

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD
Form 424B3
May 03, 2006
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)

Registration No. 333-127498

PROSPECTUS

23,085,160 Shares

Gastar Exploration Ltd.

Common Shares

This prospectus relates to the offer and sale, from time to time, of up to 23,085,160 common shares of Gastar Exploration Ltd., an Alberta corporation, held by or issuable to the selling shareholders listed on page 17 of this prospectus. The common shares being offered by the selling shareholders are outstanding, issuable upon conversion of the convertible debentures, issuable pursuant to outstanding subscription receipts and upon exercise of warrants. See Selling Shareholders . Gastar will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling shareholders. All the proceeds from the sale of shares will be for the respective account of each selling shareholder.

For a description of the plan of distribution of the shares, please see page 27 of this prospectus.

Our common shares are listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol GST and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol YGA. On April 12, 2006, the last reported sale prices for our common shares on the American Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange and were \$3.70 and CDN\$4.14, respectively.

Investing in our common shares involves risks. Please read Risk Factors beginning on page 3.

This prospectus has not been filed in respect of, and will not qualify, any distribution of the common shares in any province or territory of Canada.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

May 2, 2006

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	1
<u>The Offering</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Shares Eligible for Resale</u>	6
<u>Dividend History</u>	6
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	8
<u>Description of Indebtedness</u>	15
<u>Selling Shareholders</u>	17
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	27
<u>Material Income Tax Consequences</u>	30
<u>Legal Matters</u>	34
<u>Experts</u>	34
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	35

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires, all dollar amounts in this prospectus are expressed in U.S. dollars. Canadian dollars, when used, are expressed with the symbol CDN\$.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for a continuous offering. Under this prospectus, the selling shareholders may, from time to time, sell the shares of our common stock described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus may be supplemented from time to time to add, update or change information in this prospectus. Any statement contained in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in a prospectus supplement modifies such statement. Any statement so modified will be deemed to constitute a part of this prospectus only as so modified, and any statement so modified will be deemed to constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. You should read the entire prospectus carefully, including the detailed information contained under the heading Risk Factors and the documents incorporated herein in their entirety. Unless otherwise indicated or required by the context, (i) we, us, and our refer to Gastar Exploration Ltd. and its subsidiaries and predecessors, (ii)

GeoStar acquisition refers to our June 2005 acquisition from GeoStar Corporation (GeoStar) of additional reserves and working interests in the Powder River Basin and in East Texas, (iii) convertible debentures refers to our \$30.0 million principal amount of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures, (iv) warrants refers to the warrants to purchase common shares issued to investors in connection with certain financing transactions or to our placement agents in connection with the offering of convertible debentures and certain other subordinated notes as partial compensation for their services, (v) senior secured notes refers to our \$73.0 million principal amount of senior secured notes issued in 2005, and (vi) all financial data included in this prospectus has been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. General information about us can be found on our website at www.gastar.com. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, will be available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file or furnish them to the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Information is also available at www.sec.gov for United States filings and at www.sedar.com for Canadian filings.

Gastar Exploration Ltd.

Our Business

We are an independent exploration and production company focused on finding and developing natural gas assets in North America and Australia. We pursue a balanced strategy combining select higher risk, deep natural gas exploration prospects with lower risk CBM development projects. We own and operate exploration and development acreage in the Deep Bossier natural gas play of East Texas and in the deep Trenton-Black River play in the Appalachian Basin. Our coal bed methane, or CBM, activities are conducted within the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and upon the approximate 3.5 million acres controlled by us and our joint development partners in PEL 238, located in the Gunnedah Basin of New South Wales, Australia and in EL 4416, located in the Gippsland Basin of Victoria, Australia. We derive all of our revenues from production of natural gas and oil located in the United States. We currently derive no revenues from Canadian or Australian sources. We see no risks other than normal business risks attendant to our CBM activities in Australia.

Corporate Information

We are a Canadian corporation that is subsisting under the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta). Our principal office is located at 1331 Lamar Street, Suite 1080, Houston, Texas 77010, and our telephone number is (713) 739-1800. Our website address is <http://www.gastar.com>. Information on our website or about us on any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

Common shares to be offered by the selling
shareholders shares 23,085,160

Use of proceeds We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling shareholders.
All the proceeds from the sale of shares will be for the respective accounts of the selling
shareholders.

Exchange listing Our common shares are listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol GST and on
the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol YGA .

This prospectus relates to the offer and sale, from time to time, of the common shares by selling shareholders. Pursuant to various agreements entered into in connection with the offering of our securities, we are required to register for resale certain of our common shares that are either now outstanding or will be issued upon exercise of certain warrants or conversion of our convertible debentures or common shares that we have issued, or committed to issue pursuant to subscription receipts. We are also offering the opportunity to participate in the registration statement to other holders of some of our restricted securities. Shares covered in the registration will include 10,195,649 outstanding common shares currently held by some holders and additional common shares to be issued in the future in connection with the following:

The exercise of outstanding warrants to purchase 2,970,313 common shares;

The conversion of our convertible debentures, which are convertible into 6,488,584 common shares; and

The issuance of an estimated 3,430,614 common shares that we have committed to issue pursuant to subscription receipts on future dates for no additional consideration to purchasers of our senior secured notes.

For additional information about our warrants, see Description of Capital Stock . For additional information about our convertible debentures, our senior secured notes and the shares issuable in connection with our senior secured notes, see Description of Indebtedness .

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth elsewhere in this prospectus and incorporated herein by reference, you should carefully consider the following material risk factors associated with the offering of shares of our common stock when evaluating Gastar. An investment in Gastar will be subject to risks inherent in our business.

Risks Related to this Offering and our Common Stock

Our common share price has been and is likely to continue to be highly volatile.

The trading price of our common shares are subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors, including quarterly variations in operating results, announcements of drilling and rig activity, economic conditions in the natural gas and oil industry, general economic conditions or other events or factors that our beyond our control. See Price Range of Common Shares .

In addition, the stock market in general and the market for natural gas and oil exploration companies in particular have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating results or asset values of those companies. These broad market and industry factors may seriously impact the market price and trading volume of our common shares regardless of our actual operating performance. In the past, following periods of volatility in the overall market and in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has been instituted against these companies. If this type of litigation were instituted against us following a period of volatility in our common shares trading price, it could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management's attention and resources, which could have a materially adverse impact on our operations.

Future issuances of our common shares may adversely affect the price of our common shares.

The future issuance of a substantial number of common shares into the public market, or the perception that such issuance could occur, could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common shares. A decline in the price of our common shares could make it more difficult to raise funds through future offerings of our common shares or securities convertible into common shares. Following the effectiveness of the registration statement to which this prospectus is a part, we believe that substantially all of our outstanding common shares, our common shares that are issued in the future upon the exercise of outstanding options and the common shares issued upon conversion and exercise of the convertible debentures and warrants or additional common shares required to be issued under subscription receipts will be tradable under the U.S. federal securities laws.

Our ability to issue an unlimited number of our common shares under our articles of incorporation may result in dilution or make it more difficult to effect a change in control of the Company, which could adversely affect the price of our common shares.

Unlike most corporations formed in the United States, our articles of incorporation chartered under the laws of the Province of Alberta, Canada permit the board of directors to issue an unlimited number of new common shares without shareholder approval, subject only to the rules of the American Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange or any future exchange on which our stock trades. The issuance of a large number of shares could be effected by our directors to thwart a takeover attempt or offer for us by a third party, even if doing so would benefit our shareholders, which could result in the shares being valued less in the market. The issuance, or the threat of issuance, of large number of shares, at prices that are dilutive to the outstanding shares could also result in the shares being valued less in the market.

Table of Contents

Issuance of the common shares upon exercise of warrants and conversion of convertible debentures, together with additional issuances of common shares to purchasers of our senior secured notes for no additional consideration, will dilute the ownership interest of existing shareholders and could adversely affect the market price of our common shares.

We are obligated to issue a substantial number of common shares upon exercise of outstanding common share purchase warrants and upon conversion of our convertible debentures. Additionally, in connection with the issuance of senior secured notes in June and September 2005, we also issued subscription receipts entitling the holders to receive on each of the six, twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of each of the closings additional common shares equal in value to CDN\$4.5 million and CDN\$714,286, respectively, based upon then current market prices. These issuances will dilute the ownership interest of existing shareholders. Any sales in the public market of the common shares issuable upon such exercise of warrants, conversion, or issuance of additional common shares could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common shares. In addition, the existence of these warrants and convertible debentures may encourage short selling by market participants.

If we are unable to meet the Securities and Exchange Commission's requirements related to the assessment, attestation and effectiveness of our internal controls, we may suffer a loss of investor confidence and the price of our common shares may be adversely affected.

Under the Exchange Act, we will be required to include in our annual report a report on internal controls. This report must state management's responsibility for establishing and maintaining an adequate internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting. The report must also contain an assessment as of the end of our fiscal year of the effectiveness of those internal controls. The Exchange Act also requires our independent registered public accounting firm to test and report on the assessment made by management. These rules will become effective for us for the year ending December 31, 2007. In order to meet these requirements, we must document and test the effectiveness of our internal controls and then allow time for our independent registered public accounting firm to audit our internal control structure. The amount of work required by us to prepare, maintain and test our internal control structure could be extensive. In the event that management is unable to complete its assessment of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting or our auditors are unable to attest to management's assessment or do their own assessment, or if these internal controls are not effective, we might experience an adverse reaction in the financial marketplace due to a loss of investor confidence in the reliability of our financial statements, which could negatively impact the market price of our common shares.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included in this prospectus contains forward-looking statements. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words, including may, expect, anticipate, plan, project, believe, estimate, intend, will, should or other similar words. Forward-looking statements may include statements that relate to, among other things:

Our financial position;

Business strategy and budgets;

Anticipated capital expenditures;

Drilling of wells;

Natural gas and oil reserves;

Timing and amount of future production of natural gas and oil;

Operating costs and other expenses;

Cash flow and anticipated liquidity;

Prospect development; and

Property acquisitions and sales.

Although we believe the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure you that such expectations will occur. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from actual future results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These factors include among others:

Low and/or declining prices for natural gas and oil;

Natural gas and oil price volatility;

The risks associated with exploration, including cost overruns and the drilling of non-economic wells or dry holes;

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 424B3

Ability to raise capital to fund capital expenditures;

The ability to find, acquire, market, develop and produce new natural gas and oil properties;

Uncertainties in the estimation of proved reserves and in the projection of future rates of production and timing of development expenditures;

Operating hazards attendant to the natural gas and oil business;

Downhole drilling and completion risks that are generally not recoverable from third parties or insurance;

Potential mechanical failure or under-performance of significant wells or pipeline mishaps;

Weather conditions;

Availability and cost of material and equipment;

Delays in anticipated start-up dates;

Actions or inactions of third-party operators of our properties;

Ability to find and retain skilled personnel;

Table of Contents

Strength and financial resources of competitors;

Federal and state regulatory developments and approvals;

Environmental risks;

Worldwide economic conditions; and

Operational and financial risks associated with foreign exploration and production.

