

CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORP

Form S-3/A

November 06, 2006

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 6, 2006
Registration No. 333-135602

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

PRE-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO
Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

51-0064146
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

909 Silver Lake Boulevard
Dover, Delaware 19904
(302) 734-6799
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)*

**Michael P. McMasters, Senior Vice President &
Chief Financial Officer**
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
909 Silver Lake Boulevard
Dover, Delaware 19904
(302) 734-6799
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

Copies to:

William Appleton, Esq.
Baker & Hostetler LLP
312 Walnut Street, Suite 3200
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4074
(513) 929-3400

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation

Common Stock and Debt Securities

We may offer, from time to time in one or more offerings, in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the time of offering, shares of our common stock, par value per share \$0.4867 (the Common Stock), and/or debt securities. We will provide the specific terms of any offering of Common Stock and/or debt securities in supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements will also describe the specific manner in which we will offer these securities and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement, and any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus carefully before you invest.

We may sell Common Stock and/or debt securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CPK .

These Securities have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission, nor has the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable supplement to this prospectus as if we had authorized it. This prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate. Nor do this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement is correct on any date after its date, even though this prospectus or a supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

The date of this prospectus is November 6, 2006.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Forward-Looking Information</u>	2
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	2
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	2
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	3
<u>The Company</u>	4
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	4
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	5
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	16
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	16
<u>Experts</u>	17
<u>Legal Matters</u>	17
<u>EX-4.3.1</u>	
<u>EX-4.3.2</u>	
<u>EX-4.4</u>	
<u>EX-5.1</u>	
<u>EX-12.1</u>	
<u>EX-23.1</u>	

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplements include and incorporate by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of the words believe, expect, intend, anticipate, plan, estimate, project or similar expressions. Our ability to produce results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Actual results could differ materially from those in forward-looking statements because of, among other reasons, the factors described under the caption Risk Factors in the periodic reports that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may sell any combination of our Common Stock and/or debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total amount of \$40,000,000.00. This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the headings, Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to we, us, our, the Company, the Registrant or Chesapeake mean Chesapeake Utilities Corporation and all entities owned or controlled

by Chesapeake Utilities Corporation. When we refer to our Certificate of Incorporation, we mean Chesapeake Utilities Corporation's Amended Certificate of Incorporation, and when we refer to our Bylaws, we mean Chesapeake Utilities Corporation's Amended Bylaws.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) pursuant to the Exchange Act. Such filings are available to the public from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the

Table of Contents

SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of any document filed by us at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at that address. You may obtain information about the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may inspect reports and other information that we file at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Information about us, including our filings, is also available on our website at <http://www.chpk.com>. Unless expressly incorporated by reference, information contained on or made available through our website is not a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

We have filed a registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, and related exhibits with the SEC under the Securities Act. That registration statement contains additional information about us and the Common Stock and debt securities. You may inspect the registration statement and exhibits without charge at the SEC's Public Reference Room or at the SEC's web site set forth above, and you may obtain copies from the SEC at prescribed rates.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information contained in documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus is automatically updated and superseded if information contained in this prospectus, or information that we later file with the SEC, modifies or replaces that information. Any statement made in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual contract, agreement or other document. If we have filed or incorporated by reference any contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract, agreement or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual document.

We incorporate by reference the following documents we filed, excluding any information contained therein or attached as exhibits thereto which has been furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC:

- (a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, filed on March 7, 2006;
- (b) Our definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 31, 2006;
- (c) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 11, 2006, filed on March 16, 2006;
- (d) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 2, 2006, filed on May 3, 2006;
- (e) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 1, 2006, filed on May 5, 2006;
- (f) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006, filed on May 10, 2006;
- (g) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 31, 2006, filed on June 2, 2006;
- (h) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 13, 2006, filed on June 19, 2006;
- (i) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 1, 2006, filed on August 7, 2006;
- (j) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2006, filed on August 9, 2006;

- (k) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 31, 2006, filed on September 7, 2006;
- (l) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 19, 2006, filed on September 22, 2006;
- (m) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 26, 2006, filed on October 2, 2006;
- (n) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 12, 2006, filed on October 17, 2006;

Table of Contents

(o) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2006, filed on November 6, 2006;

(p) The description of our preferred stock purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on August 24, 1999, and all amendments or reports filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating such description, and further described in the section, *Description of Common Stock* ; and

(q) The description of our Common Stock contained in our registration statements filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, and all amendments or reports filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating such description, and further described in the section, *Description of Common Stock*.

Any documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the securities to which this prospectus relates will automatically be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and a part of this prospectus from the date of filing such documents; provided however, that we are not incorporating, in each case, any documents or information contained therein that has been furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in any such documents), call or write Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, 909 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware 19904, Attention: Michael P. McMasters, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, telephone number (302) 734-6799. We also maintain a web site that contains additional information about us (<http://www.chpk.com>).

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or set forth in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We may only use this prospectus to sell securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement. We are offering these securities only in states where the offer is permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the dates on the front pages of these documents.

