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ASPEN EXPLORATION CORP
Form 10QSB
November 12, 2004

FORM 10-QSB

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

MARK ONE

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2004

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 0-9494

ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION
(Exact Name of Aspen as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

Suite 208, 2050 S. Oneida St.,
Denver, Colorado

(Address off Principal Executive Offices)

84-0811316

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

80224-2426

(Zip Code)

Issuer's telephone number: (303) 639-9860

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

Yes No

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

Class	Outstanding at November 10, 2004
Common stock, \$.005 par value	6,235,824

Transitional small business disclosure format: Yes No

Part One. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Item 1. Financial Statements

ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS

	September 30, 2004 ----
Current Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents, including \$847,333 and \$1,127,874 of invested cash at September 30, 2004 and June 30, 2004 respectively	\$ 1,108,204
Precious metals	18,823
Accounts receivables	605,166
Receivable, related party	29,401
Prepaid expenses	10,032

Total current assets	1,771,626

Investment in oil and gas properties, at cost (full cost method of accounting)	8,752,284
Less accumulated depletion and valuation allowance	(3,386,671)

	5,365,613

Property and equipment, at cost:	
Furniture, fixtures and vehicles	112,562
Less accumulated depreciation	(86,458)

	26,104

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,163,343
	=====

(Statement Continues)

See notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Continued)

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

September 30,
2004

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Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 654,890
Accounts payable - related party (Note 6)	83,860
Advances from joint interest owners	742,611
Notes payable - current (Note 6), net of discount	112,500

Total current liabilities	1,593,861

Asset retirement obligation (Note 3)	87,582
Deferred income taxes (Note 9)	464,483

Total long term liabilities	552,065

Total liabilities	2,145,926

Stockholders' equity:	
(Notes 1 and 5):	
Common stock, \$.005 par value:	
Authorized: 50,000,000 shares	
Issued and outstanding: At September 30, 2004,	
6,235,824 shares and June 30, 2004, 5,958,979	31,298
Capital in excess of par value	6,324,318
Accumulated deficit	(1,334,607)
Deferred compensation	(3,592)

Total stockholders' equity	5,017,417

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 7,163,343
	=====

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)

		Three Months Ended September 30,
		2004

Revenues:		
Oil and gas	\$ 697,553	\$
Management fees	82,057	
Interest and other, net	4,689	

Total Revenues	784,299	

Costs and expenses:		
Oil and gas production	64,361	
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	156,000	

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Interest expense	3,053
Selling, general and administrative	171,104

Total Costs and Expenses	394,518

Income before taxes	389,781

Provision for income taxes	168,163

Net income	\$ 221,618
	=====
Basic income per common share	\$.04
	=====
Diluted income per common share	\$.04
	=====
Basic weighted average number of common shares outstanding	6,235,824
	=====
Diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding	6,421,889
	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

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ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(UNAUDITED)

	Three months ended S 2004

Cash flows from operating activities:	

Net income	\$ 221,618
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided used by operating activities:	
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	156,000
Stock issued for interest expense	500
Deferred income tax provision	168,163
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Increase in receivable	(65,267)
Decrease in prepaid expense	6,705
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and expense	(143,242)

Net cash provided by operating	344,477

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Cash flows from investing activities:

Additions to oil and gas properties	(467,629)
Purchase of producing properties	(60,520)

Net cash (used) by investing activities	(528,149)

Cash flow from financing activities:

Payment of notes payable	(37,500)

	(37,500)

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(221,172)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,329,376

Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 1,108,204
	=====

Other information:

Interest paid.....	\$ 3,053
	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)

September 30, 2004

Note 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying financial statements are unaudited. However, in our opinion, the accompanying financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for fair presentation. Interim results of operations are not necessarily indicative of results for subsequent interim periods or the remainder of the year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended June 30, 2004.

Except for the historical information contained in this Form 10-QSB, this Form contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those

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discussed in this Report. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in this Report and any documents incorporated herein by reference, as well as the Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended June 30, 2004.

Note 2 RECEIVABLE - RELATED PARTIES

The receivable from related parties constitutes amounts due from officers and consultants for joint operating costs of wells operated by us. The transactions are in the normal course of business with the same terms as other joint owners and are repaid in a normal business cycle.

Note 3 ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

We have adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." SFAS No. 143 generally applies to legal obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived assets that result from the acquisition, construction, development and/or the normal operation of a long-lived asset. SFAS No. 143 requires us to recognize an estimated liability for the plugging and abandonment of our gas wells. We have recognized the future cost to plug and abandon the gas wells over the estimated useful lives of the wells in accordance with SFAS No. 143. A liability for the fair value of an asset retirement obligation with a corresponding increase in the carrying value of the related long-lived asset is recorded at the time a producing well is purchased or a drilled well is completed and ready for production. We will amortize the amount added to the oil and gas properties and recognize accretion expense in connection with the discounted liability over the remaining life of the respective well. The estimated liability is based on historical experience in plugging and abandoning wells, estimated useful lives based on engineering studies, external estimates as to the cost to plug and abandon wells in the future and federal and state

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Note 3 ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION (CONTINUED)

regulatory requirements. The liability is a discounted liability using a credit adjusted risk-free rate of 6%. Revisions to the liability could occur due to changes in plugging and abandonment costs, useful well lives or if federal or state regulators enact new regulations on the plugging and abandonment of wells.

