

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP
Form 10-K
March 23, 2011

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

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010

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 001-16653

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

73-1238709

State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

4444 E. 66th Street, Lower Annex, Tulsa, OK

74316-4207

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (918) 488-8068

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which
Registered

NONE

N/A

Securities registered pursuant to 12(g) of the Act:

Common Stock, \$0.001 par value

(Title of class)

(Title of class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as
defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports
pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes No

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

-1-

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (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 the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (Section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (Section 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, indefinite proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates, based upon the average bid and asked prices of the registrant's Common Stock on the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was \$9,606,836.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common Stock, as of March 30, 2011, was 83,129,235.

-2-

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

FORM 10-K

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM NUMBER AND CAPTION	PAGE NUMBER
PART I	
Item 1. Business	4-7
Item 2. Properties	7-8
Item 3. Legal Proceedings	8
PART II	
Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	8-9
Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	9-17
Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data F-1 through F-13	
Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	17
Item 9A. Controls and Procedures	17-18
Item 9B. Other Information	18
PART III	
Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	18-19
Item 11. Executive Compensation	20
Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	20-22
Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	22
Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services	22-23
PART IV	
Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	23-25
Signatures	25

-3-

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Background

Empire Petroleum Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), was incorporated in the State of Utah in August 1983 under the name Chambers Energy Corporation and domesticated in Delaware in March 1985 under the name Americomm Corporation. The Company's name was changed to Americomm Resources Corporation in July 1995. On May 29, 2001, Americomm Resources Corporation acquired Empire Petroleum Corporation, which became a wholly owned subsidiary of Americomm Resources Corporation. On August 15, 2001, Americomm Resources Corporation and Empire Petroleum Corporation merged and the Company's name was changed to Empire Petroleum Corporation. The Company operates from leased office space at 4444 E. 66th Street, Lower Annex, Tulsa, OK 74136-42017, and its telephone number is (918) 488-8068.

During the past three fiscal years, the Company has focused on developing the Gabbs Valley and South Okie Prospects as further described below.

Gabbs Valley Prospect

The Company owns a working interest in oil and gas leases in Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada (the "Gabbs Valley Prospect"). Initially, the Company's working interest was 10% and the Gabbs Valley Prospect consisted of 44,604 acres.

As of December 31, 2005, there had been no wells drilled on the Gabbs Valley Prospect. However, in November 2005, the Company received the results of a 19-mile 2-D swath seismograph survey conducted on the prospect and, based on the results of the survey, the Company and its partners determined that a test well should be drilled on the prospect. The Company also elected to increase its interest in the prospect by taking a farm-in from Cortez Exploration LLC (formerly O. F. Duffield). Empire agreed to pay Cortez \$675,000 in lease costs plus 45% of the costs associated with the drilling of a test well to earn an additional 30% working interest which made its total working interest 40%. The lease block of 44,604 acres was increased to 75,521 acres by the acquisition of an additional 30,917 acres from the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management) in June 2006. The block was reduced to 75,201 acres due to the expiration of one 320 acre lease during 2007. In 2008 and 2009, the Company acquired leases on 17,624 additional acres through federal lease sales.

A 28,783 acre federal drilling unit on the Gabbs Valley Prospect, the Cobble Cuesta Unit, was approved by the Bureau of Land Management and expanded to 44,964 acres on April 28, 2006. In 2006, a test well, the Empire Cobble Cuesta 1-12-12N-34E, Nye County, Nevada was drilled to a depth of 5,195 feet. The well encountered a volcanic formation at 1,760 feet and scattered oil shows from 2,000 feet to total depth.

After reaching 5,195 feet, the Company and its partners elected to suspend operations on the well, release the drilling rig, and associated equipment and personnel to evaluate the drilling and logging data. After the study was completed, Empire and its partners decided to conduct a thorough testing program on the well. The Company re-entered the well on April 17, 2007 and

-4-

conducted a series of drill stem tests and recovered only drilling mud. It was then determined after considerable study that the formation is likely very sensitive to mud and water used in drilling which may have caused clays in the formation to swell preventing any oil that might be present to flow into the wellbore. During 2007, the Company increased its

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

interest in the prospect leases to 57% when one of the joint participants elected to surrender its 30% share of the prospect. The Company and its joint owners assumed liabilities of approximately \$68,000 to acquire this interest.

Other than a 5,000 barrel-per-day refinery located approximately 200 miles from the Gabbs Valley Prospect, there are no pipelines or service networks located near the prospect. A small refinery located about 115 miles from the prospect has now shut down.

In 2008, the Company and its partners engaged W. L. Gore and Associates to carryout an Amplified Geochemical Imaging Survey which covered approximately sixteen square miles. The survey was concentrated along the apex of the large Cobble Cuesta structure which included the areas around the Empire Cobble Cuesta 1-12 exploratory test and the other test well drilled in the immediate area. Both of these tests encountered oil shows and the geochemical survey indicated potential hydrocarbons beyond the two well bores.

During 2010, the Company had a new Federal Drilling Unit named the "Paradise Unit" formed and approved by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"). The Paradise Unit consisted of 40,073.39 acres. This unit was formed according to the Company's plans to drill a second test well on the prospect to be known as the Empire Paradise Unit 2-12. This test well was to be drilled pursuant to the terms of the Paradise Unit to 6,000 feet, or 500 feet into the Triassic formation or into a zone that establishes commercial production at a lesser depth. Drilling operations were commenced July 19, 2010 and ceased on November 5, 2010. During the drilling phase the Company had several zones where oil shows were observed. During its test from 3,698' to 3,786' a small amount of oil was recovered. Drilling continued to 4,248', encountering additional oil shows and the decision was made to set 7" production casing to 4,225'. A further attempt to deepen the hole failed when a heavy water flow was encountered at 4,248'. One further test through the pipe at 4,140' to 4,167' tested water. It was then decided to test the area between 3,700' to 3,782'. Oil was recovered from this interval and was swabbed at the rate of three (3) to five (5) barrels of oil per day. The recovered oil contained a significant amount of paraffin, which could have restricted the oil production. The Company then made the decision to plug the well, considering it to be non-commercial. One of the parties which had farmed out their interest to Empire for drilling the 2-12 test well asked for an assignment of the lease on which the well was drilled. Empire agreed to this subject to such party's assumption of the plugging liabilities of both the 1-12 and 2-12 wells, plus the reclaiming and seeding of the two well sites and replacing Empire's \$25,000 drilling bond. The acquiring party is planning to do additional testing of the well and is expected to commence the operations in 2011. The Company is offering the well data it has obtained to encourage the further testing. Although the Company is not optimistic that further testing will improve this well, it is encouraged in that it has proven there is producible oil in the very large Cobble Cuesta Structure which is located 150 miles from the nearest oil production. Because of this the Company is conducting additional geological studies with the expectation it will likely participate in the drilling of another test on the prospect. The Company's leasehold has been reduced from 92,825 acres to 48,541 acres due to lease expirations. The Company's ownership is now 50%.

