

ATMOS ENERGY CORP  
Form S-3ASR  
March 28, 2013  
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 28, 2013

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**Form S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

*UNDER*

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas and Virginia  
(State or other jurisdiction of

75-1743247  
(I.R.S. Employer

Edgar Filing: ATMOS ENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

Louis P. Gregory

1800 Three Lincoln Centre

1800 Three Lincoln Centre

5430 LBJ Freeway

5430 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas 75240

Dallas, Texas 75240

(972) 934-9227

(972) 934-9227

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

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

*The Commission is requested to mail copies of all orders, notices and communications to:*

**Robyn Zolman**

**Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP**

**1801 California Street, Suite 4200**

**Denver, Colorado 80202**

**(303) 298-5700**

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

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.

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. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

# Edgar Filing: ATMOS ENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

## CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee</b>
Debt securities and common stock (no par value per share)	\$1,750,000,000(1)	(2)

- (1) An indeterminate number of securities is being registered as may from time to time be sold at indeterminate prices, up to a maximum aggregate offering price of \$1,750,000,000. The total amount of \$1,750,000,000 of securities being registered represents the offering price of any common stock, the principal amount of any debt securities issued at their stated principal amount and the offering price of any debt securities issued at an original discount. The securities being registered also include an indeterminate number of shares of common stock that may be issued upon conversion of debt securities that are being registered. Separate consideration may or may not be received for shares of common stock that are issuable upon conversion of debt securities.
- (2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**Atmos Energy Corporation**

**By this prospectus, we offer up to**

**\$1,750,000,000**

**of debt securities and common stock.**

We will provide specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

**Investing in these securities involves risks. See Risk Factors on page 1 of this prospectus, in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference.**

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ATO.

Our address is 1800 Three Lincoln Centre, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75240, and our telephone number is (972) 934-9227.

**The Securities and Exchange Commission and state securities regulators have not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

This prospectus is dated March 28, 2013.

**Table of Contents**

We have not authorized any other person to provide you with any information or to make any representation that is different from, or in addition to, the information and representations contained in this prospectus or in any of the documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, as well as the information contained in any document incorporated by reference, is accurate as of the date of each such document only, unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	ii
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Atmos Energy Corporation</u>	1
<u>Securities We May Offer</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Retroactive Presentation for Change in Accounting Principle</u>	3
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	3
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	4
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	18
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	21
<u>Experts</u>	21
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	22
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	22

The distribution of this prospectus may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions. You should inform yourself about and observe any of these restrictions. This prospectus does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which the offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so, or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation.

*The terms we, our, us, and Atmos Energy refer to Atmos Energy Corporation and its subsidiaries unless the context suggests otherwise. The term you refers to a prospective investor.*

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus that are not statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ). Forward-looking statements are based on management's beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, management. Because such statements are based on expectations as to future results and are not statements of fact, actual results may differ materially from those stated. Important factors that could cause future results to differ include, but are not limited to:

our ability to continue to access the credit markets to satisfy our liquidity requirements;

the impact of adverse economic conditions on our customers;

increased costs of providing pension and postretirement health care benefits and increased funding requirements, along with increased costs of health care benefits;

market risks beyond our control affecting our risk management activities, including market liquidity, commodity price volatility, increasing interest rates and counterparty creditworthiness;

regulatory trends and decisions, including the impact of rate proceedings before various state regulatory commissions;

possible increased federal, state and local regulation of the safety of our operations;

possible increased federal regulatory oversight and potential penalties;

the impact of environmental regulations on our business;

the impact of possible future additional regulatory and financial risks associated with global warming and climate change on our business;

the concentration of our distribution, pipeline and storage operations in Texas;

adverse weather conditions;

the effects of inflation and changes in the availability and prices of natural gas;

the capital-intensive nature of our natural gas distribution business;

## Edgar Filing: ATMOS ENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

increased competition from energy suppliers and alternative forms of energy;

the threat of cyber-attacks or acts of cyber-terrorism that could disrupt our business operations and information technology systems;

the inherent hazards and risks involved in operating our natural gas distribution business or with natural disasters, terrorist activities or other events; and

other risks and uncertainties discussed in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

All of these factors are difficult to predict and many are beyond our control. Accordingly, while we believe our forward-looking statements to be reasonable, there can be no assurance that they will approximate actual experience or that the expectations derived from them will be realized. When used in our documents or oral presentations, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, forecast, goal, intend, objective, projection, seek, strategy or similar words are intended to identify forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to update or revise our forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

For additional factors you should consider generally and when evaluating these forward-looking statements, please see "Risk Factors" on page 1 of this prospectus and Item 1A. Risk Factors and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 and Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three-month period ended December 31, 2012. See Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference, as well as the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Table of Contents**

### **RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our debt securities or our common stock involves risks. Our business is influenced by many factors that are difficult to predict and beyond our control and that involve uncertainties that may materially affect our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows, or the value of these securities. These risks and uncertainties include those described in the risk factors and other sections of the documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Subsequent prospectus supplements may contain a discussion of additional risks applicable to an investment in us and the particular type of securities we are offering under the prospectus supplements. You should carefully consider all of the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in the applicable prospectus supplement before you invest in our debt securities or common stock.

