

QUESTAR CORP
Form 10-Q
May 05, 2005

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

Form 10-Q

- QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED **MARCH 31, 2005**
- OR
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____.

Commission File Number 1-8796

QUESTAR CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

State of Utah

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

87-0407509

(IRS Employer Identification Number)

**180 East 100 South
P.O. Box 45433
Salt Lake City, Utah**

(Address of principal executive offices)

84145-0433

(Zip code)

(801) 324-5000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes

No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes

No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class

Outstanding as of April 30, 2005

Common Stock, without par value

with attached Common Stock
Purchase Rights

84,826,700 Shares

Questar Corporation

Form 10-Q for the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page #

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

PART I.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1.

Financial Statements

Consolidated Statements of Income for the three months ended

March 31, 2005 and 2004

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at March 31, 2005

and December 31, 2004

9

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended

March 31, 2005 and 2004

10

Notes Accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements

11

Item 2.

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and

Results of Operations

18

Item 3.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

31

Item 4.

Controls and Procedures

24

PART II.

OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1.

Legal Proceedings

35

Item 2.

Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

35

Item 5.

Other Information

36

Item 6.

Exhibits

36

Signatures

36

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

bbl

Barrel, which is equal to 42 U.S. gallons and is a common unit of measurement of crude oil.

basis

The difference between a reference or benchmark-commodity price and the corresponding sales price at various regional sales points.

bcf

One billion cubic feet, a common unit of measurement of natural gas.

bcfe

One billion cubic feet of natural gas equivalents. Oil volume is converted to natural gas equivalent using the ratio of one barrel of crude oil to 6,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

Btu

One British thermal unit a measure of the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

cash-flow hedge

A derivative instrument that complies with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 133, as amended, and is used to reduce the exposure to variability in cash flows from the forecasted physical sale of gas and oil production whereby the gains (losses) on the derivative transaction are anticipated to offset the losses (gains) on the forecasted physical sale.

cf

Cubic foot is a common unit of gas measurement. One standard cubic foot equals the volume of gas in one cubic foot measured at standard conditions a temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and a pressure of 30 inches of mercury (approximately 14.73 pounds per square inch).

development well

A well drilled into a known producing formation in a previously discovered field.

dew point

A specific temperature and pressure at which hydrocarbons condense to form a liquid.

dry hole

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

dth

Decatherms or ten therms. One dth equals one million Btu or approximately one Mcf.

exploratory well

A well drilled into a previously untested geologic prospect to determine the presence of gas or oil.

finding costs

Finding costs are the sum of costs incurred for gas and oil exploration and development activities; including leasehold acquisitions, seismic, geological and geophysical, development and exploration drilling and asset-retirement obligations for a given period, divided by the total amount of estimated net-proved reserves added through discoveries, positive and negative revisions of previous estimates and purchases in-place for the same period. The Company expresses finding costs in dollars per Mcfe averaged over a five-year period.

futures contract

An exchange-traded legal contract to buy or sell a standard quantity and quality of a commodity at a specified future date and price.

gas

All references to gas in this report refer to natural gas.

gross

Gross natural gas and oil wells or gross acres equal the total number of wells or acres in which the Company has a working interest.

heating-degree days

A measure of the number of degrees the average-daily outside temperature is below 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

hedging

The use of derivative-commodity and interest-rate instruments to reduce financial exposure to commodity-price and interest-rate volatility.

Mbbl

One thousand barrels.

Mcf

One thousand cubic feet.

Mcfe

One thousand cubic feet of natural gas equivalents. Oil volume is converted to natural gas equivalent using the ratio of one barrel of crude oil to 6,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

Mdth

One thousand decatherms.

Mdthe

One thousand decatherm equivalents. Oil volume is converted to natural gas equivalent using the ratio of one barrel of crude oil to 6,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

MMbbl

One million barrels.

MMBtu

One million British thermal units.

MMcf

One million cubic feet.

MMcfe

One million cubic feet of natural gas equivalents.

MMdth

One million decatherms.

MMgal

One million U. S. gallons.

natural gas liquids

Liquid hydrocarbons that are extracted and separated from the natural gas

(NGL)

stream. NGL products include ethane, propane, butane, natural gasoline and heavier hydrocarbons.

net

Net gas and oil wells or net acres are determined by the sum of the fractional ownership working interest the Company has in those gross wells or acres.

production-

The production-replacement ratio is calculated by dividing the net-proved

replacement ratio

reserves added through discoveries, positive and negative revisions of previous estimates and purchases and sales in-place for a given period by the production for the same period, expressed as a percentage. The production-replacement ratio is typically reported on an annual basis.

proved reserves

Those quantities of natural gas, crude oil, condensate and NGL on a net-revenue-interest basis, which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable under existing economic and operating conditions. See 17 C.F.R. Section 4-10(a)(2) for a complete definition.

proved-developed

Reserves that include proved developed-producing reserves

reserves

and proved-developed behind-pipe reserves. See 17 C.F.R. Section 4-10(a)(3).

proved-developed-

Reserves expected to be recovered from existing completion intervals in

producing reserves

existing wells.

proved-undeveloped

Reserves expected to be recovered from new wells on proved-undrilled acreage

reserves

or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion. See 17 C.F.R. Section 4-10(a)(4).

reservoir

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

wet gas

Unprocessed natural gas that contains a mixture of heavier hydrocarbons including ethane, propane, butane and natural gasoline.

working interest

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

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended. All statements other than statements of historical facts included or incorporated by reference in this report, including, without limitation, statements regarding the Company's future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected costs and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In addition, forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as may, will, could, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, believe, forecast, or continue or the negative thereof or variations thereon or similar terminology. Although these statements are made in good faith and are reasonable representations of Questar Corporation's (Questar or the Company) expected performance at the time, actual results may vary from management's stated expectations and projections due to a variety of factors.

Important assumptions and other significant factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following:

Questar subsidiaries find, produce and sell natural gas, oil and NGL

Natural gas, oil and NGL prices are volatile and, therefore, Questar revenues, cash flow and earnings can be volatile. The Company cannot predict future natural gas, oil and NGL prices, which are subject to forces beyond its control such as:

- Domestic and foreign supply of and demand for natural gas and oil;
- Regional basis differential due to pipeline-capacity constraints;
- Domestic and global economic conditions;
- Weather;
- Domestic and foreign government regulations;
- The price and availability of alternative fuels; and
- The price and availability of drilling rigs and other materials and services.

Gas and oil prices are volatile

The Company uses financial contracts to hedge its exposure to volatile energy prices and to protect cash flow, returns on capital, net income and credit ratings from downward commodity-price movements. While hedging reduces the impact of declining prices, it may also limit future revenues from rising prices. Questar believes the Company's regulated businesses—interstate natural gas transportation and retail gas distribution—and its Wexpro subsidiary generate revenues that are not significantly sensitive to short-term fluctuations in energy prices.