A reconciliation of our liability for the year ended September 30, 2004 is as follows:

Asset retirement obligations as of	
June 30, 2004	\$79,582
ARO additions	8,000
Liabilities settled	-0-
Accretion expense	-0-
Revision of estimate	-0-

Asset retirement obligation as of	
September 30, 2004	\$87,582
	=====

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Note 4 EARNINGS PER SHARE

We follow Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 128, addressing earnings per share. SFAS No. 128 established the methodology of calculating basic earnings per share and diluted earnings per share. The calculations differ by adding any instruments convertible to common stock (such as stock options, warrants, and convertible preferred stock) to weighted average shares outstanding when computing diluted earnings per share.

The following is a reconciliation of the numerators and denominators used in the calculations of basic and diluted earnings per share. We had a net income of \$221,618 for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and \$50,197 for the three months ended September 30, 2003.

	September 30, 2004		Three Months Ended		Sept
	Net Income	Shares	Per Share Amount	Net Income	30, 2003
Basic earnings per share:					
Net income and share amounts	\$ 221,618	6,235,824	\$.04	\$ 50,197	
Dilutive securities:					
stock options	--	392,000	--	--	
Repurchased shares	--	(205,935)	--	--	
Diluted earnings per share:					
Net income and assumed share conversion	\$ 221,618	6,421,889	\$.04	\$ 50,197	

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Note 5 STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Common Stock

During 2004, we issued a convertible debenture and detachable warrants to one accredited investor in exchange for the investor's payment to us of \$300,000. On July 15, 2004, the debt and accrued interest were converted. On July 15, 2004 the debenture was automatically converted into shares of our restricted common stock after our shares traded at prices greater than \$1.00 per share for ten trading days. We issued 300,500 shares of our restricted common stock in satisfaction of the principal and interest due the investor. The debt and unamortized discount related to warrants were recorded to equity upon conversion. See Note 6.

The convertible debenture included warrants for up to 600,000 shares of common stock exercisable as follows:

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There are potentially two warrants, each for 300,000 shares of common stock. If the holder exercises the initial warrant before June 30, 2005, we will receive an additional \$330,000 (\$1.10 per share) and issue 300,000 shares of stock; if the holder exercises the same warrant before June 30, 2006 but after June 30, 2005, we receive an additional \$360,000 (\$1.20 per share) instead of \$330,000 and no new warrants will be issued.

If the holder exercises the initial warrant before March 31, 2005, the holder will receive an additional warrant exercisable to purchase another 300,000 shares at \$1.25 per share.

In any case, the warrant (and any additional warrant) will expire unless exercised by June 30, 2006.

The warrants were valued using the Black-Scholes valuation method at \$39,281 and have been recorded as a discount to the debt.

Stock Options

During fiscal 2004, two officers, one director, a consultant and an employee exercised their options for 192,000 shares of our common stock granted March 14, 2002 at an average price of \$0.57 per share. As consideration for the option shares purchased, the individuals surrendered common stock with a fair value equal to the exercise price of the option shares and held longer than six months. The fair value of the shares surrendered was based on a ten-day average bid price immediately prior to the exercise date. Total shares surrendered were 96,849. The effect of the transaction is a net increase to the common stock par value of \$476 and a corresponding decrease to additional paid in capital of \$476.

On August 15, 2004, one officer, a consultant and an employee exercised options for 92,000 shares of our common stock granted March 14, 2002 at an average price of \$0.57 per share. As consideration for the options purchased, the individuals surrendered common stock with a fair value equal to the exercise price of the option shares and held longer than six months. The fair value of the shares surrendered was based on a ten-day average bid price immediately prior to the exercise date. Total shares surrendered were 42,359. The effect of the transaction is a net increase to the common stock par value of \$248 and a corresponding decrease to additional paid in capital of \$248.

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Note 5 STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (CONTINUED)

As of September 30, 2004, we had an aggregate of 392,000 common shares reserved for issuance under our stock option plans. These plans provide for the issuance of common shares pursuant to stock option exercises, restricted stock awards and other equity based awards.

The following information summarizes information with respect to options granted under our equity plans:

Number of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Shares Under Plan
---------------------	---

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Outstanding balance June 30, 2004	484,000	\$.57 =====
Granted	-0-	- =====
Exercised	(92,000)	.57 =====
Forfeited or expensed	-0-	- =====

Outstanding balance September 30, 2004	392,000 =====	\$.57 =====

The following table summarizes information concerning outstanding and exercisable options as of September 30, 2004:

Exercise Price	Number Outstanding	Outstanding		Exercisable	
		Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life In Years	Weighted Average Exercisable Price	Number Exercisable	Weighted Average Exercise Price
\$.57	242,000	08/15/2005(1)	\$.57	-0-	\$.57
.57	150,000	08/15/2007(1)	.57	-0-	.57
	392,000 =====				

(1) The term of the option will be the earlier of the contractual life of the options or 90 days after the date the optionee is no longer an employee, consultant or director of the Company.

