

Comstock Mining Inc.  
Form S-3  
December 31, 2015

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 31, 2015

Registration No. 333-

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

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

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COMSTOCK MINING INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	1040 (Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number)	65-0955118 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
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1200 American Flat Road  
Virginia City, NV 89440  
(775) 847-5272  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code,  
of registrant's principal executive offices)

Corrado De Gasperis  
Chief Executive Officer  
1200 American Flat Road  
Virginia City, NV 89440  
(775) 847-7325  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of agent for service)

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Copies to:

Clyde W. Tinnen, Esq.

Withers Bergman LLP  
157 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510  
(203) 789-1320

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. "

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  "

Accelerated Filer  "

Non-accelerated filer  "

Smaller reporting company  x

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per unit	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common stock, \$0.000666 per share	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Preferred stock, \$0.000666 par value	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Debt securities	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Rights	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Units	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Warrants	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)
Total	(1)	(2)	\$50,000,000	\$5,035

(1) We are registering under this registration statement such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities, such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, such indeterminate number of units and such indeterminate number of rights, as may be sold by the registrant from time to time, which together shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$50,000,000. If we issue any debt securities at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount at maturity as

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shall result in an aggregate offering price not to exceed \$50,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. We may sell any securities we are registering under this registration statement separately or as units with the other securities we are registering under this registration statement. We will determine, from time to time, the proposed maximum offering price per unit in connection with our issuance of the securities we are registering under this registration statement. The securities we are registering under this registration statement also include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and

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preferred stock and amount of debt securities as we may issue upon conversion of or exchange for preferred stock or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange, upon exercise of warrants or rights or pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions of any of such securities. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), the shares we are registering under this registration statement include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares we are registering as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

We will determine the proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security from time to time in connection with our issuance of the securities we are registering under this registration statement and we are not

(2) specifying such price as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.

(3) Registration fee calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act, based on aggregated indeterminate number of securities to be sold by the registrant.

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 this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities pursuant to this prospectus until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED DECEMBER 31, 2015

PROSPECTUS

\$50,000,000  
Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Debt Securities  
Rights  
Units  
Warrants

From time to time, we may offer up to an aggregate of \$50,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, either individually or in units. We may also offer shares of our \$0.000666 par value, per share common stock (“Common Stock”) or preferred stock upon conversion of debt securities, Common Stock upon conversion of preferred stock, or Common Stock, preferred stock or debt securities upon the exercise of warrants. We will provide the specific terms of these offerings and securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. We may also authorize the provision to you of one or more free writing prospectuses in connection with these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information we include in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents we incorporate by reference, before buying any of the securities being offered.

You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, as well as the documents incorporated by reference or deemed incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, carefully before you invest in our shares.

We may offer and sell the securities described in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, or through a combination of these methods. If any underwriters, dealers or agents are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. See the sections of this prospectus entitled “About this Prospectus” and “Plan of Distribution” for more information. No securities may be sold without delivery of this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such securities.

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Our common stock is listed on the NYSE MKT LLC under the symbol "LODE." The last reported price of our common stock on the NYSE MKT LLC on November 3, 2015 was \$0.60 per share. The aggregate market value of

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our outstanding voting common stock held by non-affiliates, based upon a closing sale price of our common stock on November 3, 2015 was \$64,496,720. During the 12 calendar month period that ends on, and includes, the date of this prospectus, we have offered securities with an aggregate offering price of \$6,000,000 pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6. of Form S-3. Pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3, in no event will we sell securities registered on this registration statement in a public primary offering with a value exceeding more than one-third of the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity in any 12 month period so long as our public float remains below \$75 million.

Investing in our securities involves risks that are referenced in the “Risk Factors” section, at page 8, of this prospectus and are set forth in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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The date of this prospectus is , 2016.

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, utilizing a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, offer and sell securities pursuant to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

Each time we offer and sell our securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of the specific securities being offered and which may add, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you must rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read carefully both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with additional information described below under “Where You Can Find More Information” before you invest in our securities.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus related to the applicable securities that is prepared by us or on our behalf or that is otherwise authorized by us. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information that we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operation and prospects may have changed since those dates.

We will not use this prospectus to offer and sell securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement that more fully describes the securities being offered and the terms of the offering.

This prospectus does not contain all the information provided in the registration statement we filed with the Commission. For further information about us or the securities offered hereby, you should refer to that registration statement, which you can obtain from the Commission as described below under “Where You Can Find More Information.”

In this prospectus, unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires, “Comstock,” “we,” “us” and “our,” “our Company” or the “Company” refer to Comstock Mining Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. In addition, unless the context requires otherwise, reference to the “Board” refers to the Board of Directors of Comstock Mining Inc.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are required to file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information relating to our business, financial and other matters with the Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Our filings are available to the public over the Internet at the Commission’s web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file with the Commission at, and obtain a copy of any such document by mail from, the Commission’s public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed charges. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room and its charges.

We have filed with the Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act with respect to our securities described in this prospectus. References to the “registration statement” or the “registration statement of which

this prospectus is a part” mean the original registration statement and all amendments, including all schedules and exhibits. This prospectus does, and any prospectus supplement will, not contain all of the information in the registration statement because we have omitted parts of the registration statement in accordance with the rules of the Commission. Please refer to the registration statement for any information in the registration statement that is not contained in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement. The registration statement is available

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to the public over the Internet at the Commission's web site described above and can be read and copied at the locations described above.

