the total future net revenue discounted at 10% attributable to the total interests owned by Cimarex as of December 31, 2018. The individual primarily responsible for overseeing the evaluation is a Senior Vice President with DeGolyer and MacNaughton and a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas with over 34 years of experience in oil and gas reservoir studies and reserves evaluations.

Proved reserves are those quantities of oil, gas, and NGLs which, by analysis of geosciences 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. The project to extract the hydrocarbons must have commenced or the operator must be reasonably certain that it will commence the project within a reasonable time.

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved reserves and projecting future rates of production and the timing of development expenditures. The estimation of our proved reserves employs one or more of the following: production trend extrapolation, analogy, volumetric assessment, and material balance analysis. Techniques including review of production and pressure histories, analysis of electric logs and fluid tests, and interpretations of geologic and geophysical data are also involved in this estimation process.

The following table summarizes the trailing twelve-month index prices used in the reserves estimates for 2018, 2017, and 2016. These prices are prior to adjustments for fixed and determinable amounts under provisions in existing contracts, location, grade, and quality.

| | December 31, | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Gas price per Mcf | \$ 3.10 | \$ 2.98 | \$ 2.48 |
| Oil price per Bbl | \$ 65.56 | \$ 51.34 | \$ 42.75 |
| NGL price per Bbl | \$ 21.03 | \$ 19.09 | \$ 14.37 |

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)

The following table sets forth our estimates of our proved, proved developed, and proved undeveloped oil, gas, and NGL reserves as of December 31, 2018, 2017, 2016, and 2015 and changes in our proved reserves for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016. All of our proved reserves are located entirely within the U.S.

| | Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MMbbls) | NGL (MMbbls) | Total (MMBOE) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Total proved reserves: | | | | |
| December 31, 2015 | 1,516,952 | 107,798 | 124,277 | 484,901 |
| Revisions of previous estimates | 5,888 | (4,357) | 6,670 | 3,293 |
| Extensions and discoveries | 123,175 | 19,419 | 14,050 | 53,998 |
| Purchases of reserves | 959 | 1 | — | 161 |
| Production | (168,227) | (16,528) | (14,200) | (58,765) |
| Sales of reserves | (7,327) | (455) | (164) | (1,840) |
| December 31, 2016 | 1,471,420 | 105,878 | 130,633 | 481,748 |
| Revisions of previous estimates | (39,749) | (1,225) | (2,099) | (9,951) |
| Extensions and discoveries | 363,774 | 53,464 | 42,692 | 156,786 |
| Purchases of reserves | 642 | 42 | 78 | 227 |
| Production | (187,468) | (20,861) | (17,374) | (69,479) |
| Sales of reserves | (984) | (60) | (70) | (294) |
| December 31, 2017 | 1,607,635 | 137,238 | 153,860 | 559,037 |
| Revisions of previous estimates | (132,577) | (4,348) | 3,777 | (22,667) |
| Extensions and discoveries | 342,810 | 53,763 | 47,614 | 158,512 |
| Purchases of reserves | 3 | — | — | 1 |
| Production | (205,837) | (24,710) | (21,994) | (81,010) |
| Sales of reserves | (20,713) | (15,405) | (3,821) | (22,678) |
| December 31, 2018 | 1,591,321 | 146,538 | 179,436 | 591,195 |
| Proved developed reserves: | | | | |
| December 31, 2015 | 1,129,490 | 89,189 | 87,549 | 364,987 |
| December 31, 2016 | 1,144,720 | 92,032 | 99,176 | 381,994 |
| December 31, 2017 | 1,334,510 | 114,116 | 126,227 | 462,761 |
| December 31, 2018 | 1,398,729 | 116,339 | 151,566 | 501,027 |
| Proved undeveloped reserves: | | | | |
| December 31, 2015 | 387,462 | 18,609 | 36,728 | 119,914 |
| December 31, 2016 | 326,700 | 13,846 | 31,457 | 99,754 |
| December 31, 2017 | 273,125 | 23,122 | 27,633 | 96,276 |
| December 31, 2018 | 192,592 | 30,199 | 27,870 | 90,168 |

Year-end 2018 proved reserves increased approximately 6% from year-end 2017 proved reserves, to 591.2 MMBOE. Proved gas reserves were 1.59 Tcf, proved oil reserves were 146.5 MMBbls, and proved NGL reserves were 179.4 MMBbls. Our reserves in the Permian Basin accounted for 57% of total proved reserves, with nearly all of the remainder in the Mid-Continent.

During 2018, we added 158.5 MMBOE of proved reserves through extensions and discoveries, primarily in the Permian Basin and Mid-Continent where we added 120.3 MMBOE and 38.0 MMBOE, respectively. In addition, we had net negative revisions of 22.7 MMBOE. The revisions included decreases of 38.6 MMBOE for the removal of PUD reserves whose development will likely be delayed beyond five years of initial disclosure and 7.7 MMBOE related to increases in operating expenses. These decreases were partially offset by increases of 2.7 MMBOE in price-related revisions and 20.9 MMBOE of net technical revisions. The majority of the technical revisions were related to better than expected performance from wells with initial production in late 2017 and positive adjustments to PUD reserves converted to proved developed reserves during 2018.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)**

During 2017 , we added 156.8 MMBOE of proved reserves through extensions and discoveries, primarily in Permian Basin and Mid-Continent where we added 109.6 MMBOE and 47.2 MMBOE, respectively. In addition, we had net negative revisions of 10.0 MMBOE. The revisions included decreases of 41.5 MMBOE for the removal of PUD reserves whose development will likely be delayed beyond five years of initial disclosure and 7.3 MMBOE related to increases in operating expenses. These decreases were partially offset by increases of 31.2 MMBOE in price-related revisions and 7.6 MMBOE of net technical revisions related primarily to better than expected performance from wells with initial production in late 2016.

During 2016 , we added 54.0 MMBOE of proved reserves through extensions and discoveries, primarily in Permian Basin and Mid-Continent, where we added 33.1 MMBOE and 20.3 MMBOE, respectively. In addition, we had net positive revisions of 3.3 MMBOE. The revisions included increases of 21.0 MMBOE for net performance revisions and 23.1 MMBOE related to decreases in operating expenses, partially offset by negative revisions of 40.8 MMBOE due to lower commodity prices. The performance revisions resulted primarily from positive adjustments to previously booked PUD reserves (12.1 MMBOE) and better than expected performance from wells with initial production in late 2015.

At December 31, 2018 , we had PUD reserves of 90.2 MMBOE, down 6.1 MMBOE, or 6% , from 96.3 MMBOE of PUD reserves at December 31, 2017 . Changes in our PUD reserves are summarized in the table below.

| | PUD Reserves (MMBOE) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PUD reserves at December 31, 2017 | 96.3 |
| Converted to developed | (28.9) |
| Additions | 53.8 |
| Net revisions | (31.0) |
| PUD reserves at December 31, 2018 | 90.2 |

During 2018 , we invested \$264.5 million to develop and convert 30% of our 2017 PUD reserves to proved developed reserves. During 2017 , we invested \$69.5 million to develop and convert 10% of our 2016 PUD reserves to proved developed reserves. During 2016 , we invested \$108.8 million to develop and convert 14% of our 2015 PUD reserves to proved developed reserves.

During 2018 , 50.9 MMBOE, or 95% , of our 53.8 MMBOE of PUD reserve additions occurred in the Permian Basin, while the remainder of the additions were in our western Oklahoma Cana area. At December 31, 2018 , 78% of our PUD reserves were in the Permian Basin, while the remainder were in our western Oklahoma Cana area. We have no PUD reserves that have remained undeveloped for five years or more after initial disclosure and we have no PUD reserves whose scheduled development is beyond five years of initial disclosure.

During 2018 , we had net negative PUD reserve revisions of 31.0 MMBOE. Of this total, 38.6 MMBOE was for the removal of PUD reserves whose development will likely be delayed beyond five years of initial disclosure. Partially offsetting this were 7.6 MMBOE of positive revisions related primarily to refinement of ownership and adjustments to hydrocarbon type curves based on recent development results.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)

Costs Incurred— The following table sets forth the capitalized costs incurred in our oil and gas production, exploration, and development activities.

