

ABRAXAS PETROLEUM CORP
Form 424B3
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1
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ABRAXAS PETROLEUM CORPORATION
2,000,000 shares
of Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the offer and sale from time to time of up to an aggregate of 2,000,000 shares of our common stock by the selling stockholder named in this prospectus. The selling stockholder may offer the shares from time to time as it may determine through public or private transactions or through other means described in the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" at fixed or privately negotiated prices. The prices at which the selling stockholder may sell the shares may be determined by the prevailing market price for the shares at the time of sale, may be different than such prevailing market prices or may be determined through negotiated transactions with third parties.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of these shares by the selling stockholder. We have agreed to pay all expenses relating to registering the securities. The selling stockholder will pay any brokerage commissions and/or similar charges incurred for the sale of these shares. Because all of the shares offered under this prospectus are being offered by the selling stockholder, we cannot currently determine the price or prices at which our shares may be sold under this prospectus.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. Please carefully read the information under the headings "Forward-Looking Information" on page ii and "Risk Factors" beginning on page 2 of this prospectus before you invest in our common stock.

Our common stock trades on The NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol "AXAS." On August 28, 2017, the closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Stock Market was \$1.66.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

This Prospectus is dated August 28, 2017

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission utilizing a “shelf” registration process or continuous offering process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling stockholder may, from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities which may be offered by the selling stockholder. Each time the selling stockholder sells securities, the selling stockholder is required to provide you with this prospectus and, in certain cases, a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the selling stockholder and the terms of the securities being offered. That prospectus supplement may include additional risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update, or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under “Where You Can Find More Information.”

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

We make forward-looking statements throughout this prospectus and the documents included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Whenever you read a statement that is not simply a statement of historical fact (such as statements including words like “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “seek,” “estimate,” “could,” “potentially” or expressions), you must remember that these are forward-looking statements, and that our expectations may not be correct, even though we believe they are reasonable. The forward-looking information contained in this prospectus or in the documents included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is generally located in the material set forth under the headings “Summary,” “Risk Factors,” “Business,” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” but may be found in other locations as well. These forward-looking statements generally relate to our plans and objectives for future operations and are based upon our management’s reasonable estimates of future results or trends. The factors that may affect our expectations regarding our operations include, among others, the following:

- the prices we receive for our production and the effectiveness of our hedging activities;
- the availability of capital including under our credit facility;
- our success in development, exploitation and exploration activities;
- declines in our production of oil and gas;
- our indebtedness and the significant amount of cash required to service our indebtedness;
- limits on our growth and our ability to finance our operations, fund our capital needs and respond to changing conditions imposed by our bank credit facility and restrictive debt covenants;
- our ability to make planned capital expenditures;
- ceiling test write-downs resulting, and that could result in the future, from lower oil and natural gas prices;
- political and economic conditions in oil producing countries, especially those in the Middle East;
- price and availability of alternative fuels;
- our ability to procure services and equipment for our drilling and completion activities;
- our acquisition and divestiture activities;
- weather conditions and events;
- the proximity, capacity, cost and availability of pipelines and other transportation facilities; and
- other factors discussed elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Initial production, or IP, rates, for both our wells and for those wells that are located near our properties, are limited data points in each well's productive history. These rates are sometimes actual rates and sometimes extrapolated or normalized rates. As such, the rates for a particular well may change as additional data becomes available. Peak production rates are not necessarily indicative or predictive of future production rates, expected ultimate recovery, or EUR, or economic rates of return from such wells and should not be relied upon for such purpose. Equally, the way we calculate and report peak IP rates and the methodologies employed by others may not be consistent, and thus the values reported may not be directly and meaningfully comparable. Lateral lengths described are indicative only. Actual completed lateral lengths depend on various considerations such as lease-line offsets. Abraxas' standard length laterals, sometimes referred to as 5,000 foot laterals, are laterals with completed length generally between 4,000 feet and 5,500 feet. Mid-length laterals, sometimes referred to as 7,500 foot laterals, are laterals with completed length generally between 6,500 feet and 8,000 feet. Long laterals, sometimes referred to as 10,000 foot laterals, are laterals with completed length generally longer than 8,000 feet.