You should not unduly rely on these forward-looking statements in this prospectus, as they speak only as of the date of this prospectus. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. See the information under the heading **Risk Factors** in this prospectus for some of the important factors that could affect our financial performance or could cause actual results to differ materially from estimates contained in forward-looking statements.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common shares by the selling shareholders under this prospectus. All proceeds from the sale of those shares will be for the respective accounts of the selling shareholders.

SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR RESALE

As of December 31, 2005, 17,500,600 common shares were subject to issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options granted under our Stock Option Plan, options for 12,783,350 shares of which are vested but have not been exercised, and 2,992,261 common shares were subject to issuance upon exercise of outstanding warrants, all of which shares were exercisable as of such date. As of December 31, 2005, we had outstanding \$30.0 million in principal amount of convertible debentures. The convertible debentures are convertible at the option of the holders into an aggregate of 6,849,315 common shares.

As of the date of this prospectus, approximately 114 million common shares were eligible for resale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Pursuant to the indenture governing the convertible debentures and the terms of the certain warrants, we agreed to register for resale the 6,849,315 common shares issuable upon the conversion of our convertible debentures of which 6,488,584 common shares are being registered for resale pursuant to this prospectus and the 2,759,740 common shares issuable upon exercise of the placement agent warrants, all of which shares are covered by this prospectus. Pursuant to the terms of our senior secured notes, we have agreed to register for resale the 2,658,027 common shares issued in connection with the sale of our senior secured notes, all of which are covered by this prospectus, plus up to an estimated 3,430,614 additional common shares to be issued pursuant to subscription rights at various dates pursuant to the terms of the original sales of the registrant's senior secured notes.

DIVIDEND HISTORY

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common shares. We anticipate that we will retain any future earnings, if any, to satisfy our operational and other cash needs and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common shares in the foreseeable future. In addition, our current senior secured notes prohibit us from paying cash dividends as long as such debt remains outstanding.

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta), we are prohibited from declaring or paying a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that (1) we are, or would after the payment be, unable to pay our liabilities as they become due or (2) the realizable value of our assets would thereby be less than the aggregate of our liabilities and stated capital of all classes.

Table of Contents

For a discussion of Canadian laws, decrees and regulations that restrict the import or export of capital, affect the remittance of dividends or other payments to non-resident holders of our common shares, or relate to taxes, including withholding provisions, to which U.S. holders of our common shares are subject, as well as pertinent provisions of the tax treaty between Canada and the United States, please see [Material Income Tax Consequences](#) .

Table of Contents**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following description of our capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, our articles of incorporation and bylaws, which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Common Shares

We have an unlimited number of common shares authorized under our articles of incorporation. We have no other authorized classes of capital stock.

As of December 31, 2005, we had outstanding 164,674,266 common shares and we had reserved 9,841,576 shares for issuance upon exercise or conversion of outstanding warrants and convertible securities. An additional 25.0 million of our common shares have been reserved for issuance under our Stock Option Plan, under which options to purchase 17,500,600 common shares were outstanding as of December 31, 2005.

In addition to the foregoing reserved shares, we also issued subscription receipts in connection with the issuance of our senior secured notes in June and September 2005, entitling the holders to receive on each of the six, twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of the note closings, newly issued common shares equal in market value to CDN\$4.5 million and CDN\$714,286, respectively, based upon then current market prices. We may also be required to issue additional common shares to GeoStar in the future based on the results of certain East Texas drilling.

Our common shares trade on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol **GST** and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol **YGA**.

Common Share Purchase Warrants

As of December 31, 2005, we had warrants outstanding to acquire 2,992,261 shares of our common stock as follows:

Outstanding in Connection with:	Number of Warrants	Exercise Price	Date Granted	Expiration Date
\$3.25 million private placement of 10% unsecured subordinated notes	232,521	\$2.76 - 3.03	04/20/04 - 07/12/04	04/20/09 - 09/12/09
\$15.0 million private placement of 15% senior notes dated July 24, 2004	510,525	\$3.23	06/24/04	10/13/07
\$10.0 million private placement of 15% senior notes dated October 7, 2004	1,989,475	\$3.63	10/13/04	10/13/07
\$30.0 million private placement of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures	259,740	CDN \$4.65	11/15/04 and 11/16/04	05/12/06

Subscription Receipts

In addition to 1,423,623 of our common shares issued to purchasers of \$73.0 million of our senior secured notes upon issuance of the notes, we issued subscription receipts to the purchasers entitling them to receive for

Table of Contents

no additional consideration a number of shares on each of the six, twelve and eighteen-month anniversary dates of the issuance dates of the senior secured notes. Subscription receipts were issued entitling the holders to be issued for no additional consideration on each such December 17, 2005, June 17, 2006 and December 17, 2006 an aggregate number of common shares equal to CDN\$4.5 million (\$3.6 million) divided by the five-day weighted average trading price of common shares immediately prior to such date on the principal market or exchange where such shares trade. Additional subscription receipts were issued in connection with issuance of \$10.0 million of additional senior secured notes entitling the holders to be issued for no additional consideration on each such March 20, 2006, September 19, 2006 and March 19, 2007 an aggregate number of common shares equal to CDN\$714,286 (\$606,000) divided by the five-day weighted average trading price of common shares immediately prior to such date.

On December 19, 2005, pursuant to the Senior Secured Notes, we issued to the Senior Secured Notes holders, for no additional consideration, an additional 1,082,105 common shares valued at CDN\$4.1586, the five day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance. Such shares were issued to the purchasers of the Senior Secured Notes on the six month anniversary of the original \$63.0 million note issuance pursuant to subscription receipts. On March 20, 2006, pursuant to the Senior Secured Notes, we issued to the Senior Secured Notes holders, for no additional consideration, an additional 152,299 common shares based on the five day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance. Such shares were issued to the purchasers of the Senior Secured Notes on the six month anniversary of the additional \$10.0 million notes issuance pursuant to subscription receipts.

We have the right under certain circumstances to require purchasers of our senior secured notes to purchase up to an additional \$10.0 million principal amount of our senior secured notes on certain dates on or prior to June 16, 2007. See Description of Our Indebtedness Senior Secured Notes . If additional notes are issued, the purchasers will also be entitled to receive, for no additional consideration and on similar terms as those previously issued to the purchasers, on the issuance date of the additional senior secured notes and on each of the six, twelve and eighteen-month anniversary dates of the additional notes issuance dates, additional common shares and subscription receipts for common shares in an aggregate number equal to one-fourteenth of the principal amount of the additional notes being issued (expressed in Canadian dollars assuming for this purpose only a one for one conversion ratio with the U.S. dollar principal amount) divided by the five-day weighted average trading price of common shares immediately prior to such date on the principal market or exchange where such shares trade.

Under the terms of the securities purchase agreement with the purchasers of the senior secured notes, we may not at any time issue common shares to any purchaser of these securities to the extent the issuance of common shares would cause the purchaser and its affiliates to beneficially own more than 9.9% of our outstanding common shares. In addition, until shareholder approval is obtained, the aggregate common shares issuable pursuant to securities purchase agreement, including those issuable pursuant to the subscription receipts, are limited to the maximum number that may be issued without breaching our obligations under the rules and regulations of the exchanges where our common shares trade, which currently are the American Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange. In the event our issuances reach that maximum, the issuances to note holders would be proportionately reduced, and we would be required to pay cash for such unissued shares based on the formula for determining the number of shares required to be issued. Based on our recent trading prices and the rules of the American Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange in effect as of the date of this prospectus, we do not expect that issuances of shares pursuant to our outstanding subscription receipts will be limited by this cap on the maximum number of shares issuable.

In the event of a change of control or upon a sale of substantially all of our assets or a reorganization or merger where we are not the surviving entity, the purchasers may require the Company to accelerate the issuance of our common shares pursuant to the subscription receipts.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights

Holders of our common shares are entitled to vote at all meetings of our shareholders, with each share having one vote.

Our board of directors must call an annual meeting of shareholders to be held not later than 15 months after the last preceding annual meeting of shareholders and may, at any time, call a special meeting of shareholders. For purposes of determining the shareholders who are entitled to receive notice of a meeting of shareholders, the board of directors may, in accordance with the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta) and National Instrument 54-101, fix in advance a date as the record date for that determination of shareholders, but that record date may not be more than 50 days or less than 35 days before the date on which the meeting is to be held.

The guidelines of National Instrument 54-101 and the provisions of the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta) provide that notice of the time and place of a meeting of shareholders must be sent to each shareholder entitled to vote at the meeting, each director and to our auditors, not more than 50 days and not less than 21 days prior to the meeting. Our Bylaws provide that a quorum of shareholders is present at a meeting if at least 5% of the shares entitled to vote at a meeting are present in person or by proxy. A shareholder may participate in a meeting by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other.

In the case of joint shareholders, one of the holders present at a meeting may, in the absence of the other holder(s) of the shares, vote the shares. If two or more joint shareholders are present in person or by proxy, then they are to vote as one on the shares held jointly by them. If there is a disagreement between joint shareholders, they are considered to have abstained from voting.

Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

An amendment to our articles of incorporation requires the approval of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by the holders of our common shares at a meeting of the shareholders.

An amendment to our Bylaws requires the approval of not less than 51% of the votes cast by the holders of our common shares at a meeting of the shareholders.

Dividends

Our shareholders are entitled to receive such dividends and other distributions on the our common shares as the board of directors declares from time to time. Pursuant to the provisions of the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta), we may not declare or pay a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that (1) we are, or would after the payment be, unable to pay our liabilities as they become due or (2) the realizable value of our assets would thereby be less than the aggregate of our liabilities and stated capital of all classes. We may pay a dividend by issuing fully paid shares, or in money or property. If shares of a subsidiary or affiliate of Gastar are issued in payment of a dividend, the declared amount of the dividend stated as an amount of money will be added to the stated capital account maintained or to be maintained for shares of the class or series issued in payment of the dividend. We do not expect to pay any dividends to our shareholders for the foreseeable future, but intend to retain any future earnings for our operational and other cash needs. Further, our current senior secured notes prohibit us from paying cash dividends for so long as the notes remain outstanding.