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Costs incurred during the year: | | | |
| Acquisition of properties | | | |
| Proved | \$ 62 | \$ 938 | \$ 2,678 |
| Unproved | 102,666 | 135,565 | 67,961 |
| Exploration | 6,341 | 11,804 | 5,814 |
| Development | 1,487,453 | 1,140,548 | 672,842 |
| Oil and gas expenditures | 1,596,522 | 1,288,855 | 749,295 |
| Property sales | (581,799) | (11,680) | (24,687) |
| | 1,014,723 | 1,277,175 | 724,608 |
| Asset retirement obligation, net | (2,004) | 9,416 | (7,950) |
| | <u>\$ 1,012,719</u> | <u>\$ 1,286,591</u> | <u>\$ 716,658</u> |

Aggregate Capitalized Costs— The table below reflects the aggregate capitalized costs relating to our oil and gas producing activities at December 31, 2018 .

| (in thousands) | |
|---|---------------------|
| Proved properties | \$ 18,566,757 |
| Unproved properties and properties under development, not being amortized | 436,325 |
| | <u>19,003,082</u> |
| Less-accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization, and impairments | (15,287,752) |
| Net oil and gas properties | <u>\$ 3,715,330</u> |

Costs Not Being Amortized— The following table summarizes oil and gas property costs not being amortized at December 31, 2018 , by year that the costs were incurred.

| (in thousands) | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 2018 | \$ 198,949 |
| 2017 | 102,258 |
| 2016 | 39,846 |
| 2015 and prior | 95,272 |
| | <u>\$ 436,325</u> |

Of the costs not being amortized, \$110.1 million (25%) relates to unevaluated wells in progress and \$46.3 million (11%) is capitalized interest. The remaining \$279.9 million (64%) is for land and seismic expenditures, most of which were for costs invested in Permian Basin (\$197.0 million) and Mid-Continent (\$75.4 million). On a quarterly basis, we evaluate excluded costs for inclusion in the costs to be amortized. Significant unproved properties are evaluated individually. Unproved properties that are not considered individually significant are aggregated for evaluation purposes and related costs are transferred to the costs to be amortized quarterly based on the application of historical factors. We expect to include these costs in the amortization computation as we continue with our exploration and development plans.

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)

Oil and Gas Operations— The following table contains direct revenue and cost information relating to our oil and gas exploration and production activities for the periods indicated. We have no long-term supply or purchase agreements with governments or authorities in which we act as producer. Income tax expense related to our oil and gas operations is computed using the effective tax rate for the period, with the 2017 effective tax rate adjusted to remove the impact of the reduction in the federal statutory rate.

| (in thousands, except per BOE) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Oil, gas, and NGL revenues from production | \$ 2,297,645 | \$ 1,874,003 | \$ 1,221,218 |
| Less operating costs and income taxes: | | | |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | — | — | 757,670 |
| Depletion | 538,919 | 399,328 | 346,003 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 7,142 | 15,624 | 7,828 |
| Production | 293,213 | 262,180 | 232,002 |
| Transportation, processing, and other operating | 218,614 | 254,730 | 210,144 |
| Taxes other than income | 125,169 | 89,864 | 61,946 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | 251,897 | 310,937 | (135,665) |
| | 1,434,954 | 1,332,663 | 1,479,928 |
| Results of operations from oil and gas producing activities | \$ 862,691 | \$ 541,340 | \$ (258,710) |
| Depletion rate per BOE | \$ 6.65 | \$ 5.75 | \$ 5.89 |

Standardized Measure of Future Net Cash Flows— The Standardized Measure of Discounted Future Net Cash Flows Relating to Proved Oil and Gas Reserves (“Standardized Measure”) is calculated in accordance with guidance provided by the FASB. The Standardized Measure does not purport, nor should it be interpreted, to present the fair value of a company’s proved oil and gas reserves. Fair value would require, among other things, consideration of expected future economic and operating conditions, varying price and cost assumptions, and risks inherent in reserve estimates.

Under the Standardized Measure, future cash inflows are based upon the forecasted future production of year-end proved reserves. Future cash inflows are then reduced by estimated future production and development costs to determine net pre-tax cash flow. Future income taxes are computed by applying the statutory tax rate to the excess of pre-tax cash flow over our tax basis in the associated oil and gas properties. Tax credits and permanent differences are also considered in the future income tax calculation. Future net cash flow after income taxes is discounted using a 10% annual discount rate to arrive at the Standardized Measure.

The following summary sets forth our Standardized Measure.

| (in thousands) | December 31, | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Future cash inflows | \$ 14,050,367 | \$ 11,967,325 | \$ 7,576,211 |
| Future production costs | (4,889,601) | (4,360,599) | (2,970,891) |
| Future development costs | (1,017,318) | (948,735) | (794,298) |
| Future income tax expenses | (1,303,762) | (882,519) | (507,145) |
| Future net cash flows | 6,839,686 | 5,775,472 | 3,303,877 |
| 10% annual discount for estimated timing of cash flows | (2,824,499) | (2,490,471) | (1,411,259) |
| Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows | \$ 4,015,187 | \$ 3,285,001 | \$ 1,892,618 |

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)

The estimates of cash flows shown above are based upon the unweighted trailing twelve-month average first-day-of-the-month benchmark prices. See table above under ***Oil and Gas Reserve Information*** for prices used in determining the Standardized Measure. If future gas sales are covered by contracts at specified prices, the contract prices would be used. Prices are market driven and will fluctuate due to supply and demand factors, seasonality, and geopolitical and economic factors.

The following are the principal sources of change in the Standardized Measure.

| (in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Standardized Measure, beginning of period | \$ 3,285,001 | \$ 1,892,618 | \$ 1,934,131 |
| Sales, net of production costs | (1,660,649) | (1,267,229) | (717,126) |
| Net change in sales prices, net of production costs | 377,178 | 855,024 | (429,956) |
| Extensions and discoveries, net of future production and development costs | 1,738,993 | 1,443,577 | 517,702 |
| Changes in future development costs | 194,523 | 298,819 | 167,387 |
| Previously estimated development costs incurred during the period | 335,954 | 78,398 | 110,945 |
| Revision of quantity estimates | 96,783 | (65,376) | 15,701 |
| Accretion of discount | 372,482 | 212,192 | 227,904 |
| Change in income taxes | (284,186) | (210,519) | 115,609 |
| Purchases of reserves in place | — | 2,255 | 429 |
| Sales of reserves | (300,592) | (1,666) | (9,440) |
| Change in production rates and other | (140,300) | 46,908 | (40,668) |
| Standardized Measure, end of period | <u>\$ 4,015,187</u> | <u>\$ 3,285,001</u> | <u>\$ 1,892,618</u> |

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.
SUPPLEMENTAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

| 2018 | Quarter | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | First | Second | Third | Fourth |
| (in thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 567,134 | \$ 556,274 | \$ 591,488 | \$ 624,121 |
| Expenses, net | 380,816 | 415,277 | 443,134 | 307,939 |
| Net income | \$ 186,318 | \$ 140,997 | \$ 148,354 | \$ 316,182 |
| Earnings per share to common stockholders: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.96 | \$ 1.48 | \$ 1.56 | \$ 3.32 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.96 | \$ 1.48 | \$ 1.56 | \$ 3.32 |

| 2017 | Quarter | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | First | Second | Third | Fourth |
| (in thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 447,176 | \$ 456,452 | \$ 463,681 | \$ 550,940 |
| Expenses, net | 316,204 | 359,190 | 372,282 | 376,244 |
| Net income | \$ 130,972 | \$ 97,262 | \$ 91,399 | \$ 174,696 |
| Earnings per share to common stockholders: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.38 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 0.96 | \$ 1.83 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.38 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 0.96 | \$ 1.83 |

The sum of the individual quarterly earnings per common share amounts may not agree with year-to-date earnings per common share because each quarter's computation is based on the number of shares outstanding at the end of the applicable quarter using the two-class method.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

EVALUATION OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Cimarex's management, under the supervision and with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), have evaluated the effectiveness of Cimarex's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act)) as of December 31, 2018. Based on that evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures are effective in providing reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods required by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the CEO and CFO, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Cimarex's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act). The company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our internal control over financial reporting also includes those policies and procedures that:

- (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets;
- (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors; and
- (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of assets that could have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements.