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus, but does not contain all information that may be important to you. This prospectus includes specific terms of this offering, information about our business and financial data. To understand all of the terms of this offering and for a more complete understanding of our business, you should carefully read this entire prospectus, particularly the section entitled “Risk Factors”, our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, including the consolidated financial statements and the notes to those financial statements included in those reports, all of which are incorporated by reference herein. The term “Abraxas,” “we,” “us,” “our,” or the “Company,” refer to Abraxas Petroleum Corporation together with its consolidated subsidiaries. We have provided definitions for some of the natural gas and crude oil industry terms used in this prospectus in the section entitled “Glossary of Terms.”

Our Business

We are an independent energy company primarily engaged in the development and production of oil and gas. Historically, we have grown through the acquisition and subsequent development and exploitation of producing properties, principally through the redevelopment of old fields utilizing new technologies such as modern log analysis and reservoir modeling techniques as well as 3-D seismic surveys, horizontal drilling and modern completion techniques. As a result of these activities, we believe that we have a number of development opportunities on our properties. In addition, we intend to expand upon our development activities with complementary exploration projects in our core areas of operation. Success in our development and exploration activities is critical in the maintenance and growth of our current production levels and associated reserves.

In August 2017, we acquired certain producing properties located in Ward, Reeves, Winkler and Pecos Counties, Texas from Blackbeard Resources, LLC (the “Blackbeard Properties”). As part of the consideration for the Blackbeard Properties, we issued 2,000,000 shares of our common stock to the selling stockholder.

Abraxas was originally incorporated in Texas in 1977 and re-incorporated in Nevada in 1990 when it became a public company. Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol “AXAS.” Our principal offices are located at 18803 Meisner Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78258, and our telephone number is (210) 490-4788.

Information contained on our website, www.abraxaspetroleum.com, is not part of this prospectus.

The Offering

In connection with the acquisition of the Blackbeard Properties, we agreed to prepare and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, a registration statement to enable the resale of the common stock by the selling stockholder or its transferees. Abraxas also agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause such registration statement to become effective prior to October 8, 2017 (subject to certain conditions) and to remain continuously effective for a period ending on the date that is the earlier of (i) the date on which the selling stockholder may sell all of the shares of common stock issued in connection with the acquisition of the Blackbeard Properties and then held by such selling stockholder without the volume restrictions under Rule 144, or (ii) such time as all of such shares of common stock acquired by the selling stockholder have been sold or otherwise transferred pursuant to a registration statement or otherwise.

As a result of Abraxas’ obligations in connection with the acquisition of the Blackbeard Properties, Abraxas has filed a registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, for the resale of a total of 2,000,000 shares of its common stock issued in connection with the acquisition of the Blackbeard Properties.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors and all of the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, including those included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and, if applicable, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, in evaluating an investment in our securities. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

All of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus are being sold by the selling stockholder. See "Selling Stockholder." Abraxas will not receive any proceeds from these sales of shares of our common stock.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Common Stock

As of June 30, 2017, we had 400,000,000 shares of common stock authorized of which 163,849,901 were outstanding with approximately 1,036 stockholders of record.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to cast one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and are not entitled to cumulate votes for the election of directors. Holders of our common stock do not have preemptive rights to subscribe for additional shares of common stock issued by us.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose.

Under the terms of our credit facility, we are prohibited from paying dividends on shares of our common stock. In the event of liquidation, holders of our common stock are entitled to share pro rata in any distribution of our assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to the preferences and rights of the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. All of the outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

Our articles of incorporation authorize the issuance of up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, in one or more series. The description of preferred stock set forth below and the description of the terms of a particular series of preferred stock set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation and to the certificate of designation relating to that series of preferred stock. The certificate of designation for any series of preferred stock will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission promptly after any offering of that series of preferred stock.