Each statement made in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement concerning a document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to that exhibit for a complete description of its provisions.

We make available, free of charge, on or through our web site, copies of our proxy statements, our annual reports on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with or furnish them to the Commission. We maintain a web site at <http://www.comstockmining.com>. The information contained on our web site is not part of this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or the registration statement.

#### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

We have filed the following documents with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act and hereby incorporate them by reference in the registration statement:

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future documents that we file with the Commission under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement:

- (a) Our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on January 29, 2015 (the "2014 Form 10-K");
- (b) Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2015, filed with the Commission on April 16, 2015 (the "First Quarter Form 10-Q");
- (c) Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2015, filed with the Commission on July 21, 2015 (the "Second Quarter Form 10-Q");
- (d) Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2015, filed with the Commission on October 23, 2015 (the "Third Quarter Form 10-Q");
- (e) Our current reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on February 5, 2015, March 6, 2015, May 8, 2015, July 13, 2015, July 29, 2015, August 27, 2015, September 29, 2015 and October 20, 2015; and
- (f) The description of our Common Stock contained in our Form 8-A (File No. 001-35200), filed with the Commission under Section 12 of the Exchange Act on June 8, 2011 (the "Form 8-A").

All documents subsequently filed by us with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in the registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

We make available copies of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, without charge, upon written or oral request. Such requests should be directed to:

Comstock Mining Inc.  
P.O. Box 1118  
Virginia City, Nevada 89440  
Attention: Judd Merrill, Chief Financial Officer  
Telephone: (775) 847-7325

## SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and does not contain all of the information you should consider in making your investment decision. You should read this summary together with the more detailed information included elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including financial statements and the related notes. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters discussed under “Risks Factors” in the 2014 Form 10-K, the First Quarter Form 10-Q, the Second Quarter 10-Q, the Third Quarter 10-Q and in other documents that we subsequently file with the Commission that are incorporated by reference herein.

### The Company

The Company is a producing, Nevada-based, gold and silver mining company with extensive, contiguous property in the historic Comstock and Silver City mining districts (collectively, the “Comstock District”) and is an emerging leader in sustainable, responsible mining, including concurrent and accelerated reclamations, soil sampling, voluntary air monitoring, cultural asset protection and historical restorations. The Company began acquiring properties in the Comstock District in 2003. Since then, the Company has consolidated a significant portion of the Comstock District, rezoned its properties consistent with mining uses, built an infrastructure, and brought an exploration project into production. The Company continues acquiring additional properties in the district, expanding its footprint and creating opportunities for further exploration, development and mining. The near term goal of our business plan is to deliver stockholder value by validating qualified reserves (proven and probable) from our first two resource areas, Lucerne and Dayton, and significantly grow the commercial development of our operations through extended, long-lived mine plans that are economically feasible and socially responsible.

The Comstock District is located within the western portion of the Basin and Range Province of Nevada, between Reno and Carson City. Because of the Comstock District’s historical significance, the geology is well known and has been extensively studied by the Company, our advisors and many independent researchers. We have expanded our understanding of the geology of the project area through vigorous surface mapping, geophysical analysis, exploration drilling, drill hole logging and extensive mine development and planning, including geological level plans and cross-sectional analysis. The volume of geologic data is immense, and thus far the reliability has been excellent, particularly in the various Lucerne Mine areas. We have amassed a large library of historic data and detailed surface mapping of Comstock District properties and continue to obtain historic information from private and public sources. We use such data in conjunction with information obtained from our current mining operations, to target geologically prospective exploration areas and plan exploratory programs, including expanded surface and underground drilling.

Our Lucerne Resource area is located in Storey County, Nevada, approximately three miles south of Virginia City and 30 miles southeast of Reno. Our Dayton Resource area is located in Lyon County, Nevada, approximately six miles south of Virginia City. Access to the properties is by State Route 342, a paved route.

The Company achieved initial production and held its first pour of gold and silver on September 29, 2012. The Company produced approximately 20,815 and 22,925 gold equivalent ounces in 2013 and 2014, respectively. That is, the Company produced 17,739 ounces of gold and 186,482 ounces of silver in 2013, and 19,601 ounces of gold and 222,416 ounces of silver in 2014. During the first nine months of 2015, the Company poured 13,117 ounces of gold and 179,074 ounces of silver. The Company reduced its strip ratio from a 2014 average of 4.83 to less than 1.0. Grade remained strong at over .031 ounces of gold per ton and .663 ounces of silver per ton or higher, continuing the grade improvement trend started in 2014. The recovery rate estimate for gold, for the life of the Lucerne mine to date, has increased to approximately 84-85%.

We continue expanding our property footprint and creating opportunities for exploration and mining. The Company now owns or controls approximately 8,546 acres of mining claims and parcels in the Comstock and Silver City Districts. The acreage is comprised of approximately 2,245 acres of patented claims (private lands) and surface parcels (private lands) and approximately 6,301 acres of unpatented mining claims, which the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) administers.

## Production

During 2014, the Company completed its second full year of production and transitioned from the Billie the Kid and Hartford patented claims in the Lucerne West-side Mine to the higher-grade Justice and Lucerne patents, also in the Lucerne West-side Mine. The Company completed the planned mining for the Billie the Kid, Hartford and Justice patents during 2014, while continuing to mine the Lucerne patent through 2014 and 2015. During the second and third quarters of 2015, the Company further expanded its activities to include a more significant amount of extraction from the historic mine dumps adjacent to and underneath the existing portion of SR-342, into the daily production schedule. Substantially all of the operations for the second half of 2015 are focused on surface activity, including extraction of approximately 150,000 tons of ore contained in those remaining mine dumps during the third quarter and approximately 30,000 tons of ore contained in those remaining mine dumps during the fourth quarter, while also completing the realignment of SR-342, establishing a drift into the higher-grade PQ, Succor and Woodville exploration targets and developing those targets towards the establishment of reserves for potential future mining.