### **ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION**

We are engaged primarily in the regulated natural gas distribution and transmission and storage businesses, as well as other nonregulated natural gas businesses. We are one of the country's largest natural gas-only distributors based on number of customers. We currently distribute natural gas through sales and transportation arrangements to over three million residential, commercial, public authority and industrial customers in nine states. We also operate one of the largest intrastate pipelines in Texas based upon miles of pipe.

Through our regulated transmission and storage business, we provide natural gas transportation and storage services to our Mid-Tex Division, our largest natural gas distribution division located in Texas, and to third parties. Additionally, we provide ancillary services customary to the pipeline industry, including parking arrangements, lending and sales of inventory on hand.

Through our nonregulated businesses, we primarily provide natural gas management and marketing services to municipalities, other local gas distribution companies and industrial customers primarily in the Midwest and Southeast. We also provide storage services to some of our natural gas distribution divisions and to third parties.

We operate through the following three segments:

the natural gas distribution segment, which includes our regulated natural gas distribution and related sales operations;

the regulated transmission and storage segment, which includes the regulated pipeline and storage operations of our Atmos Pipeline Texas Division; and

the nonregulated segment, which includes our nonregulated natural gas management, nonregulated natural gas transmission, storage and other services.

### **SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

#### **Types of Securities**

The types of securities that we may offer and sell from time to time by this prospectus are:

debt securities, which we may issue in one or more series and which may include provisions regarding conversion of the debt securities into our common stock; and

common stock.

The aggregate initial offering price of all securities sold will not exceed \$1,750,000,000. We will determine when we sell securities, the amounts of securities we will sell and the prices and other terms on which we will sell them. We may sell securities to or through underwriters, through agents or dealers or directly to purchasers. The offer and sale of securities by this prospectus is subject to receipt of satisfactory regulatory



approvals in four states, all of which have been received and are currently in effect.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Prospectus Supplements**

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the debt securities and common stock we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to or change information contained in this prospectus. In that case, the prospectus supplement should be read as superseding this prospectus.

In each prospectus supplement, which will be attached to the front of this prospectus, we will include, among other things, the following information:

the type and amount of securities which we propose to sell;

the initial public offering price of the securities;

the names of the underwriters, agents or dealers, if any, through or to which we will sell the securities;

the compensation, if any, of those underwriters, agents or dealers;

if applicable, information about the securities exchanges or automated quotation systems on which the securities will be listed or traded;

material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the securities, where necessary; and

any other material information about the offering and sale of the securities.

For more details on the terms of the securities, you should read the exhibits filed with our registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part. You should also read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Except as may otherwise be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities that we may offer and sell from time to time by this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including for working capital, repaying indebtedness and funding capital projects and other growth.

**Table of Contents****RETROACTIVE PRESENTATION FOR CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE**

The following is presented to reflect the retrospective application of a new accounting pronouncement with respect to the financial information contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012. Effective October 1, 2012, we adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05, Presentation of Comprehensive Income, as amended by Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-12, Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income. These updates require that all nonowner changes in shareholders' equity be presented either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements and eliminate the option to present components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of shareholders' equity. These updates do not, however, change the items that must be reported in other comprehensive income or the determination of net income. The new guidance is to be applied retrospectively. The adoption only impacted the presentation of our consolidated financial statements.

The following selected financial information revises historical information to illustrate the new presentation required by this pronouncement for the periods presented. This data should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes for the year ended September 30, 2012 as included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated by reference in the prospectus.