The particular terms of any series of preferred stock being offered by us under this shelf registration will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. If so indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, the terms of any such series of preferred stock may differ from the terms set forth below. The terms of the preferred stock may include:

- the title of the series and the number of shares in the series;
- the price at which the preferred stock will be offered;
- the dividend rate or rates or method of calculating the rates, the dates on which the dividends will be payable, whether or not dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends on the preferred stock being offered will cumulate;

- the voting rights, if any, of the holders of shares of the preferred stock being offered;
- the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, and the provisions for redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock being offered;
- the liquidation preference per share;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock being offered will be convertible into our common stock, including the conversion price, or the manner of calculating the conversion price, and the conversion period;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock being offered will be exchangeable for debt securities, including the exchange price, or the manner of calculating the exchange price, and the exchange period;
- any listing of the preferred stock being offered on any securities exchange;
- whether interests in the shares of the series will be represented by depositary shares;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock being offered as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs;
- any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior or equal to the series of preferred stock being offered as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs; and
- any additional rights, preferences, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the series.

Option Plans

The Abraxas Petroleum Corporation Amended and Restated 2005 Employee Long-Term Incentive Plan, or LTIP, authorizes us to grant incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options and shares of restricted stock to our executive officers, as well as to all of our employees. Option grants generally have a term of 10 years and vest in equal increments over 4 years. Restricted stock grants vest in accordance with each individual grant agreement. Vesting is accelerated in certain events such as a change of control. A total of 12,600,000 shares of Abraxas common stock are currently reserved under the LTIP, subject to adjustment following certain events, such as stock splits.

Pursuant to the Abraxas Petroleum Corporation Amended and Restated 2005 Non-Employee Directors Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan, or Director Plan, we also grant non-qualified stock options and restricted stock to non-employee directors. This plan is administered by our compensation committee and provides that each year, at the first regular meeting of the board of directors immediately following our annual stockholder's meeting, each non-employee director shall be granted or issued awards of 25,000 shares of our common stock for participation in board and committee meetings during the previous calendar year. A total of 2,900,000 shares of Abraxas common stock are currently reserved under the Director Plan, subject to adjustment following certain events, such as stock splits.

The compensation committee also administers our 1993 Key Contributor Stock Option Plan, 1994 Long Term Incentive Plan, Directors Restricted Share Plan and Director Stock Option Plan, each of which is now expired, but under which we previously granted restricted stock, incentive stock options and non-qualified stock options as permitted by such plans.

The following table sets forth the number of options issued and outstanding, the amount of those options outstanding that are fully vested and the average exercise price per share of such options under the LTIP, the Director Plan, 1993 Key Contributor Stock Option Plan, 1994 Long Term Incentive Plan, Directors Restricted Share Plan and Director Stock Option Plan, as of June 30, 2017, as well as pursuant to the individual option agreements:

| Plan Category | Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a) | Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b) | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c) |
|--|---|---|---|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | 8,264,013 | \$2.38 | 3,604,639 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | 90,000 | \$2.06 | — |

Anti-takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide for the board of directors to be divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. As a result, approximately one-third of the board of directors will be elected each year. The articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that the board of directors will consist of not less than three or more than twelve members, with the exact number to be determined from time to time by the affirmative vote of a majority of directors then in office. The board of directors, and not the stockholders, has the authority to determine the number of directors. This provision could prevent any stockholder from obtaining majority representation on the Abraxas board by enlarging the board of directors and by filling the new directorships with the stockholder's own nominees. In addition, directors may be removed by the stockholders only for cause.

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the Chairman of the Board, the President or a majority of the members of the board of directors. This provision may make it more difficult for stockholders to take actions opposed by the board of directors.

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that any action required to be taken or which may be taken by holders of our common stock must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of such holders, and may not be taken by any written consent of such stockholders. These provisions may have the effect of delaying consideration of a stockholder proposal until the next annual meeting unless a special meeting is called by the persons set forth above. The provisions of the articles of incorporation and bylaws prohibiting stockholder action by written consent could prevent the holders of a majority of the voting power of Abraxas from using the written consent procedure to take stockholder action and taking action by consent without giving all of our stockholders entitled to vote on a proposed action the opportunity to participate in determining such proposed action.