## Recent Developments

On October 19, 2015 the Company completed an offering of Common Stock, which provided net proceeds of approximately \$5.9 million.

As announced on August 27, 2015, the Company successfully completed a restructuring of certain components of its capital structure, primarily associated with all series of its issued and outstanding Convertible Preferred Stock and certain obligations associated with the Northern Comstock joint venture associated with some of its most important land holdings. The Company successfully converted all of its preferred stock to common stock, eliminating the preferred stock, eliminating the special rights of the preferred stock holders, including extra voting rights, and eliminating future dividends associated with those instruments. The Company also materially reduced future capital and royalty obligations associated with some of its highest prospective mineralized land claims contained in the Northern Comstock joint venture.

The Company received written authorization from a majority of the holders of the Company's then outstanding 7 1/2% Series A-1 Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series A-1"), 7 1/2% Series A-2 Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series A-2") and 7 1/2% Series B Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B," and together with the Series A-1 and Series A-2, the "Preferred") to amend the certificates of designation of rights, preferences, rights and limitations of the Preferred (the "Charters") that resulted in the automatic conversion of the Preferred into shares of the Company's common stock. In addition, as a result of the approval of the amendments to the Charters, the Company declared and paid a one-time dividend of 127 shares of common stock per share of Preferred to each holder of the Preferred.

In addition, on August 27, 2015, the Company announced that it entered into the first amendment of its operating agreement (the "First Amendment") with the other members of its Northern Comstock LLC joint venture. The First Amendment permanently reduced capital contribution obligations of the Company from \$31.05 million down to \$9.75 million (now payable at \$812,500 per year for twelve years) and permitted such capital contributions, to be made in the form of cash, or in certain circumstances at the Company's option, with the Company's common stock. The First Amendment also provides for a one-time acceleration of \$1,625,000 of the capital contributions payable when the cash and cash equivalents of the Company exceed \$12,500,000 and an additional provision for accelerating scheduled payments, but not ever increasing the overall payments, based on a percentage (that is, 3%) of active production revenue generated by the properties subject to the Northern Comstock LLC joint venture. On September 28, 2015, the Company entered into the second amendment of its operating agreement (the "Second Amendment") with the other members of its Northern Comstock LLC joint venture. Pursuant to the Second Amendment, the Company's annual contributions of \$812,500 per year were divided into eleven monthly cash capital contributions of \$30,000 with a



single annual capital contribution of \$482,500 payable in cash unless the Company has cash and cash equivalents of less than \$10,500,000 on the date of such payments, wherein the Company then has the option to pay that annual contribution in common stock or cash, at its option. The Second Amendment also provides for a one-time acceleration of \$812,500 of the capital contributions payable when the Company receives net cash proceeds from sources other than operations that exceed \$6,250,000. The agreement also includes an ongoing acceleration of the Company's capital contribution obligations equal to 3% of the net smelter returns generated by the properties subject to the Northern Comstock LLC joint venture. The Second Amendment

also provides that if the Company defaults in its obligation to make the scheduled capital contributions, then the remaining capital contribution obligations may be converted into the principal amount of a 6% per annum promissory note payable by the Company on the same schedule as the capital contributions, secured by a mortgage on the properties subject to the Northern Comstock LLC joint venture.

On September 28, 2015, the Company announced that the Board of Directors of the Company received and accepted the resignation of John V. Winfield as Chairman of the Board. Upon receipt of such resignation, the Board appointed Corrado DeGasperis as Executive Chairman of the Board and Robert C. Kopple as Lead Independent Director and Vice Chairman of the Board.

#### Current Projects

The Company's headquarters, mine operations and heap leach processing facility are in Storey County, Nevada, at 1200 American Flat Road, approximately three miles south of Virginia City, Nevada and 30 miles southeast of Reno, Nevada. The Company has focused development to date on the Lucerne Resource Area (including both surface and underground east-side targets), the Dayton Resource Area and the Spring Valley exploration target. We also plan on focusing longer term, future explorations on the Northern Extension, Northern Targets, and Occidental Target Areas subsequent to the exploration and development of Lucerne, Dayton and Spring Valley. Production has been ongoing in the Lucerne Mine since 2012, and the Company is nearing completion, this year, of the first phase surface mining activities, the SR 342 road realignment and the final extraction of existing mine dumps. On September 5, 2015, the Company also began construction of an underground exploration portal and drift at the north end of the floor in the existing Lucerne Surface Mine. On November 24, 2015, the Company announced that it has completed construction of the first phase of the entire 800-foot underground exploration drift ("Harris Portal") at the north end of the existing Lucerne Surface Mine.

The Company had previously completed extensive geological development and modeling, including analysis of surface drill hole results, metallurgy, proximity to the current Lucerne Mine floor, and historic mining data. This resulted in a highly detailed geologic model for the Lucerne. The work confirmed that the lode is comprised of a group of northwest trending, sub-parallel, high-grade, mineralized structures. This structural group coalesces into a single zone in the central part of the East-side area and diverges to the north and south creating a possible structural corridor up to 600-feet. The Company also discovered dike-like masses of quartz porphyry (PQ) that have intruded into the main lode and have a direct relationship to the known mineralization. Additionally, early this year, the Company completed extensive surface drilling on the Succor and Holman mineral patents, where structures have close proximity and potentially intersect with the PQ mass.

