

DCP Midstream Partners, LP
Form S-3
July 12, 2012
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 12, 2012

Registration No. 333-

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

Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

DCP MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP

(Exact name of registrants as specified in charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of

03-0567133
(I.R.S. Employer

Edgar Filing: DCP Midstream Partners, LP - Form S-3

incorporation or organization)

370 17th Street, Suite 2775

Denver, Colorado 80202

(303) 633-2900

Identification Number)

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrants principal executive offices)

Michael S. Richards, Esq.

Vice President & General Counsel

370 17th Street, Suite 2775

Denver, Colorado 80202

(303) 633-2900

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

Copy to:

Lucy S. Stark

Scott A. Berdan

Holland & Hart LLP

555 17th Street, Suite 3200

Denver, Colorado 80202

(303) 295-8000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

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

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

Edgar Filing: DCP Midstream Partners, LP - Form S-3

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

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

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

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

Large Accelerated Filer
 Non-Accelerated Filer "

Accelerated filer "
 Smaller reporting company "

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed maximum offering price per unit (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Amount of Registration Fee(4)
Common units representing limited partner interests	4,989,802	(2)	\$204,631,780	\$23,450.80

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a), the number of common units being registered shall be adjusted to include any additional common units that may become issuable as a result of any unit distribution, split, combination or similar transaction.
- (2) The proposed maximum offering price per common unit will be determined from time to time in connection with, and at the time of, the sale by the holder of the securities registered hereunder.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act on the basis of the average of the high and low sale prices for our common units on July 10, 2012, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange.
- (4) Paid herewith.

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

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling unitholders may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED JULY 12, 2012

PROSPECTUS

4,989,802 Common Units

Representing Limited Partner Interests

DCP MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP

This prospectus relates to 4,989,802 common units representing limited partner interests in DCP Midstream Partners, LP that may be offered and sold from time to time by the selling unitholders named in this prospectus. These common units were originally sold to the selling unitholders in a private placement transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 under Section 4(2) thereof that closed on July 2 2012. The selling unitholders may sell none, some or all of the common units at various times and in various types of transactions, including sales in the open market, sales in negotiated transactions and sales by a combination of these methods. The offering price per common unit will be determined from time to time by the selling unitholders in connection with, and at the time of, the sale by the selling unitholders. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common units by the selling unitholders. For a more detailed discussion of the selling unitholders, please read Selling Unitholders.

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

Investing in our common units involves a high degree of risk. Limited partnerships are inherently different than corporations. Please read Risk Factors referred to on page 4 of this prospectus, and contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein before you make an investment in our securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2012.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT DCP MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP</u>	2
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS</u>	7
<u>OUR CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY AND RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	20
<u>MATERIAL TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	29
<u>INVESTMENT IN DCP MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP BY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS</u>	44
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	45
<u>SELLING UNITHOLDERS</u>	48
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	53
<u>EXPERTS</u>	53

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus we may authorize to be delivered to you. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information or to make additional representations. We are not making or soliciting an offer of any securities other than the securities described in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We and the selling unitholders are not making or soliciting an offer of these securities in any state or jurisdiction where an offer is not permitted or in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of each of those documents.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Under the shelf registration process, the selling unitholders may sell 4,989,802 of our common units of DCP Midstream Partners, LP, as described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that may be offered by the selling unitholders. Each time a selling unitholder sells common units with this prospectus, we will describe in a prospectus supplement, which will be delivered with this prospectus, specific information about the offering. The prospectus supplement also may add to, update, or change the information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information contained in this prospectus and any information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in any applicable prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference therein, on the other hand, you should rely on the information in the applicable prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement.

Wherever references are made in this prospectus to information that will be included in a prospectus supplement, to the extent permitted by applicable law, rules, or regulations, we may instead include such information or add, update, or change the information contained in this prospectus by means of a post-effective amendment to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, through filings we make with the SEC that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus or by any other method as may then be permitted under applicable law, rules, or regulations.

Statements made in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement or in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. In each instance we refer you to the copy of the contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or as an exhibit to the documents incorporated by reference. You may obtain copies of those documents as described in this prospectus under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale made hereunder implies that there has been no change in our affairs or that the information in this prospectus is correct as of any date after the date of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, including any information incorporated in this prospectus by reference, the accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus we may authorize to be delivered to you, is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of each of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Throughout this prospectus, when we use the terms *we*, *us*, or *DCP*, we are referring either to DCP Midstream Partners, LP or to DCP Midstream Partners, LP and its operating subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires. References in this prospectus to our *general partner* refer to DCP Midstream GP, LP and/or DCP Midstream GP, LLC, the general partner of DCP Midstream GP, LP, as the context requires.