Because of inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

As of December 31, 2018, Cimarex's management assessed the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria set forth in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on that assessment, management concluded that the internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2018.

Our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, has audited the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and has issued a report as of December 31, 2018, which follows this report.

CHANGES IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our most recent fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2018 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Stockholders and Board of Directors

Cimarex Energy Co.:

Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited Cimarex Energy Co. and subsidiaries' (the "Company") internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB"), the consolidated balance sheets of the Company as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements), and our report dated February 20, 2019 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado
February 20, 2019

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III**ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Information concerning the directors of Cimarex required under this item is incorporated by reference from the Cimarex Energy Co. definitive Proxy Statement for the May 8, 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days subsequent to December 31, 2018. The executive officers of Cimarex as of February 20, 2019 were:

| Name | Age | Office |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| Thomas E. Jorden | 61 | Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President |
| Joseph R. Albi | 60 | Executive Vice President — Operations, Chief Operating Officer |
| Stephen P. Bell | 64 | Executive Vice President — Business Development |
| G. Mark Burford | 51 | Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Francis B. Barron | 56 | Senior Vice President — General Counsel |
| John A. Lambuth | 56 | Senior Vice President — Exploration |
| Gary R. Abbott | 46 | Vice President — Corporate Engineering |
| Timothy A. Ficker | 51 | Vice President — Controller, Chief Accounting Officer, and Assistant Secretary |

There are no family relationships by blood, marriage, or adoption among any of the above executive officers. All executive officers are elected annually by the board of directors to serve for one year or until a successor is elected and qualified. There is no arrangement or understanding between any of the officers and any other person pursuant to which he or she was selected as an executive officer.

THOMAS E. JORDEN was elected Chairman of the Board effective August 14, 2012 after being named President and Chief Executive Officer effective September 30, 2011. Since December 8, 2003, Mr. Jorden served as Executive Vice President of Exploration and had served in a similar capacity since September 30, 2002. Prior to September 2002, Mr. Jorden was with Key Production Company, Inc., where he served as Vice President of Exploration (October 1999 to September 2002) and Chief Geophysicist (November 1993 to September 1999). Prior to joining Key, Mr. Jorden was with Union Pacific Resources.

JOSEPH R. ALBI was named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer effective September 30, 2011. Mr. Albi served as Executive Vice President of Operations since March 1, 2005. Since December 8, 2003, Mr. Albi served as Senior Vice President of Corporate Engineering. From September 30, 2002 to December 8, 2003, he served as Vice President of Engineering. From June 1994 to September 2002, Mr. Albi was with Key Production Company, Inc. where he served as Vice President of Engineering and Manager of Engineering.

STEPHEN P. BELL was named Executive Vice President, Business Development effective September 13, 2012. Since September 2002, Mr. Bell served as Senior Vice President of Business Development and Land. Prior to its merger with Cimarex, Mr. Bell was with Key Production Company, Inc. since February 1994. In September 1999, he was appointed Senior Vice President, Business Development and Land. From February 1994 to September 1999, he served as Vice President, Land.

G. MARK BURFORD was named Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in September 2015. He was appointed Vice President, Capital Markets and Planning in December 2010. Mr. Burford joined Cimarex in April 2005 as Director of Capital Markets. Prior to joining Cimarex, he was Director of Investor Relations for Whiting Petroleum and Tom Brown, Inc. His experience also includes equity research with Petrie Parkman & Co., an investment banking firm, and public accounting.

FRANCIS B. BARRON joined Cimarex as Senior Vice President, General Counsel in July 2013. From February 2004 until July 2013, Mr. Barron served in various capacities at Bill Barrett Corporation, a publicly traded, Denver-based oil and gas exploration and development company, including as Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary. He also served as Chief Financial Officer from November 2006 until March 2007. Prior to February 2004, Mr. Barron was a partner at the Denver, Colorado office of the law firm of Patton Boggs LLP as well as a partner at Bearman Talesnick & Clowdus Professional Corporation. Mr. Barron's practice included corporate, securities, and business law for publicly traded oil and gas companies.

JOHN A. LAMBUTH was named Senior Vice President of Exploration in December 2015. Prior to his promotion, he served as the Company's Vice President of Exploration since September 2012 and Chief Geophysicist, a position he held since joining Cimarex in 2004. Mr. Lambuth began his career in 1985 with Shell Oil Co., where he held various positions in exploration and in research and development. Immediately prior to joining Cimarex, he spent three years as onshore Exploration Manager of El Paso Energy Company.

GARY R. ABBOTT was elected Vice President of Corporate Engineering March 1, 2005. Since January 2002, Mr. Abbott served as manager, Corporate Reservoir Engineering. From April 1999 to January 2002, Mr. Abbott was a reservoir engineer with Key Production Company, Inc.

TIMOTHY A. FICKER was appointed Vice President, Controller, Chief Accounting Officer, and Assistant Secretary in December 2016 to be effective in February 2017 and previously served as the Company's Controller since September 2016. Prior to joining Cimarex, he was the Chief Financial Officer of Alcova Management LLC, Venoco, Inc., and Infinity Energy Resources Inc. Mr. Ficker previously served as an audit partner in KPMG LLP's energy audit practice in Denver and as an audit partner for Arthur Andersen LLP, where he served clients primarily in the energy industry.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information required under this item is incorporated by reference from the Cimarex Energy Co. definitive Proxy Statement for the May 8, 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days subsequent to December 31, 2018.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The following table sets forth information with respect to the equity compensation plans available to directors, officers, and employees of the company at December 31, 2018:

| Plan Category | (a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants, and rights | (b) Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants, and rights | (c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) |
|--|---|--|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | 420,332 | \$ 99.01 | 908,278 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | — | — | — |
| Total | 420,332 | \$ 99.01 | 908,278 |

The remaining information required under this item is incorporated by reference from the Cimarex Energy Co. definitive Proxy Statement for the May 8, 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days subsequent to December 31, 2018.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information required under this item is incorporated by reference from the Cimarex Energy Co. definitive Proxy Statement for the May 8, 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days subsequent to December 31, 2018.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Information required under this item is incorporated by reference from the Cimarex Energy Co. definitive Proxy Statement for the May 8, 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days subsequent to December 31, 2018.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

| | | Page |
|---------|---|------|
| (a) (1) | The following financial statements are included in Item 8 to this 10-K: | |
| | Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2018 and 2017 | 64 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016 | 65 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016 | 66 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016 | 67 |
| | Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | 68 |
| (2) | Financial statement schedules—None | |
| (3) | Exhibits: | |

Exhibits not incorporated by reference to a prior filing are designated by an asterisk (*) and are filed herewith; all exhibits not so designated are incorporated by reference to a prior SEC filing as indicated. All management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements are designated by a plus sign (+).

| Exhibit | Title |
|---------------------|---|
| 2.1 | Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co., CR Sub 1 Inc., CR Sub 2 LLC and Resolute Energy Corporation (filed as Exhibit 2.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Cimarex Energy Co. (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated June 7, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 3.2 | Amended and Restated By-laws of Cimarex Energy Co. dated November 11, 2015 (filed as Exhibits 3.1 and 3.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2015 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 4.1 | Specimen Certificate of Cimarex Energy Co. common stock (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 17, 2012 (Registration No. 333-183939) and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 4.2 | Debt Securities Indenture dated as of April 5, 2012, by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee included as Exhibit 4.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 5, 2012 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.3 | First Supplemental Indenture dated as of April 5, 2012, by and among Cimarex Energy Co., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee included as Exhibit 4.2 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 5, 2012 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.4 | Form of 5.875% Senior Notes due 2022 included in Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 5, 2012 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.5 | Indenture dated as of June 4, 2014, by and between Cimarex Energy Co. and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee included as Exhibit 4.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 4, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |

| Exhibit | Title |
|----------------------|---|
| 4.6 | First Supplemental Indenture dated as of June 4, 2014, by and among Cimarex Energy Co., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee included as Exhibit 4.2 to Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 4, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.7 | Form of 4.375% Senior Notes due 2024 included in Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 4, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.8 | Form of Indenture by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.7 to Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 21, 2015 (Registration No. 333-183939) and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 4.9 | Indenture dated as of April 10, 2017, by and between Cimarex Energy Co. and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee included as Exhibit 4.1 to Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 10, 2017 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.10 | First Supplemental Indenture dated as of April 10, 2017, by and between Cimarex Energy Co. and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee included as Exhibit 4.2 to Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 10, 2017 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.11 | Form of 3.90% Senior Notes due 2027 included in Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 10, 2017 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 10.1 | Credit Agreement dated as of July 14, 2011, among Cimarex, the Administrative Agent, the Co-Syndication Agents, the Co-Documentation Agents and the Lenders filed on July 18, 2011 (Commission File No. 001-31446) as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 10.2 | First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of July 19, 2012, among Cimarex, the Guarantors, the Administrative Agent, and the Lenders filed on May 5, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 10.3 | Second Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of May 1, 2014, among Cimarex, the Guarantors, the Administrative Agent, and the Lenders filed on May 5, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) as Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 10.4 | Employment Agreement, dated October 25, 1993, by and between Thomas E. Jorden and Key Production Company, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 dated May 9, 2002 (Registration No. 333-87948) and incorporated herein by reference). + |
| 10.5 | Amendment to Employment Agreement effective January 1, 2009 between Cimarex Energy Co. and Thomas E. Jorden (filed as Exhibit 10.11 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). + |
| 10.6 | Employment Agreement, dated February 2, 1994, by and between Stephen P. Bell and Key Production Company, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 10.8 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 dated May 9, 2002 (Registration No. 333-87948) and incorporated herein by reference). + |
| 10.7 | Amendment to Employment Agreement effective January 1, 2009 between Cimarex Energy Co. and Stephen P. Bell (filed as Exhibit 10.13 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). + |

| Exhibit | Title |
|------------------------------|---|
| <u>10.8</u> | <u>Employment Agreement, dated March 11, 1994, by and between Joseph R. Albi and Key Production Company, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 10.9 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 dated May 9, 2002 (Registration No. 333-87948) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.9</u> | <u>Amendment to Employment Agreement effective January 1, 2009 between Cimarex Energy Co. and Joseph R. Albi (filed as Exhibit 10.15 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.10</u> | <u>Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Incentive Plan of Cimarex Energy Co. effective January 1, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 10.16 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001- 31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.11</u> | <u>2011 Equity Incentive Plan adopted May 18, 2011 (filed as Appendix A to the Definitive Proxy Statement 14-A filed on March 23, 2011 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.12</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Award of Performance Stock and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 filed on August 4, 2011 (Commission File no. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.13</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.3 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 filed on August 4, 2011 (Commission File no. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.14</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Nonqualified Stock Option and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 filed on August 4, 2011 (Commission File no. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.15</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant and Award Agreement (Other Stock Award with performance conditions) (filed as Exhibit 10.15 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed on February 26, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.16</u> | <u>2014 Equity Incentive Plan adopted May 15, 2014 (filed as Appendix A to the Definitive Proxy Statement 14-A filed on April 1, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.17</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock (Director) and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014 filed on August 6, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.18</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Nonqualified Stock Option and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014 filed on August 6, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.19</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.3 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014 filed on August 6, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.20</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock and Award Agreement (Performance Award) (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014 filed on August 6, 2014 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.21</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock and Award Agreement (Performance Award) (filed as Exhibit 10.23 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed on February 25, 2015 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |

| Exhibit | Title |
|------------------------------|---|
| <u>10.22</u> | <u>Deferred Compensation Plan for Nonemployee Directors adopted May 19, 2004, as amended and restated effective January 1, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 10.18 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.23</u> | <u>Cimarex Energy Co. Supplemental Savings Plan (amended and restated, effective January 1, 2009) (filed as Exhibit 10.19 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001- 31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.24</u> | <u>Cimarex Energy Co. Change in Control Severance Plan dated effective April 1, 2005, amended and restated effective January 1, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 10.20 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed on February 27, 2009 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.25</u> | <u>Amendment to Cimarex Energy Co. Change in Control Severance Plan dated effective March 19, 2013 (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 20, 2013 (Commission File No. 001- 31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.26</u> | <u>Form of Indemnification Agreement between Cimarex Energy Co. and each of its executive officers and directors (filed as Exhibit 10.20 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 filed on February 26, 2013 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.27</u> | <u>Credit Agreement Dated as of October 16, 2015, by and among Cimarex, the Administrative Agent, the Syndication Agent, the Documentation Agents, and the Lenders (filed on October 19, 2015 as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference).</u> |
| <u>10.28</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock (Director) and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant’s Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 2, 2015 and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.29</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock (Director) and Award Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on August 9, 2017 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). +</u> |
| <u>10.30</u> | <u>Purchase and Sale Agreement dated May 23, 2018 between Cimarex Energy Co., Prize Energy Resources, Inc., and Magnum Hunter Production, Inc. (collectively, as “Seller”) and Callon Petroleum Operating Company as Buyer (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 24, 2018 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference).</u> |
| <u>10.31</u> | <u>Form of Notice of Grant of Restricted Stock and Award Agreement (Performance Award). * +</u> |
| <u>10.32</u> | <u>Amended and Restated Credit Agreement Dated as of February 5, 2019, by and among Cimarex, as Borrower, the Administrative Agent, the Syndication Agent, the Co-Documents Agents, the Lenders, and the Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners (filed on February 7, 2019 as Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference).</u> |
| <u>10.33</u> | <u>Voting Agreement, dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and Monarch Alternative Capital LP, MDRA GP LP and Monarch GP LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant’s Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference).</u> |
| <u>10.34</u> | <u>Voting Agreement, dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co., John C. Goff and certain other related entities thereto (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant’s Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference).</u> |

| Exhibit | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.35 | Voting Agreement, dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and RR Advisors, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.3 to Registrant's Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 10.36 | Voting Agreement, dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and Richard Betz (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to Registrant's Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 10.37 | Voting Agreement, dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and Nicholas J. Sutton (filed as Exhibit 10.5 to Registrant's Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 10.38 | Voting Agreement, dated as of November 18, 2018, by and among Cimarex Energy Co. and Theodore Gazulis (filed as Exhibit 10.6 to Registrant's Form 8-K (Commission File No. 001-31446) dated November 20, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 14.1 | Revised Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for Directors, Officers, and Employees dated August 30, 2016 (filed as Exhibit 14.1 and 14.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 1, 2016 (Commission File No. 001-31446) and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 21.1 | Significant subsidiaries of the Registrant. * |
| 23.1 | Consent of KPMG LLP. * |
| 23.2 | Consent of DeGolyer and MacNaughton. * |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney of directors of the Registrant. * |
| 31.1 | Certification of Thomas E. Jorden, Chief Executive Officer of Cimarex Energy Co., pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. * |
| 31.2 | Certification of G. Mark Burford, Chief Financial Officer of Cimarex Energy Co., pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. * |
| 32.1 | Certification of Thomas E. Jorden, Chief Executive Officer of Cimarex Energy Co., pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. * |
| 32.2 | Certification of G. Mark Burford, Chief Financial Officer of Cimarex Energy Co., pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. * |
| 99.1 | Letter dated January 21, 2019 from DeGolyer and MacNaughton, independent petroleum engineering consulting firm, reporting the results of its audit of Cimarex reserves as of December 31, 2018 of certain selected properties. * |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. * |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document. * |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document. * |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document. * |

| Exhibit | Title |
|---------|---|
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document. * |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document. * |

ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY

None.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: February 20, 2019

CIMAREX ENERGY CO.