The first phase also includes approximately 20,000 feet of diamond-core and reverse circulation (R/C) definition drilling, both being closely coordinated with the drift development. Previously disclosed drill data from this PQ structure include 46 intercepts of at least 10 feet that have a grade, on average, of over 0.23 ounces of gold per ton and over 1.71 ounces of silver per ton. The historic Succor vein system is being considered as an easterly extension of the first phase of development beyond the high-grade PQ target.

#### SR-342 Realignment and Extraction of Existing Mine Dumps

In early February, the Nevada Department of Transportation, (NDOT), closed an approximate two-mile section of SR-342, south of Gold Hill, as a safety precaution following roadway cracking and area specific sinking during a weekend of heavy rains. The area of sinking is above a historic mine-shaft dating back to the early 1900's, and that portion of the road sits on old mine dumps and looser fill that has a history of instability and, in some cases, failure. The Company owns the land, with NDOT granted prescriptive rights to operate the state roadbed over that private

land. Storey County, NDOT, the Company, and other applicable regulatory agencies evaluated several remedies for the realignment of SR-342.

In addition, during the latter part of 2014, the geological and environmental teams undertook a systematic evaluation of historic mine dumps throughout most of the central part of the District. Quantifying and understanding the nature of possible legacy contaminants and identifying the extent of mineralization with the potential to increase mineable resources were the two primary objectives. Overall, we identified approximately 640,000 tons of mineralized dump materials. Of that total, approximately 450,000 tons are located underneath and to the east of State Route 342, with an average grade between 0.025-0.035 opt Au. These tons are now being extracted as part of

the SR-342 re-alignment, and stacked onto the leach pad for processing providing a significant environmental remediation and a meaningful contribution to operations and production schedule.

The route is being realigned to the east of the historic shaft, removing old dump materials in an environmentally responsible manner, enabling safe travel and continued mining, effecting required reclamations, all while positioning the area for future mining and development.

On December 4, 2015, the Company announced that the realignment of State Route 342 (SR 342) was completed in early December. SR 342 passed all relevant Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) inspections and has been reopened for public use.

The completion of the SR 342 realignment, including the already completed capping of the historic Silver Hills Mine shaft, provides a better route from Carson City to Virginia City and also provides a safer and more efficient passage for ongoing mining operations. The Company also achieved significant environmental and reclamation objectives and completed the project under the original \$3 million budget.

The SR 342 realignment and historic environmental remediation has been completed in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE), the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

#### Lucerne Exploration and Underground Development

The Company completed extensive geological development and modeling, utilizing its previously collected drill hole data, historic underground mine maps and current mining data, among other geological information. This resulted in highly detailed geologic level plans and cross sectional analysis for the Lucerne East-side. The sectional compilation resulted in several important findings. The work confirmed that the lode is comprised of a group of northwest trending, sub-parallel, higher-grade, mineralized structures, rather than a simple vein system confined to a single fault zone. These structural groups coalesce into a single zone in the central part of the East-side area and diverge to the north and south to create zones up to 600-feet wide. The Company also discovered dike-like masses of quartz porphyry ("PQ") that have intruded into the main lode and have a direct relationship to the known mineralization. Current drill data from this PQ structure include 46 intercepts that grade, on average, over 0.23 ounces of gold per ton and over 1.71 ounces of silver per ton.

Out of this extensive geologic work, a definitive underground development target has emerged, specifically that part of the lode occupied by the mineralized mass of PQ, as well as the neighboring wall rocks. This conclusion is based on surface drill hole results, metallurgy, and proximity to the current Lucerne Mine floor, as well as past mining data. In addition to the mineralized mass of PQ, we developed and defined the nearby Woodville Bonanza structures with the same diligent level plan and cross sectional development. These geologic definitions include the same detail and historical mappings plus over 116 intercepts of at least 10 feet grading over 0.22 ounces per ton gold and 1.59 ounces of silver per ton. The PQ and Woodville structures represent the most significant opportunity for immediately exploring and progressing the development of an accelerated underground mine plan in the Lucerne Area. The Company partnered with American Mine and Tunneling LLC and American Drilling Corp, LLC, based on their superior expertise and quality services to the mining industry, ranging from beginning stage drilling and exploration to initial drift and tunneling, to commence developing a new underground access to the PQ structures and the almost adjacent Woodville Bonanza structures this month.

On July 8, 2015 Storey County Board of Commissioners has confirmed that the major modifications to the Company's operating plan conforms to the conditions of the existing Special Use Permit No. 2000-222-A-5 ("SUP") and

unanimously approved that plan. The modification outlines the Company's plan to develop a portal and underground tunnel (a "drift") alongside a highly mineralized series of high-grade structures. The Company then plans to efficiently drill and develop those structures into an expanded resource and, based upon the final economic feasibility analysis, expanded mine plans. The existing permit allows the Company to begin construction activities of an underground mine portal for exploration and development of known Lucerne resources, ultimately with the objective of establishing gold and silver reserves.