Anti-Takeover Statutes

Chapter 78 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, which we refer to as the Nevada GCL, contains two provisions, described below as "Combination Provisions" and the "Control Share Act," that may make the unsolicited or hostile attempts to acquire control of a corporation through certain types of transactions more difficult.

Restrictions on Certain Combinations between Nevada Resident Corporations and Interested Stockholders

The Nevada GCL includes certain provisions (the "Combination Provisions") prohibiting certain "combinations" (generally defined to include certain mergers, disposition of assets transactions, and share issuance or transfer transactions) between a resident domestic corporation and an "interested stockholder" (generally defined to be the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the outstanding shares of the corporation), except those combinations which are approved by the board of directors before the interested stockholder first obtained a 10% interest in the corporation's stock. There are additional exceptions to the prohibition, which apply to combinations if they occur more than three years after the interested stockholder's date of acquiring shares. The Combination Provisions apply unless the corporation elects against their application in its original articles of incorporation or an amendment thereto or timely elected against their application in its bylaws no later than October 31, 1991. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws do not currently contain a provision rendering the Combination Provisions inapplicable.

Nevada Control Share Act

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Nevada Revised Statutes 78.378 through 78.3793, inclusive, which we refer to as the Control Share Act, imposes procedural hurdles on and curtails greenmail practices of corporate raiders. The Control Share Act temporarily disenfranchises the voting power of “control shares” of a person or group (“Acquiring Person”) purchasing a “controlling interest” in an “issuing corporation” (as defined in the Nevada GCL) not opting out of the Control Share Act. In this regard, the Control Share Act will apply to an “issuing corporation” unless, before an acquisition is made, the articles of incorporation or bylaws in effect on the tenth day following the acquisition of a controlling interest provide that it is inapplicable. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws do not currently contain a provision rendering the Control Share Act inapplicable.

Under the Control Share Act, an “issuing corporation” is a corporation organized in Nevada which has 200 or more stockholders, at least 100 of whom are stockholders of record and residents of Nevada, and which does business in Nevada directly or through an affiliated company. Our status at the time of the occurrence of a transaction governed by the Control Share Act (assuming that our articles of incorporation or bylaws have not theretofore been amended to include an opting out provision) would determine whether the Control Share Act is applicable.

The Control Share Act requires an Acquiring Person to take certain procedural steps before such Acquiring Person can obtain the full voting power of the control shares. “Control shares” are the shares of a corporation (1) acquired or offered to be acquired which will enable the Acquiring Person to own a “controlling interest,” and (2) acquired within 90 days immediately preceding that date. A “controlling interest” is defined as the ownership of shares which would enable the Acquiring Person to exercise certain graduated amounts (beginning with one-fifth) of all voting power of the corporation. The Acquiring Person may not vote any control shares without first obtaining approval from the stockholders not characterized as “interested stockholders” (as defined below).

To obtain voting rights in control shares, the Acquiring Person must file a statement at the registered office of the issuer (“Offeror’s Statement”) setting forth certain information about the acquisition or intended acquisition of stock. The Offeror’s Statement may also request a special meeting of stockholders to determine the voting rights to be accorded to the Acquiring Person. A special stockholders’ meeting must then be held at the Acquiring Person’s expense within 30 to 50 days after the Offeror’s Statement is filed. If a special meeting is not requested by the Acquiring Person, the matter will be addressed at the next regular or special meeting of stockholders.

At the special or annual meeting at which the issue of voting rights of control shares will be addressed, “interested stockholders” may not vote on the question of granting voting rights to control the corporation or its parent unless the articles of incorporation of the issuing corporation provide otherwise. Our articles of incorporation do not currently contain a provision allowing for such voting power.