Questar's profitability depends not only on prevailing prices for natural gas and oil, but also the Company's ability to find, develop and acquire gas and oil reserves that are economically recoverable. Substantial capital expenditures are required to find, develop and acquire gas and oil reserves to replace those depleted by production.

Estimating gas and oil reserves, production and future net cash flow is difficult

Questar Exploration and Production's proved natural gas and oil-reserve estimates are prepared annually by independent reservoir-engineering consultants. Gas and oil-reserve estimates are subject to numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved reserves, projecting future rates of production and timing of development

expenditures. The accuracy of these estimates depends on the quality of available data and on engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Reserve estimates are imprecise and will change as additional information becomes available. Estimates of economically recoverable reserves and future net cash flows prepared by different engineers, or by the same engineers at different times may vary significantly. Results of subsequent drilling, testing and production may cause either upward or downward revisions of previous estimates. In addition, the estimates of future net revenues from proved reserves and the present value of those reserves are based upon certain assumptions about production levels, prices and costs, which may change. The volumes considered to be commercially recoverable fluctuate with changes in prices and operating costs. The meaningfulness of such estimates depends on the accuracy of the assumptions upon which they were based. Actual results may differ materially from the estimated results.

Drilling is a high-risk activity

Operating risks include: blow-outs; fire; unexpected drilling conditions such as uncontrollable flows of gas, oil, formation water or drilling fluids; abandonment costs; explosions; pipe, cement or casing failures; oil spills; natural gas leaks; pipeline ruptures; and discharges of toxic gases. The Company could incur substantial losses as a result of injury or loss of life; environmental damage; destruction of property; fines; or curtailment of operations. The Company maintains insurance against some, but not all, of these potential risks and losses.

Questar must comply with numerous regulations from the federal, state and local level

Questar is subject to federal, state and local environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. Environmental laws and regulations are complex, change frequently and tend to become more onerous over time. In addition to the costs of compliance, the Company may incur substantial costs to take corrective actions at both owned and previously owned facilities. Accidental spills and leaks requiring cleanup may occur in the ordinary course of business. As standards change, the Company may incur significant costs in cases where past operations followed practices that were considered acceptable at the time but that now require remedial work to meet current standards. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in fines, significant costs for remedial activities, or injunctions.

Questar must comply with numerous and complex regulations governing activities on federal and state lands in the Rocky Mountain region, notably the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal and state agencies frequently impose conditions on the Company's activities. These restrictions tend to become more stringent over time, and can limit or prevent the Company from exploring for, finding and producing natural gas and oil on its Rockies leaseholds. Certain environmental groups oppose drilling on some of the Company's federal and state leases.

Various federal agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior, particularly the Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, along with each Native American tribe, promulgate and enforce regulations pertaining to gas and oil operations on Native American tribal lands. These regulations include such matters as lease provisions, drilling and production requirements, environmental standards and royalty considerations. In addition, each Native American tribe is a sovereign nation having the right to enforce laws and regulations independent from federal, state and local statutes and regulations, as long as they do not supersede or conflict with federal law. These

tribal laws and regulations include various taxes, fees, requirements to employ Native American tribal members, and other conditions that apply to lessees, operators and contractors conducting operations on Native American tribal lands. Finally, lessees and operators conducting operations on tribal lands are generally subject to the Native American tribal court system. One or more of these factors may increase Questar's costs of doing business on Native American tribal lands and have an impact on the viability of its gas and oil operations on such lands.

Questar Pipeline's natural gas-transportation and storage operations are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Natural Gas Act of 1938 and the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. The FERC has authority to: set rates for natural gas transportation, storage and related services; set rules governing business relationships between the pipeline subsidiary and its affiliates; approve new pipeline and storage-facility construction; and establish policies and procedures for accounting, purchase, sale, abandonment and other activities. FERC policies may adversely affect Questar Pipeline profitability.

Both Questar Pipeline and Questar Gas must incur significant costs to comply with federal pipeline-safety regulations. Questar may also be affected by possible future regulations requiring the tracking, reporting and reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions.

State agencies regulate the distribution of natural gas

Questar Gas's natural gas-distribution business is regulated by the Public Service Commission of Utah (PSCU) and the Public Service Commission of Wyoming (PSCW). These commissions set rates for distribution services and establish policies and procedures for services, accounting, purchase, sale and other activities. PSCU and PSCW policies may adversely affect Questar Gas profitability.

Other factors may affect Questar's results

Other factors may affect Questar's results such as changes in general economic conditions; changes in regulation; availability and economic viability of gas and oil properties for sale or exploration; creditworthiness of counterparties; rate of inflation and interest rates; assumptions used in business combinations; weather and natural disasters; changes in customers' credit ratings; competition from other forms of energy, other pipelines and storage facilities; effects of accounting policies issued periodically by accounting standard-setting bodies; terrorist attacks or acts of war; changes in the business or financial condition of the Company; changes in credit ratings; and availability of financing for Questar and its subsidiaries.

The Company cannot predict these factors nor can it assess the impact, if any, of such factors on its financial position or its results of operations. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a predictor of actual results. Questar undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement provided in this report.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

QUESTAR CORPORATION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Unaudited)

| | 2005 | 3 Months Ended March 31, 2004 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | (in thousands, except per share amounts) | |
| REVENUES | | |
| Market Resources | \$ 314,338 | \$ 234,054 |
| Questar Pipeline | 17,912 | 18,013 |
| Questar Gas | 343,690 | 306,879 |
| Corporate and other operations | 4,384 | 4,670 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 680,324 | 563,616 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | |
| Cost of natural gas and other products sold | 342,786 | 266,259 |
| Operating and maintenance | 85,849 | 78,429 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 58,825 | 52,269 |
| Questar Gas rate-refund obligation | | 1,490 |
| Exploration | 1,373 | 1,087 |
| Abandonment and impairment of gas, oil and other properties | 1,405 | 4,406 |
| Production and other taxes | 26,385 | 22,886 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | 516,623 | 426,826 |
| OPERATING INCOME | 163,701 | 136,790 |
| Interest and other income | 2,651 | 1,824 |
| Earnings from unconsolidated affiliates | 1,546 | 1,310 |
| Minority interest | | (270) |
| Debt expense | (16,722) | (17,516) |
| INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES | 151,176 | 122,138 |
| Income taxes | 56,005 | 46,005 |
| NET INCOME | \$ 95,171 | \$ 76,133 |