We account for the two stock option plans using APB No. 25 for directors and employees and SFAS No. 123 for consultants. There were 676,000 options granted in 2002. Directors and employees were granted 601,000 and consultants were granted 75,000. The consultant options were valued using the fair value method of SFAS No. 123 as calculated by the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The fair value of each option grant, as opposed to its exercisable price, is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 14.9%, credit adjusted risk free interest rates of 8.5% and expected lives of 3.4 to 4.4 years. The resulting compensation expense relating to the consultant option grant will be included as an operating expense as the options vest.

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Note 6 NOTES PAYABLE

The Company incurred the following debt:

	September 30, 2004	June 30, 2004
	-----	-----
Note payable to a bank	\$ 112,500	\$ 150,000
Convertible debenture issued to a privately held corporation	-0-	300,000
	-----	-----
	112,500	450,000
	-----	-----
Less discount	-0-	(39,281)
	-----	-----
	\$ 112,500	\$ 410,719
	=====	=====

Proceeds from the note payable to a bank were used for the acquisition of producing gas properties located in several counties in the Sacramento Valley, California. The note matures in June 2005, principal payments are \$12,500 per month plus interest at the bank's prime rate plus 2%. The rate was 6.75% at September 30, 2004. The loan is collateralized by accounts receivable, other rights to payments and all inventory.

On June 28, 2004, we issued the convertible debenture to the accredited investor in exchange for the investor's payment to us of \$300,000. The convertible debenture with a principal amount of \$300,000, bears interest at 4% per annum and 300,000 common stock warrants. The debenture was converted to common stock on July 15, 2004. See Note 5. Another 300,000 shares are potentially issuable under certain circumstances.

On July 15, 2004 the debenture was automatically converted into shares of our restricted common stock after our shares traded at prices greater than \$1.00 per share for ten trading days. We issued 300,500 shares of our restricted common stock in satisfaction of the principal and interest due the investor.

Note 7 SEGMENT INFORMATION

We operate in one industry segment within the United States, oil and gas exploration.

Identified assets by industry are those assets that are used in our operations in that industry. Corporate assets are principally cash, furniture, fixtures and vehicles.

Note 7 SEGMENT INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

We have adopted SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise

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and Related Information." SFAS No. 131 requires the presentation of descriptive information about reportable segments which is consistent with that made available to the management of the Company to assess performance.

Our oil and gas segment derives its revenues from the sale of oil and gas and prospect generation and administrative overhead fees charged to participants in our oil and gas ventures. Corporate income is primarily derived from interest income on funds held in money market accounts.

During the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, there were no intersegment revenues. The accounting policies applied by each segment are the same as those used by us in general.

There have been no differences from the last annual report in the basis of measuring segment profit or loss. There have been no material changes in the amount of assets for any operating segment since the last annual report except for the oil and gas segment which capitalized approximately \$528,149 for the development and acquisition of oil and gas properties.

Segment information consists of the following for the three months ended September 30:

	Oil and Gas -----	Corporate -----	Consolidated -----
Revenues:			
2004	\$ 779,610	\$ 4,689	\$ 784,299
2003	387,841	496	388,337
Income (loss) from operations:			
2004	\$ 560,696	\$ (170,915)	\$ 389,781
2003	225,739	(175,542)	50,197
Identifiable assets:			
2004	\$ 5,589,338	\$ 1,574,005	\$ 7,163,343
2003	4,225,438	1,269,291	5,494,729
Depreciation, depletion and valuation charged to identifiable assets:			
2004	\$ (3,386,671)	\$ (86,458)	\$ (3,473,129)
2003	(2,797,469)	(68,778)	(2,866,247)
Capital expenditures:			
2004	\$ 528,149	\$ -0-	\$ 528,149
2003	139,900	-0-	139,900

Note 8 MAJOR CUSTOMERS

We derived in excess of 10% of our revenue from various sources (oil and gas sales) as follows:

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	The Company -----		
	A	B	C
Quarter ended:	-	-	-
September 30, 2004	26%	55%	11%
September 30, 2003	29%	53%	-

Note 9 INCOME TAXES

We have recorded deferred income taxes of \$464,483 and \$131,350 as of September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. During the first quarter of 2004, we used approximately \$345,000 in net operating loss carryforwards leaving approximately \$1,339,000 in available federal net operating loss carryforwards as of September 30, 2004. During the first quarter of 2003, we used approximately \$50,000 in net operating loss carryforwards leaving a total of approximately \$1,746,000.

The deferred tax consequences of temporary differences in reporting items for financial statement and income tax purposes are recognized, if appropriate. Realization of future tax benefits related to the deferred tax assets is dependent on many factors, including our ability to generate taxable income within the net operating loss carryforward period. We have considered these factors in reaching our conclusion as to the valuation allowance for financial reporting purposes. Primarily, our proved oil and gas reserves substantially exceed our expected future costs and hence, we believe it more likely than not that the benefit will be realized.