-5-

South Okie Prospect

On August 4, 2009, the Company purchased, for \$25,000 and payment of lease rentals of \$4,680, a nine month option to purchase 2,630 net acres of oil and gas leases known as the South Okie Prospect in Natrona County, Wyoming.

The option allowed the Company to purchase the leasehold interests for

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

\$35,000. The Tensleep Sand at depths from 3,300 feet to 4,500 feet is the primary target. The Tensleep is an excellent oil reservoir with the potential of 700 barrels of oil per acre foot recovery. As of December 31, 2009, the Company acquired 11 miles of seismic data and studies of this data were completed in early January 2010. An additional geological study was also completed early January 2010. Based on these studies, the Company exercised its option in 2010. Further engineering studies have estimated the reserve potential of this prospect at between 1,000,000 to 4,000,000 barrels of oil. The Company plans to drill or cause to be drilled a test well in 2011.

Competition

The oil and gas business is extremely competitive. The Company must compete with many long-established companies with greater financial resources and technical capabilities. The Company is not a significant participant in the oil and gas industry.

Markets; Price Volatility

The market price of oil and gas is volatile, subject to speculative movement and depends upon numerous factors beyond the control of the Company, including expectations regarding inflation, global and regional demand, political and economic conditions and production costs. Future profitability, if any, will depend substantially upon the prevailing prices for oil and gas. If the market price for oil and gas is significantly depressed in the future, it could have a material adverse effect on the Company's ability to raise additional capital necessary to finance operations and to explore the Gabbs Valley and South Okie Prospects. Lower oil and gas prices may also reduce the amount of oil and gas, if any, that can be produced economically from the Company's properties. While the prices of oil and gas remain volatile, the oil and gas industry has recently experienced historically high prices for oil and gas. The Company anticipates that the prices of oil and gas will fluctuate somewhat in the near future.

Regulation

The oil and gas industry is subject to extensive federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the production, transportation and sale of hydrocarbons as well as the taxation of income resulting therefrom.

Legislation affecting the oil and gas industry is constantly changing. Numerous federal and state departments and agencies have issued rules and regulations applicable to the oil and gas industry. In general, these rules and regulations regulate, among other things, the extent to which acreage may be acquired or relinquished; spacing of wells; measures required for preventing waste of oil and gas resources; and, in some cases, rates of production. The heavy and increasing regulatory burdens on the oil and gas industry increase the Company's cost of doing business and, consequently, affect profitability.

A substantial portion of the leases, which constitute the South Okie

-6-

and Gabbs Valley Prospects are granted by the federal government and administered by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") and the Minerals Management Service ("MMS") of the U.S. Department of the Interior, both of which are federal agencies. Such leases are issued through competitive bidding, contain relatively standardized terms and require compliance with detailed BLM and MMS regulations and orders (which are subject to change by the BLM and the MMS). Leases are also accompanied by stipulations imposing restrictions on surface use and operations. Operations to be conducted by the Company on federal oil and gas leases must comply with numerous regulatory

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

restrictions, including various nondiscrimination statutes. Federal leases also generally require a complete archaeology and environmental impact assessment prior to the authorization of an exploration or development plan.

The Company's oil and gas properties and operations are also subject to numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to environmental protection. These laws govern, among other things, the amounts and types of substances and materials that may be released into the environment, the issuance of permits in connection with exploration, drilling and production activities, the reclamation and abandonment of wells and facility sites and the remediation of contaminated sites. These laws and regulations may impose substantial liabilities if the Company fails to comply or if any contamination results from the Company's operations.

Employees

As of December 31, 2010, the Company had one employee, a full-time secretary. Mr. Albert E. Whitehead, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, devotes a considerable amount of time to the affairs of the Company and receives no compensation. For financial statement purposes, Mr. Whitehead's services have been recorded as contributed capital and expense in the amount of \$50,000 for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES.

Gabbs Valley Prospect

As of December 31, 2010, the Gabbs Valley Prospect consisted of approximately 48,541 acres of federal leases located in Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada, of which the Company owns a 50% working interest.

As of December 31, 2010, two wells, the Empire Cobble Cuesta 1-12 and the Empire Paradise 2-12, had been drilled and tested on this prospect, but the wells were not completed. For more information regarding the Gabbs Valley Prospect, see "Gabbs Valley Prospect" under Item 1. Business.

COMPANY UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE (LEASES) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010

Prospect	Undeveloped Acreage		Productive Acreage		Completed Oil Wells		
	Gross Acres	Net Acres	Gross Acres	Net Acres	2008	2009	2010
Gabbs Valley South Okie	48,541	24,271	-	-	-0-	-0-	-0-
	3,120	2,630	-	-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

-7-

As of December 31, 2010, neither the Company nor its properties were subject to any legal proceedings.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES.

Market Information

The Company's Common Stock is traded on the National Association of

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Securities Dealers Automatic Quotation (NASDAQ) over-the-counter bulletin board system under the symbol "EMPR".

The following table sets forth the high and low bid information for the Company's common stock during the time periods indicated, as reported by NASDAQ.

Year ending December 31, 2009:

Quarter	High	Low
03/31/09	.075	.01
06/30/09	.095	.03
09/30/09	.05	.02
12/31/09	.10	.03

Year ending December 31, 2010:

Quarter	High	Low
03/31/10	.25	.065
06/30/10	.19	.05
09/30/10	.245	.01
12/31/10	.21	.00

Quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail mark-up, markdown or commission and may not represent actual transactions.

Number of Holders of Common Stock

At December 31, 2010, there were approximately 202 stockholders of record of the Company's Common Stock.