No Preemption Rights; Limited Restrictions on Directors Authority to Issue Shares

Existing shareholders have no rights of preemption or first refusal under our articles of incorporation or under the laws of Alberta with respect to future issuances of our common shares. Subject to the policies of the American Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange, our board of directors has the authority to issue

Table of Contents

additional common shares. The policies of the Toronto Stock Exchange stipulate that the issuance price must not be lower than the market price, less the maximum prescribed discount (which varies based on the market price), and that an exercise or conversion price of convertible securities must not be lower than the market price on the date of the issuance of the security.

Board of Directors; Election and Removal of Directors

Holders of our common shares at each annual general meeting of shareholders are required to elect directors to hold office for a term expiring not later than the close of the next annual general meeting of shareholders unless a director resigns, dies or is required to resign pursuant to a regulatory ruling (for example, if a director has violated disclosure or insider reporting provisions of the applicable securities laws and has received regulatory penalties for such violations which include prohibiting the director from serving on the board). The board of directors may fill vacancies and, as provided by our articles of incorporation, may also appoint additional directors between annual general meetings of shareholders, but the number of additional directors so appointed may not exceed the number that is one-third of the number of directors appointed at the last annual general meeting of shareholders.

At least half of our directors must be resident Canadians, unless we earn less than 5% of our consolidated gross revenues (as shown in our consolidated financial statements as at the end of our more recently completed financial period) in Canada, in which case at least one-third of our directors must be resident Canadians. For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005, we derived less than 5% of our consolidated gross revenues from sources in Canada; consequently, only one-third of our directors are required to be resident Canadians.

Any director may convene a meeting of directors. A minimum of 48 hours notice must be given before a meeting of directors. A majority of the directors constitutes a quorum at a meeting of directors. Every resolution submitted to a meeting of directors is decided by a vote of a majority of the directors participating in the meeting and the declaration of the chairman of the meeting on the result of the vote is final. In the case of a tie vote, the chairman does not have a tie-breaking vote.

Conflicts of Interest

A director who is a party to a material contract or proposed material contract with Gastar, or who has a material interest in any person who is a party to a material contract or proposed material contract with Gastar, is required to disclose in writing to us or request to have entered in the minutes of meetings of the directors the nature and extent of his interest.

A director who has a material interest in a material contract or proposed material contract with Gastar cannot vote on any resolution to approve the contract unless the contract is:

An arrangement by way of security for money lent to or obligations undertaken by him, or by a body corporate in which he has an interest, for the benefit of Gastar or an affiliate;

A contract relating primarily to his remuneration as a director, officer, employee or agent of Gastar or an affiliate;

A contract for indemnity or insurance; or

A contract with an affiliate.

Subject to a solvency test imposed by the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta), to the U.S. securities laws described below and to the Securities Purchase Agreement related to our Senior Secured Notes, we may give financial assistance by means of a loan, guarantee or otherwise to:

Any person on account of expenditures incurred or to be incurred on behalf of Gastar; and

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 424B3

To employees of Gastar or any of its affiliates to enable or assist them to purchase accommodation for their occupation.

Table of Contents

In accordance with a share purchase or option scheme.

The fact that a person is a director does not prevent Gastar from providing him with such financial assistance if the director would otherwise qualify for it.

Under the U.S. securities laws, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly extending or maintaining credit, arranging for the extension of credit or renewing an extension of credit, in the form of a personal loan to or for any of the directors or executive officers of Gastar, except in certain circumstances. This prohibition does not apply to extensions of credit maintained by Gastar on July 30, 2002, but applies to any renewal or material modification of such existing credit.

Anti-takeover Laws

In Canada, takeovers are governed by provincial securities laws and the rules of applicable stock exchanges. While the rules may vary among the provinces, a party who acquires 10% of the voting or equity securities of any class of a company will generally be deemed to be an insider of that company and will, among other things, be required to file both a news release and a prescribed form with applicable provincial regulatory authorities. The purchaser (including any party acting jointly or in concert with the purchaser) will be prohibited from purchasing any additional securities of the class of the target company previously acquired for a period commencing on the occurrence of an event triggering the filing requirement and ending on the expiry of one business day following the filing. This filing process, and the associated prohibition on further acquisition, will also apply in respect of every additional 2% or more of the target company's securities of the same class that are subsequently acquired, provided that the prohibition on further acquisition does not apply to a purchaser that owns 20% or more of the outstanding securities of that class.

An offer to acquire outstanding voting or equity securities of a class, where the securities subject to the offer, together with the offeror's securities, constitute in the aggregate 20% or more of the outstanding securities of that class of securities at the date of the offer, will trigger the take-over bid provisions of applicable provincial securities legislation (and, if applicable, the rules of applicable stock exchange(s)). Unless the bid is otherwise exempt, a take-over bid will require the bidder to prepare and mail to each shareholder a circular outlining the details of the bid and instructions regarding the tendering of the target shares. While a target company will generally provide a shareholder list to a bidder, there may be circumstances in which the bidder will need to go to court to obtain one, resulting in a delay in the process. Each shareholder must be offered the same consideration for its shares and the offer must be left open for at least 35 days. Depending on the circumstances and the parties involved, valuations of the target company and its operations may be required in support of the bid.

In addition to the foregoing, certain other Canadian legislation may limit a Canadian or non-Canadian entity's ability to acquire control over or a significant interest in us, including the Competition Act (Canada) and the Investment Canada Act (Canada). Issuers may also approve and adopt shareholder rights plans or other defensive tactics designed to be triggered upon the commencement of an unsolicited bid and make the company a less desirable take-over target.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

The *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta) and our bylaws provide that we will indemnify each of our directors and officers and any person who acts or acted at our request as a director or officer of a body corporate of which we are or were a shareholder or creditor, and the heirs and legal representatives of each of them, against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by such director, officer or person, and their respective heirs or legal representatives, in respect of any action or proceeding to which any of them is made a party by reason of such director, officer or person being or having served in that position, if: (1) the director, officer or person acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of us; and (2) in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the director, officer or person had reasonable grounds for

Table of Contents

believing that his conduct was lawful. As used above, costs, charges and expenses includes but is not limited to the fees, charges and disbursements or legal counsel on an as-between-a solicitor-and-the-solicitor s-own-client basis and an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment. These indemnities will continue in effect after the director or officer resigns his position or his position is terminated for any reason.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling us under the indemnification arrangements described above, the SEC is of the opinion that this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Voluntary Liquidation and Dissolution

If we are depleted of resources and unable to meet our liabilities and ongoing continuous disclosure obligations under the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta), our directors may propose, or a shareholder who is entitled to vote at an annual general meeting of shareholders may make a proposal for the voluntary liquidation and dissolution of Gastar.

A company may liquidate and dissolve upon receiving the approval of the shareholders by special resolution at a meeting duly called and held. Approval of a special resolution requires the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by the shareholders present at the meeting or by proxy.

Upon shareholder approval of dissolution by special resolution, the company would discharge all of its liabilities and thereafter distribute all of the assets remaining, if any, *pro rata* to all of the shareholders of the company. Articles of Dissolution would then be sent to the Registrar appointed under the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta) and the Registrar would issue a Certificate of Dissolution. The company would cease to exist on the date shown in the Certificate of Dissolution.

Listing

Our common shares are listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol GST and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol YGA .

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common shares are CIBC Mellon Trust Company, at its principal office in Toronto, Ontario at 320 Bay Street, Box 1, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 4A6.

Tax Issues

For a discussion of the material Canadian and U.S. federal income tax considerations, including withholding provisions and applicable treaties, associated with the ownership of our common shares by U.S. residents, please see Material Income Tax Consequences .

Other Canadian Laws Affecting U.S. Shareholders

There are no governmental laws, decrees or regulations in Canada relating to restrictions on the export or import of capital, or affecting the remittance of interest, dividends or other payments by us to non-residents of Canada. Dividends paid to U.S. tax residents, however, are subject to a 15% withholding tax (or a 5% withholding tax for dividends if the shareholder is a corporation owning at least 10% of the outstanding voting shares of the corporation) pursuant to Article X of the reciprocal tax treaty between Canada and the United States. Please see Material Income Tax Consequences .

Table of Contents

There are no limitations specific to the rights of non-residents of Canada to hold or vote our common shares under the laws of Canada or the Province of Alberta, or in our articles of incorporation or bylaws, other than those imposed by the Investment Canada Act (Canada) as discussed below.

Non-Canadian investors who acquire a controlling interest in us may be subject to the Investment Canada Act (Canada), which governs the basis on which non-Canadians may invest in Canadian businesses. Under the Investment Canada Act (Canada), the acquisition of a majority of the voting interests of an entity (or of a majority of the undivided ownership interests in the voting shares of an entity that is a corporation) is deemed to be an acquisition of control of that entity. The acquisition of less than a majority but one-third or more of the voting shares of a corporation (or of an equivalent undivided ownership interest in the voting shares of the corporation) is presumed to be acquisition of control of that corporation unless it can be established that, on the acquisition, the corporation is not controlled in fact by the acquirer through the ownership of the voting shares. The acquisition of less than one-third of the voting shares of a corporation (or of an equivalent undivided ownership interest in the voting shares of the corporation) is deemed not to be acquisition of control of that corporation.

Registration Rights

We have agreed to register the resale of our common shares issued or issuable to certain of our security holders under the Securities Act of 1933, including the common shares offered by this prospectus. In some cases, we are also required to qualify such resales under applicable state securities laws. In the event of our election to issue additional senior secured notes, as described in [Description of Indebtedness Senior Secured Notes](#), we agreed to file a registration statement within 30 days, and to use our best efforts to cause such a registration statement to become effective within 120 days, of such issuance related to the resale of any shares issuable in connection with the additional notes.

We will be required to pay penalties to holders of our senior secured notes in the event the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part ceases to be effective following its effectiveness and the expiration of certain grace periods. Similar penalties will apply for additional registration statements that may be required to register any of the shares issued or issuable to holders of our senior secured notes. These penalties include a cash interest penalty based on the market trading value of the shares at the time of issuance to the note holders of 1.0% per month for each month that we are not in compliance with the registration requirements. In the event that a registration statement covering any shares issued or issuable to the note holders required to be filed by us is not declared effective on or before the applicable deadline for effectiveness, then, in addition to the applicable cash payments described above, we will be required to pay the note holders a per share amount in cash equal to the difference, if positive, by subtracting the five-day weighted average trading price of common shares on the principal market or exchange where such shares trade for the period immediately preceding the date on which the registration statement is declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission, from the applicable the five-day weighted average trading price for the period immediately preceding the five-day weighted average trading price of common for the period immediately preceding the applicable deadline for effectiveness.