By: /s/ Thomas E. Jorden
 Thomas E. Jorden
Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President

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

| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <u>/s/ Thomas E. Jorden</u> Thomas E. Jorden | Chairman of the Board, Director, Chief Executive Officer, and President (Principal Executive Officer) | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> Joseph R. Albi | Director, Executive Vice President — Operations, Chief Operating Officer | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>/s/ G. Mark Burford</u> G. Mark Burford | Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>/s/ Timothy A. Ficker</u> Timothy A. Ficker | Vice President, Controller, Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer) | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> Hans Helmerich | Director | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> David A. Hentschel | Director | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> Harold R. Logan, Jr. | Director | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> Floyd R. Price | Director | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> Monroe W. Robertson | Director | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> <i>Attorney-in-Fact</i> Lisa A. Stewart | Director | February 20, 2019 |
| <u>*</u> | | |

February 20, 2019

February 20, 2019

February 20, 2019

**NOTICE OF GRANT OF RESTRICTED STOCK
AND AWARD AGREEMENT (PERFORMANCE AWARD)**

Name: <first_name> <last_name>

Participant ID: <emp_id>

Plan: 2014 Equity Incentive Plan

Date of Award: December 6, 2018

Number of shares: <shares_awarded>

Restriction Period Ends: December 1, 2021

By accepting this agreement online, you and Cimarex Energy Co. (the “Company”) agree that this restricted stock award is granted under and governed by the terms and conditions of the Company’s 2014 Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”) and the Award Agreement (the “Agreement”), both of which are attached and made a part of this document. In the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions of the Plan and the terms and conditions of the Agreement, the terms and conditions of the Plan will prevail.

AWARD AGREEMENT

1. **Grant of Restricted Stock.** Pursuant to the Plan and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, you are granted the shares of restricted stock (“Restricted Stock”) as set forth in the foregoing Notice of Grant as an Other Stock Award pursuant to Article VIII of the Plan. Upon the Company’s achievement of pre-determined objectives for a specified performance period, some or all of the shares of Restricted Stock will vest (the “Vested Shares”). Prior to the end of the Performance Period (as defined in Paragraph 3), the Restricted Stock may be evidenced in the manner the Company deems appropriate, including, without limitation, a book-entry registration or issuance of a stock certificate or certificates. At the end of the Performance Period the shares will be disposed of as provided in Paragraph 7.

2. **Voting Rights and Ordinary Cash Dividends.** Prior to the end of the Performance Period you are entitled to the voting rights of a holder of the Company’s common stock.

During the Performance Period, the Company will accrue dividends on the maximum number of shares that may vest pursuant to this grant for each dividend record date occurring during the Performance Period. At the end of the Performance Period, the number of Vested Shares to be paid to you will be calculated in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Agreement. At that time you will receive the dividends accrued by the Company that are attributable to the Vested Shares paid to you in accordance with such calculation. Any dividends that are accrued on shares that are forfeited as a result of the calculation described in paragraph 4 will also be forfeited and returned to the Company’s general funds.

3. **Performance Period.** Except as provided in Paragraphs 5 and 6, the “Performance Period” shall be the three-year period ending on December 1, 2021 as provided in the foregoing Notice of Award. You may not sell, assign, transfer by gift or otherwise, pledge, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of, by operation of law or otherwise, any of the shares of Restricted Stock prior to expiration of the Performance Period.

4. **Performance Goals.** The number of Vested Shares will be determined at the end of the Performance Period and will be based upon the Company’s stock price performance relative to that of a defined peer group. The peer group will be comprised of the exploration and production companies set forth on Appendix B, on both the first day of the Performance Period and on the last day of the Performance Period (the “Performance Peer Group”). The calculation of the exact number of Vested Shares to be issued shall be determined as follows:

- a. The calculated percentage difference between (i) and (ii), below:
 - (i) the average (rounded to the second decimal place) of the per share closing price of the Company’s common stock (the “XEC Beginning Price”) and the common stock of each company in the Performance Peer Group over 30 trading days preceding the beginning of the Performance Period, and
 - (ii) the average (rounded to the second decimal place) of the per share closing price of the Company’s common stock (the “XEC Ending Price”) and the common stock of each company in the Performance Peer Group over 30 trading days preceding the end of the Performance Period.
- b. After determination of the percentage difference as provided in 4.a., the Company and the companies in the Performance Peer Group will be ranked from the highest percentage to the lowest percentage, with the highest percentage company ranked as first and the lowest

percentage company as the last number of the total number of companies in the Performance Peer Group. If during the Performance Period any member of the Performance Peer Group (i) declares bankruptcy, or (ii) is delisted and ceases to be traded on a national securities exchange, then it will remain in the Performance Peer Group and shall be ranked with any similarly-situated company in last place for purposes of this Section 4.b.

- c. The result obtained in 4.b. will serve as the basis for the percentage of Vested Shares to be held by you. The applicable vesting percentages are set forth on *Appendix A* to this Agreement. For the Company's rank under the column entitled "Relative Performance Rank" you will vest the percentage shown under the appropriate "Percent of Award Vesting" column depending on whether (i) the XEC Ending Price is less than the XEC Beginning Price or (ii) the XEC Ending Price is equal to or greater than the XEC Beginning Price. If at the end of the Performance Period there are fewer companies in the Performance Peer Group than at the beginning of the Performance Period, the relative performance rank will be adjusted so that the Company must be ranked first or second of the companies in the Performance Peer Group in order for you to achieve 200% of the award, and no shares will vest if the Company is ranked less than 35% of the companies in the Performance Peer Group, with the remaining vesting percentages adjusted by interpolation.

5. Termination of Employment.

- a. **Death or Disability.** If your employment with the Company terminates on account of death or disability (as defined below) prior to the end of the Performance Period, you will receive the number of Vested Shares calculated in accordance with paragraph 4, except that the end of the Performance Period will be the date of death or disability.

You will be considered disabled if you are (i) unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or (ii) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under an accident and health plan covering employees of Cimarex.

- b. **Other Terminations.** If your employment is terminated, voluntarily or involuntarily, for any reason other than death or disability prior to the end of the Performance Period, your Restricted Stock will be forfeited.

6. **Change in Control.** Upon the occurrence of a Change in Control, as defined in the Plan, you will receive the number of Vested Shares calculated in accordance with paragraph 4, except that the end of the Performance Period shall be the date of the Change in Control.

7. **Removal of Restrictions.** Upon expiration of the Performance Period, the Company will deliver to you the number of Vested Shares computed in accordance with this Agreement. In conformity with its insider trading policy, Cimarex may elect to electronically deliver the shares to your account at a brokerage firm selected by the Company. You shall forfeit and assign to the Company, without any consideration, any shares of Restricted Stock to which you are not entitled at the end of the Performance Period.

8. **Withholding Taxes.** Unless you make other arrangements with the Company, the Company will withhold a number of Vested Shares having a Fair Market Value (as defined in the Plan) on the date of payment equal to the minimum statutory total tax that could be withheld on the transaction. You may also make arrangements with the Company to pay the amount of taxes required by law or to deliver to the Company previously owned shares of common stock having a Fair Market Value on the date of payment equal to the minimum statutory total tax. In no event shall any form of payment made by you be permitted if it would result in an accounting charge with respect to shares delivered to pay such taxes, unless otherwise approved by the Company's Compensation and Governance Committee.

9. **Effect of Prohibited Transfer.** If any transfer of Restricted Stock is made or attempted to be made contrary to the terms of this Agreement, the Company will have the right to acquire, without the payment of any consideration, such shares from you or your transferee, at any time before or after a prohibited transfer. In addition to any other legal or equitable remedies it may have, the Company may enforce its rights to specific performance to the extent permitted by law and may exercise such other equitable remedies then available to it. The Company may refuse for any purpose to recognize any transferee who receives shares contrary to the provisions of this Agreement as a stockholder and may retain and/or recover all dividends on such shares that were paid or payable subsequent to the date on which the prohibited transfer was made or attempted.

10. **Clawback.** By accepting this Performance Award, you expressly agree that, in the event of an accounting restatement due to material noncompliance with financial reporting requirements under the U.S. federal securities laws, the Committee has the right to use reasonable efforts to recover from you this Performance Award, during the three-year period preceding the date on which the Company is required to prepare an accounting restatement. This clawback policy will be interpreted in the best judgment of the Committee in a manner consistent with any applicable rules or regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission or the New York Stock Exchange Stock Market as contemplated by the Dodd-Frank Act.

11. **Miscellaneous .**

(a) **Adjustments .** Article IX of the Plan provides for certain adjustments to the number of shares of Common Stock covered by the Restricted Stock and other changes in connection with a reorganization or other changes to the Common Stock.