If full voting power is granted to the Acquiring Person by the disinterested stockholders, and the Acquiring Person has acquired control shares with a majority or more of the voting power, then (unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or bylaws in effect on the tenth day following the acquisition of a controlling interest) all stockholders of record, other than the Acquiring Person, who have not voted in favor of authorizing voting rights for the control shares, must be sent a “dissenter’s notice” advising them of the fact and of their right to receive “fair value” for their shares. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws do not provide otherwise. By the date set in the dissenter’s notice, which may not be less than 30 or more than 60 days after the dissenter’s notice is delivered, any such stockholder may demand to receive from the corporation the “fair value” for all or part of his shares. “Fair value” is defined in the Control Share Act as “not less than the highest price per share paid by the Acquiring Person in an acquisition.”

The Control Share Act permits a corporation to redeem the control shares in the following two instances, if so provided in the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the corporation in effect on the tenth day following the acquisition of a controlling interest: (1) the Acquiring Person fails to deliver the Offeror’s Statement to the corporation within 10 days after the Acquiring Person’s acquisition of the control shares; or (2) an Offeror’s Statement is delivered, but the control shares are not accorded full voting rights by the stockholders. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws do not address this matter.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

SELLING STOCKHOLDER

We are registering 2,000,000 shares of common stock to permit the selling stockholder and its pledgees, donees, transferees and other successors-in-interest that receive their shares from the selling stockholder other than through a public sale after the date of this prospectus to resell the shares when and as they deem appropriate. The selling stockholder does not have, nor within the past three years has the selling stockholder had, any position, office or other material relationship with us. No person who has control over the selling stockholder has, or within the past three years has had, any position, office or other material relationship with us. The following table sets forth:

• the name of the selling stockholder;

• the number and percent of shares of our common stock that the selling stockholder beneficially owned prior to the offering for resale of the shares under this prospectus;

• the number of shares of the common stock that may be offered for resale for the account of the selling stockholder under this prospectus; and

• the number and percent of shares of the common stock to be beneficially owned by the selling stockholder after the offering of the resale shares (assuming all of the offered resale shares are sold by the selling stockholder).

The number of shares in the column “Number of Shares Being Offered” represents all of the shares that the selling stockholder may offer under this prospectus. Abraxas does not know how long the selling stockholder will hold the shares before selling them or how many shares it will sell and we currently have no agreements, arrangements or understandings with the selling stockholder regarding the sale of any of the resale shares. The shares offered by this prospectus may be offered from time to time by the selling stockholder listed in the table below.

This table is prepared solely based on information supplied to us by the selling stockholder and assumes the sale of all of the offered resale shares.

| Name | Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Prior to Offering | Percentage | Number of Shares Being Offered | Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned After the Offering | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| Blackbeard Resources, LLC (1) | 2,000,000 | 1.2% | 2,000,000 | 0 | 0 |

(1) The board of managers of Blackbeard Resources, LLC, which consists of three (3) persons, has voting and dispositive power over these shares. None of such managers individually has voting or dispositive power over these shares, and the board of managers of Blackbeard Resources, LLC acts by majority vote and, thus, each such person is not deemed to beneficially own the shares held by Blackbeard Resources, LLC. NGP X US Holdings, L.P. (“NGP X US Holdings”) and NGP XI US Holdings, L.P. (“NGP XI US Holdings”) collectively own a controlling interest of Blackbeard Resources, LLC, and hold the right (acting through their common manager, NGP ECM (as defined and more particularly described below)) to designate two of the three members of the board of managers of Blackbeard Resources, LLC. As a result, NGP X US Holdings and NGP XI US Holdings may each be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over the shares held by Blackbeard Resources, LLC, and may be deemed to indirectly beneficially own the shares held by Blackbeard Resources, LLC. NGP X US Holdings disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of its pecuniary interest therein. NGP X Holdings GP, L.L.C. (the sole general partner of NGP X US Holdings), NGP Natural Resources X, L.P. (the sole member of NGP X Holdings GP, L.L.C.), G.F.W. Energy X, L.P. (the sole general partner of NGP Natural Resources X, L.P.) and GFW X, L.L.C. (the sole general partner of G.F.W. Energy X, L.P.) may each be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over the reported shares and therefore each may also be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these shares. GFW X, L.L.C. has delegated full power and authority to manage NGP X US