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Earnings per common share | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.13 | \$ 0.91 |
| Diluted | 1.10 | 0.89 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | | |
| Used in basic calculation | 84,417 | 83,374 |
| Used in diluted calculation | 86,728 | 85,168 |
| | | |
| Dividends per common share | \$ 0.215 | \$ 0.205 |

See notes accompanying consolidated financial statements

QUESTAR CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| | March 31, 2005 (Unaudited) | December 31, 2004 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | \$ 3,681 |
| Accounts receivable, net | \$ 228,847 | 262,373 |
| Unbilled gas accounts receivable | 42,570 | 59,160 |
| Hedging collateral deposits | 83,420 | |
| Fair value of hedging contracts | 2,016 | 9,334 |
| Inventories, at lower of average cost or market | | |
| Gas and oil storage | 27,461 | 66,944 |
| Materials and supplies | 23,700 | 18,993 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 22,914 | 23,690 |
| Purchased-gas adjustments | 14,766 | 35,853 |
| Total current assets | 445,694 | 480,028 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 4,984,145 | 4,877,771 |
| Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization | 1,944,244 | 1,893,111 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 3,039,901 | 2,984,660 |
| Investment in unconsolidated affiliates | 33,744 | 33,229 |
| Goodwill | 71,260 | 71,260 |
| Regulatory assets | 31,838 | 32,120 |
| Intangible pension asset | 12,394 | 12,394 |
| Fair value of hedging contracts | | 1,815 |

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Other noncurrent assets | 29,901 | 31,152 |
| | \$3,664,732 | \$3,646,658 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Checks in excess of cash balances | \$ 4,348 | |
| Short-term debt | 37,000 | \$ 68,000 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 336,506 | 348,264 |
| Questar Gas customer credit balances | 7,949 | 24,771 |
| Rate-refund obligations | 14,361 | 25,343 |
| Fair value of hedging contracts | 194,604 | 64,179 |
| Deferred income taxes - current | 5,611 | 13,624 |
| Total current liabilities | 600,379 | 544,181 |
| Long-term debt, less current portion | 933,197 | 933,195 |
| Deferred income taxes | 472,156 | 532,809 |
| Asset-retirement obligations | 68,328 | 67,288 |
| Pension liability and post-retirement benefits | 50,112 | 47,919 |
| Fair value of hedging contracts | 61,247 | 14,471 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 71,284 | 67,237 |
| COMMON SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Common stock | 364,896 | 358,017 |
| Retained earnings | 1,212,693 | 1,135,718 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (169,560) | (54,177) |
| Total common shareholders' equity | 1,408,029 | 1,439,558 |
| | \$3,664,732 | \$3,646,658 |

See notes accompanying consolidated financial statements

QUESTAR CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net income | \$ 95,171 | \$ 76,133 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash | | |
| provided from operating activities: | | |

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 60,235 | 54,724 |
| Deferred income taxes | 2,105 | 14,867 |
| Amortization of nonvested shares | 865 | 576 |
| Abandonment and impairment of gas oil and other properties | 1,405 | 4,406 |
| Earnings from unconsolidated affiliates, net of cash distributions | 568 | (1,166) |
| Net gain from asset sales | (59) | |
| Other | 180 | 270 |
| | 160,470 | 149,810 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities | 5,071 | 36,811 |
| NET CASH PROVIDED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | 165,541 | 186,621 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Capital expenditures | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (128,261) | (68,886) |
| Other investments | (1,083) | |
| Total capital expenditures | (129,344) | (68,886) |
| Proceeds from disposition of assets | 1,427 | 895 |
| NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES | (127,917) | (67,991) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Common stock issued | 6,288 | 9,146 |
| Common stock repurchased | (2,743) | (1,813) |
| Long-term debt repaid | (2) | (54,998) |
| Decrease in short-term debt | (31,000) | (71,500) |
| Checks in excess of cash balances | 4,348 | 4,086 |
| Dividends paid | (18,196) | (17,139) |
| Other | | (317) |
| NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES | (41,305) | (132,535) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | (3,681) | (13,905) |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents | 3,681 | 13,905 |
| Ending cash and cash equivalents | \$ - | \$ - |

See notes accompanying financial statements

NOTES ACCOMPANYING CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1 Basis of Presentation of Interim Consolidated Financial Statements

The accompanying Questar interim consolidated financial statements have not been audited by an independent registered public accounting firm, with the exception of the condensed consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2004, which was derived from the audited consolidated financial statements at that date. The unaudited consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. The interim consolidated financial statements reflect all normal, recurring adjustments and accruals that are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of financial position and results of operations for the interim periods presented. The preparation of consolidated financial statements and notes in conformity with GAAP requires that management make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from estimates. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions were eliminated in consolidation. Certain reclassifications were made to the 2004 financial statements to conform with the 2005 presentation.

The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2005, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2005, due to the volatility of gas and oil sales prices, the seasonal nature of the gas-distribution business and other risk factors discussed in the Forward-Looking Statements section of this report. Interim consolidated financial statements do not include all of the information and notes required by GAAP for audited annual consolidated financial statements. For further information please refer to the consolidated financial statements and notes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K as amended for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Note 2 Rate-Refund Obligations

Gas-Processing Dispute

On August 1, 2003, the Utah Supreme Court issued an order reversing an August 2000 decision made by the PSCU concerning certain natural gas-processing costs incurred by Questar Gas to manage the heat content of its gas supply. The court ruled that the PSCU did not comply with its statutory responsibilities and regulatory procedures when approving a stipulation in Questar Gas's 1999 general rate case. The stipulation permitted Questar Gas to collect \$5.0 million per year, a portion of the processing costs, through May 2004. The Committee of Consumer Services, a Utah state agency, appealed the PSCU's decision, arguing that the PSCU had failed to explicitly address whether the costs were prudent.

As a result of the court's order, Questar Gas recorded a liability for a potential refund to gas-distribution customers. A total liability of \$29.0 million includes revenue received for processing costs and interest from June 1999 through September 2004.

On August 30, 2004, the PSCU ruled that Questar Gas failed in 1999 to prove that its decision to contract for gas processing with an affiliate was prudent. The PSCU rejected the stipulation, denied the request for rate recovery and ordered the refund of gas-processing costs previously collected in rates. Because Questar Gas had previously accrued a liability for the refund, the order did not have a material impact on 2004 earnings. Questar Gas reduced its rates on September 1, 2004, to eliminate the collection of gas-processing costs and on October 1 began refunding previously collected costs, plus interest, over a 12-month period. As of March 31, 2005, Questar Gas had a refund liability of \$9.2 million.