(b) **Restrictions on Common Stock .** Any shares of Common Stock acquired by you are subject to the Company's Insider Trading Policy and may be subject to other restrictions on resale. Any sale or other disposition of shares by you must be made in compliance with the Company's Insider Trading Policy, in effect from time to time, securities law and other applicable legal requirements.

(c) **Electronic Delivery .** The Company may, in its sole discretion, decide to deliver any documents related to Restricted Stock awarded under the Plan or future Restricted Stock that may be awarded under the Plan by electronic means. You hereby consent to receive such documents by electronic delivery and agree to participate in the Plan through any on-line or electronic system established and maintained by the Company or another third party designated by the Company.

(d) **Amendment or Modifications to the Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding of the parties on the subjects covered. You expressly warrant that you are not accepting this Agreement in reliance on any promises, representations, or inducements other than those contained herein. Modifications to this Agreement or the Plan may only be made in writing and signed by a duly authorized officer of the Company.

(e) **Amendment or Termination of the Plan.** By accepting this Performance Award, you expressly warrant that you have received the Restricted Stock under the Plan, and have received, read

and are familiar with the terms of the Plan. You understand that the Plan is discretionary in nature and that it may be amended, suspended or terminated by the Company at any time.

(f) **Defined Terms** . Capitalized terms have the meaning set forth in the Plan or herein, as the case may be.

(g) **Compliance with Securities Laws** . This Agreement shall be subject to the requirement that if at any time counsel to the Company determines that the listing, registration or qualification of the shares of Restricted Stock upon any securities exchange or under any state or federal law, or the consent or approval of any governmental or regulatory body, is necessary as a condition of, or in connection with, the issuance or purchase of such shares thereunder, the Restricted Stock may not be awarded unless such listing, registration, qualification, consent or approval shall have been effected or obtained on conditions acceptable to the Company. Nothing herein shall be deemed to require the Company to apply for, obtain, or keep current, any such listing, registration or qualification.

(h) **Construction; Severability** . The section headings contained herein are for reference purposes only and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement, and each other provision of this Agreement shall be severable and enforceable to the extent permitted by law.

(i) **Waiver** . Any provision contained in this Agreement may be waived, either generally or in any particular instance, by the Committee appointed under the Plan, but only to the extent permitted under the Plan.

(j) **Binding Effect** . Subject to the limits on the transferability of the Restricted Stock, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Company and you and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns.

(k) **No Right to Continued Employment** . Nothing contained in this Agreement or the Plan shall be construed as giving you any right to remain employed by (or provide other service to) the Company, any Subsidiary or any Affiliated Entity. The Company reserves the right to terminate your employment (or other service) at any time.

(l) **Notices** . Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered electronically, personally or mailed (U.S. Mail) by the Company to you at your then current address as maintained by the Company or such other address as you may advise the Company in writing. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given as of the second day after deposit in the United States mails, postage prepaid, properly addressed as set forth in this paragraph, in the case of a mailed notice, or as of the date delivered in the case of electronic or personal delivery.

(m) **Governing Law** . This Agreement and the Plan shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware except as superseded by applicable Federal law.

Attachments :

2014 Equity Incentive Plan
Plan Prospectus
Insider Trading Policy

[REST OF THE PAGE IS LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY]

Appendix A
Cimarex Energy Co.
Performance Award Agreement

| Relative Performance Rank | XEC Ending Price is Less Than XEC Beginning Price - Percent of Award Vesting | XEC Ending Price is Equal to or Greater Than XEC Beginning Price - Percent of Award Vesting |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1-2 | 200% | 200% |
| 3 | 175% | 175% |
| 4-5 | 135% | 150% |
| 6 | 100% | 125% |
| 7-8 | 50% | 100% |
| 9 | 0% | 75% |
| 10 | 0% | 50% |
| 11-15 | 0% | 0% |

Appendix B
Cimarex Energy Co.
Performance Award Agreement

Performance Peer Group

(Initially consisting of companies in the S&P 500 Exploration and Production Index
as of December 6, 2018, subject to adjustment as provided in
Section 4 of this Performance Share Agreement)

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (APC)
Apache Corporation (APA)
Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation (COG)
Cimarex Energy Co. (XEC)
Concho Resources Inc. (CXO)
ConocoPhillips (COP)
Devon Energy Corporation (DVN)
EOG Resources Inc. (EOG)

EQT Corporation (EQT)
Hess Corporation (HES)
Marathon Oil Corporation (MRO)
Newfield Exploration Company (NFX)
Noble Energy Inc. (NBL)
Occidental Petroleum Corporation (OXY)
Pioneer Natural Resources Company (PXD)

List of Significant Subsidiaries

Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado, a Texas corporation
Cimarex Gas Gathering, Inc., a Texas corporation
Key Production Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation
Magnum Hunter Production, Inc., a Texas corporation
Oklahoma Gas Processing, Inc., a Delaware corporation
Prize Energy Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors
Cimarex Energy Co.:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements (Nos. 333-196169, 333-125621, 333-174361, and 333-100235) on Form S-8 of Cimarex Energy Co. of our reports dated February 20, 2019 , with respect to the consolidated balance sheets of Cimarex Energy Co. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2018 and 2017 , and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2018 , and the related notes (collectively, the "consolidated financial statements") and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018 , which reports appear in the December 31, 2018 annual report on Form 10-K of Cimarex Energy Co.

KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado
February 20, 2019

DEGOLYER AND MACNAUGHTON
5001 SPRING VALLEY ROAD
SUITE 800 EAST
DALLAS, TEXAS 75244

February 20, 2019

Cimarex Energy Co.
1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3700
Denver, CO 80203

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We hereby consent to the reference to DeGolyer and MacNaughton and to the reference to our independent evaluation of the proved oil, condensate, natural gas liquids, and gas reserves, as of December 31, 2018, estimated by Cimarex Energy Co. ("Cimarex") that were presented in our report of third-party dated January 21, 2019 ("Letter Report"), under the headings "Business and Properties, Proved Reserves Estimation Procedures," "Risk Factors," and "Supplemental Information on Oil and Gas Producing Activities (Unaudited), Oil and Gas Reserve Information" and to the filing of our Letter Report as an exhibit in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Cimarex for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

We further consent to the incorporation by reference of our Letter Report in the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (Nos. 333-100235, 333-125621, 333-174361, and 333-196169) of Cimarex ("Registration Statements") and to the use of the name DeGolyer and MacNaughton under the heading of "Experts" in the Registration Statements.

Very truly yours,

/s/ DeGolyer and MacNaughton

DeGOLYER and MacNAUGHTON
Texas Registered Engineering Firm F-716

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Thomas E. Jorden and G. Mark Burford and each of them acting alone, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and revocation, for him in any and all capacities, to execute and cause to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission the Cimarex Energy Co. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 , and any and all amendments thereto, with exhibits thereto, and any other documents in connection therewith and hereby ratifies and confirms all that said attorney-in-fact or his substitute or substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have subscribed these presents as of the 20th day of February 2019 .

/s/ Thomas E. Jorden

Thomas E. Jorden, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President

/s/ Joseph R. Albi

Joseph R. Albi, Director, Executive Vice President-Operations, Chief Operating Officer

/s/ G. Mark Burford

G. Mark Burford, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

/s/ Hans Helmerich

Hans Helmerich, Director

/s/ David A. Hentschel

David A. Hentschel, Director

/s/ Harold R. Logan, Jr.

Harold R. Logan, Jr., Director

/s/ Floyd R. Price

Floyd R. Price, Director

/s/ Monroe W. Robertson

Monroe W. Robertson, Director

/s/ Lisa A. Stewart

Lisa A. Stewart, Director

/s/ Michael J. Sullivan

Michael J. Sullivan, Director

/s/ Frances M. Vallejo

Frances M. Vallejo, Director

I, Thomas E. Jorden, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Cimarex Energy Co.;
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5) The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 20, 2019

/s/ THOMAS E. JORDEN

Name: Thomas E. Jorden

Title: *Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President*

I, G. Mark Burford, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Cimarex Energy Co.;
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5) The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 20, 2019

/s/ G. MARK BURFORD

Name: G. Mark Burford

Title: *Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*

Certification

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, the undersigned officer of Cimarex Energy Co. (the “Company”), hereby certifies, to such officer’s knowledge, that the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2018 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and that the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: February 20, 2019

/s/ THOMAS E. JORDEN

Name: Thomas E. Jorden

Title: *Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer,
and President*

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 and is not being filed as a separate disclosure document.