We have also granted demand registration rights to Chesapeake with respect to the shares that they beneficially own. In addition, Chesapeake has the right to require us to register the resale of their shares, subject to limitations imposed by potential underwriters, in the event we determine to file a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, other than the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. GeoStar has been granted registration rights similar to those granted to the holders of the senior secured notes, other than the penalty provisions. These rights have been waived with respect to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Table of Contents**DESCRIPTION OF INDEBTEDNESS****Senior Secured Notes**

On June 17, 2005, we issued \$63.0 million in principal amount of senior secured notes. On September 19, 2005, we issued to the holders of these notes an additional \$10.0 million of senior secured notes on substantially the same terms as the original June 2005 private placement. The senior secured notes are secured by substantially all of our assets, bear interest at the sum of the three-month LIBOR rate plus 6% (10.08% at December 31, 2005), payable quarterly, and mature five years and one day from the date of issuance. The senior secured notes are redeemable in whole or in part prior to maturity at our option at any time after the first anniversary date of issuance upon payment of the principal and accrued and unpaid interest plus a premium ranging from 5% to 3% of redeemed principal; provided that, a redemption at our option is not permitted following the public announcement of certain pending, proposed or intended change of control transactions.

In connection with the senior secured notes issuances, we agreed to issue to the note holders, for no additional consideration, common shares in increments valued at CDN\$4.5 million with respect to the \$63.0 million of senior secured notes and additional common shares in increments valued at CDN\$714,286 with respect to the \$10.0 million of senior secured notes at closing and on each of the six, twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of the closing date, valued on a five day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance. See Description of Capital Stock-Subscription Receipts . On June 17, 2005, we issued 1,217,269 common shares valued at CDN\$4.5 million (\$3.6 million) and on September 19, 2005 issued 206,354 common shares valued at CDN\$714,286 (\$606,000) in conjunction with the initial senior secured notes issuances.

On December 19, 2005, the six month anniversary of the \$63.0 million senior secured notes issuance, for no additional consideration, we issued to the note holders pursuant to subscription receipts an additional 1,082,105 common shares based on the five-day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance and valued at CDN\$4.5 million (\$3.6 million).

On March 20, 2006, the six month anniversary of the \$10.0 million senior secured notes issuance, for no additional consideration, we issued to the note holders pursuant to subscription receipts an additional 152,299 common shares based on the five-day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance and valued at CDN\$714,286 (\$606,000).

We have the right on a quarterly basis to require the note holders to purchase up to an aggregate of \$10.0 million principal amount of additional senior secured notes through June 16, 2007. If additional senior secured notes are issued, we will issue to note holders subscription receipts entitling them to receive, for no additional consideration, additional common shares on similar terms as those issued with the original senior secured notes in a pro rata amount based on the additional principal amount of the senior secured notes.

The issuance of additional senior secured notes is contingent upon compliance with reserves to net senior secured notes debt coverage ratios and other general covenants and conditions. Under the senior secured notes, the PV(10) valuation is to be based on a third party independent reserve report utilizing constant pricing based on the lower of current natural gas and oil prices, adjusted for area basis differentials, or \$6.00 per Mcf of natural gas and \$40.00 per barrel of oil. From the first anniversary of the issuance of the senior secured notes up to the second anniversary of the issuance of the notes, proved reserves PV(10) (1P PV(10)) to net senior secured notes debt must be a minimum of 1.0:1. On the second anniversary date of the senior secured notes, the 1P PV(10) reserve ratio covenant increases to a minimum of 1.5:1 and it increases to 2.0:1 on the third anniversary date and for all test periods thereafter until maturity. Utilizing the same reserve pricing criteria above, the proved plus probable reserves PV(10) (2P PV(10)) to net senior secured notes debt reserve maintenance ratio covenant must be a minimum of 1.5:1 from date of issuance of the notes up to the first anniversary date and 2.0:1 to issue additional notes. On the first anniversary date of the senior secured notes, the 2P PV(10) reserve ratio maintenance covenant increases to a minimum of 2.5:1, on the second anniversary to 3.0:1 and on the third

Table of Contents

anniversary and for all test periods thereafter until maturity to 3.5:1. We must maintain compliance with the reserve ratio covenants at all future quarterly and annual covenant determination dates or be subject to mandatory principal redemptions under certain conditions and are restricted from paying dividends on common shares while the notes are outstanding.

Our bank deposit accounts are subject to account agreements in favor of our senior lenders that allow the senior lenders to take certain actions under specific circumstances to pay interest and/or principal outstanding related to the senior secured notes.

Subordinated Unsecured Notes Payable

In July 2004, we completed a \$3.25 million subordinated unsecured note financing. The unsecured notes mature between April 2009 and September 2009, bear interest at 10% per annum and are callable by us after two years at 108% of the principal amount. The call premium reduces to 105% after three years and 101% after four years. The subscribers were issued 232,521 warrants exercisable at prices ranging from \$2.76 to \$3.03 expiring at varying dates between April 2009 and September 2009.

Convertible Debentures

In November 2004, we issued \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of convertible senior unsecured debentures. The convertible debentures have a term of five years and will be due November 20, 2009 and bear interest at 9.75% per annum, payable quarterly and mature on November 20, 2009. The convertible debentures are convertible by the holders into common shares at a conversion price of \$4.38 per share. The convertible debentures are not redeemable on or before November 12, 2006, except in the event of the satisfaction of certain conditions after a change of control, as defined in the indenture dated as of November 12, 2004 between Gastar and CIBC Mellon Trust Company. After November 12, 2006, the convertible debentures may be redeemed at any time at a redemption price equal to par plus accrued and unpaid interest; provided that, the volume weighted average trading price of our common shares, for at least 20 trading days in any consecutive 30-day period, equals or exceeds \$5.69.

Table of Contents

SELLING SHAREHOLDERS

The selling shareholders may from time to time offer and sell pursuant to this prospectus all of the common shares covered by this prospectus, including shares issuable upon exercise of warrants, conversion of the convertible debentures and pursuant to subscription receipts. The selling shareholders may not offer or sell any of the warrants, convertible debentures or subscription receipts pursuant to this prospectus.

This prospectus relates to the offer and sale, from time to time, of up to 23,085,160 common shares of Gastar Exploration Ltd. issuable to the selling shareholders listed below. The common shares being offered by the selling shareholders are outstanding, issuable upon conversion of the convertible debentures, issuable pursuant to outstanding subscription receipts and upon exercise of warrants as follows:

1,049,038 common shares issued upon exercise of warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of working interests in September 2002;

232,521 common shares to be issued upon exercise of warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$3.2 million of 10% subordinated unsecured notes payable in April and September 2004;

510,525 common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$15.0 million of 15% unsecured senior notes in June 2004;

1,989,475 common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$10.0 million of 15% unsecured senior notes in October 2004;

237,792 common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures in June 2004;

21,948 common shares issued in February 2006 upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures in 2004.

6,488,584 common shares to be issued upon conversion of \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures issued in November 2004;

1,217,269 common shares issued in June 2005 in connection with the private placement of \$63.0 million of senior secured notes in June 2005;

1,082,105 common shares issued to the purchasers of the Senior Secured Notes on the six month anniversary of the original \$63.0 million note issuance pursuant to subscription receipts.

2,893,891 common shares, being the estimated number of shares that we are committed to issue under remaining subscription receipts to the purchasers of \$63.0 million of senior secured notes, for no additional consideration, in CDN\$4.5 million increments on each of the twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of the original note issuance date valued on a five-day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance (assumed to be CDN\$3.11);

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 424B3

206,354 common shares issued in September 2005 in connection with the private placement of an additional \$10.0 million of senior secured notes in September 2005;

152,299 common shares issued in March 2006 to the purchasers of Senior Secured Notes on the six month anniversary of the additional \$10.0 million notes issuance pursuant to subscription receipts.

536,723 common shares, being the estimated number of shares that we are committed to issue under remaining subscription receipts to the purchasers of an additional \$10.0 million of senior secured notes, for no additional consideration, in CDN\$714,286 increments on each of the twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of the original note issuance date valued on a five-day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance (assumed to be CDN\$3.11); and

6,466,636 common shares issued in a private placement in June 2005.

This prospectus has not been filed in respect of, and will not qualify, any distribution of the common shares covered by this prospectus in any province in the territory of Canada.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth certain information concerning the number of common shares beneficially owned by each of the selling shareholders. The first numerical column sets forth the number of common shares beneficially owned by each of the selling shareholders prior to this offering, assuming the full exercise of all warrants, the conversion of all convertible debentures held by such shareholder and the estimated number of common shares issuable to such shareholders pursuant to outstanding subscription receipts. The second numerical column sets forth the number of common shares being offered each selling shareholder pursuant to this prospectus. The third numerical column sets forth the number of common shares to be owned by each of the selling shareholders upon completion of this offering, assuming the sale of all common shares offered by this prospectus.

We prepared this table based on the information furnished to us by the selling shareholders named in the table below, and we have not sought to verify such information. This table only reflects information regarding selling shareholders who furnished such information to us. We expect that we will update this table as we receive more information from shareholders who have not yet furnished the requested information to us. Information regarding selling shareholders not named as of the date hereof and information regarding transferees of named selling shareholders will be set forth in supplements to this prospectus or, if required by applicable law, amendments to the related registration statement, in each case upon request and provision of all required information to us. Information regarding named selling shareholders may change from time to time after the date of this prospectus. Any changed information will be set forth in prospectus supplements or, if required by applicable law, amendments to the related registration statement if and when necessary. In addition, upon our being notified by a selling shareholder that a donee or pledgee intends to sell more than 500 shares, we will file a supplement to this prospectus specifically naming such donee. No offer or sale pursuant to this prospectus may be made by a shareholder unless that holder is named in the table below, in a supplement to this prospectus or, if required by applicable law, in an amendment to the related registration statement that has become effective.

Any or all of the common shares offered hereby may be offered for sale pursuant to this prospectus by the selling shareholders from time to time. Please see [Plan of Distribution](#) . Accordingly, no estimate can be given as to the amounts of common shares that will be held by the selling shareholders upon consummation of any such sales. We have assumed for purposes of the table below that all of the selling shareholders will sell all of the common shares offered hereby pursuant to this prospectus. In addition, the selling shareholders named below may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of, in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act, all or a portion of their warrants, convertible debentures and subscription receipts and the underlying common shares since the date on which the information regarding their beneficial ownership of common shares was provided to us.

Except as otherwise noted, beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act. Accordingly, a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of securities that can be acquired by that person within 60 days from December 31, 2005 upon the exercise of warrants or options or upon the conversion of the convertible debentures. Each beneficial owner's percentage is determined by assuming that warrants or conversion rights that are held by that person, but not those held by any other person, and which are exercisable within 60 days from December 31, 2005, have been exercised. Unless otherwise indicated and subject to community property laws where applicable, we believe that each selling shareholder, and the named individual who is registering common shares held in a revocable trust or individual retirement account, has sole voting and investment power over all common shares reported as beneficially owned by such selling shareholder.