In response to a Questar Gas petition, the PSCU clarified that its order did not preclude recovery of ongoing and certain past-processing costs. Ongoing processing costs are approximately \$6.0 million per year. Questar Gas has requested ongoing rate coverage for gas-processing costs in its pass-through filings, but is not currently collecting these costs in rates. The PSCU has conducted several technical conferences to determine what actions should be taken to manage the heat content of the gas supply. On January 31, 2005, Questar Gas filed a rate request with the PSCU to recover \$5.7 million per year of gas-processing costs through its gas-balance account. Questar Gas filed expert testimony supporting the rate request on April 15, 2005, and hearings before the PSCU are scheduled for October 2005.

Fuel-Gas Reimbursement

During the fourth quarter of 2004, the FERC issued an order to Questar Pipeline in a case involving the annual fuel-gas reimbursement percentage (FGRP). The FERC previously granted Questar Pipeline's request to increase the FGRP effective January 1, 2004. In its order, the FERC approved the FGRP but also ruled that Questar Pipeline is required to credit to transportation customers proceeds from the sale of natural gas liquids recovered from its hydrocarbon dew point facilities at the Clay Basin storage field in northeastern Utah. Questar Pipeline has filed a request for rehearing with the FERC. Questar Pipeline believes that any credit to customers should be reduced by the plant's cost of service. Until the issue is resolved, Questar Pipeline will continue to accrue a potential liability equal to any liquid revenues from the dew point plant. As of March 31, 2005, Questar Pipeline had reduced revenues by \$5.2 million as a potential credit to customers, including \$0.5 million recorded in the first quarter of 2005.

Questar Pipeline made an annual FGRP filing with the FERC on November 30, 2004, requesting an increase in the FGRP to 2.6%. On December 30, 2004, the FERC approved the request on an interim basis subject to refund and final resolution of the 2004 FGRP proceeding. Several shippers have filed comments with the FERC protesting the FGRP level.

Note 3 Asset-Retirement Obligations (ARO)

Questar recognizes ARO in accordance with SFAS 143 Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations. SFAS 143 addresses the financial accounting and reporting of the fair value of legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets. The Company's ARO applies primarily to plugging and abandonment costs associated with

gas and oil wells and certain other properties. The fair value of abandonment costs are estimated and depreciated over the life of the related assets. ARO are adjusted to present value each period through an accretion calculation using a credit-adjusted risk-free interest rate.

Changes in asset-retirement obligations were as follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| Balance at January 1, | \$67,288 | \$61,358 |
| Accretion | 1,025 | 939 |
| Additions | 399 | 427 |
| Retirements and properties sold | (384) | (2) |
| Balance at March 31, | \$68,328 | \$62,722 |

Wexpro activities are governed by a long-standing agreement with the states of Utah and Wyoming (the Wexpro Agreement). The accounting treatment of reclamation activities associated with ARO for properties administered under the Wexpro Agreement is spelled out in a guideline letter between Wexpro and the Utah Division of Public Utilities and the staff of the PSCW. Pursuant to the stipulation, Wexpro collects and deposits in trust certain funds related to estimated ARO costs. The funds are used to satisfy retirement obligations as the properties are abandoned. At March 31, 2005, approximately \$3.1 million was held in this trust invested in a short-term bond index fund.

Note 4 Earnings Per Share (EPS)

Basic EPS is computed by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the accounting period. Diluted EPS includes the potential increase in the number of outstanding shares that could result from the exercise of in-the-money stock options plus an estimated number of nonvested restricted shares.

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Weighted-average basic common shares outstanding | 84,417 | 83,374 |
| Potential number of shares issuable from exercising | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| stock options and from vesting restricted shares | 2,311 | 1,794 |
| Weighted-average diluted common shares | | |
| outstanding | 86,728 | 85,168 |

In the first three months of 2005, Questar issued 417,000 shares under the terms of the Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan, the Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan and to satisfy its contributions to the Employee Investment Plan.

Note 5 Stock-Based Compensation

Questar issues stock options and nonvested restricted shares to employees and non-employee directors. The Company accounts for employee stock-based compensation using the intrinsic value method prescribed by Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees and related interpretations. No compensation expense is recorded because the exercise price of options is equal to the market price on the date of grant. The table below shows pro forma income had options been expensed according to SFAS 123 Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation based on fair value calculated using the Black-Scholes model.

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Net income, as reported | \$95,171 | \$76,133 |
| Deduct stock-based compensation expense | | |
| determined under fair-value based methods | (359) | (652) |
| Pro forma net income | \$94,812 | \$75,481 |
| <u>Earnings per share</u> | | |
| Basic, as reported | \$1.13 | \$0.91 |
| Basic, pro forma | 1.12 | 0.91 |
| Diluted, as reported | 1.10 | 0.89 |
| Diluted, pro forma | 1.09 | 0.89 |

Net income, as reported in the table above, reflects expenses related to restricted stock awards. Restricted shares are valued at the market price on the grant date and amortized over the vesting period. Expense for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004, amounted to \$0.9 million and \$0.6 million, respectively.

In December 2004 the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement 123 (revised 2004), or SFAS 123R, Share Based Payment, which replaces SFAS 123 and supersedes APB Opinion 25. SFAS 123R eliminates the alternative to use APB Opinion 25's intrinsic value method of accounting that was provided in SFAS 123 as originally issued. After a phase-in period for SFAS 123R, pro forma disclosure will no longer be allowed. The Company's effective date for implementation of SFAS 123R is January 1, 2006. Alternative phase-in methods are allowed under SFAS 123R. The Company currently anticipates using the modified prospective phase-in method that requires entities to recognize compensation costs for all share based payments granted, modified or settled after the date of implementation as well as for any awards that were granted prior to the implementation date for which the required service has not yet been performed. Questar does not believe that any of the alternative phase-in methods would have a materially different effect on the Company's Consolidated Statements of Income or Balance Sheet.

Note 6 Operations by Line of Business

Questar has three primary reporting segments: Market Resources, Questar Pipeline and Questar Gas. Lines of business information are presented according to senior management's basis for evaluating performance including differences in the nature of products, services and regulation. Certain intersegment sales include intercompany profits. Financial information for reportable segments follows below:

| | 3 Months Ended March 31, | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| REVENUES FROM UNAFFILIATED CUSTOMERS | | |
| Market Resources | \$314,338 | \$234,054 |
| Questar Pipeline | 17,912 | 18,013 |
| Questar Gas | 343,690 | 306,879 |
| Corporate and other operations | 4,384 | 4,670 |
| | \$680,324 | \$563,616 |
| REVENUES FROM AFFILIATED COMPANIES | | |
| Market Resources | \$ 38,084 | \$ 34,357 |
| Questar Pipeline | 22,425 | 22,293 |
| Questar Gas | 1,261 | 1,137 |
| Corporate and other operations | 602 | 6,527 |
| | \$ 62,372 | \$ 64,314 |
| OPERATING INCOME | | |
| Market Resources | \$ 94,718 | \$ 69,323 |
| Questar Pipeline | 18,357 | 18,287 |