Certification

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, the undersigned officer of Cimarex Energy Co. (the “Company”), hereby certifies, to such officer’s knowledge, that the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2018 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and that the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: February 20, 2019

/s/ G. Mark Burford

Name: G. Mark Burford

Title: *Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 and is not being filed as a separate disclosure document.

DeGolyer and MacNaughton

5001 Spring Valley Road
Suite 800 East
Dallas, Texas 75244

Exhibit 99.1

January 21, 2019

Cimarex Energy Company
1700 Lincoln Street
Suite 3700
Denver, Colorado 80203

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to your request, this report of third party presents an independent evaluation, as of December 31, 2018, of the estimated net proved oil, condensate, natural gas liquids (NGL), and gas reserves of certain properties in which Cimarex Energy Company (Cimarex) has represented it holds an interest. The properties evaluated herein are located in the States of Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming and in the federal offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This evaluation was completed on January 21, 2019. Cimarex has represented that these properties account for greater than 80 percent of the total future net revenue discounted at 10 percent attributable to the total interests held by Cimarex, as well as greater than 68 percent on a net equivalent barrel basis of Cimarex's net proved reserves as of December 31, 2018. The net proved reserves estimates have been prepared in accordance with the reserves definitions of Rules 4-10(a) (1)-(32) of Regulation S-X of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the United States. We have reviewed information provided to us by Cimarex that it represents to be Cimarex's estimates of the net reserves, as of December 31, 2018, for the same properties as those which we evaluated. This report was prepared in accordance with guidelines specified in Item 1202(a)(8) of Regulation S-K and is to be used for inclusion in certain SEC filings by Cimarex.

Reserves estimates included herein are expressed as net reserves as represented by Cimarex. Gross reserves are defined as the total estimated petroleum remaining to be produced from these properties after December 31, 2018. Net reserves are defined as that portion of the gross reserves attributable to the interests held by Cimarex after deducting all interests held by others.

Estimates of reserves should be regarded only as estimates that may change as further production history and additional information become available. Not only are such estimates based on that information which is currently available, but such estimates are also subject to the uncertainties inherent in the application of judgmental factors in interpreting such information.

Information used in the preparation of this report was obtained from Cimarex and from public sources. In the preparation of this report we have relied, without independent verification, upon information furnished by Cimarex with respect to the property interests being evaluated, production from such properties, current costs of operation and development, current prices for production, agreements relating to current and future operations and sale of production, and various other information and data that were accepted as represented. A field examination of the properties was not considered necessary for the purposes of this report.

Definition of Reserves

Petroleum reserves included in this report are classified as proved. Only proved reserves have been evaluated for this report. Reserves classifications used in this report are in accordance with the reserves definitions of Rules 4-10(a) (1)-(32) of Regulation S-X of the SEC. Reserves are judged to be economically producible in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions and assuming continuation of current regulatory practices using conventional production methods and equipment. In the analyses of production-decline curves, reserves were estimated only to the limit of economic rates of production under existing economic and operating conditions using prices and costs consistent with the effective date of this report, including consideration of changes in existing prices provided only by contractual arrangements but not including escalations based upon future conditions. The petroleum reserves are classified as follows:

Proved oil and gas reserves - Proved oil and 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. The project to extract the hydrocarbons must have commenced or the operator must be reasonably certain that it will commence the project within a reasonable time.

(i) The area of the reservoir considered as proved includes:

(A) The area identified by drilling and limited by fluid contacts, if any, and (B) Adjacent undrilled portions of the reservoir that can, with reasonable certainty, be judged to be continuous with it and to contain economically producible oil or gas on the basis of available geoscience and engineering data.

(ii) In the absence of data on fluid contacts, proved quantities in a reservoir are limited by the lowest known hydrocarbons (LKH) as seen in a well penetration unless geoscience, engineering, or performance data and reliable technology establishes a lower contact with reasonable certainty.

(iii) Where direct observation from well penetrations has defined a highest known oil (HKO) elevation and the potential exists for an associated gas cap, proved oil reserves may be assigned in the structurally higher portions of the reservoir only if geoscience, engineering, or performance data and reliable technology establish the higher contact with reasonable certainty.

(iv) Reserves which can be produced economically through application of improved recovery techniques (including, but not limited to, fluid injection) are included in the proved classification when:

(A) Successful testing by a pilot project in an area of the reservoir with properties no more favorable than in the reservoir as a whole, the operation of an installed program in the reservoir or an analogous reservoir, or other evidence using reliable technology establishes the reasonable certainty of the engineering analysis on which

the project or program was based; and (B) The project has been approved for development by all necessary parties and entities, including governmental entities.

(v) Existing economic conditions include prices and costs at which economic producibility from a reservoir is to be determined. The price shall be the average price during the 12-month period prior to the ending date of the period covered by the report, determined as an unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within such period, unless prices are defined by contractual arrangements, excluding escalations based upon future conditions.

Developed oil and gas reserves - Developed oil and gas reserves are reserves of any category that can be expected to be recovered:

- (i) Through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods or in which the cost of the required equipment is relatively minor compared to the cost of a new well; and
- (ii) Through installed extraction equipment and infrastructure operational at the time of the reserves estimate if the extraction is by means not involving a well.

Undeveloped oil and gas reserves - Undeveloped oil and gas reserves are reserves of any category that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage, or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion.

- (i) Reserves on undrilled acreage shall be limited to those directly offsetting development spacing areas that are reasonably certain of production when drilled, unless evidence using reliable technology exists that establishes reasonable certainty of economic producibility at greater distances.
- (ii) Undrilled locations can be classified as having undeveloped reserves only if a development plan has been adopted indicating that they are scheduled to be drilled within five years, unless the specific circumstances justify a longer time.
- (iii) Under no circumstances shall estimates for undeveloped reserves be attributable to any acreage for which an application of fluid injection or other improved recovery technique is contemplated, unless such techniques have been proved effective by actual projects in the same reservoir or an analogous reservoir, as defined in [section 210.4-10 (a) Definitions], or by other evidence using reliable technology establishing reasonable certainty.

Methodology and Procedures

Estimates of reserves were prepared by the use of appropriate geologic, petroleum engineering, and evaluation principles and techniques that are in accordance with the reserves definitions of Rules 4-10(a) (1)-(32) of Regulation S-X of the SEC and with practices generally recognized by the petroleum industry as presented in the publication of the Society of Petroleum Engineers entitled "Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information (Revision as of February 19, 2007)" and in Monograph 3 and Monograph 4 published by the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers. The method

or combination of methods used in the analysis of each reservoir was tempered by experience with similar reservoirs, stage of development, quality and completeness of basic data, and production history.

Based on the current stage of field development, production performance, the development plans provided by Cimarex, and analyses of areas offsetting existing wells with test or production data, reserves were classified as proved.

A performance-based methodology integrating the appropriate geology and petroleum engineering data was utilized for the evaluation of all reserves categories. Performance-based methodology primarily includes (1) production diagnostics, (2) decline-curve analysis, and (3) model-based analysis (if necessary, based on availability of data). Production diagnostics include data quality control, identification of flow regimes, and characteristic well performance behavior. Analysis was performed for all well groupings (or type-curve areas).

Characteristic rate-decline profiles from diagnostic interpretation were translated to modified hyperbolic rate profiles, including one or multiple b-exponent values followed by an exponential decline. Based on the availability of data, model-based analysis may be integrated to evaluate long-term decline behavior, the impact of dynamic reservoir and fracture parameters on well performance, and complex situations sourced by the nature of unconventional reservoirs. The methodology used for the analysis was tempered by experience with similar reservoirs, stage of development, quality and completeness of basic data, production history, and the appropriate reserves definitions.

In certain cases, reserves were estimated by incorporating elements of analogy with similar wells or reservoirs for which more complete data were available.