Dividends

The Company has never paid cash dividends on its Common Stock. The Company intends to retain future earnings for use in its business and, therefore, does not anticipate paying cash dividends on its Common Stock in the foreseeable future.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

On or about February 24, 2011, the Company settled an outstanding invoice of a third party service provider in the net amount of \$54,900 by paying \$25,000 in cash and issuing 60,000 shares of Common Stock.

The offer and sale related to the shares described above were not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in reliance upon the exemption from the registration requirements of that act provided by Section 4(2) thereof and Regulation D promulgated by the SEC thereunder. The third party

-8-

service provider is a sophisticated investor with the experience and expertise necessary to evaluate the merits and risks of an investment in the Company's stock and the financial means to bear the risks of such an investment.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

All statements, other than statements of historical fact, contained in this report are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements generally are accompanied by words such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "may," "might," "potential," "project" or similar statements.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to be correct. Factors that could cause results to differ materially from the results discussed in such forward-looking statements include:

- * the need for additional capital,
- * the costs expected to be incurred in exploration and development,
- * unforeseen engineering, mechanical or technological difficulties in drilling wells,
- * uncertainty of exploration results,
- * operating hazards,
- * competition from other natural resource companies,
- * the fluctuations of prices for oil and gas,
- * the effects of governmental and environmental regulation, and
- * general economic conditions and other risks described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

Information on these and other risk factors are discussed under "Factors That May Affect Future Results" below. Accordingly, the actual results of operations in the future may vary widely from the forward-looking statements included herein, and all forward-looking statements in this Form 10-K are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements in this paragraph.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect management's analysis, judgment, belief and expectations only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date hereof.

Factors That May Affect Future Results

The Company does not have any significant on-going income producing oil and gas properties and has limited financial resources.

-9-

For the past three fiscal years, the Company has financed its operations primarily from sales of its equity securities. In prior years advances were made to the Company by Albert E. Whitehead, the Company's Chief Executive Officer. There is no assurance that the Company will be able to continue to finance its operations through the sale of its equity securities, or through loans or advances by third parties. In addition, Mr. Whitehead has no obligation to advance the Company any additional money, and there is no assurance that he will do so.

The Company reported losses of \$2,627,902 and \$215,909 for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The Company also had an accumulated deficit of \$13,759,121 as of December 31, 2010. The Company can provide no assurance that it will be profitable in the future and, if the Company does not become profitable, it may have to suspend its operations. As a result of the foregoing, the audit report of the Company's independent

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

registered public accounting firm relating to the Company's financial statements has been modified because of a going concern uncertainty. If the Company is able to raise the funds necessary to continue its operations, its future performance will be dependent on the successful drilling results of its inventory of unproved locations in Wyoming and Nevada. The failure of drilling activities to achieve sufficient quantities of economically attractive reserves and production would have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity, operations and financial results.

The Company could be adversely affected by fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

Even if the Company's drilling activities achieve commercial quantities of economically attractive reserves and production revenue, the Company will remain subject to prevailing prices for oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, which are dependent upon numerous factors such as weather, economic, political and regulatory developments and competition from other sources of energy. The volatile nature of the energy markets makes it particularly difficult to estimate future prices of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids. Prices of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids are subject to wide fluctuations in response to relatively minor changes in circumstances, and there can be no assurance that future prolonged decreases in such prices will not occur. All of these factors are beyond the control of the Company. Any significant decline in oil and gas prices could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity, operations and financial condition.

The Company could be adversely affected by increased costs of service providers utilized by the Company.

In accordance with customary industry practice, the Company relies on independent third party service providers to provide most of the services necessary to drill new wells, including drilling rigs and related equipment and services, horizontal drilling equipment and services, trucking services, tubulars, fracing and completion services and production equipment. The industry has experienced significant price fluctuations for these services during the last year and this trend is expected to continue into the future. These cost uncertainties could, in the future, significantly increase the Company's development costs and decrease the return possible from drilling and development activities, and possibly render the development of certain proved undeveloped reserves uneconomical.

The Company is subject to numerous drilling and operating risks.

Oil and gas drilling activities are subject to numerous risks, many of which

-10-

are beyond the Company's control. The Company's operations may be curtailed, delayed or canceled as a result of title problems, weather conditions, compliance with governmental requirements, mechanical difficulties and shortages or delays in the delivery of equipment. In addition, the Company's properties may be susceptible to hydrocarbon drainage from production by other operators on adjacent properties. Industry operating risks include the risk of fire, explosions, blow-outs, pipe failure, abnormally pressured formations and environmental hazards such as oil spills, gas leaks, ruptures or discharges of toxic gases, the occurrence of any of which could result in substantial losses to the Company due to injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or other environmental damage, clean-up responsibilities, regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations.

The Company's insurance policies may not adequately protect the Company against certain unforeseen risks.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

In accordance with customary industry practice, the Company maintains insurance against some, but not all, of the risks described herein. There can be no assurance that any insurance will be adequate to cover the Company's losses or liabilities. The Company cannot predict the continued availability of insurance, or its availability at premium levels that justify its purchase.

The Company's activities are subject to extensive governmental regulation. Oil and gas operations are subject to various federal, state and local governmental regulations that may be changed from time to time in response to economic or political conditions. From time to time, regulatory agencies have imposed price controls and limitations on production in order to conserve supplies of oil and gas. In addition, the production, handling, storage, transportation and disposal of oil and gas, by-products thereof and other substances and materials produced or used in connection with oil and gas operations are subject to regulation under federal, state and local laws and regulations primarily relating to protection of human health and the environment. To date, expenditures related to complying with these laws and for remediation of existing environmental contamination have not been significant in relation to the operations of the Company. There can be no assurance that the trend of more expansive and stricter environmental legislation and regulations will not continue.

The Company is subject to various environmental risks, and governmental regulation relating to environmental matters.

The Company is subject to a variety of federal, state and local governmental laws and regulations related to the storage, use, discharge and disposal of toxic, volatile or otherwise hazardous materials. These regulations subject the Company to increased operating costs and potential liability associated with the use and disposal of hazardous materials. Although these laws and regulations have not had a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations, there can be no assurance that the Company will not be required to make material expenditures in the future. Moreover, the Company anticipates that such laws and regulations will become increasingly stringent in the future, which could lead to material costs for environmental compliance and remediation by the Company. Any failure by the Company to obtain required permits for, control the use of, or adequately restrict the discharge of hazardous substances under present or future regulations could subject the Company to substantial liability or could cause its operations to be suspended. Such liability or suspension of operations could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

-11-

The Company is subject to intense competition.