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Questar Gas | 49,951 | 47,899 |
| Corporate and other operations | 675 | 1,281 |
| | \$163,701 | \$136,790 |

NET INCOME

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Market Resources | \$ 56,621 | \$ 40,255 |
| Questar Pipeline | 8,339 | 8,113 |
| Questar Gas | 28,712 | 26,311 |
| Corporate and other operations | 1,499 | 1,454 |
| | \$ 95,171 | \$ 76,133 |

Note 7 Employee Benefits

Questar has defined-benefit pension and postretirement medical and life insurance plans covering the majority of its employees. Questar complies with minimum-required and maximum-allowed annual contribution levels for its qualified retirement plan as determined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and Internal Revenue Code. Subject to these limitations Questar's objective is to fund the qualified retirement plan in amounts approximately equal to the yearly expense. Currently the qualified pension expense estimate for 2005 is \$16.4 million. Components of qualified pension expense included in the determination of interim net income are listed below:

Qualified Pension Expense

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Service cost | \$2,265 | \$2,140 |
| Interest cost | 5,135 | 4,840 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (4,962) | (4,674) |
| Prior service and other costs | 320 | 481 |
| Recognized net-actuarial loss | 736 | 541 |
| Amortization of early-retirement costs | 725 | 719 |
| Qualified pension expense | \$4,219 | \$4,047 |

Expense of Postretirement Benefits Other than Pensions

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

The Company currently estimates a \$5.5 million expense for postretirement benefits in 2005 before \$0.8 million for accretion of a regulatory liability. Expense components are listed below:

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Service cost | \$ 219 | \$ 221 |
| Interest cost | 1,310 | 1,317 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (730) | (653) |
| Amortization of transition obligation | 470 | 470 |
| Amortization of losses | 119 | 142 |
| Accretion of regulatory liability | 200 | 200 |
| Postretirement benefit expense | \$1,588 | \$1,697 |

Note 8 Investment in Unconsolidated Affiliates

Questar uses the equity method to account for investments in unconsolidated affiliates where the Company does not have control. These entities are engaged in gathering and compressing natural gas and have no debt obligations with third-party lenders. The principal affiliates and Questar's ownership percentage as of March 31, 2005, were: Rendezvous Gas Services, LLC, a limited liability corporation, (50%) and Canyon Creek Compression Co., a general partnership (15%).

Operating results representing 100% of the businesses are listed below:

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Revenues | \$4,835 | \$4,376 |
| Operating income | 3,069 | 2,767 |
| Income before income taxes | 3,090 | 2,772 |

Note 9 Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income is the sum of net income as reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income and other comprehensive income or loss reported in Common Shareholders' Equity. Other comprehensive income or loss in the first quarter includes changes in the market value of gas or oil-price derivatives. These results are not reported in current income or loss. Income or loss is realized when the physical gas or oil underlying the derivative instrument is sold. A summary of comprehensive income is shown below:

| | 3 Months Ended March 31, | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Net income | \$ 95,171 | \$ 76,133 |
| Other comprehensive loss | | |
| Unrealized loss on energy-hedging transactions | (186,154) | (23,760) |
| Income taxes | 70,771 | 8,935 |
| Net other comprehensive loss | (115,383) | (14,825) |
| Total comprehensive income (loss) | (\$20,212) | \$ 61,308 |

The components of accumulated other comprehensive loss are as follows, net of income taxes.

| | March 31, 2005 | March 31, 2004 |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Unrealized loss on energy-hedging transactions | (\$157,533) | (\$47,460) |
| Additional pension liability | (12,027) | (8,663) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (\$169,560) | (\$56,123) |

Note 10 Recent Accounting Development

On April 4, 2005, the FASB issued FSP FAS 19-1, Accounting for Suspended Well Costs. FSP FAS 19-1 modifies a requirement of SFAS 19, Financial Accounting and Reporting by Oil and Gas Producing Companies, to capitalize the costs of drilling exploratory wells pending determination of whether the well has found proved reserves. The capitalized costs become part of the entity's wells, equipment and facilities if the well successfully located proved reserves. However, if the well has not found proved reserves, the capitalized costs of drilling the well are expensed, net of any salvage value. FSP FAS 19-1 states that exploratory well costs can be capitalized beyond the previously prescribed one-year limit if the well has found a sufficient quantity of reserves to justify its completion as a producing well and the entity is making sufficient progress assessing the reserves and the economic and operating viability of the

project.

The Company drills exploratory wells in onshore U.S. petroleum-producing regions with good access to downstream markets. Factors such as weather, seasonal access restrictions on federal land, or delays caused by permitting production facilities can cause minor delays in connecting successful exploratory wells to downstream markets, but those delays are typically less than one year. The Company currently has no completed exploratory wells classified as suspended.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

(Unaudited)

SUMMARY

Questar Corporation (Questar or the Company) is a natural gas-focused energy company that conducts operations through three principal subsidiaries. Questar Market Resources (Market Resources), through various subsidiaries, engages in gas and oil exploration, acquisition, development and production; production and development of cost-of-service reserves; gas-gathering and processing services; and wholesale gas and hydrocarbon-liquids marketing, risk management and gas storage. Questar Pipeline Company (Questar Pipeline) conducts interstate gas-transportation and storage activities. Questar Gas Company (Questar Gas) provides retail gas distribution services.

Questar reported net income for the first three months of 2005 of \$95.2 million or \$1.10 per diluted share compared to \$76.1 million or \$0.89 per share for the first three months of 2004. Following is a comparison of net income by line of business.

| | 3 Months Ended | | Increase | Percentage Change |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | March 31, 2005 | March 31, 2004 | | |
| | (in thousands, except per share amounts) | | | |
| Market Resources | \$56,621 | \$40,255 | \$16,366 | 41% |
| Questar Pipeline | 8,339 | 8,113 | 226 | 3% |
| Questar Gas | 28,712 | 26,311 | 2,401 | 9% |
| Corporate and other operations | 1,499 | 1,454 | 45 | 3% |

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----|
| Net Income | \$95,171 | \$76,133 | \$19,038 | 25% |
| Earnings per diluted common share | \$1.10 | \$0.89 | \$0.21 | 24% |

Market Resources net income was 41% higher in the first quarter of 2005 compared to the first quarter of 2004. The increase in net income was driven by increased gas production, higher prices for gas, oil and NGL, increased investment base at Wexpro and increased throughput and higher margins at Gas Management.

Questar Pipeline net income increased 3%. Revenues and expenses were flat. The earnings increase reflected the capitalization of carrying costs on a construction project.