THE COMPANY

We are a diversified utility company engaged directly or through subsidiaries in natural gas distribution, transmission and marketing, propane distribution and wholesale marketing, advanced information services and other related businesses. We are a Delaware corporation that was formed in 1947. As of June 30, 2006, our three natural gas distribution divisions served approximately 56,800 residential, commercial and industrial customers in central and southern Delaware, Maryland's Eastern Shore and parts of Florida. Our natural gas transmission subsidiary, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company, operates a 331-mile interstate pipeline system that transports gas from various points in Pennsylvania to our Delaware and Maryland distribution divisions, as well as to other utilities and industrial customers in southern Pennsylvania, Delaware and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. As of June 30, 2006, our propane distribution operation served approximately 32,700 customers in central and southern Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, southeastern Pennsylvania, and parts of Florida; and our wholesale propane marketing subsidiary markets propane to large independent and petrochemical companies, resellers and retail propane companies in the United States. Our advanced information services segment provides domestic and international clients with information technology-related business services and solutions for both enterprise and e-business applications. Our principal executive office is located at 909 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware 19904, and our telephone number is (302) 734-6799. Our website address is <http://www.chpk.com>. Unless expressly incorporated by reference, information contained on or made available through our website is not a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of Common Stock and/or debt securities will be added to our general corporate funds and may be used for general corporate purposes including, but not limited to, financing of capital expenditures, repayment of short-term debt, funding share repurchases, financing acquisitions, investing in subsidiaries and general working capital purposes. Prior to such application, all or a portion of the net proceeds may be invested in short-term investments.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Our Certificate of Incorporation authorizes us to issue up to 12,000,000 shares of Common Stock, par value per share \$0.4867. As of June 30, 2006, we had 5,957,627 shares of Common Stock outstanding. In addition, as of June 30, 2006, we have reserved 487,950 shares of Common Stock for issuance under our equity-based compensation plans and 30,000 shares of Common Stock for issuance upon the exercise of warrants. Our Certificate of Incorporation also authorizes us to issue up to 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value per share \$0.01; however, no shares of preferred stock are outstanding. Our Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol,

CPK. The transfer agent and registrar of the Common Stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A., P.O. Box 43010, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3010.

The following descriptions of our Common Stock and preferred stock set forth certain of their general terms and provisions. The following descriptions are in all respects subject to and qualified by reference to the applicable provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws.

Holders of our Common Stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, out of funds legally available therefor. If we are liquidated, dissolved or involved in any winding-up, the holders of our Common Stock are entitled to receive ratably any assets legally available for distribution to holders of Common Stock. Holders of our Common Stock possess ordinary voting rights, with each share entitling the holder to one vote. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the holders of our Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote for the election of directors. Holders of our Common Stock do not have preemptive rights, which means that they have no right to acquire any additional shares of Common Stock that we may subsequently issue (other than pursuant to the Rights, described below). Holders of our Common Stock also do not have conversion or subscription rights, and the Common Stock is not subject to redemption by the Company.

All of our shares of Common Stock currently outstanding are, and any shares of Common Stock offered hereby when issued will be, fully paid and nonassessable.

We may issue preferred stock from time to time, by authorization of our Board of Directors and without the necessity of further action or authorization by our stockholders, in one or more series and with such voting powers, designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications as our Board may, in its discretion, determine, including, but not limited to (a) the distinctive designation of such series and the number of shares to constitute such series; (b) the dividends, if any, for such series; (c) the voting power, if any, of shares of such series; (d) the terms and conditions (including price), if any, upon which shares of such stock may be converted into or exchanged for shares of stock of any other class or any other series of the same class or any other securities or assets; (e) our right, if any, to redeem shares of such series and the terms and conditions of such redemption; (f) the retirement or sinking fund provisions, if any, of shares of such series and the terms and provisions relative to the operation thereof; (g) the amount, if any, which the holders of the shares of such series shall be entitled to receive in case of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up; (h) the limitations and restrictions, if any, upon the payment of dividends or the making of other distributions on, and upon our purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of, our Common Stock; and (i) the conditions or restrictions, if any, upon the creation of indebtedness or upon the issuance of any additional stock.

Under our Certificate of Incorporation, the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the total voting power of all outstanding shares of our stock is required to approve our merger or consolidation with, or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets or business to, any other corporation (other than a corporation 50% or more of the

common stock of which we own), if such corporation or its affiliates singly or in the aggregate own or control directly or indirectly 5% or more of our outstanding shares of Common Stock, unless the transaction is approved by our Board of Directors prior to the acquisition by such corporation or its affiliates of ownership or control of 5% or more of our outstanding shares of Common Stock. In addition, our Certificate of Incorporation provides for a classified Board of Directors under which one-third of the members are elected annually for three-year terms. The supermajority voting requirement for certain mergers and consolidations and our classified Board of Directors may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of the Company.