Common shares and subscription receipts issued for no additional consideration to purchasers of our senior secured notes in June and September 2005 were issued pursuant to a securities purchase agreement dated June 16, 2005, as amended. The material terms set forth in the securities purchase agreement are described in this prospectus under [Description of Capital Stock Subscription Receipts](#) and [Description of Indebtedness Senior Secured Notes](#) . The holders of our senior secured notes also have rights to require us to register the resale of common shares received in connection with the purchase of senior secured notes, as described in this prospectus under [Description of Capital Stock Registration Rights](#) . Under the terms of the securities purchase agreement with respect to the senior secured notes and the related common shares, we may not at any time issue

Table of Contents

common shares to any of the purchasers of these securities to the extent such issuance would cause the purchaser, together with its affiliates, to beneficially own more than 9.99% of our then outstanding common shares.

Except as set forth below, to our knowledge, none of the selling shareholders has, or within the past three years has had, a material relationship with us or any of our affiliates, other than their ownership of securities as described below and the transactions contemplated by the agreements providing for the issuance of these securities as described in this prospectus. Unless otherwise noted, no selling shareholder would beneficially own 1% or more of the outstanding common shares following the sale of all shares offered hereunder.

The number of common shares set forth below sets forth as shares offered hereunder the aggregate of 23,085,160 common shares initially offered on a delayed or continuous basis under the registration statement to which this prospectus relates. The table also reflects beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2005, except for shareholdings of two selling shareholders who have advised Gastar since such date of private transfers of shares to newly listed affiliated selling shareholders, which transfers are reflected in the table. In addition, some of the shares reflected below as beneficially owned and as offered hereunder may have been offered and sold by listed selling shareholders pursuant to the previous form of effective prospectus filed as part of the registration statement. As a result, some of the selling shareholders listed below may beneficially own fewer shares than reflected in the table below as of the date of this prospectus.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Number of Common Shares Beneficially Owned	Number of Common Shares Offered Hereunder	Number of Outstanding Common Shares Owned After Completion of Offering
Advantage Advisors Catalyst International (8)(32)	18,200	15,000	3,200
Advantage Advisors Catalyst Partners LP (8)(32)	24,000	20,000	4,000
Aegon Capital Management Inc. (6)(33)	102,740	102,740	
Amethyst Arbitrage Fund (7)(34)	182,648	182,648	
Amethyst Arbitrage Trading Ltd. (7)(34)	65,069	65,069	
Anne L. Boucher UTMA (7)	6,849	6,849	
Aran Asset Management SA (9)	219,247	184,247	35,000
Arthur & Deborah Ablin CRUT (7)	11,416	11,416	
Arthur Ablin IRA (7)	45,662	45,662	
Atlas Master Fund Ltd. (8)(35)	141,509	141,509	
Bruce Macfarlane (7)	11,416	11,416	
Byron A. Adams, Jr. (8)	71,200	60,000	11,200
Canlis Family Living Trust (7)(36)	17,123	17,123	
Carol A. Chaffin Rev. Tr. (2)	7,093	7,093	
Carolyn A. Hougan (1)	5,128	5,128	
Caerus Fund Ltd. (6)(26)	45,662	45,662	
Chandler Hudson (7)	3,425	3,425	
Clifford A. Cantrell, Rev. Tr. (2)(37)	214,085	14,085	200,000
Cyrus Opportunities Master Fund II, LP (10)(11)	481,447	481,447	
D. Jackson Coleman (7)	6,849	6,849	
Donald A. Wright (14)(8)	150,000	150,000	
Donald Marquardt (1)	21,037	21,037	
Duncan Karcher and Cheryl Thellman (7)	3,425	3,425	
E. William Richardson, Trust dtd 12/16/89 (1)(38)	7,194	7,194	
Edward C. Droste (2)	7,143	7,143	
Edwin L. Wolff, Rev. Tr. (1)	110,313	30,000	80,313
Eric C. Johnson (1)	5,326	5,326	
Evan Jonovic IRA (12)	70,662	70,662	
Fidelity Commonwealth Trust: Fidelity Small Cap Stock Fund (8)(27)(39)	2,537,507	1,509,607	1,027,900
Fidelity Securities Fund: Fidelity Small Cap Value Fund (8)(27)(39)	3,098,011	2,264,411	833,600

Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Number of Common Shares Beneficially Owned	Number of Common Shares Offered Hereunder	Number of Outstanding Common Shares Owned After Completion of Offering
Fledgling Associates LLC (13)	545,662	545,662	
Gaia Offshore Master Fund, Ltd. (14)(26)	1,200,179	1,200,179	
Global Gestion (6)(40)	104,662	45,662	59,000
Grey K Fund LP (8)(41)	56,604	56,604	
Grey K Offshore Fund Ltd. (8)(42)	84,905	84,905	
Heritage Mark Foundation (15)(43)	131,164	131,164	
HFTP Investment L.L.C. (16)(26)	2,328,671	2,328,671	
Ingalls & Snyder Value Partner, L.P. (17)(27)	1,700,000	1,700,000	
Ironman Energy Capital, L.P. (8)(44)	280,000	280,000	
J. Frederik Berg, Jr. (7)	7,991	7,991	
James & Nancy C. Hanna Jt. Ten. (2)	7,169	7,169	
Jane M. Coleman (7)	6,849	6,849	
JMM Trading LP (8)(45)	286,000	286,000	
John & Jane Cefaly (7)	22,831	22,831	
John C. Gilmer (7)	43,379	43,379	
John E. & Lydia E. Olivia, Jt. Ten. (2)	6,850	6,850	
John Kirincich IRA (7)	45,662	45,662	
John S. Poindexter III (2)	263,429	7,143	256,286
Jose C., Jr. MD & Tina Dominguez (2)	6,780	6,780	
Judith S. Hart Living Trust (1)	13,966	13,966	
Kamal Sirageldin (7)	5,708	5,708	
Kevin Coccetti (2)(27)	27,247	7,247	20,000
Kevin Kirm (7)	3,425	3,425	
Kings Road Investment Ltd. (29)	1,569,863	1,569,863	
Leo J. & Jean E. Hertzog, JTWROS (2)	144,928	144,928	
Leonardo, L.P. (18)(28)	2,416,979	2,416,979	
Lieba Blask (7)	4,566	4,566	
Linda G. McEwen (2)	6,645	6,645	
Lionel K. Conacher Limited (6)	20,548	20,548	
Martin Solomon (19)	47,831	47,831	
Mary Lou Richardson Trust dtd 09/27/95 (1)(38)	9,020	9,020	
Matt & Sharlene Klein Trust (2)(47)	38,023	3,301	34,722
McCulloch Rev. Tr. (1)	91,905	40,000	51,905
Michael E. & Christine A. Pacanowsky (1)	25,000	25,000	
Michael S. Needleman (8)	10,000	10,000	
Middlemarch Partners Limited (6)(50)	365,297	365,297	
MM&P Holdings, a California partnership (7)(51)	37,397	27,397	10,000
Monty & Paula Franssen, Rev. Tr. (1)	88,500	25,000	63,500
Nancy M. Dana (7)	17,123	17,123	
Nicholas DiGiorgio (7)	45,662	45,662	
Neil Janovic (20)	70,662	70,662	
Nikolaos Monoyios, IRA (21)	314,155	314,155	
Nite Capital LP (8)(52)	72,500	72,500	
North Pole Capital Master Fund (6)(53)	445,205	445,205	
Patricia Katherine Magette, Rev. Tr. dtd 06/08/05 (1)	25,500	25,500	
Paul T. Hackspiel (2)	6,994	6,994	
Pete A. & Maureen P. Botting (1)	78,285	78,285	
Polaris Energy Offshore Master Fund (6)(54)	45,662	45,662	
Pritchard Capital Partners, LLC (5)(30)	21,948	21,948	
Puls Family Trust (2)(55)	7,143	7,143	
Quentin Boucher, Jr. UTMA (7)(56)	4,566	4,566	
RAB Energy Fund Ltd. (8)(57)	300,000	300,000	

Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Number of Common Shares Beneficially Owned	Number of Common Shares Offered Hereunder	Number of Outstanding Common Shares Owned After Completion of Offering
Rappaport Gamma LP (1)(58)	488,550	488,550	
Rene Rodriguez-Sains (7)	7,991	7,991	
Richard A Groenendyke Jr. (7)	15,982	15,982	
Ridgecrest Partners LP (8)(59)	3,500	3,000	500
Ridgecrest Partners Ltd. (8)(32)	14,400	12,000	2,400
Ridgecrest Partners QP LP (8)(59)	89,900	80,000	9,900
Ritchie Energy Trading Ltd. (7)(60)	1,214,612	1,214,612	
Robert & Joan Burke (7)	3,425	3,425	
Robert Gillcash (7)	6,849	6,849	
Robert J. & Ruth J. Fink (1)	59,120	25,000	34,120
Ronald A. Johnson (1)	5,757	5,757	
S. M. Foote CRUT #1 (7)	6,849	6,849	
Sanford B. Prater (8)	20,000	20,000	
Schwencke LLC (1)(61)	244,275	244,275	
Sherif Sirageldin (7)	5,708	5,708	
Stephen B. & Deborah P. Moore (7)	2,283	2,283	
TD Asset Management Inc. (22)(27)(62)	500,093	219,593	280,500
Thomas Beug (7)	6,849	6,849	
Thomas O. Boucher IRA (7)	22,831	22,831	
U.S. Global Investors Global Resources Fund (23)(27)(63)	942,466	942,466	
Valerie A. Brackett (7)	228,311	228,311	
Wayland Recovery Fund LLC (24)(64)	482,909	482,909	
Wayzata Recovery Fund LLC (25)(64)	290,329	290,329	
Westwind Partners Inc. (5)(27)(65)	237,792	237,792	
	26,103,206	23,085,160	3,018,046

The following defined terms are used in the footnotes set forth below:

\$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares means common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$15.0 million of 15% unsecured senior notes in June 2004.

\$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares means common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$10.0 million of 15% unsecured senior notes in June 2004.

\$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares means common shares being offered consists of common shares that have been issued in connection with the private placement of \$63.0 million of senior secured notes in June 2005.

\$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares means common shares issued to the purchasers of the Senior Secured Notes on the six month anniversary of the original \$63.0 million note issuance pursuant to subscription receipts.

\$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares means common shares being offered consists of common shares issuable pursuant to outstanding subscription receipts, being the estimated number of shares that we are committed to issue to the purchasers of \$63.0 million of senior secured notes, for no additional consideration, in CDN\$4.5 million increments on each of the twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of the original note issuance date valued on a five-day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance (assumed to be CDN\$3.11).

Table of Contents

\$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares means common shares being offered consists of common shares that have been issued in connection with the private placement of an additional \$10.0 million of senior secured notes in September 2005.