Data provided by Cimarex from wells drilled through December 31, 2018, and made available for this evaluation were used to prepare the reserves estimates herein. These reserves estimates were based on consideration of monthly production data available for certain properties only through October 2018. Estimated cumulative production, as of December 31, 2018, was deducted from the estimated gross ultimate recovery to estimate gross reserves. This required that production be estimated for up to 2 months.

Oil and condensate reserves estimated herein are those to be recovered by normal field separation. NGL reserves estimated herein include C_{5+} and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which consists primarily of propane and butane fractions. NGL reserves are the result of low-temperature plant processing. Oil, condensate, and NGL reserves included in this report are expressed in barrels (bbl) representing 42 United States gallons per barrel. For reporting purposes, oil and condensate reserves have been estimated separately and are presented herein as a summed quantity.

Gas reserves estimated herein are expressed as sales gas. Sales gas is defined as the total gas to be produced from the reservoirs, measured at the point of delivery, after reduction for fuel usage, flare, and shrinkage resulting from field separation and processing. Gas reserves are expressed at a temperature base of 60 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and at the pressure base of the state or area in which the reserves are located. Gas reserves included in this report are expressed in thousands of cubic feet (Mcf).

Gas quantities are identified by the type of reservoir from which the gas will be produced. Nonassociated gas is gas at initial reservoir conditions with no oil present in the reservoir. Associated gas is both gas-cap gas and solution gas. Gas-cap gas is gas at initial reservoir conditions and is in communication with an underlying oil zone. Solution gas is gas dissolved in oil at initial reservoir conditions. Gas quantities estimated herein include both associated and nonassociated gas.

At the request of Cimarex, sales gas reserves estimated herein were converted to oil equivalent using an energy equivalent factor of 6,000 cubic feet of gas per 1 barrel of oil equivalent. This conversion factor was provided by Cimarex.

Primary Economic Assumptions

This report has been prepared using initial prices, expenses, and costs provided by Cimarex. Future prices were estimated using guidelines established by the SEC and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The following economic assumptions were used for estimating the reserves reported herein:

Oil and Condensate Prices

Cimarex has represented that the oil and condensate prices were based on a reference price, calculated as the unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within the 12-month period prior to the end of the reporting period, unless prices are defined by contractual agreements. Cimarex applied differentials by property to a West Texas Intermediate reference price of \$65.56 per barrel and the prices were held constant thereafter. The volume-weighted average price over the lives of the properties for only those properties evaluated by DeGolyer and MacNaughton was \$58.97 per barrel of oil and condensate.

NGL Prices

Cimarex has represented that the NGL prices were based on a reference price of \$21.03 per barrel. Cimarex supplied differentials by property to the reference price and the prices were held constant thereafter. The volume-weighted average price over the lives of the properties for only those properties evaluated by DeGolyer and MacNaughton was \$19.67 per barrel of NGL.

Gas Prices

Cimarex has represented that the gas prices were based on a reference price, calculated as the unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within the 12-month period prior to the end of the reporting period, unless prices are defined by contractual agreements. Cimarex applied differentials by property to a Henry Hub reference price of \$3.10 per million British thermal units, furnished by Cimarex, and held constant thereafter. The volume-weighted average price over the lives of the properties for only those properties evaluated by DeGolyer and MacNaughton was \$1.12 per thousand cubic feet of gas.

Production and Ad Valorem Taxes

Production taxes were calculated using the rates for the state in which the reserves are located. Ad valorem taxes were calculated using rates provided by Cimarex based on recent payments.

Operating Expenses and Capital Costs

Operating expenses and capital costs, based on existing economic conditions and provided by Cimarex, were used in estimating future costs required to operate the properties. In certain cases, future expenses, either higher or lower than existing expenses, may have been used because of anticipated changes in operating conditions. These expenses and costs were not escalated for inflation.

In our opinion, the information relating to estimated proved reserves of oil, condensate, natural gas liquids, and gas of the properties evaluated by us contained in this report has been prepared in accordance with Paragraphs 932-235-50-4, 932-235-50-6, 932-235-50-7, and 932-235-50-9 of the Accounting Standards Update 932-235-50, Extractive Industries - Oil and Gas (Topic 932): Oil and Gas Reserve Estimation and Disclosures (January 2010) of the Financial Accounting Standards Board and Rules 4-10(a) (1)-(32) of Regulation S-X and Rules 302(b), 1201, and 1202(a) (1), (2), (3), (4), (8) of Regulation S-K of the Securities and Exchange Commission; provided, however, that estimates of proved developed and proved undeveloped reserves are not presented at the beginning of the year.

To the extent the above-enumerated rules, regulations, and statements require determinations of an accounting or legal nature, we, as engineers, are necessarily unable to express an opinion as to whether the above-described information is in accordance therewith or sufficient therefor.

Summary of Conclusions

Cimarex has represented that its estimated net proved reserves attributable to the evaluated properties were based on the definition of proved reserves of the SEC. Cimarex represents that its estimates of the net proved reserves attributable to these properties, which represent greater than 68 percent of Cimarex's reserves on a net equivalent basis and greater than 80 percent of the total future net revenue discounted at 10 percent attributable to the interests held by Cimarex, are summarized as follows, expressed in thousands of barrels (Mbbl), millions of cubic feet (MMcf), and thousands of barrels of oil equivalent (Mboe):

| | Cimarex's Estimated Net Proved Reserves as of December 31, 2018 | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Oil and Condensate (Mbbl) | NGL (Mbbl) | Sales Gas (MMcf) | Oil Equivalent (Mboe) |
| Evaluated by DeGolyer and MacNaughton | 103,595 | 126,456 | 1,045,264 | 404,262 |
| Not Evaluated by DeGolyer and MacNaughton | 42,943 | 52,980 | 546,057 | 186,932 |
| Total Proved Reserves | 146,538 | 179,436 | 1,591,321 | 591,194 |

Notes:

1. All reserves estimates shown were prepared by Cimarex.
2. Sales gas reserves were converted to oil equivalent using an energy equivalent factor of 6,000 cubic feet of gas per 1 barrel of oil equivalent.

In comparing the detailed net proved reserves estimates prepared by DeGolyer and MacNaughton and by Cimarex, differences have been found, both positive and negative, resulting in an aggregate difference of less than 10 percent when compared on the basis of net equivalent barrels. It is DeGolyer and MacNaughton's opinion that the net proved reserves estimates prepared by Cimarex on the properties evaluated by DeGolyer and MacNaughton and referred to above, when compared on the basis of net equivalent barrels, in aggregate, do not differ materially from those prepared by DeGolyer and MacNaughton.

While the oil and gas industry may be subject to regulatory changes from time to time that could affect an industry participant's ability to recover its reserves, we are not aware of any such governmental actions which would restrict the recovery of the December 31, 2018, estimated reserves.

DeGolyer and MacNaughton is an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm that has been providing petroleum consulting services throughout the world since 1936. DeGolyer and MacNaughton does not have any financial interest, including stock ownership, in Cimarex. Our fees were not contingent on the results of our evaluation. This report has been prepared at the request of Cimarex. DeGolyer and MacNaughton has used all assumptions, procedures, data, and methods that it considers necessary to prepare this report.

Submitted,

/s/ DeGolyer and MacNaughton

DeGOLYER and MacNAUGHTON
Texas Registered Engineering Firm F-716



/s/ Gregory K. Graves

Gregory K. Graves, P.E.
Senior Vice President
DeGolyer and MacNaughton

CERTIFICATE of QUALIFICATION

I, Gregory K. Graves, Petroleum Engineer with DeGolyer and MacNaughton, 5001 Spring Valley Road, Suite 800 East, Dallas, Texas, 75244 U.S.A., hereby certify:

1. That I am a Senior Vice President with DeGolyer and MacNaughton, which firm did prepare the report of third party addressed to Cimarex dated January 21, 2019, and that I, as Senior Vice President, was responsible for the preparation of this report of third party.
2. That I attended the University of Texas at Austin, and that I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering in the year 1984; that I am a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas; that I am a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers; and that I have in excess of 34 years of experience in oil and gas reservoir studies and reserves evaluations.



/s/ Gregory K. Graves

Gregory K. Graves, P.E.
Senior Vice President
DeGolyer and MacNaughton