Table of Contents

On August 25, 1999, we filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form 8-A with respect to Rights (defined below) to purchase our Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value per share \$0.01 (the Preferred Shares). On August 20, 1999, our Board of Directors declared a dividend distribution of one preferred share purchase right (a Right) for each outstanding share of our Common Stock. The dividend was payable to the stockholders of record on September 3, 1999 (the Record Date). One Right will also be issued with each share of Common Stock issued thereafter until the Distribution Date (defined below) and, in certain circumstances, with each share of Common Stock issued after the Distribution Date. Except as set forth below, each Right, when it becomes exercisable, entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one-fiftieth of a Preferred Share at a price of \$54.56 (the Purchase Price), subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the Rights and the definition of the Distribution Date are set forth in a Rights Agreement (the Rights Agreement) between the Corporation and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., successor to BankBoston, N.A., as Rights Agent (the Rights Agent), dated as of August 20, 1999. The Rights are not exercisable until the Distribution Date and will expire at the close of business on August 20, 2009, unless earlier redeemed by the Company. The Registration Statement on Form 8-A, and the Rights Agreement attached thereto as an exhibit, are incorporated herein by reference. This description of the Rights, the Rights Agreement and the Preferred Shares is in all respects subject to and qualified by reference to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A, the Rights Agreement attached thereto as an exhibit and the applicable provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws.

The Preferred Shares purchasable upon exercise of the Rights will not be redeemable. Each Preferred Share will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment equal to the greater of (i) \$13.00 per share (or \$0.26 per 1/50th of a Preferred Share) and (ii) an aggregate dividend per share of 50 times (subject to adjustment) the dividend declared per share of Common Stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the Preferred Shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$900.00 per share (or \$18.00 per 1/50th of a Preferred Share); thereafter, and after the holders of the Common Stock receive a liquidation payment of \$18.00 per share, the holders of the Preferred Shares and the holders of the Common Stock will share the remaining assets in the ratio of 50 (subject to adjustment) to one for each Preferred Share and share of Common Stock so held, respectively. In the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which Common Stock is exchanged, each Preferred Share will be entitled to receive 50 times (subject to adjustment) the amount received per share of Common Stock. The holders of Preferred Shares will be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the Common Stock (with the Preferred Shares being entitled to 50 votes per share). In the event that the amount of accrued and unpaid dividends on the Preferred Shares is equivalent to six full quarterly dividends or more, the holders of the Preferred Shares shall have the right, voting as a class, to elect two directors in addition to the directors elected by the holders of the Common Stock until all cumulative dividends on the Preferred Shares have been paid through the last quarterly dividend payment date. These rights are protected by customary anti-dilution provisions. Because of the nature of the dividend, liquidation and voting rights of the Preferred Shares, the value of a one-fiftieth interest in a Preferred Share purchasable upon the exercise of a Right should approximate the value of one share of Common Stock. The Rights approved by the Board of Directors of the Company were designed to protect the value of the outstanding Common Stock in the event of an unsolicited attempt by an acquirer to take over the Company in a manner or on terms not approved by the Board of Directors. The Rights were not intended to prevent a takeover of the Company at a fair price and should not interfere with any merger or business combination approved by the Board of Directors. The Rights have no dilutive effect, nor do they affect reported earnings per share or change the way in which the Common Stock is traded.

The Rights may have the effect of rendering more difficult or discouraging an acquisition of the Company deemed undesirable by the Board of Directors. If a person or group attempts to acquire the Company on terms or in a manner not approved by the Board of Directors, then the Rights may cause such person's or group's ownership interest to become substantially diluted unless the offer includes, as a condition to the acquisition, a provision that the Rights will be purchased, redeemed or otherwise effectively eliminated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the terms of the debt securities sets forth general terms that may apply to the debt securities and provisions of the indentures that will govern the debt securities. The description is not intended to be

Table of Contents

complete, as we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to those debt securities.

The debt securities will be either our senior debt securities or our subordinated debt securities. The senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and the trustee. We refer to this indenture as the senior indenture. The subordinated debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and the trustee. We refer to this indenture as the subordinated indenture and to the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture together as the indentures.

The following is a summary of some provisions of the indentures. The summary does not purport to be complete, and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of each indenture. Copies of the entire indentures are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Parenthetical section references under this heading are references to sections to each of the indentures unless we indicate otherwise.

General Terms

Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities that we may issue. (Section 301). Each indenture provides that debt securities may be issued up to the principal amount authorized by us from time to time. The senior debt securities will be unsecured and will have the same rank as all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinated to all senior indebtedness as set forth below. None of our subsidiaries will have any obligations with respect to the debt securities. Therefore, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including holders of senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of the creditors of our subsidiaries.

We may issue the debt securities in one or more separate series of senior debt securities and/or subordinated debt securities. (Section 301). The prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of debt securities being offered will specify the particular amounts, prices and terms of those debt securities. These terms may include:

the title of the debt securities and the series in which the debt securities will be included;

the authorized denominations and aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, are payable;

the rate or rates per annum at which the debt securities will bear interest, if there is any interest, or the method or methods of calculating interest and the date from which interest will accrue;

the place or places where the principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

the dates on which the interest will be payable and the corresponding record dates;

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

any obligation to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder;

the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities;

the person to whom any interest on any debt security will be payable if other than the person in whose name the debt security is registered on the applicable record date;

any events of default, covenants or warranties applicable to the debt securities;

if applicable, provisions related to the issuance of debt securities in book-entry form;

the currency, currencies or composite currency of denomination of the debt securities;

Table of Contents

the currency, currencies or composite currencies in which payments on the debt securities will be payable and whether the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

whether and under what conditions we will pay additional amounts to holders of the debt securities;

the terms and conditions of any conversion or exchange provisions in respect of the debt securities;

the terms pursuant to which our obligation under the indenture may be terminated through the deposit of money or government obligations;

whether the debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to senior indebtedness and the terms of any such subordination; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the applicable indenture. (Section 301).