Table of Contents

ABOUT DCP MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP

We are a Delaware limited partnership formed in August 2005 by DCP Midstream, LLC to own, operate, acquire and develop a diversified portfolio of complementary midstream energy assets. We are currently engaged in the business of gathering, compressing, treating, processing, transporting, storing and selling natural gas; producing, fractionating, transporting, storing and selling natural gas liquids, or NGLs, and condensate; and transporting, storing and selling propane in wholesale markets. Supported by our relationship with DCP Midstream, LLC and its parents, Spectra Energy Corp. and Phillips 66, we have a management team dedicated to executing our growth strategy by acquiring and constructing additional assets.

Our operations are organized into three business segments, Natural Gas Services, NGL Logistics and Wholesale Propane Logistics. A map representing the geographic location and type of our assets for all segments is set forth below. Additional maps detailing the individual assets can be found on our website at www.dcppartners.com. Our website and the information contained on that site, or connected to that site, are not incorporated by reference into this prospectus. For more information on our segments, see *Business Our Operating Segments* in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Partnership Structure and Management

Our operations are conducted through, and our operating assets are owned by, our subsidiaries. Our interests in our subsidiaries are held through our 100% ownership interest in our operating partnership, DCP Midstream Operating, LP. DCP Midstream GP, LLC is the general partner of our general partner, DCP Midstream GP, LP, and has sole responsibility for conducting our business and managing our operations.

Our principal executive office is located at 370 17th Street, Suite 2775, Denver, Colorado 80202. Our telephone number is (303) 633-2900. Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DPM.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the disclosure requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended or the Exchange Act, and file Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other information with the SEC. The public may read and copy any reports or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room located at: 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20549-2521. The public may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-732-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. Unless specifically listed under *Incorporation by Reference* below, the information contained on the SEC website is not intended to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and you should not consider that information a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Our SEC filings can also be inspected and copied at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange located at: 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. We will also provide to you, at no cost, a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement and any exhibits specifically incorporated by reference in those documents. You may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus (including exhibits to those documents specifically incorporated by reference in this document), at no cost, by visiting DCP's website at www.dcppartners.com, or by writing or calling us at the following address:

DCP Midstream Partners, LP

370 17th Street, Suite 2775

Denver, Colorado 80202

Attention: Secretary

Telephone: (303) 633-2900

You may also inspect our SEC reports on our website at www.dcppartners.com. We make available free of charge on or through our Internet website our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our website is not intended to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and you should not consider that information a part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus, the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 on any current report on Form 8-K) after the date of this prospectus:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-32678) for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on February 29, 2012, as modified by our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 14, 2012;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on May 10, 2012;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K and 8-K/A filed with the SEC on January 9, 2012, February 22, 2012, March 1, 2012, March 2, 2012, March 9, 2012, March 13, 2012, April 5, 2012, April 13, 2012, May 1, 2012, May 31, 2012, June 14, 2012, June 29, 2012, and July 9, 2012; and

The description of our common units contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-32678) filed on November 18, 2005.

These reports contain important information about us, our financial condition and our results of operations.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or considered to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be considered to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any subsequently filed document that is or is considered to be incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement that is modified or superseded shall not, except as so modified or superseded, constitute a part of this prospectus.

Edgar Filing: DCP Midstream Partners, LP - Form S-3

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, or any free writing prospectus we may authorize to be delivered to you. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with any information. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each document.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Limited partner interests are inherently different than the capital stock of a corporation, although many of the business risks to which we are subject are similar to those that would be faced by a corporation engaged in a similar business. Before you invest in our securities, you should carefully consider the risk factors included in this prospectus and our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as supplemented by our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, that are incorporated herein by reference. You should also carefully consider any risk factors that may be included in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference herein or therein in evaluating an investment in our securities.