\$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares means common shares issued to the purchasers of the Senior Secured Notes on the six month anniversary of the additional \$10.0 million note issuance pursuant to subscription receipts.

\$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares means common shares being offered consists of common shares issuable pursuant to outstanding subscription receipts, being the estimated number of shares that we are committed to issue to the purchasers of an additional \$10.0 million of senior secured notes, for no additional consideration, in CDN\$714,286 increments on each of the twelve and eighteen-month anniversaries of the original note issuance date valued on a five-day weighted average trading price immediately prior to the date of issuance (assumed to be CDN\$3.11).

- (1) Common shares being offered consists of common shares that have been issued upon exercise of warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of working interests in September 2002.
- (2) Common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon exercise of warrants that were granted in connection with the private placement of \$3.2 million of 10% subordinated unsecured notes payable in April and September 2004.
- (3) Common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were in granted connection with the private placement of \$15.0 million of 15% unsecured senior notes in June 2004, which were acquired in a secondary transaction from the placement agent (Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares).
- (4) Common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were in granted connection with the private placement of \$10.0 million of 15% unsecured senior notes in June 2004, which were acquired in a secondary transaction from the placement agent (Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares).
- (5) Common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon exercise of placement agent warrants that were in granted in connection with the private placement of \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures issued in November 2004 (\$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Placement Agent Shares).
- (6) Common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon conversion of \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures issued in November 2004, which were acquired in a secondary transaction through the placement agent (\$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares).
- (7) Common shares being offered consists of common shares to be issued upon conversion of \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures issued in November 2004, which were acquired in a secondary transaction (Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares).
- (8) Common shares being offered consists of common shares that have been issued in a private placement in June 2005 (2005 Private Placement Shares).
- (9) Common shares being offered consists of 34,247 \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 8) and 150,000 Private Placement Shares (Note 14). Michael C. Thalmann, Chairman and CEO, holds voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.
- (10) Common shares being offered consists of 96,609 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 85,487 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; 228,617 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares; 16,302 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 12,031 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; and 42,401 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares.
- (11) Steve Quinn and Stephen C. Freidheim share dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.
- (12) Common shares being offered consists of 5,105 Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 3); 19,895 Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Shares (Note 4); and 45,662 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7). Evan

Table of Contents

Jarovic holds voting powers and shares dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities. Adam Jarovic has shared dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.

- (13) Common shares being offered consists of 102,105 Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 3); 397,985 Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Shares Placement Agent Shares (Note 4); and 45,662 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7). Voting and dispositive powers shared by Hartz Trading, Inc., as manager of the shareholder, and Ron Bangs, vice president of Hartz Trading, Inc.
- (14) Common shares being offered consists of 426,941 \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 6); 154,574 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 137,427 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; 367,524 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares; 26,207 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 19,342 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; and 68,164 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares.
- (15) Common shares being offered consists of 5,105 Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 3); 19,895 Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Shares Placement Agent Shares (Note 4); and 106,164 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7).
- (16) Common shares being offered consists of 684,931 \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 6); 328,469 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 292,168 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; 781,351 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares; 55,716 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 41,121 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; and 144,915 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares.
- (17) Common shares being offered consists of 347,158 \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares and 1,352,842 \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares. Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Robert L. Gipson, general partner of the shareholder.
- (18) Common shares being offered consists of 483,043 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 429,596 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; 1,148,875 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares; 81,922 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 60,463 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; and 213,080 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares.
- (19) Common shares being offered consists of 5,105 Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 3); 19,895 Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 4); and 22,831 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7).
- (20) Common shares being offered consists of 5,105 Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 3); 19,895 Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 4); and 45,622 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7).
- (21) Common shares being offered consists of 40,842 Secondary \$15.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Placement Agent Shares (Note 3); 159,158 Secondary \$10.0 Million 15% Unsecured Senior Notes Shares Placement Agent Shares (Note 4); and 114,155 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7).
- (22) Common shares being offered consists of 68,493 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7) and 151,100 2005 Private Placement Shares (Note 8).
- (23) Common shares being offered consists of 342,466 Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 7) and 600,000 2005 Private Placement Shares (Note 8).
- (24) Common shares being offered consists of 96,609 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 85,811 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; 229,486 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares; 16,364 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 12,077 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; and 42,562 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares.

Table of Contents

- (25) Common shares being offered consists of 57,965 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 51,616 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; 138,039 \$63.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares; 9,843 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Shares; 7,265 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note 6 Month Additional Shares; and 25,601 \$10.0 Million Senior Secured Note Original Issue Additional Shares.
- (26) Each of Caerus Funds Ltd., Gaia Offshore Master Fund, Ltd. and HFTP Investment L.L.C. has advised us that it is not a registered broker-dealer, it does not control and is not controlled by a registered broker-dealer, and it is an affiliate of a U.S. registered broker-dealer due solely to its being under common control with a registered broker-dealer, which was not involved in the purchase, and will not be involved in the ultimate sale, of the common shares. Each of Caerus Funds Ltd., Gaia Offshore Master Fund, Ltd. and HFTP Investment L.L.C. has also advised us that it purchased the common shares in the ordinary course of its business, and at the time it purchased the common shares, it was not a party to any agreement or other understanding to distribute the securities, directly or indirectly. Promethean Asset Management, LLC, a New York limited liability company (Promethean), serves as investment manager to HFTP Investment L.L.C. (HFTP), Gaia Offshore Master Fund, Ltd. (Gaia) and Caerus Fund Ltd. (Caerus) and may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the securities beneficially owned by HFTP, Gaia and Caerus, as a result of Promethean's power to vote and dispose of securities in each of HFTP, Gaia and Caerus. The ownership information for each of these three selling shareholders does not include the ownership information for the others. Promethean disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities beneficially owned by HFTP, Gaia and Caerus, and each of HFTP, Gaia and Caerus disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities beneficially owned by the others. James F. O'Brien, Jr. indirectly controls Promethean. Mr. O'Brien disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities beneficially owned by Promethean, HFTP, Gaia and Caerus.
- (27) Shareholder is an affiliate of U.S. registered broker-dealer that acquired the offered securities in the ordinary course of its business and, at the time of acquisition, had no arrangements, agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the offered securities.
- (28) Leonardo Capital Management, Inc. (LCMI) is the sole general partner of Leonardo, L.P. Angelo, Gordon & Co., L.P. is the sole director of LCMI. John M. Angelo and Michael L. Gordon are the principal executive officers of Angelo, Gordon & Co., L.P. and hold voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.
- (29) Common shares being offered consist of 1,369,863 \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares (Note 8) and 200,000 2005 Private Placement Shares (Note 14). Shareholder is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Polygon Global Opportunities Master Fund (Master Fund). Polygon Investment Partners LLP and Polygon Investment Partners LP (the Investment Managers), Polygon Investments Ltd. (the Manager), the Master Fund, Alexander Jackson, Reade Griffith and Paddy Dear share voting and dispositive power with respect to the offered securities held by the shareholder.
- (30) Pritchard Capital Partners, LLC has advised us that it is a U.S. registered broker-dealer; however, it received these securities as compensation for investment banking services. Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Thomas W. Pritchard, managing director of the shareholder.
- (31) Footnote not used intentionally.
- (32) Sanford B. Prater, portfolio manager, holds voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.
- (33) Mark Jackson, chief investment officer, holds voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.
- (34) Crystalline Management Inc., a Canadian registered portfolio manager and investment advisor, has discretionary authority over the shareholder and as such has full authority to dispose of the offered securities and exercise voting power with respect to such offered securities. The following natural persons may exercise these rights for, or on behalf of, Crystalline Management Inc. and the offered securities - Marc Amirault, president and portfolio manager; Bradley P. Semmelhaack, portfolio manager; and Jean-Pierre Langevin, vice president and secretary.
- (35) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities is shared with RNK Capital, LLC, subadvisor to the shareholder. Natural persons who share such powers are Dimitry Balyasny, Scott Schroeder, and Robert Kolton.
- (36) C.B. Canlis holds voting powers and shares dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities. Steven Foote has shared dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.

Table of Contents

- (37) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are shared by Clifford A. Cantrell and Judith E. Cantrell, trustees of the shareholder.
- (38) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are shared by E. William Richardson and Mary Lou Richardson, trustees of the shareholder.
- (39) The entity is a registered investment fund (the Fund) advised by Fidelity Management & Research Company (FMR Co.), a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisors act of 1940, as amended. FMR Co., 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR Corp. and an investment advisor registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of securities of the Company as a result of acting as investment advisor to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.
Edward C. Johnson 3d, FMR Corp., through control of FMR Co., and the Fund each has sole power to dispose of the Securities owned by the Fund. Neither FMR Corp. nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR Corp., has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fund, which power resides with the Fund's Board of Trustees.
- (40) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are shared by Sven Lehrann, director general and Jean Bernard Guyon, CEO-Global Energy and Natural Resources for Global Gestion, trustees of the shareholder.
- (41) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Robert Kolton, managing member for the general partner of the shareholder.
- (42) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Robert Kolton, managing member for the shareholder.
- (43) Kenneth J. Foote holds voting powers and shares dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities. Steven Foote has shared dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities.
- (44) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by G. Bryan Dutt, managing director of the general partner of the shareholder.
- (45) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are shared by Glenn Hunt and Richard Hunig, limited partners of the shareholder.
- (46) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Lionel K. Conacher, president of the shareholder.
- (47) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Matthew D. Klein, trustee of the shareholder.
- (48) Footnote not used intentionally.
- (49) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by George W. McCulloch, trustee of the shareholder.
- (50) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Cecilia M. Kershaw, director of the shareholder.
- (51) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are shared by Bryan Ezralow, as trustee of the Bryan Ezralow 1994 Trust; Marc Ezralow, as trustee of the Marc Ezralow 1997 Trust; and Marshall Ezralow, as trustee of the Ezralow Family Trust and general partner of Elevado Investment Company, each a general partner of the shareholder.
- (52) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Keith A. Goodman, manager of the general partner of the shareholder.
- (53) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Paul Sabourin, as chairman of the investment advisor to the shareholder, and Jay Lee, as trader for the investment advisor to the shareholder.
- (54) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Paul Sabourin, as chairman of the investment advisor to the shareholder, and Ed Peplinski, as trader for the investment advisor to the shareholder.
- (55) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by James M. Puls, John Leo Puls and Robert Puls, trustees of the shareholder.
- (56) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Thomas O. Boucher, Jr.
- (57) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Garvin Wilson, investment manager for the shareholder.
- (58) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by A.G. Rappaport, president of the general partner of the shareholder.