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement specifies otherwise, we will issue the debt securities in fully registered form without coupons. If we issue debt securities of any series in bearer form, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the special restrictions and considerations, including special offering restrictions and special federal income tax considerations, applicable to those debt securities and to payment on and transfer and exchange of those debt securities.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, bearing no interest or bearing interest at a rate, which, at the time of issuance, is below market rates, to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. We will describe some special U.S. federal income tax and other considerations applicable to any debt securities that are issued as original issue discount securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. We encourage you to consult with your own competent tax and financial advisors on these important matters.

Payment, Registration, Transfer and Exchange

Subject to any applicable laws or regulations, we will make payments on the debt securities at a designated office or agency, unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise sets forth. At our option, however, we may also make interest payments on the debt securities in registered form:

by checks mailed to the persons entitled to interest payments at their registered addresses; or

by wire transfer to an account maintained by the person entitled to interest payments as specified in the security register.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise indicates, we will pay any installment of interest on debt securities in registered form to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that installment of interest. (Section 307). If a holder wishes to receive a payment by wire transfer, the holder should provide the paying agent with written wire transfer instructions at least 15 days prior to the

payment date.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise sets forth, debt securities issued in registered form will be transferable or exchangeable at the agency we may designate from time to time. Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged without service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection with the transfer or exchange. (Section 305).

Book-Entry Procedures

The applicable prospectus supplement for each series of debt securities will state whether those debt securities will be subject to the following provisions.

Table of Contents

Unless debt securities in physical form are issued, the debt securities will be represented by one or more fully-registered global certificates, in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000. Each global certificate will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (DTC), and registered in its name or in the name of Cede & Co. or other nominee of DTC. No holder of debt securities initially issued as a global certificate will be entitled to receive a certificate in physical form, except as set forth below.

DTC has advised us that:

DTC is:

- a banking organization within the meaning of the New York banking law;
- a limited purpose trust company organized under the New York banking law;
- a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code; and
- a clearing agency registered pursuant to Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities for DTC participants and facilitates the settlement of securities transactions between DTC participants through electronic book-entry transfers, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates.

DTC participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations.

Access to DTC's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers and dealers, and trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC participant, either directly or indirectly.

Holders that are not DTC participants but desire to purchase, sell or otherwise transfer ownership of, or other interests in, the debt securities may do so only through DTC participants. In addition, holders of the debt securities will receive all distributions of principal and interest from the trustee through DTC participants. Under the rules, regulations and procedures creating and affecting DTC and its operation, DTC is required to make book-entry transfers of debt securities among DTC participants on whose behalf it acts and to receive and transmit distributions of principal of, and interest on, the debt securities. Under the book-entry system, holders of debt securities may experience some delay in receipt of payments, since the trustee will forward such payments to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, and DTC, in turn, will forward the payments to the appropriate DTC participants.

DTC participants will be responsible for distributions to holders of debt securities, which distributions will be made in accordance with customary industry practices. Although holders of debt securities will not have possession of the debt securities, the DTC rules provide a mechanism by which those holders will receive payments and will be able to transfer their interests. Although the DTC participants are expected to convey the rights represented by their interests in any global security to the related holders, because DTC can act only on behalf of DTC participants, the ability of holders of debt securities to pledge the debt securities to persons or entities that are not DTC participants or to otherwise act with respect to the debt securities may be limited due to the lack of physical certificates for the debt securities.

Neither we nor the trustee under the applicable indenture nor any agent of either of them will be responsible or liable for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in the debt securities or for supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests. Since the only holder of debt securities, for purposes of the indenture, will be DTC or its nominee, the trustee will not recognize beneficial holders of debt securities as holders of debt securities, and beneficial holders of debt securities will be permitted to exercise the rights of holders only indirectly through DTC and DTC participants. DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of debt securities under the indenture only at the direction of one or more DTC participants to whose accounts with DTC the related debt securities are credited.

All payments we make to the trustee will be in immediately available funds and will be passed through to DTC in immediately available funds.

Table of Contents

Physical certificates will be issued to holders of a global security, or their nominees, if:

DTC advises the trustee in writing that DTC is no longer willing, able or eligible to discharge properly its responsibilities as depository and we are unable to locate a qualified successor; or

We decide in our sole discretion to terminate the book-entry system through DTC. (Section 305).

In such event, the trustee under the applicable indenture will notify all holders of debt securities through DTC participants of the availability of such physical debt securities. Upon surrender by DTC of a definitive global note representing the debt securities and receipt of instructions for reregistration, the trustee will reissue the debt securities in physical form to holders or their nominees. (Section 305).