Holdings to NGP Energy Capital Management, L.L.C. (“NGP ECM”) and accordingly, NGP ECM may also be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over these shares and therefore may also be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these shares. Tony R. Weber and Chris Carter are the managing partners of NGP ECM. In addition, Craig Glick and Christopher Ray are partners of NGP ECM. Although none of Messrs. Carter, Weber, Glick, or Ray individually has voting or dispositive power over these shares, each such individual may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over these shares and therefore each may also be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these shares. Each of Messrs. Carter, Weber, Glick and Ray disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of his respective pecuniary interest therein. NGP XI US Holdings disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of its pecuniary interest therein. NGP XI Holdings GP, L.L.C. (the sole general partner of NGP XI US Holdings), NGP Natural Resources XI, L.P. (the sole member of NGP XI Holdings GP, L.L.C.), G.F.W. Energy XI, L.P. (the sole general partner of NGP Natural Resources XI, L.P.), and GFW XI, L.L.C. (the sole general partner of G.F.W. Energy XI, L.P.) may each be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over the reported shares and therefore each may also be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these shares. GFW XI, L.L.C. has delegated full power and authority to manage NGP XI US Holdings to NGP ECM and accordingly, NGP ECM may also be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over these shares and therefore may also be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these shares. Tony R. Weber and Chris Carter are the managing partners of NGP ECM. In addition, Craig Glick and Christopher Ray are partners of NGP ECM. Although none of Messrs. Carter, Weber, Glick or Ray has voting or dispositive power over these shares, such individual may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over these shares and therefore may also be deemed to be the beneficial owner of these shares. Each of Messrs. Carter, Weber, Glick and Ray disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of his respective pecuniary interest therein. The address of Blackbeard Resources, LLC is 1751 River Run, Suite 405, Fort Worth, Texas 76107.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The shares of common stock listed in the table appearing under “Selling Stockholder” are being registered to permit public secondary trading of these shares by the holders of such shares from time to time after the date of this prospectus. There can be no assurance that the selling stockholder will sell any or all of the common stock offered hereby. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling stockholder. We will pay substantially all of the expenses incident to this offering of the shares by the selling stockholder to the public other than commissions and discounts of underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents.

The selling stockholder and any of its pledgees, donees, transferees and other successors-in-interest that receive their shares from the selling stockholder other than through a public sale after the date of this prospectus may sell all or a portion of their shares of common stock offered hereby from time to time directly to purchasers or through one or more underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such market prices, at a fixed price or prices subject to change or at negotiated prices, by a variety of methods including the following:

- on any national securities exchange or over-the-counter market on which the shares of common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale;
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- block trades in which a broker-dealer may attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and a subsequent resale by the broker-dealer for its account;
- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;
- privately negotiated transactions;
- in transactions otherwise than on such exchanges or in the over-the-counter market;
- through a combination of any such methods; or
- through any other method permitted under applicable law.

In addition, the selling stockholder may enter into option, derivative or hedging transactions with respect to the shares, and any related offers or sales of shares may be made pursuant to this prospectus. For example, the selling stockholder may:

- enter into transactions involving short sales of the shares by broker-dealers in the course of hedging the positions they assume with the selling stockholder;
- sell shares short itself and deliver the shares registered hereby to settle such short sales or to close out stock loans incurred in connection with its short positions;

- write call options, put options or other derivative instruments (including exchange-traded options or privately negotiated options) with respect to the shares, or which it settles through delivery of the shares; or

- enter into option transactions or other types of transactions that require the selling stockholder to deliver shares to a broker, dealer or other financial institution, who may then resell or transfer the shares under this prospectus,

The selling stockholder also may sell shares under Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act rather than under this prospectus or any related prospectus supplement.