Questar Gas net income increased 9%. Margins from gas sales were higher due to a 3.1% growth in the number of customers and a 1% increase in temperature-adjusted gas usage per customer.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Market Resources

Market Resources operates through several subsidiaries. Questar Exploration and Production Company (Questar E&P) explores for, acquires, develops and produces gas and oil. Wexpro Company (Wexpro) develops and produces cost-of-service reserves for an affiliated company, Questar Gas. Questar Gas Management Company (Gas Management) provides gas-gathering and processing services for affiliates and third parties. Questar Energy Trading Company (Energy Trading) markets equity and third-party gas and oil, provides risk-management services and through Clear Creek Storage Company, LLC, owns and operates an underground gas-storage reservoir.

Market Resources Consolidated Results

Market Resources net income for the first quarter of 2005 totaled \$56.6 million compared with \$40.3 million for the year earlier period, a 41% increase. Operating income increased to \$94.7 million versus \$69.3 million in the 2004 quarter, a 37% increase.

Following is a summary of Market Resources financial and operating results for the first quarter of 2005 compared with 2004.

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

3 Months Ended
 March 31,
 2005 2004
 (in thousands)

OPERATING INCOME

Revenues

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Natural gas sales | \$108,601 | \$ 88,569 |
| Oil and natural-gas-liquids sales | 26,948 | 21,180 |
| Cost-of-service gas operations | 33,633 | 28,894 |
| Energy marketing | 153,635 | 107,458 |
| Gas gathering, processing and other | 29,605 | 22,310 |
| Total revenues | 352,422 | 268,411 |

Operating expenses

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Energy purchases | 150,514 | 105,145 |
| Operating and maintenance | 42,048 | 35,713 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 39,859 | 33,949 |
| Exploration | 1,373 | 1,087 |
| Abandonment and impairment of gas, oil and other properties | 1,405 | 4,406 |
| Production and other taxes | 21,244 | 17,656 |
| Wexpro Agreement oil-income sharing | 1,261 | 1,132 |
| Total operating expenses | 257,704 | 199,088 |
| Operating income | \$ 94,718 | \$ 69,323 |

OPERATING STATISTICS

Questar E&P production volumes

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Natural gas (MMcf) | 22,839 | 21,888 |
| Oil and natural gas liquids (Mbbbl) | 583 | 587 |
| Total production (bcfe) | 26.3 | 25.4 |
| Average daily production (MMcfe) | 293 | 279 |

Average commodity prices, net to the well

Average realized price (including hedges)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$4.76 | \$4.05 |
| Oil and natural gas liquids (per bbl) | \$38.74 | \$29.46 |

Average sales price (excluding hedges)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$5.18 | \$4.72 |
| Oil and natural gas liquids (per bbl) | \$45.59 | \$31.85 |

Wexpro investment base at March 31, net

of depreciation and deferred income taxes

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| (millions) | \$185.7 | \$169.0 |
|------------|---------|---------|

Natural gas gathering volumes (in thousands

of MMBtu)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| For unaffiliated customers | 32,535 | 34,294 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------|
| For Questar Gas | 11,256 | 9,757 |
|-----------------|--------|-------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| For other affiliated customers | 15,846 | 14,558 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Total gathering | 59,637 | 58,609 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Gathering revenue (per MMBtu) | \$0.26 | \$0.21 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|

Natural gas and oil marketing volumes

(Mdt)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| For unaffiliated customers | 29,600 | 21,855 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| For affiliated customers | 21,861 | 20,350 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Total marketing | 51,461 | 42,205 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|

Questar E&P

For the first quarter of 2005, Questar E&P net income increased 44% to \$36.3 million compared with \$25.2 million for the same period in 2004. The increase was driven by a combination of increased gas production volumes and higher realized natural gas, oil and NGL prices.

Questar E&P's production for the first three months of 2005 was 26.3 bcfe versus 25.4 bcfe for the 2004 period, a 4% increase. Current quarter production was negatively impacted by weather-related completion and workover delays on Uinta Basin and western Midcontinent properties, in addition to delays caused by seasonal access restrictions on Rockies Legacy properties. Seasonal access restrictions exist over much of Market Resources federal leasehold acreage in the Rockies. Delays in obtaining rigs to drill planned development wells in the western Midcontinent also impacted first quarter 2005 production growth.

Natural gas remains the primary focus of Questar E&P's exploration and production strategy. On an energy-equivalent basis, natural gas comprised approximately 87% of Questar E&P's production for the first quarter of 2005. A comparison of energy equivalent production by region is shown in the following table.

| | |
|----------------|------|
| 3 Months Ended | |
| March 31, | |
| 2005 | 2004 |

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

| | (in bcfe) | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Rocky Mountains | | |
| Pinedale Anticline | 7.5 | 6.1 |
| Uinta Basin | 5.7 | 6.3 |
| Rockies Legacy | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Subtotal Rocky Mountains | 17.3 | 16.8 |
| Midcontinent | | |
| Tulsa | 5.1 | 4.3 |
| Oklahoma City | 3.9 | 4.3 |
| Subtotal Midcontinent | 9.0 | 8.6 |
| Total Questar E&P production | 26.3 | 25.4 |

Questar E&P's first quarter 2005 production from Pinedale increased 24% to 7.5 bcfe versus 6.1 bcfe in the first quarter of 2004. Production at Pinedale typically declines during the first through third quarters of each year due to mid-November to early May seasonal access restrictions imposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that restrict the company's ability to complete wells during the period.

Uinta Basin production declined 9% to 5.7 bcfe in the 2005 quarter compared to 6.3 bcfe a year ago. Abnormal weather slowed completion and connection of new wells and routine workovers on existing wells. Weather-related conditions (mud) improved in mid-March, and Questar E&P has since reduced the backlog of well completions and workovers. In addition, high gathering-system pressures caused by a higher-pressure deep well continued to depress production from older lower-pressure wells. The company will install a separate gathering system for existing and new high-pressure wells, which should mitigate the impact on production from older wells.

Production from Rockies Legacy properties in the current quarter was 4.1 bcfe compared to 4.4 bcfe during the 2004 period, a 9% decrease. Legacy properties include all of Questar E&P's Rocky Mountain producing properties except Pinedale and the Uinta Basin. Current period Legacy properties production was negatively impacted by normal decline and seasonal restrictions that limited access to the company's leases and wells during the winter months.

Midcontinent production was 9.0 bcfe in the first quarter of 2005 compared to 8.6 bcfe for the same period of 2004, a 5% increase. During the quarter, the company continued one-rig-development programs in both the Hartshorne coalbed-methane development project in the Arkoma Basin of eastern Oklahoma and the ongoing infill-development drilling on the Elm Grove properties in northwest Louisiana. Delays in obtaining rigs to drill a backlog of development wells and weather-related downtime negatively impacted production volumes and workover activity in the western Midcontinent region.