If any of the risks discussed in the foregoing documents were to actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flow could be materially adversely affected. In that case, our ability to make distributions to our unitholders or pay interest on, or the principal of, any debt securities, may be reduced, the trading price of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included in this prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference herein contain forward-looking statements. All statements that are not statements of historical fact, including statements regarding our future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected costs and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You can typically identify forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking words, such as may, could, project, believe, anticipate, expect, estimate, potential, plan, forecast and other similar words. When considering statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference herein and therein.

These forward-looking statements reflect our intentions, plans, expectations, assumptions and beliefs about future events and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside our control. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements include known and unknown risks. Known risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, (i) the risks described in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference, (ii) risks described in any of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and (iii) the risks described in any applicable prospectus supplement. Some of these risks are summarized below:

the extent of changes in commodity prices and the demand for our products and services, our ability to effectively limit a portion of the adverse impact of potential changes in prices through derivative financial instruments, and the potential impact of price and producers' access to capital on natural gas drilling, and the volume of NGLs and condensate extracted;

general economic, market and business conditions;

the level and success of natural gas drilling around our assets, the level and quality of gas production volumes around our assets and our ability to connect supplies to our gathering and processing systems in light of competition;

our ability to grow through acquisitions, contributions from affiliates, or organic growth projects, and the successful integration and future performance of such assets;

our ability to access the debt and equity markets and the resulting cost of capital, which will depend on general market conditions, our financial and operating results, inflation rates, interest rates and our ability to effectively limit a portion of the adverse effects of potential changes in interest rates by entering into derivative financial instruments, our ability to comply with the covenants in our loan agreements and our debt securities, as well as our ability to maintain our credit ratings;

Table of Contents

The demand for NGL products by the petrochemical, refining or other industries or by the fuel markets;

our ability to purchase propane from our principal suppliers and make associated profitable sales transactions for our wholesale propane logistics business;

our ability to construct facilities in a timely fashion, which is partially dependent on obtaining required construction, environmental and other permits issued by federal, state and municipal governments, or agencies thereof, the availability of specialized contractors and laborers, and the price of and demand for materials;

the creditworthiness of counterparties to our transactions;

weather and other natural phenomena, including their potential impact on demand for the commodities we sell and the operation of company-owned and third-party-owned infrastructure;

new additions to and changes in laws and regulations, particularly with regard to taxes, safety and protection of the environment, including climate change legislation and hydraulic fracturing regulations, or the increased regulation of our industry;

our ability to obtain insurance on commercially reasonable terms, if at all, as well as the adequacy of insurance to cover our losses;

industry changes, including the impact of consolidations, increased delivery of liquefied natural gas to the United States, alternative energy sources, technological advances and changes in competition; and

the amount of collateral we may be required to post from time to time in our transactions, including changes resulting from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

You should read these statements carefully because they discuss our expectations about our future performance, contain projections of our future operating results or our future financial condition, or state other forward-looking information. Before you invest, you should be aware that the occurrence of any of the events described in the Risk Factors sections of the documents that are incorporated in this prospectus by reference could substantially harm our business, results of operations and financial condition. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the events described in the forward-looking statements might not occur or might occur to a different extent or at a different time than we have described. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The common units to be offered and sold pursuant to this prospectus will be offered and sold by the selling unitholders. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common units by the selling unitholders.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The Units

We currently have outstanding common units, which are limited partner interests in us. The holders of our common units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. For a description of the relative rights and preferences in and to partnership distributions of holders of common units and holders of other partnership interests in us, please read this section and [Our Cash Distribution Policy and Restrictions on Distributions](#) . For a general discussion of the expected federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of common units, please read [Material Tax Consequences](#) .

Our outstanding common units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol [DPM](#) . Any additional common units we issue will also be listed on the NYSE.

Subordinated Units

Subordinated units were issued to DCP Midstream, LLC in our initial public offering. The subordinated units were a separate class of limited partner interests in our partnership, and the rights of holders of subordinated units to participate in distributions to partners differed from, and were subordinated to, the rights of the holders of our common units. During the subordination period, our subordinated units were not entitled to receive any distributions until our common units had received the minimum quarterly distribution plus any arrearages from prior quarters. In February 2008, we satisfied the financial tests contained in our partnership agreement that provided for the early conversion of 50% of the outstanding subordinated units held by DCP Midstream, LLC into common units on a one-for-one basis. Before the February 2008 conversion, DCP Midstream, LLC held 7,142,857 subordinated units, and after the conversion, DCP Midstream, LLC held 3,571,429 subordinated units. In February 2009, we satisfied the financial tests contained in our partnership agreement that provided for the early conversion of the remaining 3,571,429 outstanding subordinated units held by DCP Midstream, LLC into common units on a one-for-one basis. After the February 2009 conversion, there were no outstanding subordinated units.