On August 25, 2015, the Company announced that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation (“NDEP-BMRR”) has issued a Notice of Decision (“NOD”) approving an Engineering Design Change to the Company's Water Pollution Control Plan for Underground Exploration. NDEP-BMRR also approved a major modification to the Company's Reclamation Permit and Surety Decision for the proposed Underground Development of the Lucerne Mine. These modified permits allow the construction of an underground exploration portal and drift at the north end of the floor in the existing Lucerne Surface Mine. The exploration project is situated on previously-disturbed private land. On September 5, 2015, the Company commenced construction of an underground exploration portal (“Harris Portal”) and drift at the north end of the floor level in the existing Lucerne Surface Mine. On September 24, 2015, construction of the first drill platform was completed and the underground drilling of the previously discovered, dike-like masses of quartz porphyry (“PQ”), commenced. On November 24, 2015, the Company announced that it has completed construction of the first phase of the entire 800-foot underground Harris Portal.

The Company plans to invest approximately \$3 million for the first phase, including the underground portal, primarily core drilling and certain related infrastructure for the Lucerne underground exploration and development project.

#### Dayton Drill Program

The near-surface program consisted of 408 holes totaling 30,818 feet of drilling that was completed in late September 2015. The Company used an extremely efficient percussion drill rig, with total program costs of about \$200,000, or about \$6.50 per foot.

The main objective of the program was to pinpoint the major surface structures (faults) and then explore these structures for mineralization. This then enabled efficient infill drilling that further refined and resolved areas of structural complexity in the geologic models. The program was successful in both defining and expanding the near-surface mineralization. The Company will update its geologic model based on the results of this drilling program and increase the gold and silver resource estimate. The Company is now finalizing a comprehensive drill program designed to deliver a mine plan, economic reserves and mine life.

The underground mapping and sampling effort, together with the drilling, resulted in several important discoveries. The most significant was defining mineralization along a previously undrilled, 600-foot segment of the Grizzly Hill Fault and additional mineralization at an intersection of the Grizzly Hill and Alhambra Faults with the Silver City fault. The Company also discovered additional dike-like masses of quartz porphyry, similar to Lucerne, that generally host significant mineralization. Finally, the drilling also helped to define extended mineralization along a 550-foot segment of the Mill Fault.

The Company also commenced metallurgical test-work on representative samples of mineralized rock types. Standard column tests are currently underway on five surface-generated samples and one underground sample and is ongoing. All samples, both from drilling and underground, were analyzed for gold and silver at the Company's existing, on-site, industry standard, production assay lab.

The Dayton property includes the Dayton (Marble), Alhambra, Kossuth, Metropolitan and Genessee patents, representing a structurally controlled mineralized system hosted in tertiary volcanic rocks that, in terms of the overall geologic setting, is similar to the Company's Lucerne property. The properties are separated by approximately one mile along the Silver City branch of the Comstock Lode.

The planning for the remaining, comprehensive drill requirements designed to establish a final mine plan, economic reserves and extended mine life is being scheduled at a cost of approximately \$4 million for the first phase.

Outlook

The Company has been cash positive from operations for the first nine months of 2015, and expects to be cash positive from mining operations for the full year 2015 (excluding drifting, exploration and road construction costs), net of a weaker fourth quarter as the Company transitions from the final phase of surface mining in Lucerne

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to the expansion into an underground portal and drift development in Lucerne. The Company completed the road realignment during the fourth quarter.

The Company commenced the underground drift-mining and drilling, associated with the first underground exploration phase of a quartz porphyry geological target ("PQ target"), in September 2015, and expects to complete drift-sampling, drilling and ongoing metallurgical test work of the PQ target by January 2016. The Succor vein system is being considered as an easterly extension of the first phase of development beyond the high-grade PQ target. This will positively expand the scope of Phase 1, through the first half of 2016. The second major phase of drift-mining and drilling, planned for the Woodville bonanza target, is expected to commence after the Succor exploration, and be completed by the fourth quarter of 2016.

The Company's goals for this year included minimizing operating costs, completing the SR-342 realignment project, expanding the Lucerne exploration and development activities, primarily through the underground portal and drift development and commencing the final development phase of the Dayton Resource Area.

During the first half of 2015, the Company continued reducing costs applicable to mining revenue. The Company has increased its expectation of savings from costs applicable to mining to \$7 million (from a previous target of \$5 million), when comparing 2015 to 2014. The Company has also doubled its expectation of savings from all other non-mining activities, including general, administrative, hospitality, mine claims and costs and environmental and other areas, to \$3 million (from a previous target of \$1.5 million), when comparing 2015 to 2014. These increases raise our total costs savings targets to \$10 million, from \$6.5 million, when comparing 2015 to 2014.

The Company expects cash costs of mining revenue, will remain below \$650 per ounce of gold for the full year 2015.

#### Corporate Information

The Company's executive offices are located at 1200 American Flat Road, Virginia City, Nevada 89440 and its telephone number is (775) 847-7325. The Company's mailing address is P.O. Box 1118, Virginia City, Nevada 89440. The Company's website address is [www.comstockmining.com](http://www.comstockmining.com). The Company's website and the information contained on, or that can be accessed through, the website are not part of this prospectus.

#### FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information appearing under "Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward Looking Statements" or "Statement Regarding Forward Looking Statements," as the case may be, in the 2014 Form 10-K, the First Quarter Form 10-Q, the Second Quarter 10-Q, and the Third Quarter 10-Q, is hereby incorporated by reference.

#### RISK FACTORS

Investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K we file after the date of this prospectus, and all other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Exchange Act, and the risk factors and other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement before acquiring any of such securities. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the offered securities.



USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may be described otherwise in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, we will use the net proceeds from the sale by us of the securities under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, which may include, among other things, funding acquisitions or capital expenditures.

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## DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The information appearing under “Item 1. Description of Registrant’s Securities to be Registered” in the Form 8-A, is hereby incorporated by reference. The Company currently has 162,121,356 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding.

## DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

Pursuant to our articles of incorporation, the Board has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or NYSE MKT rules), to designate and issue up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series or classes, to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in each such series or classes, and to fix the rights, privileges and preferences of such series or classes. The Company currently has no issued and outstanding shares of preferred stock.

The Board will fix the rights, privileges and preferences of the preferred stock of each series or class, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the Commission, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. This description will include:

• the title and stated value;

• the number of shares we are offering;

• the liquidation preference per share;

• the purchase price;

• the dividend rate, period and payment date and method of calculation for dividends;

• whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

• the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

• the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

• the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

• any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

• whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our Common Stock, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and the conversion period;

• whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;

•voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

•preemptive rights, if any;

•restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

•whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

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- a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;
- any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

The Board may authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of our Common Stock. Preferred stock could be issued quickly with terms designed to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our Common Stock.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. Pursuant to the terms of our outstanding indebtedness and a Stockholders Agreement with our largest shareholder, we are prohibited from issuing debt without the prior written consent. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. Unless the context requires otherwise, whenever we refer to the indentures, we also are referring to any supplemental indentures that specify the terms of a particular series of debt securities.

We will issue the senior debt securities under the senior indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue the subordinated debt securities under the subordinated indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. Generally, the indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We use the term “debenture trustee” to refer to either the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture, as applicable. We will file forms of indentures to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the Commission.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior debt securities, the subordinated debt securities and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectuses related to the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that will contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

### General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

the title;

- whether or not such debt securities are guaranteed by our subsidiaries or other entities;

the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

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any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and who the depositary will be;

the maturity date;

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;

- whether the indenture will restrict our ability and/or the ability of our subsidiaries to:

incur additional indebtedness;

issue additional securities;

create liens;

pay dividends and make distributions in respect of our capital stock and the capital stock of our subsidiaries;

redeem capital stock;

place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;

make investments or other restricted payments;

sell or otherwise dispose of assets;

enter into sale-leaseback transactions;

engage in transactions with stockholders and affiliates;

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issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or

effect a consolidation or merger;

whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

information describing any book-entry features;

provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

the applicability of the provisions in the indenture on discharge;

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an "original issue discount" as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code;

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the currency of payment of debt securities if other than U.S. dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants provided with respect to the debt securities, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

#### Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our Common Stock or our other securities. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our Common Stock or our other securities that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

#### Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indentures will not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate. If the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities or securities of other entities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property must make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.



Events of Default Under the Indenture

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

• if we fail to pay the principal, premium or sinking fund payment, if any, when due and payable and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

• if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the debenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

• if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the last bullet point above, the debenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the debenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default specified in the last bullet point above occurs with respect to us, the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the debenture trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the debenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the debenture trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the debenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the debenture trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

• the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

• subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the debenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies only if:

• the holder has given written notice to the debenture trustee 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 written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the debenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

• the debenture trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 90 days

after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the debenture trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

#### Modification of Indenture; Waiver

We and the debenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters:

- to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture;
- to comply with the provisions described above under “Description of Debt Securities — Consolidation, Merger or Sale;”
- to comply with any requirements of the Commission in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939;
- to add to, delete from or revise the conditions, limitations, and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms, or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities, as set forth in the indenture;
  - to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of the debt securities of any series as provided under “Description of Debt Securities — General” to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of the indenture or any series of debt securities, or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities;
- to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee;
- to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;
- to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders, and to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default; or
- to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the debenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we and the debenture trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

- extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;
- reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or
- reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment, supplement, modification or waiver.

Discharge

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

• register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

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• replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

• maintain paying agencies;

• hold monies for payment in trust;

• recover excess money held by the debenture trustee;

• compensate and indemnify the debenture trustee; and

• appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the debenture trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

#### Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See “Legal Ownership of Securities” for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will impose no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

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issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

• register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Information Concerning the Debenture Trustee

The debenture trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the debenture trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the debenture trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

#### Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check that we will mail to the holder or by wire transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the debenture trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the debenture trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

#### Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is applicable.

#### Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated debt securities that we may issue, nor does it limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

### DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

#### General

We may issue rights to our stockholders to purchase shares of our Common Stock, preferred stock or the other securities described in this prospectus. We may offer rights separately or together with one or more additional rights, debt securities, preferred stock, Common Stock, warrants or any combination of those securities in the form of units, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent. The rights agent will act solely



as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights of the series of certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights. The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the rights to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The particular terms of the rights to which any prospectus supplement may relate and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions may apply to the rights so offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. To the extent that any particular terms of the rights, rights agreement or rights certificates described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described below, then the terms described below will be deemed to have been superseded by that prospectus supplement. We encourage you to read

the applicable rights agreement and rights certificate for additional information before you decide whether to purchase any of our rights.