In effecting sales, brokers-dealers engaged by the selling stockholder may arrange for other brokers-dealers to participate. If the selling stockholder effects such transactions by selling the common stock to or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, such underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling stockholder or commissions from purchasers of the common stock for whom they may act as agent or to whom they may sell as principal. Underwriters may sell securities to or through dealers, and dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

The selling stockholder and any underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents that participate in such distribution may be deemed to be “underwriters” within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any discounts, commissions or concessions received by any underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents might be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. If the selling stockholder is an “underwriter” within the meaning of the Securities Act, it will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act and the provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder relating to stock manipulation.

The selling stockholder may, from time to time, pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of common stock owned by it and, if it defaults in the performance of its secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of common stock from time to time under this prospectus, or under a supplement or amendment to this prospectus under Rule 424(b)(3) or other applicable provision of the Securities Act amending, if necessary, the list of selling stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee or other successors in interest as selling stockholders under this prospectus.

The selling stockholder has informed us that it is not a registered broker-dealer and does not have any written or oral agreement or understanding, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the shares offered hereby. If requested by the selling stockholder or a permitted assignee, we will file a supplement to this prospectus pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act or a post-effective amendment disclosing such information as reasonably requested relating to the sale and distribution of the shares including the number of shares involved, the price at which such shares of common stock were sold, and any other terms of the offering of the shares to be sold.

In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, the shares sold in those jurisdictions may only be sold through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states, the shares may not be sold unless the shares have been registered or qualified for sale in that state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

Underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of securities and their controlling persons may be entitled, under agreements that may be entered into with us, to indemnification by us and the selling stockholder against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments that the

underwriters, dealers or agents and their controlling persons may be required to make in respect of those liabilities. We have agreed to indemnify the selling stockholder against certain losses, claims, damages and liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act or otherwise.

Any underwriter may engage in stabilizing and syndicate covering transactions in accordance with Rule 104 under the Exchange Act. Rule 104 permits stabilizing bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. The underwriters may over-allot offered securities, thereby creating a short position in the underwriters' account. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of offered securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing and syndicate covering transactions may cause the price of the offered securities to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of such transactions. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

We have agreed to use our commercially reasonable efforts to cause the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part to remain continuously effective for a period ending on the date that is the earlier of (i) the date on which the selling stockholder may sell all of the shares of common stock issued in connection with the acquisition of the Blackbeard Properties and then held by such selling stockholder without the volume restrictions under Rule 144, or (ii) such time as all of such shares of common stock acquired by the selling stockholder have been sold or otherwise transferred pursuant to a registration statement or otherwise.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the common stock covered by this prospectus has been passed upon for us by Jackson Walker L.L.P., San Antonio, Texas.

EXPERTS

The financial statements as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2016 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The historical reserve information prepared by DeGolyer and MacNaughton included in this prospectus has been included herein in reliance upon the authority of such firm as experts with respect to matters contained in such reserve reports.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Abraxas' SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference rooms located at 100 F. Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms and their copy charges.

Also, using Abraxas' website, www.abraxaspetroleum.com, you can access electronic copies of documents we file with the SEC, including Abraxas' annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports. Information on Abraxas' website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Access to those electronic filings is available as soon as practical after filing with the SEC. You may also request a copy of those filings, including exhibits, at no cost by writing, emailing or telephoning Abraxas' principal executive office, which is:

18803 Meisner Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78258
Attn: Investor Relations
(210) 490-4788

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC relating to the securities offered hereby. As permitted by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information we have included in the registration statement and the accompanying exhibits and schedules we file with the SEC. You may refer to the registration statement, exhibits and schedules for more information about us and such securities. The registration statement, exhibits and schedules are available at the SEC's public reference room or through its Internet website. The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we have filed with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. The following documents Abraxas filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act are incorporated herein by reference:

• Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the Commission on March 16, 2017;

• Abraxas' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017, filed with the Commission on May 10, 2017;

• Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 filed with the Commission on August 9, 2017;

• Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 20, 2017, February 7, 2017, May 10, 2017, May 17, 2017, May 24, 2017, July 14, 2017 and August 9, 2017; and

The description of our common stock in the Item "Description of Securities to be Registered" in our Registration Statement No. 34-1-16071 on Form 8-A-12B filed on July 24, 2008, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, information that Abraxas elects to furnish, but not file, or has furnished, but not filed, with the Commission in accordance with Commission rules and regulations is not incorporated into this Registration Statement and does not constitute a part hereof.