At September 30, the income tax effect of temporary differences comprising the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities on the accompanying balance sheet is the result of the following:

	2004 -----	2003 -----
Deferred tax assets:		
Federal tax loss carryforwards	\$ 519,760	\$ 699,646
Asset retirement obligation	4,727	-
	-----	-----
	524,487	699,646
	-----	-----
Deferred tax (liabilities):		
Property, plant and equipment	(2,569)	(3,324)
Oil and gas properties	(986,401)	(827,672)
	-----	-----
	(988,970)	(830,996)
	-----	-----
	\$ (464,483)	\$ (131,350)
	=====	=====

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Note 9 INCOME TAXES (CONTINUED)

A reconciliation between the statutory federal income tax rate (34%) and the effective rate of income tax expense for the two years ended September 30 is as follows:

	2004	2003
Statutory federal income tax rate	34%	34%
Statutory state income tax rate, net of federal benefit	9%	9%
Effective rate	43%	43%

The provision for income taxes consists of the following components:

	2004	2003
Current tax expense, state	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Deferred tax expense	168,163	-0-
Total income tax provision	\$ 168,163	\$ -0-

We have available federal net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$1,339,000 (net operating losses expire beginning June 30, 2011 through the year ending June 30, 2023).

Note 10 DRILLING COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We have a proposed drilling budget for the period October through December 2004. The budget includes drilling one well in the Sacramento gas province of northern California and the completion of the Verona Pipeline. Our share of the estimated costs to complete this program is set forth in the following table:

Area	Wells	Drilling Costs	Completion & Equipping Costs
West Grimes Field Colusa County, CA	1	\$105,000	\$71,000
Verona Pipeline	-		120,000

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Total Expenditure	1	\$105,000	\$191,000
	=====	=====	=====

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Note 11 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Meckfessel #1-24, located in the Buckeye Gas Field, Colusa County, California, was drilled to a depth of 8,624 feet, and encountered 40 feet of gas pay in the Forbes formation. The upper portion of this zone was perforated and tested at a stabilized rate of 2,181 MCFPD on a 1/4 inch choke. This was the fourth consecutive successful well drilled on a recently acquired farmout package consisting of six quality drilling prospects which are leased and defined by 3-D seismic data and well control. Aspen has a 28.75% operated working interest in these wells.

The Swanson #22-1, located in the Rice Creek Gas Field, Tehama County, California, was drilled to a depth of 5,485 feet and encountered gas pay in the Forbes Formation. This zone was perforated and tested at a stabilized rate of 370 MCFPD of gas with a flowing tubing pressure of 1,165 psig and a flowing casing pressure of 1,165 psig. The shut in tubing pressure was 1,860 psig. Gas sales commenced on October 22, 2004. Aspen has a 34.48% operated working interest in this well. Aspen has drilled 5 producing gas wells out of 6 attempts in this field.

The Morris #12-2, located in the West Grimes Field, Colusa County, California, was drilled to a depth of 8,400 feet and encountered approximately 73 feet of net gas pay (100 feet gross) in the Forbes Formation. This zone was perforated and tested at a stabilized rate of 4,845 MCFPD of gas with a flowing tubing pressure of 3,350 psig and a flowing casing pressure of 3,400 psig. The shut in tubing pressure was 3,475 psig. This well was put on line in October 2004 at a flow rate of 3,000 MCFPD with a flowing tubing pressure of 3,400 psig. The first 3 wells drilled in this field were successful and are currently producing. The fourth well in this project, the WGU #15-9, commenced drilling on October 23, 2004. These wells were drilled based on a recently acquired 10.5 square mile 3-D seismic program located over Aspen's 5,000 plus leased acres in this field. Approximately 10 additional drilling prospects have been identified. The wells in this field produce from multiple Forbes intervals ranging in depth from 6,000 feet to 8,500 feet and have produced over 80 BCF of gas to date. Numerous wells in this immediate area have produced at very prolific flow rates (4,000 MCFPD), have yielded per well reserves (3 to 4 BCF per well), and have long productive well lives. Several of the 10 producing wells that Aspen acquired in this field last year have been producing for 40 years.

The Griffin #1-1, located in the Winters Gas Field, Yolo County, California, was drilled to a depth of 5,000 feet, and encountered 15 net feet of extremely permeable and porous gas pay in the McCune Sand. This zone was perforated and tested at a stabilized rate of 1,385 MCFPD on a 12/64 inch choke. There was very little pressure drawdown during the flow test. The shut in pressure is approximately 2,000 psig.

During the last 4 years, Aspen participated in the drilling of 23 operated wells, 20 of which were completed as gas wells and 3 dry holes which were plugged and abandoned, a success rate of 87%. Aspen currently operates 48 gas wells and has non-operated interests in 15 additional wells in the

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Sacramento Valley of northern California. Aspen has entered into fixed contracts for a portion of its gas, at prices as high as \$8.75 per MMBtu for the five month period from November 2004 through March 2005.

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

This segment should be read in conjunction with the management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended June 30, 2004, which has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The management discussion and analysis and other portions of this report contain forward-looking statements (as such term is defined in Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). These statements reflect our current expectations regarding our possible future results of operations, performance, and achievements. These forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Wherever possible, we have tried to identify these forward-looking statements by using words such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "plan," "intend," and similar expressions. These statements reflect our current beliefs and are based on information currently available to us. Accordingly, these statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties, and contingencies, which could cause our actual results, performance, or achievements to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, such statements. These risks, uncertainties and contingencies include, without limitation, the factors set forth in our Form 10-KSB under "Item 6. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions or Plan of Operation - Factors that may affect future operating results." We have no obligation to update or revise any such forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this Form 10-QSB.