Class B Units

Our general partner has the right, at a time when there are no subordinated units outstanding and it has received incentive distributions at the highest level to which it is entitled (48%) for each of the prior four consecutive fiscal quarters, to reset the initial cash target distribution levels at higher levels based on the distribution at the time of the exercise of the reset election. In connection with resetting these target distribution levels, our general partner will be entitled to receive a number of Class B units. The Class B units will be entitled to the same cash distributions per unit as our common units and will be convertible into an equal number of common units. The number of Class B units to be issued will be equal to that number of common units whose aggregate quarterly cash distributions equaled the average of the distributions to our general partner on the incentive distribution rights in the prior two quarters. For a more detailed description of our general partner's right to reset the target distribution levels upon which the incentive distribution payments are based and the concurrent right of our general partner to receive Class B units in connection with this reset, please read [Our Cash Distribution Policy and Restrictions on Distributions - General Partner's Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels](#) .

Class C Units

On November 1, 2006, we issued to DCP LP Holdings, LP, a wholly-owned subsidiary of DCP Midstream, LLC, 200,312 Class C units as partial consideration for the acquisition of Gas Supply Resources, LLC, by the Partnership. On July 2, 2007, the Class C units were converted to common units. After the July 2007 conversion, there were no outstanding Class C units.

Table of Contents

Class D Units

On April 1, 2009, we issued 3,500,000 Class D units to DCP LP Holdings LLC and our general partner as consideration for the acquisition of a limited liability company interest in DCP East Texas Holdings, LLC. On August 17, 2009, the Class D units were converted to common units. After the August 2009 conversion, there were no outstanding Class D units.

Number of Units

As of July 10, 2012, we had outstanding 58,620,541 common units, no subordinated units, no Class B units, no Class C units, and no Class D units.

Voting Rights

The following is a summary of the unitholder vote required for the matters specified below. Matters requiring the approval of a unit majority require the approval of a majority of the common units and Class B units, if any, voting as a class.

In voting their common units or Class B units, if any, our general partner and its affiliates will have no fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or the limited partners.

Issuance of additional units	No approval right.
Amendment of the partnership agreement	Certain amendments may be made by the general partner without the approval of the unitholders. Other amendments require the approval of a unit majority. Please read Amendment of the Partnership Agreement .
Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets	Unit majority in certain circumstances. Please read Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets .
Dissolution of our partnership	Unit majority. Please read Termination and Dissolution .
Continuation of our business upon dissolution	Unit majority. Please read Termination and Dissolution .
Withdrawal of the general partner	Under most circumstances, the approval of a majority of the common units, excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required for the withdrawal of our general partner prior to December 31, 2015 in a manner that would cause dissolution of our partnership. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner .
Removal of the general partner	Not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding units, voting as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner .

Table of Contents

Transfer of the general partner interest	Our general partner may transfer all, but not less than all, of its general partner interest in us without a vote of our unitholders to an affiliate or another person in connection with its merger or consolidation with or into, or transfer by our general partner of all or substantially all of its assets, to such person. The approval of a majority of the common units, excluding common units held by the general partner and its affiliates, is required in other circumstances for a transfer of the general partner interest to a third party prior to December 31, 2015. See Transfer of General Partner Units .
Transfer of incentive distribution rights	Except for transfers to an affiliate or another person as part of our general partner's merger or consolidation, sale of all or substantially all of its assets or the sale of all of the ownership interests in such holder, the approval of a majority of the common units, excluding common units held by the general partner and its affiliates, is required in most circumstances for a transfer of the incentive distribution rights to a third party prior to December 31, 2015. Please read Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights .
Transfer of ownership interests in our general partner	No approval required at any time. Please read Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner .

Limited Liability

Assuming that a limited partner does not participate in the control of our business within the meaning of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act, or the Delaware Act, and that such limited partner otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of the partnership agreement, such limited partner's liability under the Delaware Act will be limited, subject to possible exceptions, to the amount of capital such limited partner is obligated to contribute to us for its common units plus its share of any undistributed profits and assets. If it were determined, however, that the right, or exercise of the right, by the limited partners as a group:

to remove or replace the general partner;

to approve some amendments to the partnership agreement; or

to take other action under the partnership agreement;

constituted participation in the control of our business for the purposes of the Delaware Act, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the laws of Delaware, to the same extent as the general partner. This liability would extend to persons who transact business with us who reasonably believe that the limited partner is a general partner. Neither the partnership agreement nor the Delaware Act specifically provides for legal recourse against the general partner if a limited partner were to lose limited liability through any fault of the general partner. While this does not mean that a limited partner could not seek legal recourse, we know of no precedent for this type of a claim in Delaware case law.

Under the Delaware Act, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner if, after the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is limited to specific property of the partnership, would exceed the fair value of the assets of the limited partnership. For the purpose of determining the fair value of the assets of a limited partnership, the Delaware Act provides that the fair value of property subject to liability for which recourse of creditors is limited shall be included in the assets of the limited partnership only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds the nonrecourse liability. The Delaware Act provides that a limited partner who receives a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution was in violation of the Delaware

Table of Contents

Act shall be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years. Under the Delaware Act, a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of its assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except that such person is not obligated for liabilities unknown to it at the time it became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from the partnership agreement.

Our subsidiaries conduct business in 22 states and we may have subsidiaries that conduct business in other states in the future. Maintenance of our limited liability as a limited partner of the operating partnership may require compliance with legal requirements in the jurisdictions in which the operating partnership conducts business, including qualifying our subsidiaries to do business there.

Limitations on the liability of limited partners for the obligations of a limited partner have not been clearly established in many jurisdictions. If, by virtue of our partnership interest in our operating partnership or otherwise, it were determined that we were conducting business in any state without compliance with the applicable limited partnership or limited liability company statute, or that the right or exercise of the right by the limited partners as a group to remove or replace the general partner, to approve some amendments to the partnership agreement, or to take other action under the partnership agreement constituted participation in the control of our business for purposes of the statutes of any relevant jurisdiction, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the law of that jurisdiction to the same extent as the general partner under the circumstances. We will operate in a manner that the general partner considers reasonable and necessary or appropriate to preserve the limited liability of the limited partners.

Issuance of Additional Securities

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional partnership securities for the consideration and on the terms and conditions determined by our general partner without the approval of the unitholders.

It is possible that we will fund acquisitions through the issuance of additional common units, subordinated units or other partnership securities. Holders of any additional common units that we issue in the future will be entitled to share equally in our distributions of available cash with the then-existing holders of common units. In addition, the issuance of additional common units or other partnership securities may dilute the value of the interests of the then-existing holders of common units in our net assets.

In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership securities that, as determined by our general partner, may have special voting rights to which the common units are not entitled. In addition, our partnership agreement does not prohibit the issuance by our subsidiaries of equity securities, which may effectively rank senior to the common units.

Upon issuance of additional partnership securities (other than the issuance of partnership securities issued in connection with a reset of the incentive distribution target levels relating to our general partner's incentive distribution rights or the issuance of partnership securities upon conversion of outstanding partnership securities), our general partner will be entitled, but not required, to make additional capital contributions to the extent necessary to maintain its proportionate general partner interest in us. As a result of our issuance of common units, or units convertible into common units, since our initial public offering that have diluted the general partner's interest in us, the general partner's interest in us currently consists of a general partner interest of approximately 0.6% and a limited partner interest of approximately 1.0%. Our general partner's interest in us will be further reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to maintain its general partner interest in us. Moreover, our general partner will have the right, which it may from time to time assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates, to purchase common units or other partnership securities whenever, and on the same terms that, we issue those securities to persons other than our general partner and its affiliates, to the extent necessary to maintain the percentage interest of the general partner and its affiliates, including such interest represented by our common units, that existed immediately prior to each issuance. Further, our general partner may participate in future contributions to us and may receive additional common units or other partnership securities for such contributions. The holders of common units will not have preemptive rights to acquire additional common units or other partnership securities.

Table of Contents

Amendment of the Partnership Agreement

General. Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by or with the consent of our general partner. However, our general partner will have no duty or obligation to propose any amendment and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or the limited partners. In order to adopt a proposed amendment, other than the amendments discussed below, our general partner is required to seek written approval of the holders of the number of units required to approve the amendment or call a meeting of the limited partners to consider and vote upon the proposed amendment. Except as described below, an amendment must be approved by a unit majority.