Debt securities in physical form will be freely transferable and exchangeable at the office of the trustee upon compliance with the requirements set forth in the applicable indenture.

No service charge will be imposed for any registration of transfer or exchange, but payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge may be required. (Section 305).

Consolidation, Merger or Sale by the Company

Each indenture generally permits a consolidation or merger between us and another U.S. corporation. It also permits the sale or transfer by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets and the purchase by us of all or substantially all of the property and assets of another corporation. These transactions are permitted if:

the resulting or acquiring corporation, if other than us, assumes all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indenture; and

immediately after the transaction, no event of default exists. (Section 801).

Even though each indenture contains the provisions described above, we are not required by either indenture to comply with those provisions if we sell all of our property and assets to another U.S. corporation if, immediately after the sale, that corporation is one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries. (Section 803).

If we consolidate or merge with or into any other corporation or sell all or substantially all of our assets according to the terms and conditions of each indenture, the resulting or acquiring corporation will be substituted for us in the indentures with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indentures. As a result, the successor corporation may exercise our rights and powers under each indenture, in our name or in its own name and we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under each indenture and under the debt securities. (Section 802).

Events of Default, Notice and Certain Rights on Default

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, an event of default, when used with respect to any series of debt securities, means any of the following:

failure to pay interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days after the payment is due;

failure to pay the principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment on debt securities of that series when due;

failure to perform any other covenant in the applicable indenture that applies to debt securities of that series for 90 days after we have received written notice of the failure to perform in the manner specified in the indenture;

default under any debt, including other series of debt securities, or under any mortgage, lien or other similar encumbrance, indenture or instrument, including the indentures, which secures any debt, and which results in acceleration of the maturity of an outstanding principal amount of debt greater than \$50 million, unless the acceleration is rescinded, or the debt is discharged, within 10 days after we have received written notice of the default in the manner specified in the indenture;

Table of Contents

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; or

any other event of default that may be specified for the debt securities of that series when that series is created. (Section 501).

If an event of default for any series of debt securities occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series can, subject to certain conditions, rescind the declaration. (Section 502).

The prospectus supplement relating to each series of debt securities which are original issue discount securities will describe the particular provisions that relate to the acceleration of maturity of a portion of the principal amount of that series when an event of default occurs and continues.

An event of default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default for any other series of debt securities issued under either indenture.

Each indenture requires us to file an officers certificate with the trustee each year that states that certain defaults do not exist under the terms of the indenture. The trustee will transmit by mail to the holders of debt securities of a series notice of any default.

Other than its duties in the case of a default, a trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under an indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders, unless the holders offer the trustee indemnification satisfactory to the trustee. (Section 603). If indemnification satisfactory to the trustee is provided, then, subject to certain other rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, with respect to the debt securities of that series, direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or

exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee. (Section 512).

The holder of a debt security of any series will have the right to begin any proceeding with respect to the applicable indenture or for any remedy only if:

the holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request of, and offered reasonable indemnification to, the trustee to begin the proceeding;

the trustee has not started the proceeding within 60 days after receiving the request; and

the trustee has not received directions inconsistent with the request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series during those 60 days. (Section 507).

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of any series of debt securities, by notice to the trustee for that series, may waive, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, any past default or event of default with respect to that series and its consequences. (Section 513). A default or event of default in the payment of the principal of, or premium or interest on, any debt security and certain other defaults may not, however, be waived. (Sections 508 and 513).

Modification of the Indentures

We, as well as the trustee for a series of debt securities, may enter into one or more supplemental indentures, without the consent of the holders of any of the debt securities, in order to:

evidence the succession of another corporation to us and the assumption of our covenants by a successor;

add to our covenants or surrender any of our rights or powers;

Table of Contents

add additional events of default for any series;

add, change or eliminate any provision affecting debt securities that are not yet issued;

secure the debt securities;

establish the form or terms of debt securities not yet issued;

evidence and provide for successor trustees;

add, change or eliminate any provision affecting registration as to principal of debt securities;

permit the exchange of debt securities;

change or eliminate restrictions on payment in respect of debt securities;

change or eliminate provisions or add any other provisions that are required or desirable in accordance with any amendments to the Trust Indenture Act, on the condition that this action does not adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series issued under the indenture in any material respect; or

cure any ambiguity or correct any mistake. (Section 901).

In addition, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by the supplemental indenture, we and the trustee may execute supplemental indentures adding any provisions to or changing or eliminating any of the provisions of the applicable indenture or any supplemental indenture or modifying the rights of the holders of debt securities of that series. No such supplemental indenture may, however, without the consent of the holder of each debt security that is affected:

change the time for payment of principal or interest on any debt security;

reduce the principal of, or any installment of principal of, or interest on, any debt security;

reduce the amount of premium, if any, payable upon the redemption of any debt security;

reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of an original issue discount debt security;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or for any debt security;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the indenture or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or for waiver of certain defaults;

modify the provisions relating to waiver of some defaults or any of the foregoing provisions;

change the currency of payment;

adversely affect the right to repayment of debt securities of any series at the option of the holders of those debt securities; or

change the place of payment. (Section 902).