Overview

Aspen Exploration Corporation was organized in 1980 for the purpose of acquiring, exploring and developing oil and gas and other mineral properties. Since 1996, we have focused our efforts on the exploration, development and operation of natural gas properties in the Sacramento Valley of northern California. We are currently the operator of 48 gas wells and have a non-operated interest in 15 additional gas wells.

We currently have offices in Bakersfield, California and Denver, Colorado and have 2 full time employees as well as the Chairman of the Board who allocates a portion of his time to the Company. We also make extensive use of consultants for the conduct of our business, ranging from financial, engineering, land, legal, and geological and geophysical specialists.

We will typically review 20 to 25 prospects for every well we participate in, using 3-D seismic and well control geology to evaluate each prospect. Our goal is to identify low to moderate risk wells with good gas reserve potential.

Where possible, we attempt to be the operator of each property we invest in. Our knowledge of drilling and operating wells in the Sacramento Valley allows us to maximize the potential return of each property. Administrative charges to the properties help cover approximately 33% of our selling, general and administrative expenses.

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Outlook and Trends

We expect our natural gas production to increase substantially during fiscal 2005 due to recent drilling successes. Total production for the year will

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depend on the number of wells successfully completed, the date they are put on line, their initial rate of production, and their production decline rates. We also anticipate that the average price for our product will be in the range of \$5.00 to \$7.25 per MMBTU for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005.

Over the past five years we have been able to replace our produced reserves and increase our yearly natural gas production. We have also benefited from a general increase in natural gas prices over the past two years, from a low of \$2.78 per MMBTU average during the first quarter of fiscal 2003 to \$5.31 per MMBTU for the quarter ended September 30, 2004.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Risk

Our ability to replace reserves, dissipated through production or recalculation, will depend largely on how successful our drilling and acquisition efforts will be in the future. While we cannot predict the future, our historic success ratio over the past four years has been 87%. With the use of 3-D seismic and well control data, interpreted by our geological and geophysical consultants, we feel we can manage our dry hole risk as well as anyone in the industry.

Commodity prices are impacted by many factors that are outside of our control. Historically, commodity prices have been volatile and we expect them to remain volatile. Commodity prices are affected by changes in market demands, overall economic activity, weather, pipeline capacity constraints, inventory storage levels, basis differentials and other factors. As a result, we cannot accurately predict future natural gas and NGL (natural gas liquids) prices, and therefore, we cannot determine what effect increases or decreases in production volumes will have on future revenues.

On regulatory and operational matters, we actively manage our exploration and production activities. We value sound stewardship and strong relationships with all stakeholders in conducting our business. We attempt to stay abreast of emerging issues to effectively anticipate and manage potential impacts to our operations.

To manage commercial risk, we may use financial tools to hedge the price we will receive for our product. The primary purpose of hedging is to provide adequate return on our investments, grow our reserves while leaving as much commodity price upside as possible. During the period November 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, we are contractually obligated to deliver 4,000 MMBTU per day to two of our natural gas purchasers as follows:

2,000 MMBTU/Day @ \$7.97 per MMBTU
1,000 MMBTU/Day @ \$6.90 per MMBTU
500 MMBTU/Day @ \$7.52 per MMBTU
500 MMBTU/Day @ \$8.75 per MMBTU

The average price received during the first quarter of fiscal 2005 for our

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natural gas was approximately \$5.31 per MMBTU.

During December 2003, we borrowed \$225,000 from a bank for a modest acquisition. We currently pay 2% over the bank's prime rate for that facility. At September 30, 2004, the effective interest rate was 6.75% and the outstanding loan balance was \$112,500. In June 2004, we borrowed \$300,000 from an Oklahoma corporation to facilitate the drilling and completion of several wells in northern California. This debt was converted to our common stock on July 15, 2004.

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Liquidity and Capital Resources

We have historically financed our operations with internally generated funds and limited borrowings from banks and third parties, and farmout arrangements, which permit third parties (including some related parties) to participate in our drilling prospects. Our principal uses of cash are for operating expenses, the acquisition, drilling and production of prospects, the acquisition of producing properties, working capital, servicing debt and the payment of income taxes.

Cash of \$344,477 and \$329,733 was provided by our operations for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003. Even though the 2003 period generated a modest net income of \$50,197, we were able to generate a comparable positive cash flow from operations during the first three months of fiscal 2003 as compared to the 2004 period (when we generated net income of \$221,618) because of:

Lower depreciation, depletion and amortization expenses (\$127,600 in 2003 as compared to \$156,000 in 2004); and

A \$213,907 increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses in 2003 (which conserved cash during the 2003 period) compared to an \$143,242 reduction in accounts payable and accrued expenses in 2004 (which required cash payments).

Investing activities used cash to increase capitalized oil and gas costs of \$528,149 and \$139,900 in the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003. Cash in the current three month period ended September 30, 2004 was used for lease acquisition, seismic work, intangible drilling and well workovers (\$353,279), and the purchase of oil and gas well equipment (\$174,870). These expenditures are net of the sale of interests in wells to be drilled charged to third party investors.