All documents filed by Abraxas pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 on any current report on Form 8-K) subsequent to the date of this filing and prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such document. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for all purposes to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in any other subsequently filed document which is also incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless otherwise indicated in this report, gas volumes are stated at the legal pressure base of the state or area in which the reserves are located at 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Oil and gas equivalents are determined using the ratio of six Mcf of gas to one barrel of oil.

The following definitions shall apply to the technical terms used in this prospectus.

Terms used to describe quantities of oil and gas:

"Bbl" – barrel or barrels.

"Bcf" – billion cubic feet of gas.

“Bcfe” – billion cubic feet of gas equivalent.

“Boe” – barrels of oil equivalent.

“Boepd” - barrels of oil equivalents per day.

“MBbl” – thousand barrels.

“MBoe” – thousand barrels of oil equivalent.

“Mcf” – thousand cubic feet of gas.

“Mcfe” – thousand cubic feet of gas equivalent.

“MMBbl” – million barrels.

“MMBoe” – million barrels of oil equivalent.

“MMBtu” – million British Thermal Units of gas.

“MMcf” – million cubic feet of gas.

“MMcfe” – million cubic feet of gas equivalent.

“NGL” – natural gas liquids measured in barrels.

Terms used to describe our interests in wells and acreage:

“Developed acreage” means acreage which consists of leased acres spaced or assignable to productive wells.

“Development well” is a well drilled within the proved area of an oil or gas reservoir to the depth or stratigraphic horizon (rock layer or formation) noted to be productive for the purpose of extracting reserves.

“Dry hole” is an exploratory or development well found to be incapable of producing either oil or gas in sufficient quantities to justify completion.

“Exploratory well” is a well drilled to find and produce oil or gas in an unproved area, to find a new reservoir in a field previously found to be producing in another reservoir, or to extend a known reservoir.

“Gross acres” are the number of acres in which we own a working interest.

“Gross well” is a well in which we own an interest.

“Net acres” are the sum of fractional ownership working interests in gross acres (e.g., a 50% working interest in a lease covering 320 gross acres is equivalent to 160 net acres).

“Net well” is the sum of fractional ownership working interests in gross wells.

“Productive well” is an exploratory or a development well that is not a dry hole.

“Undeveloped acreage” means those leased acres on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of economic quantities of oil and gas, regardless of whether or not such acreage contains proved reserves.

Terms used to assign a present value to or to classify our reserves:

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

(i) Through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods or in which the cost of the required equipment is relatively minor compared to the cost of a new well; and

(ii) Through installed extraction equipment and infrastructure operational at the time of the reserves estimate if the extraction is by means not involving a well.

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

“Proved developed reserves*” Reserves that can be expected to be recovered through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods.

“Proved reserves*” Reserves that geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions.

“Proved undeveloped reserves” or “PUDs*” Reserves that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage or from existing wells, in each case where a relatively major expenditure is required.

“PV-10” means estimated future net revenue, discounted at a rate of 10% per annum, before income taxes and with no price or cost escalation or de-escalation, calculated in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

“Standardized Measure” means estimated future net revenue, discounted at a rate of 10% per annum, after income taxes and with no price or cost escalation or de-escalation, calculated in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 932, “Disclosures About Oil and Gas Producing Activities.”

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

* This definition is an abbreviated version of the complete definition set forth in Rule 4-10(a) of Regulation S-X. For the complete definition, see: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=1&SID=7aa25d3cede06103c0ecec861362497d&ty=HTML&h=L&n=pt17.3.210&r=PART#se17.3.210_14_610