Table of Contents

- (59) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Sanford B. Prater, general partner of the shareholder.
- (60) Each of Ritchie Capital management, Ltd., as investment manager, and Ritchie Capital Management, LLC, as subadvisor, has voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities. A.R. Thane Ritchie controls Ritchie Capital Management, Ltd. and Ritchie Capital Management, LLC. Mr. Ritchie disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities held by Ritchie Energy Trading Ltd.
- (61) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Barbara J. Reynolds, managing member of the shareholder.
- (62) Voting and Dispositive powers for the Secondary \$30.0 Million Underlying Convertible Debenture Shares is held by Ari Levy and Margot Naubie, portfolio managers; for 30,000 2005 Private Placement Shares is held by Doug Warwick and Gary Baker, portfolio managers; and for 121,100 2005 Private Placement Shares is held by Gary Baker and Gord MacDougall, portfolio managers.
- (63) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Brian Hicks, co-portfolio manager of the shareholder.
- (64) Voting and dispositive powers with respect to the offered securities are held by Patricia J. Halloran, managing member of the investment manager of the shareholder.
- (65) Voting and dispositive powers are jointly shared among Lionel Conacher, president and CEO of the shareholder; Keith Harris, CFO of the shareholder; and Horst Hueneken, managing director of the shareholder.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We are registering certain of our common shares that are either now outstanding or will be issued upon exercise of certain warrants, conversion of convertible debentures or the issuance of additional shares pursuant to subscription receipts issued to holders of our senior secured notes. We are also offering the opportunity to participate in the registration statement to other holders of some of our restricted securities. Shares covered in the registration will include common shares currently held by some holders and certain common shares to be issued in the future upon the exercise or conversion of our securities or pursuant to subscription receipts. We will not receive any of the proceeds of the sale of the common shares offered by this prospectus. The common shares may be sold from time to time to purchasers:

Directly by the selling shareholders; or

Through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling shareholders or the purchasers of the common shares from the selling shareholders.

The selling shareholders and any underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents that participate in the distribution of the common shares may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any discounts, concessions, commissions or fees received by them and any profit on the resale of the common shares sold by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

If the common shares are sold through underwriters or broker-dealers, the selling shareholders will be responsible for any underwriting discounts or commissions or agents' commissions.

The common shares may be sold in one or more transactions at:

Fixed prices;

Prevailing market prices at the time of sale;

Prices related to prevailing market prices;

Varying prices determined at the time of sale; or

Negotiated prices.

These sales may be affected in transactions:

On any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the common shares may be listed or quoted at the time of the sale, including the Toronto Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange;

In the over-the-counter market;

In transactions otherwise than on such exchanges or services or in the over-the-counter market;

Through the writing and exercise of options, whether these options are listed on any options exchange or otherwise;

Through the settlement of short sales; or

Through any combination of the foregoing.

These transactions may include block transactions or crosses. Crosses are transactions in which the same broker acts as an agent on both sides of the trade. In connection with sales of the common shares, the selling shareholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers. These broker-dealers may in turn engage in short sales of the common shares in the course of hedging their positions. The selling shareholders may also sell the common shares short and deliver common shares to close out short positions; provided that, the short sales are made after the registration statement is declared effective, or loan or pledge common shares to broker-dealers that in turn may sell the common shares.

Table of Contents

The selling shareholders may pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the common shares owned by them, and if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the common shares from time to time pursuant to the prospectus. The selling shareholders also may transfer or donate the common shares in other circumstances, in which case the transferees, donees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of the prospectus.

To our knowledge, there are currently no plans, arrangements or understandings between any selling shareholders and any underwriter, broker-dealer or agent regarding the sale of the common shares by the selling shareholders. Selling shareholders may choose not to sell any or all of the common shares offered by them pursuant to this prospectus. In addition, we cannot assure you that any such selling shareholder will not transfer, devise or gift the common shares offered hereby by other means not described in this prospectus. Any common shares that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 or Rule 144A under the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 or Rule 144A rather than pursuant to this prospectus. There can be no assurance that any selling shareholder will sell any or all of the common shares registered pursuant to this registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Our common shares are listed for trading on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol `GST` and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol `YGA`.

The selling shareholders and any other person participating in such distribution will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, including Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any of common shares by the selling shareholders and any other participating person. In addition, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the common shares to engage in market-making activities with respect to the common shares. This may affect the marketability of the common shares and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to common shares.

Pursuant to the subscription agreements with the selling shareholders who hold convertible debentures, the form of which subscription agreement is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, we may be indemnified by the selling shareholders against liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act that may arise from any written information furnished to us by the selling shareholder specifically for use in this prospectus. Westwind Partners Inc. acted as a placement agent for the convertible debentures. Pursuant to agency agreements, under which our convertible debentures and senior secured notes were sold, we agreed to indemnify Westwind Partners Inc. and its officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees and advisors against certain liabilities, including some liabilities under the Securities Act, or they will be entitled to contribution. We are indemnified by Westwind Partners Inc. and its officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees and advisors against certain liabilities, including liabilities that may arise under the Securities Act, in accordance with the agency agreements, or we may be entitled to contribution. The Company has no on-going relationship with Westwind Partners Inc. other than it occasionally provides investment banking services, including acting as a placement agent or providing financial fairness opinions on transactions to our board of directors. We have also agreed to indemnify the selling shareholders that are holders of our senior secured notes and their officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees and advisors against certain liabilities, including some liabilities under the Securities Act, or they will be entitled to contribution. To the best of our knowledge, no selling shareholders that are affiliated with a registered broker-dealer acquired securities in a manner other than in the ordinary course of its business or, at the time of acquisition, with any arrangement or understanding with any person to distribute the securities. Pritchard Capital Partners, LLC has advised us that it is a U.S. registered broker-dealer; however, it received these securities as compensation for investment banking services.

We have agreed to pay substantially all of the expenses incidental to the registration, offering and sale of the common shares covered by this prospectus to the public other than commissions, fees and discounts of underwriters, brokers, dealers and agents.

To comply with the securities laws of some jurisdictions, if applicable, the holders of common shares may offer and sell the common shares in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In

Table of Contents

addition, under certain circumstances, in some jurisdictions shares of the common shares may not be offered or sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable jurisdiction or an exemption from registration or qualification requirements is available and is complied with.

If required, at the time of a particular offering of common shares by a selling shareholder, a supplement to this prospectus will be circulated setting forth the name or names of any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, any discounts, commissions or other terms constituting compensation for underwriters and any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to agents or broker-dealers. We have no obligation to any selling shareholder to arrange an underwriting, or assist in providing for any proposed sale, of any of the common shares offered hereby.

We have agreed with some of the selling shareholders to keep the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part effective for specified periods of time or until the occurrence of certain events. We may under certain circumstances suspend the use of this prospectus, upon notice to the selling shareholders, to update the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part with periodic information or material non-public information as required by the Securities Act. We have agreed with some of the selling shareholders to use our reasonable efforts to limit these suspended periods to those required by the Securities Act or limit them to contractually specified limits.

Once sold under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, the common shares will be freely tradeable in the hands of persons other than our affiliates.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

A brief description of certain provisions of the tax treaty between Canada and the United States is included below, together with a brief discussion of certain taxes, including withholding provisions, to which U.S. shareholders are subject under existing laws and regulations of Canada and the United States. The consequences, if any, of state and local taxes are not considered. The following information is general and security holders should seek the advice of their own tax advisors, tax counsel or accountants with respect to the applicability or effect on their own individual circumstances of not only the matters referred to herein, but also any state or local taxes.

Canadian Federal Income Tax Consequences Associated with our Common Shares

General. The following is a summary of the principal Canadian federal income tax consequences generally applicable in respect of the ownership of our common shares. The tax consequences to any particular holder of our common shares will vary according to the status of that holder as an individual, trust, corporation or member of a partnership, the jurisdiction in which that holder is subject to taxation, the place where that holder is resident and, generally, that holder's particular circumstances. This summary is applicable only to holders who are resident in the United States and are subject to United States tax, are not (and have never been) resident in Canada, hold their shares as capital property and do not (and will not) use or hold their shares in, or in the course of, carrying on business in Canada. For purposes of this discussion, a non-resident holder means a holder of our common shares who does not reside in Canada.

The following general discussion in respect of taxation is based upon management's understanding of the rules. No opinion was requested by us, or has been provided by our counsel or auditors, with respect to the Canadian income tax consequences described in the following discussion.

Dividend Withholding. We have not paid dividends on our common shares in any of the past three years and have no plans to pay dividends in the foreseeable future. Canadian federal tax legislation would require a 25% withholding from any dividends paid or deemed to be paid to our non-resident shareholders. However, shareholders resident in the United States and subject to United States tax would generally have this rate reduced to 15% pursuant to the tax treaty between Canada and the United States. The withholding tax rate on the gross amount of dividends is reduced to 5% if the beneficial owner of the dividend is a U.S. corporation which owns at least 10% of our voting stock.

The amount of stock dividends paid to non-residents of Canada would be subject to withholding tax at the same rate as cash dividends. The amount of a stock dividend (for tax purposes) would generally be equal to the amount by which our paid-up capital had increased by reason of the payment of such dividend. We will furnish additional tax information to shareholders in the event of such a stock dividend.

Capital Gains. A non-resident who holds common shares as capital property generally will not be subject to Canadian taxes on capital gains realized on the disposition of such shares unless the shares are taxable Canadian property within the meaning of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), and no relief is afforded under any applicable tax treaty. Common shares generally will not be taxable Canadian property of a shareholder of us unless, at any time during the five-year period immediately preceding a disposition of such shares, not less than 25% of the issued shares of any class or series of our capital stock belonged to persons with whom the shareholder did not deal at arm's length, or to the shareholder together with such persons or unless the shares were acquired by the holder in one of several tax deferred exchanges for shares which were themselves taxable Canadian property.

A non-resident shareholder whose common shares constitute taxable Canadian property and who is a resident of the United States for purposes of the tax treaty between Canada and the United States generally would be exempt from Canadian tax on any capital gain realized on a disposition of those shares in any event, provided the shares do not derive their value primarily from Canadian real property (including Canadian resource

Table of Contents

properties). Management is of the view that common shares do not derive their value primarily from Canadian real property.

United States Federal Income Tax Consequences Associated with our Common Stock

The following is a general discussion of all material U.S. federal income tax consequences that may apply to a holder of our common shares. This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code, Treasury Department regulations promulgated under the Code, published Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, rulings, published administrative positions of the IRS, and court decisions that are currently applicable, any or all of which could materially and adversely change at any time, possibly on a retroactive basis. In addition, the discussion does not consider the potential effects, both adverse and beneficial, of any proposed legislation which, if enacted, could be applied at any time, possibly on a retroactive basis. The following discussion is not intended to be, nor should it be construed to be, legal or tax advice to any holder or prospective holder of our common shares. No opinion was requested by us, or is provided by our counsel, with respect to the U.S. federal income tax consequences described in the following discussion. Accordingly, holders and prospective holders of our common shares should consult their own tax advisors about the U.S. federal, state, local and Non-U.S. tax consequences of purchasing, owning and disposing of our common shares.