The Company operates in a highly competitive environment and competes with major and independent oil and gas companies for the acquisition of desirable oil and gas properties, as well as for the equipment and labor required to develop and operate such properties. Many of these competitors have financial and other resources substantially greater than those of the Company.

The Company currently depends on the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

The Company is dependent on the experience, abilities and continued services of its current Chief Executive Officer and President, Albert E. Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead has played a significant role in the development and management of the Company. The loss or reduction of services of Mr. Whitehead could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

There has been a limited public trading market for the Company's Common Stock, and there can be no assurance that an active trading market will be sustained.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

There can be no assurance that the Common Stock will trade at or above any particular price in the public market, if at all. The trading price of the Common Stock could be subject to significant fluctuations in response to variations in quarterly operating results or even mild expressions of interest on a given day. Accordingly, the Common Stock could experience substantial price changes in short periods of time. Even if the Company is performing according to its plan and there is no legitimate company-specific financial basis for this volatility, it must still be expected that substantial percentage price swings will occur in the Company's Common Stock for the foreseeable future.

Certain of the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock are "restricted securities" under Rule 144 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and (except for shares purchased by "affiliates" of the Company as such term is defined in Rule 144) would be eligible for sale as the applicable holding periods expire. In the future, these shares may be sold only pursuant to a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or an applicable exemption, including pursuant to Rule 144. Under Rule 144, a person who has owned common stock for at least one year may, under certain circumstances, sell within any three-month period a number of shares of common stock that does not exceed the greater of 1% of the then outstanding shares of common stock or the average weekly trading volume during the four calendar weeks prior to such sale. A person who is not deemed to have been an affiliate of the Company at any time during the three months preceding a sale, and who has beneficially owned the restricted securities for the last two years is entitled to sell all such shares without regard to the volume limitations, current public information requirements, manner of sale provisions and notice requirements. Sale or the expectation of sales of a substantial number of shares of Common Stock in the public market by selling stockholders could adversely affect the prevailing market price of the Common Stock, possibly having a depressive effect on any trading market for the Common Stock, and may impair the Company's ability to raise capital at that time through additional sales of its equity securities.

The Company does not expect to declare or pay any dividends in the foreseeable future.

The Company has not declared or paid any dividends on its Common Stock. The Company currently intends to retain future earnings to fund the development

-12-

and growth of its business, to repay indebtedness and for general corporate purposes, and therefore, does not anticipate paying any cash dividends on its Common Stock in the foreseeable future.

The Company's Common Stock may be subject to secondary trading restrictions related to penny stocks.

Certain transactions involving the purchase or sale of Common Stock of the Company may be affected by a SEC rule for "penny stocks" that imposes additional sales practice burdens and requirements upon broker-dealers that purchase or sell such securities. For transactions covered by this penny stock rule, broker-dealers must make certain disclosures to purchasers prior to purchase or sale. Consequently, the penny stock rule may impede the ability of broker-dealers to purchase or sell the Company's securities for their customers and the ability of persons now owning or subsequently acquiring the Company's securities to resell such securities.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL TO ALL PERIODS

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

The Company's primary business is the exploration and development of oil and gas interests. The Company has incurred significant losses from operations, and there is no assurance that it will achieve profitability or obtain funds necessary to finance its operations.

For all periods presented, the Company's effective tax rate is 0%. The Company has generated net operating losses since inception, which would normally reflect a tax benefit in the statement of operations and a deferred asset on the balance sheet. However, because of the current uncertainty as to the Company's ability to achieve profitability, a valuation reserve has been established that offsets the amount of any tax benefit available for each period presented in the statements of operations.

TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, COMPARED TO TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2010, sales revenue decreased \$9,794 to \$0, compared to \$9,794 for the same period during 2009. The decrease in sales revenue was the result of the sale of the Company's interest in the Cheyenne River Prospect in 2009.

Production and operating expenses increased \$57,922 to \$178,223 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2010, from \$120,251 for the same period in 2009. This increase was primarily due to costs associated with the Company's higher share of the Gabbs Valley lease rentals due to the increased working interest.

General and administrative expenses increased by \$32,322 to \$241,947 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2010, from \$209,674 for the same period in 2009. The increase was primarily due to stock options issued in 2010. In 2009, the Company's legal costs were higher due to the costs associated with the Company's private placement of Common Stock.

Well abandonment expense increased by \$2,221,293 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2010 from \$-0- in 2009 due to the Company's assignment of the Paradise Unit 1-12 well to another leaseholder in 2010.

-13-

There was no depreciation expense attributable to the twelve months ended December 31, 2010 or December 31, 2009 because the depreciable assets were fully depreciated.

For the reasons discussed above, net loss increased \$(2,411,993) from \$(215,909) for the twelve months ended December 31, 2009, to \$(2,627,902) for the twelve months ended December 31, 2010.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

GENERAL

As of December 31, 2010, the Company had \$68,689 of cash on hand. The Company's cash on hand will not be sufficient to fund its operations during the next 12 months. The Company expects to incur costs of approximately \$10,000 per month relating to general administrative, office and other expenses. In order to sustain the Company's operations on a long term basis, the Company intends to continue to look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings. To the extent that it is necessary, the Company expects that management will support the Company financially for several months to allow the Company to consummate a merger opportunity, or public or private financing (See subsequent events).

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

PRIVATE EQUITY PLACEMENTS

In 2005, the Company raised \$500,000 of net proceeds by selling 5,000,000 shares of newly issued common stock along with warrants to purchase 1,250,000 shares of common stock which, subject to certain restrictions, could have been exercised for a period of one year at an exercise price of \$0.25. Proceeds of the original placement were allocated \$67,875 to common stock warrants and \$432,125 to common stock and paid in capital. In 2006, the warrants were extended twice; the extensions reduced the value of the warrants to \$18,250. The value assigned to the warrants was determined using the Black-Scholes option valuation method with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 154%, risk free interest rate of 3.28% and expected life of one year. Assumptions used for the extensions were: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 153%, risk free interest rate of 4.86% and expected life of 6 months. These warrants have expired.