**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income**

	Year ended September 30,		
	2012	2011	2010
	(In thousands)		
Net income	\$ 216,717	\$ 207,601	\$ 205,839
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities, net of tax of \$1,881, \$(953) and \$1,025	3,103	(1,647)	1,745
Amortization and unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate agreements, net of tax of \$(5,388), \$(16,850) and \$1,193	(10,116)	(28,689)	2,030
Net unrealized gains (losses) on commodity cash flow hedges, net of tax of \$5,029, \$3,355 and \$(4,452)	7,866	5,248	(6,963)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	853	(25,088)	(3,188)
Total comprehensive income	\$ 217,570	\$ 182,513	\$ 202,651

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended			Year Ended			
	December 31,			September 30,			
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	4.65	3.54	2.84	2.78	2.78	2.55	2.76

For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consists of the sum of our pretax income from continuing operations and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of debt discount, premium and expense, capitalized interest and a portion of lease payments considered to represent an interest factor.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more distinct series. This section summarizes the material terms that we anticipate will be common to all series of debt securities. Please note that the terms of any series of debt securities that we may offer may differ significantly from the common terms described in this prospectus. Many of the other terms of any series of debt securities that we offer, and any differences from the common terms described in this prospectus, will be described in the prospectus supplement for such securities to be attached to the front of this prospectus.

As required by U.S. federal law for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, a document called an indenture will govern any debt securities that we issue. An indenture is a contract between us and a financial institution acting as trustee on behalf of the purchasers of the debt securities. We have entered into an indenture with U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the "indenture"), which is subject to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The trustee under the indenture has the following two main roles:

the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default; there are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on your behalf, which are described later in this prospectus; and

the trustee will perform certain administrative duties for us, which include sending you interest payments and notices.

As this section is a summary of some of the terms of the debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities. We urge you to read the indenture and the other documents we file with the SEC relating to the debt securities because the indenture for those securities and those other documents, and not this description, will define your rights as a holder of our debt securities. We filed a copy of the indenture with the SEC as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 26, 2009, and it is incorporated in this prospectus by reference. We may file any such other documents as exhibits to an annual, quarterly or current report that we file with the SEC following their execution. See "Where You Can Find More Information" for information on how to obtain copies of the indenture and any such other documents. References to the "indenture" mean the indenture that will define your rights as a holder of debt securities. Capitalized terms used in this section and not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in the indenture.

**General**

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations. Senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. Subordinated debt securities will rank junior to our senior indebtedness, including our credit facilities.

You should read the prospectus supplement that will describe the following terms of the series of debt securities offered by the prospectus supplement:

the title of the debt securities and whether the debt securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;

the ranking of the debt securities;

if the debt securities are subordinated, the terms of subordination;

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities, the percentage of their principal amount at which the debt securities will be issued, and the date or dates when the principal of the debt securities will be payable or how those dates will be determined or extended;

Edgar Filing: ATMOS ENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, that the debt securities will bear, if any, how the rate or rates will be determined, and the periods when the rate or rates will be in effect;

**Table of Contents**

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or how the date or dates will be determined, the date or dates on which any interest will be payable, whether and the terms under which payment of interest may be deferred, any regular record dates for these payments or how these dates will be determined and the basis on which any interest will be calculated, if other than on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;

the place or places, if any, other than or in addition to New York City, of payment, transfer or exchange of the debt securities, and where notices or demands to or upon us in respect of the debt securities may be served;

any optional redemption provisions and any restrictions on the sources of funds for redemption payments, which may benefit the holders of other securities;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to repurchase or redeem the debt securities;

whether the amount of payments of principal of, any premium on, or interest on the debt securities will be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method, which could be based on one or more commodities, equity indices or other indices, and how these amounts will be determined;

any modifications, deletions or additions to the events of default or covenants with respect to the debt securities described in this prospectus;

if not the principal amount of the debt securities, the portion of the principal amount that will be payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities or how that portion will be determined;

any modifications, deletions or additions to the provisions concerning defeasance and covenant defeasance contained in the indenture that will be applicable to the debt securities;

any provisions granting special rights to the holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

if other than the trustee, the name of the paying agent, security registrar or transfer agent for the debt securities;

if we do not issue the debt securities in book-entry form only to be held by The Depository Trust Company, as depository, whether we will issue the debt securities in certificated form or the identity of any alternative depository;

the person to whom any interest in a debt security will be payable, if other than the registered holder at the close of business on the regular record date;

the denomination or denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$2,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof;

## Edgar Filing: ATMOS ENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

any provisions requiring us to pay Additional Amounts on the debt securities to any holder who is not a United States person in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem the debt securities rather than pay the Additional Amounts;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for other debt securities or common shares, and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which the debt securities will be so convertible or exchangeable, including the initial conversion or exchange price or rate or the method of calculation, how and when the conversion price or exchange ratio may be adjusted, whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, the conversion or exchange period and any other provision related to the debt securities; and

any other material terms of the debt securities or the indenture, which may not be consistent with the terms set forth in this prospectus.

For purposes of this prospectus, any reference to the payment of principal of, any premium on, or interest on the debt securities will include Additional Amounts if required by the terms of the debt securities.