Any supplemental indenture will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to:

a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part;

an annual report on Form 10-K;

a quarterly report on Form 10-Q; or

a current report on Form 8-K.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under an indenture. If we deposit with the trustee sufficient cash or government obligations to pay the principal, interest, any premium

Table of Contents

and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments due to the stated maturity or a redemption date of the debt securities of a particular series, then at our option:

we will be discharged from our obligations for the debt securities of that series, the holders of the debt securities of the affected series will no longer be entitled to the benefits of the indenture, except for registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities, and those holders may look only to the deposited funds or obligations for payment, which is referred to as defeasance ; or

we will no longer be under any obligation to comply with certain covenants under the applicable indenture as it relates to that series, and some events of default will no longer apply to us, which is referred to as covenant defeasance. (Sections 403 and 1501).

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement specifies otherwise and except as described below, the conditions to both defeasance and covenant defeasance are as follows:

it must not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default or event of default under, the applicable indenture, or result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other of our material agreements or instruments;

certain bankruptcy-related defaults or events of default with respect to us must not have occurred and be occurring during the period commencing on the date of the deposit of the trust funds to defease the debt securities and ending on the 91st day after that date;

we must deliver to the trustee an officer s certificate and an opinion of counsel addressing compliance with the conditions of the defeasance or covenant defeasance; and

we must comply with any additional conditions to the defeasance or covenant defeasance that the applicable indenture may impose on us. (Sections 403 and 1501).

In the event that government obligations deposited with the trustee for the defeasance of such debt securities decrease in value or default subsequent to their being deposited, we will have no further obligation, and the holders of the debt securities will have no additional recourse against us, for any decrease in value or default. If indicated in the prospectus supplement, in addition to obligations of the United States or an agency or instrumentality of the United States, government obligations may include obligations of the government or an agency or instrumentality of the government issuing the currency in which debt securities of such series are payable.

We may exercise our defeasance option for the debt securities even if we have already exercised our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise our defeasance option, payment of the debt securities may not be accelerated because of default or an event of default. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option, payment of the debt securities may not be accelerated because of default or an event of default with respect to the covenants to which the covenant defeasance is applicable. If, however, acceleration occurs, the realizable value at the acceleration date of the money and government obligations in the defeasance trust could be less than the principal and interest then due on the debt securities, because the required deposit in the defeasance trust is based on scheduled cash flow rather than market value, which will vary depending on interest rates and other factors.

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The debt securities of any series may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of our company or another issuer or property or cash on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. (Section 301).

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New York without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof.

Table of Contents

Regarding the Trustee

We may from time to time maintain lines of credit, and have other customary banking relationships, with the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture.

The indentures and provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, which we refer to in this prospectus as the Trust Indenture Act, that are incorporated by reference therein, contain limitations on the rights of the trustee, should it become one of our creditors, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us or any of our affiliates; provided, however, that if it acquires any conflicting interest (as defined under the Trust Indenture Act), it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

Additional Terms Applicable to Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate to the prior payment in full in cash of all senior indebtedness.

The term **senior indebtedness** is defined as:

any of our indebtedness, whether outstanding on the issue date of the subordinated debt securities of a series or incurred later;

accrued and unpaid interest, including interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to us to the extent post-filing interest is allowed in such proceeding, in respect of:

our indebtedness for money borrowed; and

indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which we are responsible or liable;

contingent reimbursement obligations with respect to letters of credit issued or supported by our working capital lenders for our account; and

obligations, liabilities, fees and expenses that we owe to our working capital lenders;

unless the instrument creating or evidencing these obligations provides that these obligations are not senior or prior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, **senior indebtedness** will not include:

any of our obligations to our subsidiaries;

any liability for Federal, state, local or other taxes that we owe;

any accounts payable or other liability to trade creditors arising in the ordinary course of business, including guarantees of these obligations or instruments evidencing such liabilities;

any of our indebtedness, and any accrued and unpaid interest in respect of our indebtedness, that is subordinate or junior in any respect to any other of our indebtedness or other obligations; or

the subordinated debt securities. (Section 101 of the subordinated indenture).

There is no limitation on our ability to issue additional senior indebtedness. The senior debt securities constitute senior indebtedness under the subordinated indenture.

Under the subordinated indenture, no payment may be made on the subordinated debt securities and no purchase, redemption or retirement of any subordinated debt securities may be made in the event:

any senior indebtedness is not paid in full in cash when due; or

the maturity of any senior indebtedness is accelerated as a result of a default, unless the default has been cured or waived and the acceleration has been rescinded or that senior indebtedness has been paid in full in cash.

Table of Contents

We may, however, pay the subordinated debt securities without regard to the above restriction if the representatives of the holders of the applicable senior indebtedness approve the payment in writing to us and the trustee. (Section 1603 of the subordinated indenture).