In September 2006, the Company raised \$1,450,000 in a private placement of 7,250,000 shares of its common stock along with warrants to purchase an additional 1,812,500 shares of its common stock. The warrants have expired. Proceeds of the private placement were allocated \$144,675 to common stock warrants and \$1,305,325 to common stock and paid in capital. These funds were used for general corporate purposes, to purchase an additional 30% interest in the Gabbs Valley Oil Prospect in Nevada, and to pay the Company's share of costs associated with drilling a test well in the Gabbs Valley Oil Prospect. The value assigned to the warrants was determined using the Black-Scholes option valuation method with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 148% risk-free interest rate of 5.09% and an expected life of one year.

In April 2007, the Company completed a private placement of 5,000,000 shares of its common stock along with warrants to acquire up to 1,250,000 shares of its common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,000,000. The warrants had an exercise price of \$.50 per share. The warrants have expired. Proceeds of the placement were allocated \$80,000 to common stock warrants, and \$920,000 to common stock and paid in capital. Approximately \$337,000 of the funds were

-14-

used to pay for the Company's costs associated with the re-entry and testing of the Cobble Cuesta 1-12 well in the Gabbs Valley Prospect in Nevada and the remaining funds have been or will be used for general corporate purposes. The value assigned to the warrants was determined by using the Black-Scholes option valuation method with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 136%, risk free interest rate of 4.94% and an expected useful life of one year.

In a private placement concluded on January 26, 2010, the Company received subscriptions for 21,431,661 shares of its common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, with the aggregate offering price of such shares being \$1,500,216. The material terms and conditions applicable to the purchase and sale of the securities in the private placement are set forth in the form of the Securities Purchase Agreement included as an exhibit to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2009.

Subsequent to this private placement, the Company determined that it needed to enter into the farm-in agreement (See Note 4) and raise additional funds in order to successfully drill a new test well on the Gabbs Valley Prospect.

In July 2010, the Company completed the private placement offering by issuing 2,500,002 additional shares of common stock, and 1,250,001 additional warrants to purchase shares of common stock at a price of \$.50, which expire in June and July, 2011, as applicable, with an aggregate purchase price of \$225,000. Proceeds from this private placement was utilized for the Company's share

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

of costs to drill a new well on the Gabbs Valley Prospect (See Note 2). Any remaining funds were used for general working capital purposes.

Proceeds of the July 2010 private placement were allocated \$57,500 to common stock warrants and \$167,500 to common stock and paid in capital. The value of the warrants was estimated using the Black-Scholes Valuation Model with the following weighted average assumptions: risk free interest rate of .30%, no dividend yield, volatility factor of the expected market price of the Company's common stock of 155% to 157% (depending on the date of sale), and a weighted average expected life of the warrants of one year.

SALE OF WORKING INTEREST

In October 2010, the Company sold 7% of its working interest in the Gabbs Valley Prospect leases for \$700,000. In connection with such sale, the purchasers were granted a working interest in the Paradise Unit 2-12 well, unit leases and an option to participate in the farmin of the non-unit leases, which option has expired.

ADVANCE FROM RELATED PARTY

On February 1, 2011 the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust, under the terms of a convertible note advanced \$100,000 to the Company. The note has a term of

One (1) year and accrues interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum. The principal and interest owed under the note may be converted by the holder into Common Stock at the rate of \$0.10 per share.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

None

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

-15-

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Because estimates and assumptions require significant judgment, future actual results could differ from those estimates and could have a significant impact on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows. The Company re-evaluates its estimates and assumptions at least on a quarterly basis. The following policies may involve a higher degree of estimation and assumption:

Successful Efforts Accounting - Under the successful efforts method of accounting, the Company capitalizes all costs related to property acquisitions and successful exploratory wells, all development costs and the costs of support equipment and facilities. Certain costs of exploratory wells are capitalized pending determination that proved reserves have been found. Such determination is dependent upon the results of planned additional wells and the cost of required capital expenditures to produce the reserves found.

All costs related to unsuccessful exploratory wells are expensed when such wells are determined to be non-productive and other exploration costs, including geological and geophysical costs, are expensed as incurred. The application of the successful efforts method of accounting requires management's judgment to determine the proper designation of wells as either developmental or exploratory, which will ultimately determine the proper accounting treatment of the costs incurred. The results from a drilling

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

operation can take considerable time to analyze, and the determination that commercial reserves have been discovered requires both judgment and application of industry experience. Wells may be completed that are assumed to be productive and actually deliver oil and gas in quantities insufficient to be economic, which may result in the abandonment of the wells at a later date. The evaluation of oil and gas leasehold acquisition costs requires management's judgment to estimate the fair value of exploratory costs related to drilling activity in a given area.

Impairment of unproved oil and gas properties - Capitalized drilling costs are reviewed periodically for impairment. Costs related to impaired prospects or unsuccessful exploratory drilling are charged to expense. Management's assessment of the results of exploration activities, commodity price outlooks, planned future sales or expiration of all or a portion of such leaseholds impact the amount and timing of impairment provisions. An impairment expense could result if oil and gas prices decline in the future as it may not be economic to develop some of these unproved properties.

Estimates of future dismantlement, restoration, and abandonment costs - the Company accounts for future abandonment costs of wells and related facilities in accordance with the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations. Under this method of accounting, the accrual for future dismantlement and abandonment costs is based on estimates of these costs for each of the Company's properties based upon the type of production structure, reservoir characteristics, depth of the reservoir, market demand for equipment, currently available procedures and consultations with construction and engineering consultants. Because these costs typically extend many years into the future, estimating these future costs is difficult and requires management to make estimates and judgments that are subject to future revisions based upon numerous factors, including changing technology and the

-16-

political and regulatory environment and, estimates as to the proper discount rate to use and timing of abandonment.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA.

The financial statements of the Company are set forth on pages F-1 through F-13 at the end of this Form 10-K.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation under the supervision of the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a - 15(e) and 15d - 15(e). Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) has concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report are effective.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

The Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Company's internal controls were designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the reliability of the Company's financial reporting and the preparation of the financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

Due to inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of control effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

The Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) made an assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010. In making this assessment, the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) used the criteria established in Internal Control- Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this assessment, the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) believes that as of December 31, 2010, the Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by

-17-

the Company's independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to temporary rules of the SEC, which only require management's report in this annual report.