## **Table of Contents**

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that we are authorized to issue from time to time. The indenture also provides that there may be multiple series of debt securities issued thereunder and more than one trustee thereunder, each for one or more series of debt securities. If a trustee is acting under the indenture with respect to more than one series of debt securities, the debt securities for which it is acting would be treated as if issued under separate indentures. If there is more than one trustee under the indenture, the powers and trust obligations of each trustee will apply only to the debt securities of the separate series for which it is trustee.

We may issue debt securities with terms different from those of debt securities already issued. Without the consent of the holders of the outstanding debt securities, we may reopen a previous issue of a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series unless the reopening was restricted when we created that series.

There is no requirement that we issue debt securities in the future under the indenture, and we may use other indentures or documentation, containing different provisions in connection with future issues of other debt securities.

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, which are debt securities, including any zero-coupon debt securities that are issued and sold at a discount from their stated principal amount. Original issue discount securities provide that, upon acceleration of their maturity, an amount less than their principal amount will become due and payable. We will describe the U.S. federal income tax consequences and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities in any prospectus supplement relating to them.

## **Holders of Debt Securities**

*Book-Entry Holders.* We will issue debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means the debt securities will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the debt securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Under the indenture, we will recognize as a holder only the person in whose name a debt security is registered. Consequently, for debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the debt securities and we will make all payments on the debt securities to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities. As a result, you will not own the debt securities directly. Instead, you will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the debt securities are issued in global form, you will be an indirect holder, and not a holder, of the debt securities.

*Street Name Holders.* In the future we may terminate a global security or issue debt securities initially in non-global form. In these cases, you may choose to hold your debt securities in your own name or in street name. Debt securities held in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that you choose, and you would hold only a beneficial interest in those debt securities through an account you maintain at that institution.

For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities, and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. If you hold debt securities in street name you will be an indirect holder, and not a holder, of those debt securities.



---

## **Table of Contents**

*Legal Holders.* Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the trustee, run only to the legal holders of the debt securities. We do not have obligations to you if you hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether you choose to be an indirect holder of a debt security or have no choice because we are issuing the debt securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice, even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose (for example, to amend the indenture or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of the indenture) we would seek the approval only from the holders, and not the indirect holders, of the debt securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the holders.

When we refer to you, we mean those who invest in the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the holders or only indirect holders of those debt securities. When we refer to your debt securities, we mean the debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

*Special Considerations for Indirect Holders.* If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

## **Global Securities**

*What is a Global Security?* We will issue each debt security under the indenture in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. A global security represents one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global security that represents multiple debt securities that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global security a master global security.

Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all debt securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under *Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated*. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its



## Table of Contents

nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all debt securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, if your security is represented by a global security, you will not be a holder of the debt security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

*Special Considerations for Global Securities.* We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of debt securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security. The account rules of your financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers, will govern your rights relating to a global security.

If we issue debt securities only in the form of a global security, you should be aware of the following:

you cannot cause the debt securities to be registered in your name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for your interest in the debt securities, except in the special situations that we describe below;

you will be an indirect holder and must look to your own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities and protection of your legal rights relating to the debt securities, as we describe under *Holders of Debt Securities* above;

you may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

you may not be able to pledge your interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the debt securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

the depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to your interest in a global security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way;

DTC requires, and other depositories may require, that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system, and through which you hold your interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the debt security. Your chain of ownership may contain more than one financial intermediary. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

*Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated.* In a few special situations described below, a global security will be terminated and interests in it will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form representing the debt securities it represented. After that exchange, you will be able to choose whether to hold the debt securities directly or in street name. You must consult your own bank or broker to find out how to have your interests in a global security transferred on termination to your own name, so that you will be a holder. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above under *Holders of Debt Securities*.

The special situations for termination of a global security are as follows:

if the depository notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depository for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depository within 60 days;

if we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

## **Table of Contents**

if an event of default has occurred with regard to debt securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

We discuss defaults later under Events of Default.

If a global security is terminated, only the depository, and not we or the trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities represented by the global security are registered, and, therefore, who will be the holders of those debt securities.

## **Covenants**

This section summarizes the material covenants in the indenture. Please refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for information about any changes to our covenants, including any addition or deletion of a covenant, and to the indenture for information on other covenants not described in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement.

*Limitations on Liens.* We covenant in the indenture that we will not, and will not permit any of our Restricted Subsidiaries to, create, incur, issue or assume any Indebtedness secured by any Lien on any Principal Property, or on shares of stock or Indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary, known as Restricted Securities, without making effective provision for the Outstanding Securities, other than debt securities of any series not entitled to the benefit of this covenant, to be secured by a Lien equa