Prohibited Amendments. No amendment may be made that would:

enlarge the obligations of any limited partner without its consent, unless approved by at least a majority of the type or class of limited partner interests so affected; or

enlarge the obligations of, restrict in any way any action by or rights of, or reduce in any way the amounts distributable, reimbursable or otherwise payable by us to our general partner or any of its affiliates without the consent of our general partner, which consent may be given or withheld at its option.

The provision of our partnership agreement preventing the amendments having the effects described in any of the clauses above can be amended upon the approval of the holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting together as a single class (including units owned by our general partner and its affiliates), only if DCP obtains an opinion of counsel to the effect that such amendment will not affect the limited liability of any limited partner under the Delaware Act. As of July 10, 2012, our general partner and its affiliates owned approximately 25.6% of the outstanding common units.

No Unitholder Approval. Our general partner may generally make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner or assignee to reflect:

a change in our name, the location of our principal place of our business, our registered agent or our registered office;

the admission, substitution, withdrawal or removal of partners in accordance with our partnership agreement;

a change that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate to qualify or continue our qualification as a limited partnership or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability under the laws of any state or to ensure that neither we nor the operating partnership nor any of its subsidiaries will be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes;

an amendment that is necessary, in the opinion of our counsel, to prevent us or our general partner or its directors, officers, agents or trustees from, in any manner, being subjected to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, or plan asset regulations adopted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA, whether or not substantially similar to plan asset regulations currently applied or proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor;

an amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for the authorization of additional partnership securities or rights to acquire partnership securities, including any amendment that our general partner determines is necessary or appropriate in connection with:

Edgar Filing: DCP Midstream Partners, LP - Form S-3

the adjustments of the minimum quarterly distribution, first target distribution, second target distribution and third target distribution in connection with the reset of our general partner's incentive distribution rights as described under Our Cash Distribution Policy and Restrictions on Distributions General Partner's Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels;

the implementation of the provisions relating to our general partner's right to reset its incentive distribution rights in exchange for Class B units; and

Table of Contents

any modification of the incentive distribution rights made in connection with the issuance of additional partnership securities or rights to acquire partnership securities, provided that, any such modifications and related issuance of partnership securities have received approval by a majority of the members of the conflicts committee of our general partner;

an amendment expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone;

an amendment effected, necessitated or contemplated by a merger agreement that has been approved under the terms of our partnership agreement;

an amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for the formation by us of, or our investment in, any corporation, partnership or other entity, as otherwise permitted by our partnership agreement;

a change in our fiscal year or taxable year and related changes;

conversions into, mergers with or conveyances to another limited liability entity that is newly formed and has no assets, liabilities or operations at the time of the conversion, merger or conveyance other than those it receives by way of the conversion, merger or conveyance; or

any other amendments substantially similar to any of the matters described in the clauses above.

In addition, our general partner may make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner if our general partner determines that those amendments:

do not adversely affect the limited partners (or any particular class of limited partners) in any material respect;

are necessary or appropriate to satisfy any requirements, conditions or guidelines contained in any opinion, directive, order, ruling or regulation of any federal or state agency or judicial authority or contained in any federal or state statute;

are necessary or appropriate to facilitate the trading of limited partner interests or to comply with any rule, regulation, guideline or requirement of any national securities exchange on which the limited partner interests are or will be listed or admitted to trading;

are necessary or appropriate for any action taken by our general partner relating to splits or combinations of units under the provisions of our partnership agreement; or

are required to effect the intent expressed in our original registration statement on Form S-1 (File No.: 333-128378), filed with the SEC on September 16, 2005, as amended or supplemented, or the intent of the provisions of our partnership agreement or are otherwise contemplated by our partnership agreement.

Opinion of Counsel and Unitholder Approval. Our general partner will not be required to obtain an opinion of counsel that an amendment will not result in a loss of limited liability to the limited partners or result in our being treated as an entity for federal income tax purposes in connection with any of the amendments described above. No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting as a single class unless we first obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment will not affect the limited liability under applicable law of any of our limited partners.

Edgar Filing: DCP Midstream Partners, LP - Form S-3

In addition to the above restrictions, any amendment that would have a material adverse effect on the rights or preferences of any type or class of outstanding units in relation to other classes of units will require the approval of at least a majority of the type or class of units so affected. Any amendment that reduces the voting percentage required to take any action is required to be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners whose aggregate outstanding units constitute not less than the voting requirement sought to be reduced.