We will provide in a prospectus supplement the following terms of the rights being issued:

- the date of determining the stockholders entitled to the rights distribution;
- the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock, preferred stock or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights;
- the exercise price;
- the aggregate number of rights issued;
- whether the rights are transferrable and the date, if any, on and after which the rights may be separately transferred;
- the date on which the right to exercise the rights will commence, and the date on which the right to exercise the rights will expire;
- the method by which holders of rights will be entitled to exercise;
- the conditions to the completion of the offering, if any;
- the withdrawal, termination and cancellation rights, if any;
- whether there are any backstop or standby purchaser or purchasers and the terms of their commitment, if any;
- whether stockholders are entitled to oversubscription rights, if any;
- any applicable U.S. federal income tax considerations; and
- any other terms of the rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the distribution, exchange and exercise of the rights, as applicable.

Each right will entitle the holder of rights to purchase for cash the amount of shares of Common Stock, preferred stock or other securities at the exercise price provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Rights may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date for the rights provided in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Holders may exercise rights as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the rights agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the shares of common stock, preferred stock or other securities, as applicable, purchasable upon exercise of the rights. If less than all of the rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than stockholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Rights Agent

The rights agent for any rights we offer will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of Common Stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with Common Stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the Commission, the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the particular series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement and warrant certificate applicable to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses, and the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

### General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of warrants being offered, including:

- the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;
- the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;
- if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;
- in the case of warrants to purchase Common Stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of Common Stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;
- the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreements and the warrants;
- the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;



- any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;
- the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;
- the manner in which the warrant agreements and warrants may be modified;
- a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;
- the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or

in the case of warrants to purchase Common Stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

#### Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to the specified time on the expiration date that we set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

#### Governing Law

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants and warrant agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Warrants

Each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may

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act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

## DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue, in one more series, units consisting of Common Stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants for the purchase of Common Stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in any combination. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any units that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of units in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any units offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the Commission, the form of unit agreement that describes the terms of the series of units we are offering, and any supplemental agreements, before the issuance of the related series of units. The following summaries of material terms and provisions of the units are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the unit agreement and any supplemental agreements applicable to a particular series of units. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of units that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses and the complete unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that contain the terms of the units.

### General

We will issue each unit so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which we issue a unit may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of units being offered, including:

- the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;
- any provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described below; and
- any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units.

The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under “Description of Common Stock,” “Description of Preferred Stock,” “Description of Debt Securities” and “Description of Warrants” will apply to each unit and to any Common stock, preferred stock, debt security or warrant included in each unit, respectively.

### Issuance in Series

We may issue units in such amounts and in such numerous distinct series as we determine.



Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Units

Each unit agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable unit agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any unit. A single bank or trust company may act as unit agent for more than one series of units. A unit agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable unit agreement or unit, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law

or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a unit may, without the consent of the related unit agent or the holder of any other unit, enforce by appropriate legal action its rights as holder under any security included in the unit.

We, and any unit agent and any of their agents, may treat the registered holder of any unit certificate as an absolute owner of the units evidenced by that certificate for any purpose and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to the units so requested, despite any notice to the contrary. See “Legal Ownership of Securities” below.

## LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee, depositary or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the “holders” of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as “indirect holders” of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

### Book-Entry Holders

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary’s book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Securities issued in global form will be registered in the name of the depositary or its participants. Consequently, for securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary’s book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the securities.

### Street Name Holders

We may terminate a global security or issue securities in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in “street name.” Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

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

## Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee and of any third parties employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

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

## Special Considerations For Indirect Holders

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

- how it handles securities payments and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;
- whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;
- how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and
- if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

## Global Securities

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

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

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

nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account

with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

#### Special Considerations For Global Securities

The rights of an indirect holder relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

- an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;
- an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;
- an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;
- an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;
- the depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security;
- we and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security, nor do we or any applicable trustee supervise the depository in any way;
- the depository may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and
- financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

#### Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

- if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;
- if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or
- if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary, and not we or any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus from time to time. Registration of the securities covered by this prospectus does not mean, however, that those securities will necessarily be offered or sold. We may sell the securities separately or together: through one or more underwriters in a public offering and sale by them; directly to investors (in those jurisdictions where we are authorized to do so); through agents; or through a combination of any of these methods of sale. We may sell the securities from time to time: in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices that may be changed from time to time; at market prices prevailing at the time of sale; at prices related to prevailing market prices; or at negotiated prices. We will describe the method of distribution of the securities and the terms of the offering in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used for the sale of any securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions described above. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities if they purchase any of the securities. We may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities an option to purchase additional securities in connection with the distribution. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities will be named in the related prospectus supplement.

Underwriters may offer and sell the securities at a fixed price or prices that may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices. We also may, from time to time, authorize dealers, acting as our agents, to offer and sell the securities upon the terms and conditions described in the related prospectus supplement. Underwriters may receive compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and the dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions, which may be changed from time to time, from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents.

Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of the securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be stated in the



related prospectus supplement. 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 under the applicable securities laws.

Shares of our Common Stock are quoted on the NYSE MKT. In connection with any offering of securities, the underwriters may purchase and sell securities in the open market and engage in over-allotment transactions,

short-covering transactions, penalty bids and stabilizing transactions in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales of securities in excess of the offering size of securities to be purchased by the underwriters in an offering, which creates a short position for the underwriters. Short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of securities made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the securities while the offering is in progress. Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the securities being offered. They may also cause the price of the securities being offered to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time. We make no representation as to the direction or magnitude of any affect that such transactions may have on the price of the securities.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments made by such underwriters, dealers or agents related to such civil liabilities.