We have a proposed drilling, completion and construction budget for the period October through December 2004. The budget includes drilling one well in the Sacramento gas province of northern California and the completion of the Verona Pipeline. Our share of the estimated costs to complete this program over the next three months is set forth in the following table:

Area	Wells	Drilling Costs	Completing Equipping
West Grimes Field	1	\$105,000	

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Colusa County, CA

Verona Pipeline

-

Total Expenditure

1

\$105,000

Our working capital (current assets less current liabilities) at September 30, 2004, was \$177,765, which reflects an approximate \$279,000 increase from our working capital deficit at June 30, 2004. Our working capital situation improved during the first quarter of our 2005 fiscal year because of our positive cash

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flow from operations and our ability to pay down our current liabilities, both made possible by our increase in net revenues and in net income recognized during the quarter. We anticipate that our working capital and anticipated cash flow from operations and future successful drilling will be sufficient to pay our current liabilities as long as our gas production continues to provide us with sufficient cash flow. As discussed below, this is dependent, in part, on maintaining or increasing our level of production and the national and world market maintaining its current prices for our gas production.

Our capital requirements can fluctuate over a twelve month period because our drilling program is usually carried out in California's dry season, from late April until November, after which wet weather either precludes further activity or makes it cost prohibitive.

We believe that internally generated funds will be sufficient to finance our drilling and operating expenses for the next twelve months. In June 2004, we borrowed \$300,000 from an Oklahoma corporation to facilitate the drilling and completion of several wells in northern California. This debt and accrued interest were converted into 300,500 shares of our common stock at \$1.00 per share on July 15, 2004. If our drilling efforts are successful, the anticipated increased cash flow from the new gas discoveries, in addition to our existing cash flow, should be sufficient to fund our share of planned future completion and pipeline costs.

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Results of Operations

September 30, 2004 Compared to September 30, 2003

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, our operations continued to be focused on the production of oil and gas, and the investigation for possible acquisition of producing oil and gas properties in California. During the 2004 period our revenues increased by more than \$395,000 as compared to the comparable period of our 2003 fiscal year because of:

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Increased production (130,000 MMBTU sold as compared to 72,600 MMBTU sold during the first three months of our 2003 fiscal year);

Increased price received for our production (an average of \$5.31 per MMBTU during the first three months of our 2005 fiscal year as compared to \$4.75 per MMBTU received during that period in 2004); and

Increased management fees received (\$82,100 during fiscal 2005 as compared to \$45,900 during fiscal 2004) because we were operators of more wells during 2005 (48 wells compared to 33 wells in 2004).

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The following table sets forth certain items from our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations as expressed as a percentage of total revenues, shown by quarter for the three months of fiscal 2004, 2003 and 2002:

	For the Three Months Ended		
	9/30/2004	9/30/2003	9/30/2002
Total revenues	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Oil & gas production costs	8.2	10.1	14.3
Income from operations	91.8	89.9	85.7
Costs and expenses			
Depreciation and depletion	19.9	32.9	32.2
Selling, general and administrative	21.8	44.1	70.1
Interest expense	.3	.0	.0
Total costs and expenses	42.0	77.0	102.3
Income before income taxes	49.8	12.9	(16.6)
Provision for income taxes	21.4	.0	.0
Net income (loss)	28.4	12.9	(16.6)

To facilitate discussion of our operating results for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, we have included the following selected data from our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations:

Comparison of the Fiscal Three Months Ended September 30,			Increase (Decrease)
2004	2003	Amount	

Revenues:

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Oil and gas sales	\$ 697,553	\$ 341,926	\$ 355,627
Management fees	82,057	45,915	36,142
Interest and other	4,689	496	4,193
	-----	-----	-----
Total revenues	784,299	388,337	395,962
	-----	-----	-----
Cost and expenses:			
Oil and gas production	64,361	39,102	25,259
Depreciation and depletion	156,000	127,600	28,400
Selling, general and administrative	171,104	171,438	(334)
Interest expense	3,053	-0-	3,053
	-----	-----	-----
Total costs and expenses	394,518	338,140	56,378
	-----	-----	-----
Income before taxes	389,781	50,197	
Provision for income taxes	168,163	-0-	
	-----	-----	
Net income	\$ 221,618	\$ 50,197	
	=====	=====	

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Central to the issue of success of the three months operations ended September 30, 2004 is the discussion of changes in oil and gas sales, volumes of natural gas sold and the price received for those sales. We present them here in tabular form:

	Oil & Gas Sales	MMBTU Sold	(1) Price/MMBTU
	-----	-----	-----
2005			

1st Quarter	\$ 697,553	130,000	\$ 5.31
	-----	-----	-----
2004			

1st Quarter	341,926	72,600	4.75
2nd Quarter	362,942	79,900	4.64
3rd Quarter	401,941	71,900	5.28
	-----	-----	-----
Year to date	1,106,809	224,400	4.88
	-----	-----	-----
2003			

1st Quarter	198,431	65,800	2.78
2nd Quarter	241,700	63,700	3.76
3rd Quarter	314,222	57,900	5.47
	-----	-----	-----
Year to date	754,353	187,400	3.23
	-----	-----	-----
First Quarter change	-----		

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2005

Amount	\$355,627	57,400	\$.56
Percentage	104%	79%		12%

2004

Amount	\$143,495	6,800	\$	1.97
Percentage	72%	10%		71%

(1) Price per MMBTU may not agree with oil and gas sales because of the inclusion of oil and NGL sales.