Questar E&P also benefited from higher realized prices for natural gas, oil and NGL. For the current quarter the weighted average realized natural gas price for Questar E&P (including the effects of hedging) was \$4.76 per Mcf compared to \$4.05 per Mcf for the same period in 2004, an 18% increase. For the 2005 quarter, realized oil and NGL

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

prices averaged \$38.74 per bbl, compared with \$29.46 per bbl during the first quarter of 2004, a 32% increase. A comparison of average realized prices by region, including hedges, is shown in the following table.

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | | |
| Rocky Mountains | \$ 4.56 | \$ 3.94 |
| Midcontinent | 5.12 | 4.26 |
| Volume-weighted average | \$ 4.76 | \$ 4.05 |
| Oil and NGL (per bbl) | | |
| Rocky Mountains | \$ 39.47 | \$ 28.83 |
| Midcontinent | 37.01 | 30.91 |
| Volume-weighted average | \$ 38.74 | \$ 29.46 |

Approximately 88% of Questar E&P's gas production in the first quarter of 2005 was hedged or pre-sold at an average price of \$4.98 per Mcf net to the well (which reflects adjustments for regional basis, gathering and processing costs and gas quality). Hedging reduced gas revenues \$9.6 million during the quarter. Questar E&P also hedged approximately 56% of its oil production for the period at an average net to the well price of \$34.64 per bbl. Hedging reduced oil revenues \$4.0 million.

Questar may hedge up to 100 percent of its forecasted production from proved developed reserves to lock in acceptable returns on invested capital and to protect cash flows and earnings from a decline in commodity prices. During the quarter, Questar E&P has continued to take advantage of higher natural gas and oil prices to add to its hedge positions in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Natural gas and oil hedges as of March 31, 2005, are summarized in Part I, Item 3 of this report.

During the current quarter, Questar E&P's pre-income tax cost structure per unit of production (the sum of depreciation, depletion and amortization expense, lifting costs, general and administrative expense and allocated-interest expense) increased 13% to \$2.67 per Mcfe versus \$2.37 per Mcfe in the first quarter of 2004.

Lifting costs in the 2005 period increased 12% versus the 2004 quarter due to a \$0.04 per Mcfe increase in production taxes and a \$0.07 per Mcfe increase in lease operating expenses. Most production taxes are based on a fixed percentage of commodity sales prices. Higher lease-operating expenses reflect a general increase in well service costs, including costs of contracted services and production-related supplies, increased workover and production enhancement projects and additional weather-related costs during the current period.

Edgar Filing: QUESTAR CORP - Form 10-Q

Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense rose 13% over the past year to \$1.11 per Mcfe due to normal decline in production from older, lower cost successful-efforts pools, negative reserve revisions over the past 12 months at the company's Uinta Basin properties and higher reserve replacement (finding and development) costs. Higher day rates for rigs and other services in core operating areas, along with sharply higher steel prices, resulted in higher drilling and completion costs.

General and administrative expenses increased \$0.07 per Mcfe, or 26%, to \$0.34 in the first quarter of 2005. The company continued to adjust employee compensation in response to industry competition for skilled professionals. Higher allocated corporate overhead (primarily employee benefits and compliance costs) also contributed to the increase.

Questar E&P's pre-income tax cost structure is summarized in the following table:

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (per Mcfe) | |
| Lease-operating expense | \$0.55 | \$0.48 |
| Production taxes | 0.46 | 0.42 |
| Lifting costs | 1.01 | 0.90 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 1.11 | 0.98 |
| General and administrative expense | 0.34 | 0.27 |
| Allocated-interest expense | 0.21 | 0.22 |
| Total | \$2.67 | \$2.37 |

Abandonment and impairment expense declined \$3.0 million in the first quarter of 2005 primarily due to an impairment expense in the first quarter of 2004 resulting from a collapsed well casing.

Pinedale Anticline Drilling Activity

As of April 26, 2005, Market Resources operated 106 producing wells on the Pinedale Anticline compared to 76 at the end of the year-earlier quarter. Drilling continued on one winter pad with two rigs active throughout the quarter. A total of eight wells will be drilled from the current winter pad. Barring drilling problems, the company expects all eight wells to be drilled to total depth (TD) and cased before the end of the second quarter of 2005. In addition to the winter pad drilling activity, at the end of the current quarter the company had two rigs active on a state land section near the southern end of its Pinedale acreage. The company also completed and turned to sales two wells on the state

land section that were drilled and cased in late 2004.

As of April 26, 2005, the company had the following wells in progress:

•

On the 2004/2005 winter pad, three wells drilled to TD, awaiting completion, three wells drilled to intermediate casing point and two wells drilling below intermediate casing point.

•

On the state section (Section 16, T32N R109W), one well is cased and awaiting completion, one well has been drilled and cased to intermediate casing point, one well is drilling below intermediate casing point and one well drilling above intermediate casing point.

•

On other pads, two wells drilled to intermediate casing point before seasonal restrictions forced suspension of drilling activity last fall; and one well drilled and cased to TD in late 2004 and waiting on completion due to seasonal restrictions.

•

The Stewart Point 15-29 deep exploratory well was suspended at intermediate casing depth of 14,200 feet in November 2004 due to seasonal access restrictions. Drilling to a planned TD of 19,500 feet is expected to resume in late May when seasonal restrictions are lifted by the BLM.

Uinta Basin Lower Mesaverde, Blackhawk and Mancos formation drilling program update

Questar E&P continues to evaluate deep potential on its core Uinta Basin leasehold. During the quarter, the company drilled and completed the WV 11M-14-8-21 to a TD of 13,223 feet. Located approximately three miles north of the company's GB 14M-28-8-21 deep well, the new well was completed in Mancos, Blackhawk and Lower Mesaverde formation sands. The well went to sales at a rate of 2.7 MMcf per day, but quickly declined to approximately 1.0 MMcf per day. Two additional deep Uinta Basin wells were drilling at the end of the quarter and should reach TD during the second quarter of 2005.

Uinta Basin Green River Formation horizontal development pilot project update

At the end of the current quarter, Questar E&P had drilled two horizontal wells, the Gypsum Hills 19 located in Section 20, T8S R21E and the WV 3G-10-8-21, targeting Green River formation oil zones on the west side of the company's 100% working interest Wonsits Valley Unit. The wells will be completed and evaluated during the second quarter of 2005. A third well, which will include multiple laterals drilled from a single existing vertical wellbore, is also planned on the south end of Questar E&P's 100% working interest Red Wash Unit.