Certain of the underwriters, dealers or agents and their associates may engage in transactions with, and perform other services for us in the ordinary course of business for which they may receive compensation.

#### VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

The validity of the securities offered and to be offered hereby and certain other legal matters will be passed upon for us by McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, Reno, Nevada. Counsel for any underwriter or agent will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this Prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Common Stock

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PROSPECTUS

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## PART II

## INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table sets forth all fees and expenses payable by the registrant in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered hereby (other than underwriting discounts and commissions). All of such expenses, except the Commission registration fee, are estimated.

Commission registration fee	\$5,035
FINRA filing fee	\$8,000
NYSE MKT supplemental listing fee	(1)
Fees and expenses of the trustee	(1)
Accounting fees and expenses	\$10,000
Legal fees and expenses	\$12,500
Blue Sky, qualification fees and expenses	(1)
Transfer agent fees and expenses	(1)
Printing and miscellaneous expenses	\$750
Total	\$36,285

(1) These fees are calculated based on the securities offered and the number of issuances and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

## Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide for the indemnification of a present or former director or officer. We indemnify any director, officer, employee or agent who is successful on the merits or otherwise in defense on any action or suit. Such indemnification shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, expenses, including attorney's fees actually or reasonably incurred by him. Nevada law also provides for discretionary indemnification for each person who serves as or at our request as an officer or director. We may indemnify such individual against all costs, expenses and liabilities incurred in a threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding brought because such individual is a director or officer. Such individual must have conducted himself in good faith and reasonably believed that his conduct was in, or not opposed to, our best interests. In a criminal action, he must not have had a reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

## Nevada Law

Pursuant to the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes 78.751, we shall indemnify any director, officer and employee as follows: every director, officer, or employee of ours shall be indemnified by us against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him/her in connection with any proceeding to which he/she may be made a party, or in which he/she may become involved, by reason of being or having been a director, officer, employee or agent of us or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of us, partnership, joint venture, trust or enterprise, or any settlement thereof, whether or not he/she is a director, officer, employee or agent at the time such expenses are incurred, except in such cases wherein the director, officer, employee or agent is adjudged guilty of willful misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of his/her duties; provided that in the event of a settlement the indemnification herein shall apply only when the Board approves such settlement and reimbursement as being for our best interests. We shall provide to any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of us or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation,

partnership, joint venture, trust or enterprise, the indemnity against expenses of a suit, litigation or other proceedings which is specifically permissible under applicable law.

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Item 16. Exhibits

(a) The exhibits listed in the following table have been filed as part of this registration statement.

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
3.1	Articles of Incorporation by Comstock Mining Inc. [Previously filed with the SEC on April 15, 2011 as exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Annual Report on form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 (file number 000-32429; film number 11761619) and incorporated herein by reference]
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Comstock Mining Inc. [Previously filed with the SEC on June 8, 2011 as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Form 8-K (file number 001-35200; film number 11901161) and incorporated herein by reference]
5.1	Opinion of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, Reno, Nevada, regarding the validity of the securities registered hereunder.
23.1	Consent of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, Reno, Nevada (included in Exhibit 5.1).
23.2	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
24.1	Powers of Attorney of Directors and Certain Officers of the Registrant (included on the signature page hereof).

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (a) (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;
    - 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% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;
  - (ii) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
    - 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% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

- (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) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act 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, 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 to any purchaser:
  - (i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:
    - 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 that 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 the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or

- If the registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. 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 first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.
- (ii)
- (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:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that 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 hereby 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 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) 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 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 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 ("Act") in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

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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 registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Virginia City, Nevada, on December 31, 2015.

COMSTOCK MINING INC.

By: /s/ Corrado De Gasperis  
Corrado De Gasperis  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each individual whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Corrado De Gasperis as his or her true and lawful agent, proxy and attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to (i) act on, sign and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any and all amendments to this registration statement (which includes any additional registration statement under Rule 462(b)) together with all schedules and exhibits thereto, (ii) act on, sign and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any and all exhibits to this registration statement and any and all exhibits and schedules thereto, (iii) act on, sign and file any and all such certificates, applications, registration statements, notices, reports, instruments, agreements and other documents necessary or appropriate in connection with the registration or qualification under foreign and state securities laws of the securities described in this registration statement or any amendment thereto, or obtain an exemption therefrom, in connection with the offerings described therein and (iv) take any and all such actions which may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith, granting unto such agents, proxies and attorneys-in-fact, and each of them individually, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing necessary or appropriate to be done, as fully for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, and hereby approving, ratifying and confirming all that such agents, proxies and attorneys-in-fact, any of them or any of his or their substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

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Name	Title	Date
/s/ Robert C. Kopple Robert C. Kopple	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors	December 31, 2015
/s/ Corrado De Gasperis Corrado De Gasperis	Executive Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	December 31, 2015
/s/ Daniel Kappes Daniel Kappes	Director	December 31, 2015
/s/ William Nance William Nance	Director	December 31, 2015
/s/ Robert Reseigh Robert Reseigh	Director	December 31, 2015
/s/ Judd Merrill Judd Merrill	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	December 31, 2015

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
5.1	Opinion of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, Reno, Nevada, regarding the validity of the securities registered hereunder.
23.1	Consent of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, Reno, Nevada (included in Exhibit 5.1).
23.2	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
24.1	Powers of Attorney of Directors and Certain Officers of the Registrant (included on the signature page hereof).