Oil and gas revenue, volumes sold and price received for our product have shown a steady improvement over the first three months of fiscal 2005 and the twelve months of fiscal 2004. As the table above notes, revenue has increased approximately 104% when comparing the two three month periods ended September 30, 2004 and 2003. Volumes sold increased approximately 79%, while the price received for our product increased 12%.

Total revenue increased \$396,000, or 104% when comparing the two periods, while operating and production costs increased \$25,300, or 65%.

A significant ratio presented is the percentage of management fees charged to operated wells versus our general and administrative costs. This coverage of general and administrative costs improved from approximately 27% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 to approximately 48% at September 30, 2004.

When comparing general and administrative expense for 2005 and 2004, costs declined slightly by \$334, or 0.2%.

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Results of operations and net income are presented in the following table:

Quarterly Financial Information (unaudited)

	Total Revenues	(1) Operating Income	(2) Net Income (loss)	Net Income (loss) Per Share	
				Basic	Diluted
2005	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1st Quarter	\$ 784,299	\$ 715,249	\$ 389,781	\$.063	\$.061
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2004	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1st Quarter	388,337	348,739	50,197	.010	.010
2nd Quarter	433,317	365,761	93,022	.010	.010
3rd Quarter	440,127	354,642	76,762	.010	.010
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,261,781	1,069,142	219,981	0.04	0.04
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2003	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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1st Quarter	264,896	223,246	(41,650)	(.01)	(.01)
2nd Quarter	279,080	237,155	(15,660)	--	--
3rd Quarter	337,476	271,845	28,748	--	--
Total	\$ 881,452	\$ 732,246	\$ (28,562)	--	--

(1) Operating income is oil and gas sales plus management fees less direct operating costs. (2) Before provision for deferred income taxes.

As can be seen in the table, revenues and operating income have improved in every quarter when comparing the three month periods ended September 30, 2004 and 2003. We believe this is due to the steady increase in production volumes sold in each subsequent quarter and the fact that we have enjoyed an appreciating price received for our product. Operating income has increased because production costs have increased at a lesser rate than production and prices.

Contractual Obligations:

We had five contractual obligations as of September 30, 2004. The following table lists our significant liabilities at September 30, 2004:

	Payments Due By Period			
	Less than 1 year	2-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
Contractual Obligations				
Employment Obligations	\$210,400	\$208,300	\$127,300	\$ -0-
Bank Loans	112,500	-0-	-0-	-0-
Operating Leases	12,960	3,850	-0-	-0-
Total contractual cash obligations	\$335,860	\$212,150	\$127,300	\$ -0-

We maintain office space in Denver, Colorado, our principal office, and Bakersfield, California. The Denver office consists of approximately 1,108 square feet with an additional 750 square feet of basement storage. We entered into a one-year lease agreement on the Denver office through December 31, 2004

at a lease rate of \$1,261 per month. The Bakersfield, California office has 546 square feet and a monthly rental fee of \$730 to \$770 over the term of the lease. The three year lease expires February 8, 2006. Rent expense for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003 was \$6,033 and \$5,973, respectively.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates:

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We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our most significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Reserve Estimates:

Our estimates of oil and natural gas reserves, by necessity, are projections based on geologic and engineering data, and there are uncertainties inherent in the interpretation of such data as well as the projection of future rates of production and the timing of development expenditures. Reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that are difficult to measure. The accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data, engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Estimates of economically recoverable oil and natural gas reserves and future net cash flows necessarily depend upon a number of variable factors and assumptions, such as historical production from the area compared with production from other producing areas, the assumed effects of regulations by governmental agencies and assumptions governing future oil and natural gas prices, future operating costs, severance and excise taxes, development costs and workover and remedial costs, all of which may in fact vary considerably from actual results. For these reasons, estimates of the economically recoverable quantities of oil and natural gas attributable to any particular group of properties, classifications of such reserves based on risk of recovery, and estimates of the future net cash flows expected therefrom may vary substantially. Any significant variance in the assumptions could materially affect the estimated quantity and value of the reserves, which could affect the carrying value of our oil and gas properties and/or the rate of depletion of the oil and gas properties. Actual production, revenues and expenditures with respect to our reserves will likely vary from estimates, and such variances may be material.

Many factors will affect actual future net cash flows, including:

- The amount and timing of actual production;
- Supply and demand for natural gas;
- Curtailments or increases in consumption by natural gas purchasers; and
- Changes in governmental regulations or taxation.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable balances are evaluated on a continual basis and allowances are provided for potentially uncollectable accounts based on management's estimate of the collectability of customer accounts. If the financial condition of a customer were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of its ability to make payments, an additional allowance may be required. Allowance adjustments are charged to operations in the period in which the facts that give rise to the adjustments become known.