Uinta Basin - Flat Rock area update

The company's Flat Rock 9P-36-14-19 well in Section 36, T14S R19E was drilled to a TD of 12,453 feet in late 2004 and is producing from multiple pay zones in the Entrada, Morrison, Cedar Mountain and Dakota formations. Additional productive intervals in the Wingate Formation remain isolated beneath a drillable composite frac plug. Questar E&P has a 100% working interest in the well. The well was turned to sales on February 12, 2005, at a facilities-constrained rate of about 1 MMcfe per day. The rate was increased to about 4 MMcfe per day on March 22, 2005, when improved weather conditions allowed the third-party gathering system operator to debottleneck facilities. A compressor will be installed during the second quarter of 2005 which should further increase the production rate.

Questar E&P and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (Ute Indian Tribe) entered into an Exploration and Development Agreement (EDA) on March 31, 2005, to explore for, develop and produce natural gas and oil on tribal lands. The EDA covers over 12,557 acres of tribal minerals in an area known as Wolf Flat, adjacent to the Flat Rock Area and the company's recently completed Flat Rock 9P-36-14-19 well in Section 36, T14S R19E. Pursuant to the EDA, Questar E&P is committed to drill one well on the new acreage this summer—a direct offset to the Flat Rock well, and, after acquisition of new 2-D seismic on the EDA lands, the company has a continuous option to drill additional wells to earn gas and oil-development leases on tribal lands. The Ute Indian Tribe has the right, but not the obligation, to participate in the wells with up to a 50% working interest.

Rockies Legacy activity update

During the 2005 quarter, Questar E&P drilled and completed 7 new wells on its Wamsutter area leasehold in south central Wyoming. Wamsutter wells target Cretaceous sandstone reservoirs at average depths of 9,500 feet and typically recover between 1 and 1.5 bcfe. Questar E&P has approximately 9,700 net acres in the Wamsutter area and has identified over 50 low-risk development locations on its leaseholds. During the current period, the company also completed a new well in its Wedge Unit. The Wedge Unit 13 well was completed from Almond Formation sandstones at an initial rate of 3.3 MMcfe per day. Questar E&P has a 49% working interest in the well. In the Vermillion Basin, Questar E&P was drilling ahead on a 15,000 foot exploratory well on its leasehold near the Hiawatha Field. The company has a 100% working interest in the well, which targets multiple objectives in the Jurassic and Cretaceous section.

Wexpro

For the first quarter of 2005 Wexpro's net income was \$10.2 million, compared with \$9.0 million for the same period in 2004, a 13% increase. Wexpro develops and produces gas reserves on behalf of affiliate Questar Gas. Pursuant to the Wexpro Agreement, Wexpro recovers its costs and receives an unlevered after-tax return of approximately 19% on its investment in commercial wells and related facilities—adjusted for working capital and reduced for deferred taxes and depreciation (investment base). Wexpro's investment base increased to \$185.7 million at March 31, 2005, up \$16.7 million over the year earlier period. Wexpro's net income also benefited from higher oil and NGL prices in 2005.

Gas Management

Gas Management increased net income 65% to \$8.8 million in the current-year quarter compared to a year earlier. Gross keep-whole processing margins grew 97% from \$3.5 million in the first quarter of 2004 to \$6.8 million in the 2005 quarter, driven by the difference between the market value of natural gas and the market value of NGL extracted from the gas stream (commonly referred to as the $\frac{\text{frac}}{\text{spread}}$). Gathering volumes increased 1.0 million MMBtu to 59.6 million MMBtu in the 2005 quarter due primarily to expanding Pinedale production and new projects serving third parties in the Uinta Basin.

To reduce processing margin risk Gas Management has restructured a number of its processing agreements with producers from keep-whole contracts to fee-based contracts. (A keep-whole contract protects producers from frac spread risk while fee-based contracts eliminate commodity-price risk for the plant owner.) To further reduce margin volatility associated with keep-whole contracts, Gas Management began managing NGL price risk in 2004 by using forward-sales contracts. In the 2005 period, keep-whole contracts benefited from a 24% increase in NGL sales prices and fee-based contracts benefited from a \$0.06 increase in the rate charged per MMBtu processed. Forward sales contracts increased NGL revenues by \$0.1 million in 2005.

Pre-tax earnings from Gas Management's 50% interest in Rendezvous Gas Services, LLC, (Rendezvous) increased to \$1.5 million for the 2005 quarter versus \$1.3 million for 2004 due primarily to increased gathering volumes. Rendezvous provides gas gathering services for the Pinedale and Jonah producing areas. Gas Management continues to invest in additional gas gathering and processing and liquids-handling facilities to serve growing equity and third-party production in its core areas. These core areas are the Pinedale and Jonah fields in western Wyoming and the Uinta Basin in eastern Utah.

During the current quarter, Gas Management completed a transaction in which the company exchanged its interest in an entity that owns and operates the Beaver gas gathering system in western Oklahoma for the Emigrant Trail gas plant (ET plant) in western Wyoming. The ET plant, a cryogenic gas processing facility located approximately 13 miles south of Gas Management's Blacks Fork plant, adds approximately 60 MMcf per day of raw gas processing and NGL extraction capacity at its western Wyoming hub. The plant will be connected to the Blacks Fork/Granger complex to significantly enhance processing and blending capacity for Pinedale, Jonah and other western Wyoming producers served by Gas Management and Rendezvous. The Beaver gas gathering system did not contribute significantly to Gas Management's 2004 earnings. The effective date of the transaction was January 1, 2005.

Gas Management has also entered into an agreement with a third party producer to gather, compress and process gas in the Uinta Basin of eastern Utah. Under terms of the fee-based agreement, the company will construct gas compression facilities and expand its existing Red Wash gas plant to process an additional 70 MMcf per day of raw gas. The processed gas and liquids will be redelivered to the producer. The new facilities should be in service during the third quarter of 2005.

Energy Trading

Energy Trading's net income for the first quarter of 2005 was \$1.4 million compared to \$0.7 million in 2004, a 106% increase. Gross margins for gas and oil marketing (gross revenues less costs for gas and oil purchases, transportation

and gas storage), increased to \$3.1 million for the current period versus \$2.3 million a year ago, a 34% increase. The increase in gross margin was due primarily to a 9% higher unit margin and a 22% increase in volumes over the same period last year.

Questar Pipeline

Questar Pipeline provides Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-regulated interstate natural gas transportation and storage and non-jurisdictional processing and gathering services. Following is a summary of financial results and operating information.

| | 3 Months Ended | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| OPERATING INCOME | | |
| Revenues | | |
| Transportation | \$26,586 | \$26,699 |
| Storage | 9,576 | 9,699 |
| Carbon dioxide processing | 1,782 | 1,843 |
| Liquid revenues and other | 2,393 | 2,065 |
| Total revenues | 40,337 | |