United States Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders. As used in this discussion, a U.S. Holder means a holder of our common shares who is (1) a citizen or individual resident of the United States, (2) a corporation or entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof or the District of Columbia, (3) an estate whose income is taxable in the United States irrespective of source or (4) a trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary jurisdiction over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

This summary does not address the tax consequences to, and U.S. Holder does not include, persons subject to specific provisions of federal income tax law, such as tax-exempt organizations, qualified retirement plans, individual retirement accounts and other tax-deferred accounts, financial institutions, insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, broker-dealers, persons or entities that have a functional currency other than the U.S. Dollar, shareholders subject to the alternative minimum tax, shareholders who hold our common shares as part of a straddle, hedging or a conversion transaction, constructive sale or other arrangement involving more than one position, partners and other pass-through entities and persons holding an interest in such entities, and shareholders who acquired their common shares through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation for services. This summary is limited to U.S. Holders who own our common shares as capital assets (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not address the consequences to a person or entity holding an interest in a shareholder or the consequences to a person of the ownership, exercise or disposition of any options, warrants or other rights to acquire our common shares. If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common shares, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. If you are a partnership, or a partner in a partnership, holding common shares, you should consult your tax advisor.

Distributions on Our Common Shares. We have never paid any cash dividends on our common shares and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. However, if U.S. Holders receive dividend distributions (including constructive dividends) with respect to our common shares such holders would be required to include in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes the gross amount of such distributions equal to the U.S. Dollar value of such distributions on the date of receipt (based on the exchange rate on such date) to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits, without reduction for any Canadian income tax withheld from such distributions. Such Canadian tax withheld may be credited, subject to certain limitations, against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability or, alternatively, may be deducted in computing the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal taxable income by those who itemize deductions. See Foreign Tax Credit, below. To the extent that distributions exceed our current or accumulated earnings and profits, they will

Table of Contents

be treated first as a return of capital up to the U.S. Holder's adjusted basis in our common shares (and not subject to tax) and thereafter as gain from the sale or exchange of the common shares (which is taxable as capital gain). Subject to certain exceptions, dividends paid on our common shares generally will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction available to corporations receiving dividends from certain United States corporations.

Dividends, if any, paid on our common shares to a U.S. Holder who is an individual, trust or estate (a U.S. Individual Holder) will be treated as qualified dividend income that is taxable to such U.S. Individual Holder at preferential rates (through 2008) provided that (i) we are eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States that has been determined to be satisfactory for this purpose (the U.S.-Canadian Treaty is included for this purpose); (ii) we are not a passive foreign investment company or PFIC for the taxable year during which the dividend is paid or the immediately preceding taxable year (which we do not believe we are or have been or will be); (iii) the U.S. Individual Holder has owned the common shares for more than 60 days in the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the date on which the common shares become ex-dividend; and (iv) the U.S. Individual Holder is not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property.

Special rules may apply to any extraordinary dividend paid by us. An extraordinary dividend is, generally, a dividend equal to or in excess of 10 percent of a shareholder's adjusted basis (or fair market value in certain circumstances) in a share of common stock. If we pay an extraordinary dividend on our common shares that is treated as qualified dividend income, then any loss derived by a U.S. Individual Holder from the sale or exchange of common shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of such dividend.

Foreign Tax Credit. A U.S. Holder who pays (or has withheld from distributions) Canadian income tax with respect to the ownership of our common shares may be entitled, at his or her option, to either a deduction or a tax credit for such foreign tax paid or withheld. Furthermore, a U.S. Holder that is a domestic corporation that owns 10% or more of our voting stock may be eligible to claim a deemed paid foreign tax credit based on the underlying non-U.S. income taxes paid by us. Generally, it will be more advantageous to claim a credit because a credit reduces U.S. federal income taxes on a dollar-for-dollar basis, while a deduction merely reduces the taxpayer's income subject to tax. This election is made on a year-by-year basis and applies to all foreign income taxes (or taxes in lieu of income tax) paid by (or withheld from) the U.S. Holder during the year.

There are significant and complex limitations which apply to the foreign tax credit, among which is the general limitation that the credit cannot exceed the proportionate share of the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability that the U.S. Holder's foreign source income bears to his or her or our worldwide taxable income. There are further limitations based on the type of income. In addition, any foreign tax credits may also be subject to special treaty limitations. The availability of the foreign tax credit, the deemed paid foreign tax credit, and the application of the limitations on the credit are fact-specific and holders and prospective holders of our common shares should consult their own tax advisors regarding their individual circumstances.

Sale, Exchange or other Disposition of Common Shares. Assuming we do not constitute a PFIC for any taxable year, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize taxable gain or loss upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of our common shares in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized by the U.S. Holder from such sale, exchange or other disposition and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in such shares. Subject to the discussion of extraordinary dividends above, such gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period is greater than one year at the time of the sale, exchange or other disposition. Preferential tax rates for long term capital gains may apply to certain U.S. Holders who satisfy minimum holding period and other requirements. There are currently no preferential tax rates for long term capital gains for any U.S. Holder that is a corporation. A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses is subject to certain limitations.

Special Rules. In the following circumstances, the above sections of the discussion may not describe the U.S. federal income tax consequences resulting from the holding, receipt of dividends and disposition of

Table of Contents

common shares. Management does not believe that we are a PFIC, or a controlled foreign corporation as those terms are defined below.

Passive Foreign Investment Company. A non-U.S. entity treated a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be a PFIC in any taxable year in which, after taking into account the income and assets of the corporation and certain subsidiaries pursuant to a look through rule, either (i) 75% or more of its gross income is passive income such as interest, dividends and certain rents and royalties or (2) at least 50% of the average value of its assets is attributable to assets that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income. Management does not believe that we are a PFIC, or will be a PFIC in the future, because we are engaged primarily in the business of a natural gas and oil exploration and development. We have not received 75% or more of our gross income from passive sources, nor has 50% or more of the fair market value of our assets been held for the production of passive income. The taxation of a U.S. shareholder who owns stock in a PFIC is extremely complex and is beyond the scope of this discussion. U.S. persons should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the impact of these rules if we are or were to become a PFIC.

Controlled Foreign Corporation. A controlled foreign corporation or CFC is a foreign corporation more than 50% of the stock of which, by vote or value, is owned, directly, indirectly or constructively, by one or more U.S. shareholders who each owns, directly, indirectly or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the foreign corporation (each a CFC Shareholder). If we are a CFC, a CFC Shareholder would be treated as receiving current distributions of an allocable share of certain types of income. Additionally, such a CFC Shareholder would recognize ordinary income to the extent of an allocable share of our earnings and profits, rather than capital gain, on the sale of his or her common shares. Management does not believe that we are a CFC because shareholders who directly, indirectly or constructively control 10% or more of the total voting power of our outstanding common shares do not own more than 50% of our common shares.

United States Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders. For purposes of this discussion, a beneficial owner of our common shares that is not a U.S. Holder (other than a partnership or entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a Non-U.S. Holder.

Distributions on our Common Shares. Distributions we pay to a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax if the Non-U.S. Holder is not engaged in a U.S. trade or business. If the Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a U.S. trade or business, distributions we pay will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular graduated rates if those distributions are effectively connected with that Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. trade or business and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by that Non-U.S. Holder in the United States. In addition, a branch profits tax may be imposed at a 30% rate, or a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty, on dividends received by a non-U.S. corporation that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

Sale, Exchange or other Disposition of Common Shares. Non-U.S. Holders generally will not be taxed on any gain recognized on a disposition of our common stock unless the gain is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, if an income tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States. If the Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a U.S. trade or business and the gain is effectively connected with that trade or business (and if a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by such Non-U.S. Holder in the United States), such gain will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular graduated rates and, if the Non-U.S. Holder is a corporation, the branch profits tax described above may also apply. A Non-U.S. Holder who is an individual and who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and meets other requirements also will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain recognized on a disposition of our common stock.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax. In general, dividend payments or other taxable distributions made within the United States will be subject to information reporting and U.S. backup withholding tax if a U.S. Individual Holder fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number certified under

Table of Contents

penalties of perjury, as well as certain other information or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding.

Non-U.S. Holders may be required to establish their exemption from information reporting and backup withholding by certifying their status on an IRS Form W-8BEN, W-8ECI or W-8IMY as applicable.

If a Non-U.S. Holder sells shares to or through the U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker, the payment of the proceeds generally will be subject to information reporting requirements and backup withholding unless the Non-U.S. Holder properly certifies its non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption. Information reporting requirements and backup withholding generally will not apply to any payment of the proceeds of the sale of common shares affected outside the United States by a foreign office of a broker. However, U.S. information reporting requirements (but not backup withholding requirements) will apply to payment of the sales proceeds if the broker is a United States person or has certain other contacts with the United States.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, a holder generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules that exceed such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability by timely filing a properly completed claim for refund with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common shares offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Sara-Lane Sirey Professional Corporation, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

EXPERTS

Our consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005 incorporated by reference into this prospectus have been audited by BDO Seidman, LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, and as of December 31, 2004 and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, incorporated by reference into this prospectus have been audited by BDO Dunwoody LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports incorporated by reference into this registration statement, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firms given upon their authority as experts in auditing and accounting. The audited statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for certain natural gas properties acquired from GeoStar Corporation for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 incorporated by reference into this prospectus have been audited by BDO Dunwoody LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report incorporated by reference into this registration statement, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in auditing and accounting.

Information incorporated by reference into this prospectus regarding our estimated quantities of natural gas and oil reserves were prepared by us based upon proved reserve estimates as of December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 prepared by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., independent petroleum engineers.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You can also find our SEC filings at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and on our website at www.gastar.com. Information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-1 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to a contract or other document, the reference is only a summary and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may view a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. as well as through the SEC's website.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the following documents filed with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act):

our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005; and

our current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 5, 2006, January 10, 2006, February 7, 2006 and April 13, 2006 (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any such current report on Form 8-K).

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the reports or documents that have been incorporated by reference in this prospectus contained in our registration statement but not delivered with the prospectus. Requests for such copies should be directed to Chief Financial Officer, Gastar Exploration Ltd., 1331 Lamar Street, Suite 1080, Houston, Texas 77010, by mail, or if by telephone at (713) 739-1800.

Table of Contents

23,085,160 Shares

Gastar Exploration Ltd.

Common Shares

Prospectus

May 2, 2006