Changes on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During the period covered by this report, there was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected or that is reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION.

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

The following lists the directors and executive officers of the Company:

Name	Age	Position
Albert E. Whitehead	80	Director, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
John C. Kinard	77	Director
Montague H. Hackett, Jr.	78	Director

Directors hold office until their successors are elected by the shareholders of the Company and qualified. Executive Officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Albert E. Whitehead.

Mr. Whitehead has been a member of the Company's Board of Directors since 1991 and served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer from March 1998 to May 2001, when John P. McGrain assumed such role. Mr. Whitehead again assumed the role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on April 16, 2002 upon the resignation of Mr. McGrain. Until February 5, 2008 Mr. Whitehead also served as the Non-Executive Chairman of Coastal Energy Company (formerly PetroWorld Corp.), a company that is traded on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market and the TSE Venture Exchange in Canada. Mr. Whitehead served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Seven Seas Petroleum Inc., a publicly held company, engaged in international oil and gas exploration from February 1995 to May 1997. From April 1987 through January 1995, Mr. Whitehead served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Garnet Resources Corporation, a publicly held oil and gas exploration and development company.

John C. Kinard.

Mr. Kinard has served as a Director of the Company since June 1998 and is currently a Partner in Silver Run Investments, LLC, an oil and gas investment firm. Mr. Kinard serves as a Managing Partner of Remuda Resources LLC, a private oil and gas exploration company. From 1990 through December 1995, Mr. Kinard served as President of Glen Petroleum, Inc., a private oil and gas exploration company. From 1990 through 2002, Mr. Kinard also served as the Chairman of Envirosolutions UK Ltd., a private industrial wastewater treatment company.

-18-

Montague H. Hackett, Jr.

Montague H. Hackett, Jr., a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, joined the Empire Board as a director in June 2006. Over the years Mr. Hackett has been associated with various natural resource companies both as a director and as an officer. In the past five years he has been Co-Chairman and a director of Victory Ventures LLC, a New York venture capital company and International Energy Services, Inc., a Houston based oilfield service company with operations in Russia and Kazakstan.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE; AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT

As of December 31, 2010, the Company had not established any committees (including an audit committee) because of the small size of its Board of Directors. As such, the Company does not have an audit committee or an audit committee financial expert serving on such committee. As of December 31, 2010, the entire Board of Directors (Messrs. Whitehead, Kinard and Hackett) essentially serve as the Company's audit committee.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Company has adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to all of the Company's directors and employees, including the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer or persons performing similar functions. The Company undertakes to provide any person without charge, upon request, a copy of the Code of Ethics. Requests may be directed to Empire Petroleum Corporation, 4444 E. 66th Street, Lower Annex, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136-4207, or by calling (918) 488-8068.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires the

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Company's directors, executive officers, and persons who beneficially own more than 10 percent of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of Common Stock and other equity securities of the Company.

Officers, directors and greater than ten percent stockholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely on review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company and any written representations that in other reports were required during the year ended December 31, 2010, to the Company's knowledge, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners during the year ended December 31, 2010 were complied with on a timely basis.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

During the last two completed fiscal years, no executive officer received a salary or any other benefits as a part of executive compensation. The Company's only named executive officer, Albert E. Whitehead, does not hold any stock options and has not received any other award under an equity incentive plan.

-19-

DIRECTORS COMPENSATION

No director received compensation or any other benefits from the registrant during its last completed fiscal year.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS.

Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

As of December 31, 2010, the Company had two equity incentive plans under which equity securities were authorized for issuance to the Company's directors, officers, employees and other persons who performed substantial services for or on behalf of the Company. The "1995 Stock Option Plan", which expired in May 2005, remains only to the extent necessary to govern outstanding options issued under the Plan. At the Company's 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the stockholders approved the "2006 Stock Incentive Plan", which authorizes granting up to 5,000,000 options for up to 5,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock.

The following table provides certain information relating to the 1995 Stock Option Plan and the 2006 Stock Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2010:

Plan Category	(a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	(b) Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	(c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column(a))
Equity compensation plans	1,095,000	\$0.147	4,105,000

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

approved by
security holders

Equity
compensation plans
not approved by
security holders

N/A

	TOTAL	1,095,000	4,105,000
--	-------	-----------	-----------

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our Common Stock as of March 30, 2011 for:

- * each person who is known to own beneficially more than 5% of our outstanding Common Stock;
- * each of our executive officers and directors; and
- * all executive officers and directors as a group.

-20-

The percentage of beneficial ownership for the following table is based on 83,129,235 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 30, 2011.

Unless otherwise indicated below, to the Company's knowledge, all persons and entities listed below have sole voting and investment power over their shares of Common Stock.

Name and address of beneficial owner	Amount and nature of beneficial ownership	Percent of class (1)
Albert E. Whitehead, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer 3214 E. 73rd Street Tulsa, OK 74136-5927	19,391,439 shares (2)	23.33%
John C. Kinard, Director 52 S. Roslyn Street Denver, CO 80230	781,331 shares (3)	0.94%
Montague H. Hackett, Jr. Director 550 Park Avenue New York, NY 10065	15,176,083 shares (4)	18.08%
All current directors and executive officers as a group (3 persons)	35,348,853 shares (5)	41.98%

(1) The percentage ownership for each person is calculated in accordance with the rules of the SEC, which provide that any shares a person is deemed to beneficially own by virtue of having a right to acquire shares upon the conversion of options or other rights are considered outstanding solely for purposes of calculating such person's percentage ownership.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

(2) This number includes: (i) 16,268,378 shares directly owned by the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which Mr. Whitehead is the trustee; (ii) 277,778 shares Mr. Whitehead has the right to acquire pursuant to a warrant; (iii) 30,000 shares owned by Mr. Whitehead's grandchildren for which he acts as custodian; and (iv) 2,815,283 shares directly owned by the Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which Ms. Whitehead, Mr. Whitehead's wife, is trustee. Mr. Whitehead disclaims any interest in the shares owned by the Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust and the shares owned by his grandchildren.