Table of Contents

Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets

A merger, consolidation or conversion of us requires the prior consent of our general partner. However, our general partner will have no duty or obligation to consent to any merger, consolidation or conversion and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interest of us or the limited partners.

In addition, the partnership agreement generally prohibits our general partner, without the prior approval of the holders of a unit majority, from causing us to, among other things, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets in a single transaction or a series of related transactions, including by way of merger, consolidation or other combination, or approving on our behalf the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of our subsidiaries. Our general partner may, however, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in all or substantially all of our assets without that approval. Our general partner may also sell all or substantially all of our assets under a foreclosure or other realization upon those encumbrances without that approval. Finally, our general partner may consummate any merger without the prior approval of our unitholders if we are the surviving entity in the transaction, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, the transaction would not result in a material amendment to the partnership agreement, each of our units will be an identical unit of our partnership following the transaction, and the partnership securities to be issued in connection with such merger or consolidation do not exceed 20% of our outstanding partnership securities immediately prior to the transaction.

If the conditions specified in the partnership agreement are satisfied, our general partner may convert us or any of our subsidiaries into a new limited liability entity or merge us or any of our subsidiaries into, or convey all of our assets to, a newly formed entity if the sole purpose of that conversion, merger or conveyance is to effect a mere change in our legal form into another limited liability entity, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, and the governing instruments of the new entity provide the limited partners and the general partner with the same rights and obligations as contained in the partnership agreement. The unitholders are not entitled to dissenters' rights of appraisal under the partnership agreement or applicable Delaware law in the event of a conversion, merger or consolidation, a sale of substantially all of our assets or any other similar transaction or event.

Termination and Dissolution

We will continue as a limited partnership until terminated under our partnership agreement. We will dissolve upon:

the election of our general partner to dissolve us, if approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority;

there being no limited partners, unless we are continued without dissolution in accordance with the Delaware Act;

the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution of our partnership; or

the withdrawal or removal of our general partner or any other event that results in its ceasing to be our general partner other than by reason of a transfer of its general partner interest in accordance with our partnership agreement or withdrawal or removal following approval and admission of a successor.

Upon a dissolution under the last clause above, the holders of a unit majority may also elect, within specific time limitations, to continue our business on the same terms and conditions described in our partnership agreement by appointing as a successor general partner an entity approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority, subject to our receipt of an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

the action would not result in the loss of limited liability of any limited partner; and

neither our partnership, our operating partnership, nor any of our other subsidiaries would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise be taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes upon the exercise of that right to continue.

Table of Contents

Liquidation and Distribution of Proceeds

Upon our dissolution, unless we are continued as a new limited partnership, the liquidator authorized to wind up our affairs will act with all of the powers of our general partner that are necessary or appropriate to liquidate our assets and apply the proceeds of the liquidation as described in Our Cash Distribution Policy and Restrictions on Distributions Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation . The liquidator may defer liquidation or distribution of our assets for a reasonable period of time or distribute assets to our partners. The liquidator may distribute our assets, in whole or in part, in kind if it determines that a sale would be impractical or would cause undue loss to our partners.

Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner

Except as described below, our general partner has agreed not to withdraw voluntarily as our general partner prior to December 31, 2015 without obtaining the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by the general partner and its affiliates, and furnishing an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. On or after December 31, 2015, our general partner may withdraw as general partner without obtaining approval of any unitholder by giving 90 days written notice, provided that such withdrawal will not constitute a violation of our partnership agreement.

Notwithstanding the information above, our general partner may withdraw without unitholder approval upon 90 days notice to the limited partners if at least 50% of the outstanding common units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than the general partner and its affiliates. In addition, the partnership agreement permits our general partner in some instances to sell or otherwise transfer all of its general partner interest in us without the approval of the unitholders. Please read Transfer of General Partner Units and Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights .

Upon withdrawal of our general partner under any circumstances, other than as a result of a transfer by our general partner of all or a part of its general partner interest in us, the holders of a unit majority, voting as a single class, may select a successor to the withdrawing general partner. If a successor is not elected, or is elected but an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters cannot be obtained, we will be dissolved, wound up and liquidated, unless within a specified period after that withdrawal, the holders of a unit majority agree in writing to continue our business and to appoint a successor gener