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Property, Equipment, Depreciation and Depletion:

We follow the full-cost method of accounting for oil and gas properties. Under this method, all productive and nonproductive costs incurred in connection with

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the exploration for and development of oil and gas reserves are capitalized. Such capitalized costs include lease acquisition, geological and geophysical work, delay rentals, drilling, completing and equipping oil and gas wells, including salaries, benefits and other internal salary related costs directly attributable to these activities. Costs associated with production and general corporate activities are expensed in the period incurred. Interest costs related to unproved properties and properties under development are also capitalized to oil and gas properties. If the net investment in oil and gas properties exceeds an amount equal to the sum of (1) the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows from proved reserves, and (2) the lower of cost or fair market value of properties in process of development and unexplored acreage, the excess is charged to expense as additional depletion. Normal dispositions of oil and gas properties are accounted for as adjustments of capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recognized.

We apply SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." Under SFAS No. 144, long-lived assets and certain intangibles are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or their estimated recoverable amounts. Long-lived assets subject to the requirements of SFAS No. 144 are evaluated for possible impairment through review of undiscounted expected future cash flows. If the sum of undiscounted expected future cash flows is less than the carrying amount of the asset or if changes in facts and circumstances indicate, an impairment loss is recognized.

Asset retirement obligations:

We recognize the future cost to plug and abandon gas wells over the estimated useful life of the wells in accordance with the provision of SFAS No. 143. SFAS No. 143 requires that we record a liability for the present value of the asset retirement obligation with a corresponding increase to the carrying value of the related long-lived asset. We amortize the amount added to the oil and gas properties and recognize accretion expense in connection with the discounted liability over the remaining lives of the respective gas wells. Our liability estimate is based on our historical experience in plugging and abandoning gas wells, estimated well lives based on engineering studies, external estimates as to the cost to plug and abandon wells in the future and federal and state regulatory requirements. The liability is discounted using a credit-adjusted risk-free rate of 6%. Revisions to the liability could occur due to changes in well lives, or if federal and state regulators enact new requirements on the plugging and abandonment of gas wells.

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Item 3. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As required by Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as of the filing date of this report, we carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures. This evaluation was carried out under the supervision and with the participation of our principal executive officer (who is also our principal financial officer), who concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective. There have been no significant changes in our internal controls or in other factors, which could significantly affect internal controls subsequent to the date we carried out our evaluation.

Disclosure controls and procedures are controls and other procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act is recorded, processed,

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summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

PART II

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

There are no material pending legal or regulatory proceedings against Aspen Exploration Corporation, and it is not aware of any that are known to be contemplated.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

During 2004, we issued a convertible debenture and detachable warrants to one accredited investor in exchange for the investor's loan to us of \$300,000. On July 15, 2004, the debt was converted to 300,500 shares of common stock as consideration for payment of principal and interest.

The convertible debenture included a potential 600,000 common stock warrants exercisable as follows:

If the holder exercises the first warrant before June 30, 2005, we will receive an additional \$330,000 (\$1.10 per share) and issue 300,000 shares of stock; if the holder exercises the warrant before June 30, 2006 but after June 30, 2005, we receive an additional \$360,000 (\$1.20 per share) instead of \$330,000.

If the holder exercises the warrant before March 31, 2005, the holder will receive an additional warrant exercisable to purchase another 300,000 shares at \$1.25 per share.

In any case, the warrant (and any additional warrant) will expire unless exercised by June 30, 2006.

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On July 15, 2004 the debenture was automatically converted into shares of our restricted common stock after our shares traded at prices greater than \$1.00 per share for ten trading days. We issued 300,500 shares of our restricted common stock in satisfaction of the principal and interest due the investor.

The following sets forth the information required by Item 701 in connection with that transaction:

(a) The conversion was completed effective July 15, 2004.

(b) There was no placement agent or underwriter for the transaction or the original transaction that took place in fiscal year 2004.

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(c) The shares were not sold for cash. The shares of common stock were issued in exchange for (and in conversion of) outstanding convertible debt.

(d) We relied on the exemption from registration provided by Sections 3(a)(9) under the Securities Act of 1933 for the conversion transaction, and upon the exemptions from registration provided by Sections 4(2), 4(6), and Regulation D for the issuance of the initial debt. In addition, we did not engage in any public advertising or general solicitation in connection with this transaction; and we provided the accredited investor with disclosure of all aspects of our business, including providing the accredited investor with our reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, our press releases, access to our auditors, and other financial, business, and corporate information. Based on our investigation, we believe that the accredited investor obtained all information regarding Aspen Exploration it requested, received answers to all questions it posed, and otherwise understood the risks of accepting our securities for investment purposes.

(e) The common stock issued in this transaction are not convertible or exchangeable. Warrants were issued in this transaction as described above. There are no registration rights associated with the issuance of the common stock or the warrants.

(f) We received no cash proceeds from the issuance of the shares of common stock. The original loan made by the accredited investor was used for working capital and drilling operations.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

None.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

No matter was submitted during the first quarter of the fiscal year covered by this report to a vote of security holders, through the solicitation of proxies or otherwise.

Item 5. Other Information.

None.

Item 6. Exhibits.

- 31. Rule 13a-14(a) Certification
- 32. Section 1350 Certification

In accordance with the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we have duly caused this report to be signed on our behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ASPEN EXPLORATION CORPORATION

/s/ Robert A. Cohan

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November 10, 2004

By: Robert A. Cohan,
Chief Executive Officer,
Principal Financial Officer