(3) This number includes: (i) 161,331 shares directly owned by Mr. Kinard; (ii) 220,000 shares Mr. Kinard has the right to acquire pursuant to options granted to him under the 1995 Stock Option Plan; (iii) 250,000 shares Mr. Kinard has the right to acquire pursuant to options granted to him under the Company's 2006 Stock Incentive Plan; and (iv) 150,000 shares directly owned by Mr. Kinard's wife, of which Mr. Kinard disclaims any interest.

(4) This number includes (i) 9,600,288 shares directly owned by Mr. Hackett (ii) 400,000 shares Mr. Hackett has the right to acquire under the Company's 2006 Stock Incentive Plan; (iii) 138,889 shares Mr. Hackett has the right to acquire pursuant to a warrant; (iv) 2,206,350 shares directly owned by the

-21-

Trust F/B/O Melinda Hackett and 138,889 shares the same trust has the right to acquire pursuant to a warrant, of which Mr. Hackett disclaims any interest; (v) 1,945,635 shares directly owned by the Trust F/B/O Montague H. Hackett, III and 138,889 shares the same trust has the right to acquire pursuant to a warrant, of which Mr. Hackett disclaims any interest; and (vi) 607,143 shares directly owned by Mayme M. Hackett, Mr. Hackett's wife, of which Mr. Hackett disclaims any interest.

(5) This number is based on the numbers listed in footnotes 2 through 4 above.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Messrs. Whitehead and Hackett participated in the Company's 2009-2010 private placements on the same terms and conditions as the other investors in the private placement. For more information regarding such private placements, see "Private Equity Placements" under Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

Subsequent to December 31, 2010, Mr. Whitehead advanced \$100,000 to the Company through a Convertible Note from the Company. For more information regarding the Convertible Note, see "Advance from Related Party" under Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

In October 2010, Messrs. Whitehead and Hackett participated in the sale of working interests by the Company on the same terms and conditions as the other purchasers of the working interest. For more information regarding such transaction, see "Sale of Working Interest" under Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The Company has determined that both Mr. Kinard and Mr. Hackett are "independent" within the meaning of Rule 4200(a)(15) of the NASDAQ listing standards. Because of the small size of the Company's Board of Directors, the Company has not established any committees. Rather, the entire Board acts as, and performs the same functions as, the audit committee, compensation committee and nominating committee. Mr.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Whitehead is not considered "independent" within the meaning of Rule 4200(a)(15) of the NASDAQ listing standards.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES.

The following is a summary of the fees billed or to be billed to the Company by HoganTaylor LLP the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, for professional services rendered for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009:

Fee Category	Fiscal 2010 Fees	Fiscal 2009 Fees
Audit Fees (1)	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Audit-Related Fees (2)	-0-	-0-
Tax Fees	-0-	-0-
All Other Fees (3)	-0-	-0-
Total Fees	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000

-22-

(1) Audit Fees consist of aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and review of the interim financial statements included in quarterly reports or services that are normally provided by the independent registered public accounting firm in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively.

(2) Audit-Related fees consist of aggregate fees billed for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported under "Audit Fees."

(3) All Other Fees consist of aggregate fees billed for products and services provided by HoganTaylor LLP, other than those disclosed above.

The entire Board of Directors of the Company is responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent registered public accounting firm and approves in advance any services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm, whether audit-related or not. The entire Board of Directors reviews each proposed engagement to determine whether the provision of services is compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm. All of the fees shown above were pre-approved by the entire Board of Directors.

PART IV.

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

- (a) (1) Financial Statements
The financial statements under this item are included in Item 8 of Part II.
- (2) Schedules
NONE
- (3) Exhibits

Exhibit Description

No.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

- 3.1 Articles of Incorporation of the Company, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Form 10-QSB for the period ended September 30, 1995, which was filed November 6, 1995).
- 3.2 Bylaws of the Company (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company's Form 10-QSB for the period ended March 31, 1998, which was filed May 15, 1998).
- 10.1 1995 Stock Option Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A of the Company's Form DEFS 14A dated June 13, 1995, which was filed June 14, 1995).
- 10.2 Form of Stock Option Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(g) of the Company's Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 1995, which was filed March 29, 1996).
- 10.3 Letter Agreement dated May 8, 2003 between the Company and O. F. Duffield (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Company's Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 2003, which was filed March 30, 2004).
- 10.4 2006 Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit A to the Company's 2006 Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A dated May 10, 2006).
- 10.5 Form of Non-qualified Stock Option Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Form 8-K dated June 5, 2006, which was filed on June 9, 2006).
- 10.6 Form of Non-qualified Stock Option Agreement for Non-employee Directors (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Form 8-K dated June 5, 2006, which was filed on June 9, 2006).
- 10.7 Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Form 8-K dated June 5, 2006, which was filed on June 9, 2006).
- 10.8 Form of Securities Purchase Agreement entered into between Empire Petroleum Corporation and certain accredited investors in connection with 2006 private placement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 10-QSB for the period ended June 30, 2006, which was filed on August 23, 2006).
- 10.9 Form of Securities Purchase Agreement entered into between Empire Petroleum Corporation and certain accredited investors in connection with 2007 private placement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated April 4, 2007, which was filed on April 10, 2007).
- 10.10 Form of Securities Purchase Agreement entered into between Empire Petroleum Corporation and certain accredited investors in connection with the 2009 private placement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2009, which was filed on November 16, 2009).
- 10.11 Form of securities purchase agreement entered into between Empire Petroleum Corporation and certain accredited Investors in connection with the June-July 2010 private Placement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1

-23-

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

to the Company's Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2010, which was filed on August 13, 2010).