The representatives of the holders of senior indebtedness may notify us and the trustee in writing (a payment blockage notice) of a default which can result in the acceleration of that senior indebtedness maturity without further notice, except such notice as may be required to effect such acceleration, or the expiration of any grace periods. In this event, we may not pay the subordinated debt securities for 179 days after receipt of that notice. The payment blockage period will end earlier if such payment blockage period is terminated:

by written notice to the trustee and us from the person or persons who gave such payment blockage notice;

because the default giving rise to such payment blockage notice is cured, waived or otherwise no longer continuing; or

because such senior debt has been discharged or repaid in full in cash.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the holders of senior indebtedness or their representatives have not accelerated the maturity of the senior indebtedness at the end of the 179-day period, we may resume payments on the subordinated debt securities. Not more than one payment blockage notice may be given in any consecutive 360-day period, irrespective of the number of defaults with respect to senior indebtedness during that period. No default existing on the beginning date of any payment blockage period initiated by a person or persons may be the basis of a subsequent payment blockage period with respect to the senior indebtedness held by that person unless that default has been cured or waived for a period of not fewer than 90 consecutive days.

If we pay or distribute our assets to creditors upon a total or partial liquidation, dissolution or reorganization of or similar proceeding relating to us or our property, then:

the holders of senior indebtedness will be entitled to receive payment in full in cash of the senior indebtedness before the holders of subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment; and

until the senior indebtedness is paid in full in cash, any payment or distribution to which holders of subordinated debt securities would be entitled but for the subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture will be made to holders of the senior indebtedness, except that holders of subordinated debt securities may receive certain capital stock and subordinated debt. (Section 1602 of the subordinated indenture).

If a distribution is made to holders of subordinated debt securities that, due to the subordination provisions, should not have been made to them, those holders of subordinated debt securities are required to hold it in trust for the holders of senior indebtedness, and pay it over to them as their interests may appear. (Section 1605 of the subordinated indenture).

After all senior indebtedness is paid in full and until the subordinated debt securities are paid in full, holders of subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of holders of senior indebtedness to receive distributions applicable to such senior indebtedness. (Section 1606 of the subordinated indenture).

As a result of the subordination provisions contained in the subordinated indenture, in the event of insolvency, our creditors who are holders of senior indebtedness may recover more, ratably, than the holders of subordinated debt

securities. In addition, our creditors who are not holders of senior indebtedness may recover less, ratably, than holders of senior indebtedness and may recover more, ratably, than the holders of subordinated indebtedness. Furthermore, claims of our subsidiaries' creditors generally will have priority with respect to the assets and earnings of the subsidiaries over the claims of our creditors, including holders of the subordinated debt securities, even though those obligations may not constitute senior indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities, therefore, will be effectively subordinated to creditors, including trade creditors, of our subsidiaries. It is important to keep this in mind if you decide to hold our subordinated debt securities.

The terms of the subordination provisions described above will not apply to payments from money or the proceeds of government securities held in trust by the trustee for any series of subordinated debt securities for the

Table of Contents

payment of principal and interest on such subordinated debt securities pursuant to the defeasance procedures described under Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001 - 2005, were as follows:

Time Period	Ratio
2001	3.23
2002	3.26
2003	3.66
2004	3.73
2005	4.10

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the six months ended June 30, 2006 was 4.76. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing fixed charges into earnings plus fixed charges. For purposes of computing this ratio, earnings have been calculated as pretax income from continuing operations before adjustment for minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries. Fixed charges include a portion of rents representative of the interest factor, interest on indebtedness and the amortization of debt discounts and expenses.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities offered pursuant to any applicable prospectus supplement to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale by them or we may sell such securities to investors directly or through agents, some of which may be dealers. We may also sell the securities through a combination of these methods. The name of any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of such securities will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement. The distribution of securities offered pursuant to any applicable prospectus supplement may occur:

- (a) at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- (b) at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- (c) at prices related to prevailing market prices; or
- (d) at negotiated prices.

From time to time, we may also authorize underwriters acting as our agents to offer and sell securities upon the terms and conditions set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions in connection with the sale of securities offered pursuant to any applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters may also receive commissions from purchasers of securities for whom such underwriters may act as agent. Underwriters may sell securities offered pursuant to any applicable prospectus supplement to or through dealers. Such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom such dealers may act as agent.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement so indicates, in connection with

those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of common shares, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of common shares. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement or a post-effective amendment to this registration statement.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any underwriting compensation we pay to underwriters or agents in connection with any offering of securities. Likewise, we will also describe any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers in the applicable prospectus

Table of Contents

supplement. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. We may enter into agreements to indemnify underwriters, dealers and agents against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to reimburse these persons for certain expenses. We will describe any indemnification agreements in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize dealers acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in such prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in the prospectus supplement. Each delayed delivery contract will be for an amount not less than the respective amounts stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Likewise, the aggregate principal amount of the securities sold pursuant to delayed delivery contracts will not be less or more than the respective amounts stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may make delayed delivery contracts with various institutions, including commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions, and other institutions. Delayed delivery contracts will always be subject to our approval. Delayed delivery contracts will not be subject to any conditions except the following:

- (a) The purchase by an institution of the securities covered by its delayed delivery contracts shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which such institution is subject; and
- (b) If the securities are being sold to underwriters, we shall have sold to such underwriters the total principal amount of the offered securities less the principal amount covered by the delayed delivery contracts.

Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates may, but will not necessarily, be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or one or more of our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of our and/or their business. It is also possible that certain of the underwriters or their affiliates may be affiliates of banking institutions or other financial services firms with which we or one or more of our subsidiaries has a pre-existing business relationship.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Common Stock and debt securities will be passed upon for the Company by Baker & Hostetler LLP, Orlando, Florida. Any underwriters will also be advised about the validity of the securities and other legal matters by their own counsel, which will be named in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.***

The following table sets forth the fees and expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered hereunder. Except for the SEC registration fee, all amounts are estimates. Certain amounts that cannot be presently estimated will be provided in amendments to this registration statement.

SEC registration fee	\$ 4,280.00
NYSE listing fee	5,000.00
Accounting fees and expenses	70,000.00
Legal fees and expenses (other than Blue Sky)	125,000.00
Blue Sky fees and expenses (including counsel fees)	10,000.00
Printing and engraving expenses	30,000.00
Transfer agent s and registrar s fees and expenses	10,000.00
Rating Agency fees	50,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses	20,720.00
 Total	 \$ 325,000.00

Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers.*

Under the Company s Bylaws, each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact he is or was a director or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director or officer of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise (including employee benefit plans), is entitled to indemnification and to be held harmless by the Company to the fullest extent permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the DGCL) against all expense, liabilities and loss (including attorneys fees, judgments, fines or penalties and amounts paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such person in connection therewith, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act. These indemnification rights include the right to be paid by the Company the expenses incurred in defending any action, suit or proceeding in advance of its final disposition, subject to the receipt by the Company of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay all amounts so advanced if it is ultimately determined that such person is not entitled to be indemnified. These indemnification rights under the Bylaws are not exclusive of any other indemnification right which any person may have or acquire under any law, bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders, disinterested directors or otherwise.

Under Section 145 of the DGCL, a corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any action, suit, or proceeding by reason of the fact that he is or was a director or officer of such corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in and not opposed to the best interest of the corporation and, with respect to a criminal action or proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful, except that, in the case of any action or suit by or in the right of the corporation (such as a derivative action), no indemnification is permitted if the person shall be adjudged liable to the corporation (other than indemnification for such expenses as a court shall determine such person is fairly and reasonably entitled).

Article Eleven of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation provides that a director of the Company shall not be personally liable to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (a) for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) under Section 174 of the DGCL, or (d) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

The Company has in effect liability insurance policies covering certain claims against any director or officer of the Company by reason of certain breaches of duty, neglect, error, misstatement, omission or other act committed by such person in his capacity as director or officer.

II-1

Table of Contents

Item 16. Exhibits.

A list of exhibits filed herewith or incorporated by reference is contained in the Exhibit Index, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective Registration Statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the Registration Statement is on Form S-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) (A) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the

date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in

II-2

Table of Contents

the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; and

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers, and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that, in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer, or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:

(1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance on Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

(2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(e) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Pre-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the City of Dover, State of Delaware, on November 6, 2006.

CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION

By: /s/ John R. Schimkaitis

John R. Schimkaitis
President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Pre-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant in the capacities indicated, on November 6, 2006.

*	/s/ John R. Schimkaitis
Ralph J. Adkins, Chairman of the Board and Director	John R. Schimkaitis, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director Date: November 6, 2006
*	*
Michael P. McMasters, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	Eugene H. Bayard, Director
*	*
Richard Bernstein, Director	Thomas J. Bresnan, Director
*	*
Walter J. Coleman, Director	Thomas P. Hill, Jr., Director
*	*
J. Peter Martin, Director	Joseph E. Moore, Esq., Director
*	
Calvert A. Morgan, Jr., Director	
*	

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORP - Form S-3/A

John R. Schimkaitis, by signing his name hereto, does sign this Registration Statement on behalf of the persons indicated above pursuant to the powers of attorney duly executed by such persons and filed as one or more Exhibits to this Registration Statement.

By: /s/ John R. Schimkaitis

John R. Schimkaitis
Attorney-in-Fact

Table of Contents

CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Stock*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement for debt securities*
4.1	Amended Certificate of Incorporation of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 1998, File No. 001-11590.
4.2	Amended Bylaws of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, effective February 24, 2005, are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, File No. 001-11590.
4.3.1	Form of Senior Debt Trust Indenture between Chesapeake Utilities Corporation and the trustee for the debt securities**
4.3.2	Form of Subordinated Debt Trust Indenture between Chesapeake Utilities Corporation and the trustee for the debt securities**
4.4	Form of debt securities**
5.1	Opinion of Baker & Hostetler LLP**
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 12 of each of the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001, File No. 001-11590. Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges for the six months ended June 30, 2006 is filed herewith.**
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**
23.2	Consent of Baker & Hostetler LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney***
25.1	Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of Trustee for the Chesapeake Utilities Corporation debt securities****

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference into the registration statement.

** Filed herewith.

*** Filed previously.

**** To be filed in accordance with the requirements of Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 and Rule 5b-3 thereunder.