- 10.12 Form of common share warrant certificate issued by Empire Petroleum Corporation in favor of certain accredited investors in connection with the June-July 2010 private placement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2010, which was filed on August 13, 2010).
- 10.13 Convertible Note Due February 1, 2012 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated February 1, 2011, which was filed on February 7, 2011).
- 31 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial

-24-

officer) pursuant to Rules 13a - 14 (a) and 15(d) - 14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Item 601(1) (31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

- 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Empire Petroleum Corporation

Date: March 23, 2011

By: /s/Albert E. Whitehead
Albert E. Whitehead
Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer,
principal financial officer
and principal accounting
officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/Albert E. Whitehead Albert E. Whitehead	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	March 23, 2011
/s/John C. Kinard John C. Kinard	Director	March 23, 2011
/s/Montague H. Hackett, Jr. Montague H. Hackett, Jr.	Director	March 23, 2011

-25-

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2010 and 2009	F-2
Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009	F-3
Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009	F-4
Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009	F-5
Notes to Financial Statements	F-6 through F-13

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT

REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Empire Petroleum Corporation

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Empire Petroleum Corporation as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of operations, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Empire Petroleum Corporation as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Company will continue as a going concern. As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Company has been incurring significant losses since inception. The ultimate recoverability of the Company's investment in its oil and gas interests is dependent upon the existence and discovery and development of economically recoverable oil and gas reserves and the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to carry out its exploration and development program. This condition raises substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. Management's plan concerning this matter is also described in Note 1. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

We were not engaged to examine management's assertion about the effectiveness of Empire Petroleum Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, included in the accompanying Management's Annual Report on Internal Controls and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion thereon.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

/s/ HOGANTAYLOR LLP
 Tulsa, Oklahoma
 March 23, 2011

F-1
 EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

BALANCE SHEETS

December 31, 2010 and 2009

ASSETS	2010	2009
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 68,689	\$ 1,171,565
Accounts receivable (net of allowance of \$3,750)	45,915	45,915
Prepaid expenses	7,336	0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current assets	121,940	1,217,480
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Property & equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and depletion	255,215	920,215
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	\$ 377,155	\$ 2,137,695
	=====	=====
 LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 149,065	10,583
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current liabilities	149,065	10,583
Long term liabilities:		
Asset retirement obligation	-0-	34,200
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities	149,065	44,783
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock-\$.001 par value, authorized 100,000,000 shares, issued 83,069,235 and 74,553,361 shares, respectively	83,069	74,553
Additional paid in capital	13,904,142	13,149,578
Accumulated deficit	(13,759,121)	(11,131,219)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total stockholders' equity	228,090	2,092,912
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	\$ 377,155	\$ 2,137,695

=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

F-2
EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

Years Ended December 31, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Revenue:		
Petroleum sales	\$ 0	\$ 9,794
	0	9,794
Costs and expenses:		
Well abandonment expense	2,221,293	0
Production & operating	178,174	120,251
General & administrative	231,996	209,674
	2,631,463	329,925
Operating income (loss)	(2,631,463)	(320,131)
Other (income) and expense:		
Gain on Sale of Asset	0	(102,707)
Miscellaneous (income) expense	0	
Interest income	(3,561)	(1,515)
	(3,561)	(104,222)
Total other (income) expense	(3,561)	(104,222)
Net loss applicable to common stock	\$ (2,627,902)	(215,909)
Net loss		
per common share basic & diluted	\$ (.03)	\$ (.00)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding, basic & diluted	80,487,318	59,722,307

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

F-3

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION
 STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
 Years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009

	Shares	Par Value	Additional Paid in Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total
Balances December 31, 2008					
	57,193,128	57,193	11,901,722	(10,915,310)	1,043,605
Net loss	-	-	-	(215,909)	(215,909)
Value of services contributed by Employee	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Issuance of Common Stock					
	17,360,233	17,360	1,197,856	-	1,215,216
Balances December 31, 2009					
	74,553,361	74,553	13,149,578	(11,131,219)	2,092,912
Net loss	-	-	-	(2,627,902)	(2,627,902)
Value of services contributed by Employee	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Issuance of Stock Options	-	-	28,080	-	28,080
Issuance of Common Stock					
	8,515,874	8,516	676,484	-	685,000
Balances December 31, 2010					
	83,069,235	83,069	13,904,142	(13,759,121)	228,090

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

F-4

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (2,627,902)	(215,909)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Value of services contributed by		
Employee	50,000	50,000
Stock Option Plan expense	28,080	0
Well abandonment expense	2,221,293	0
Gain on sale of Cheyenne River Prospect	0	(102,707)
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	0	(33,757)
Prepaid expenses	(7,336)	9,075
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	138,482	(8,809)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(197,383)</u>	<u>(302,107)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Sale of working interest	700,000	0
Sale of Cheyenne River Interest	0	166,525
Acquisition of lease acres	0	(7,191)
Purchase of option on South Okie Prospect	(35,000)	(25,000)
Well equipment and drilling costs	(2,255,493)	0
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(1,590,493)</u>	<u>134,334</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from private equity placement	685,000	1,215,216
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>685,000</u>	<u>1,215,216</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(1,102,876)	1,047,443
Cash - Beginning of year	1,171,565	124,122
Cash - End of year	<u>\$ 68,689</u>	<u>\$ 1,171,565</u>

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

F-5

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2010 and 2009

General:

On July 20, 2001, Americomm Resources Corporation merged with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Empire Petroleum Corporation, and simultaneously changed the name of the corporation to Empire Petroleum Corporation (the "Company"). Both the merger and name change were effective as of August 15, 2001. Americomm Resources Corporation was originally incorporated in the State of Utah on the 22nd day of August 1983, as Chambers Energy Corporation. On the 7th day of March 1985, the state of incorporation was changed to Delaware by means of a merger with Americomm Corporation, a Delaware corporation formed for the purpose of effecting the said change. In July 1995, the Company changed its name to Americomm Resources Corporation.

1. Continuing operations:

The ultimate recoverability of the Company's investment in its oil and gas interests is dependent upon the existence and discovery of economically recoverable oil and gas reserves, the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to further develop the interests, and upon the ability to attain future profitable production. The Company has been incurring significant losses in recent years.

Virtually all of the Company's assets are invested in the Gabbs Valley and South Okie Prospects, both of which are unproven, that is, they have not been evaluated as being capable of producing economical quantities of reserves. The Company acquired additional leasehold interests in and drilled a test well on its Gabbs Valley Prospect in 2006. Completion of the test well was suspended pending evaluation of the geologic information and the securing of additional capital to continue the evaluation and possibly to complete the well. The Company drilled a test well on the Prospect in 2010 which recovered oil, however the oil contained paraffin which prevented it from producing at economic rates. The Company continues to believe that the Prospect contains economical reserve quantities and is actively conducting additional studies and will be pursuing potential funding and/or partners to continue evaluation and exploration.

The Company plans to supplement current studies of the South Okie Prospect with a seismograph evaluation to verify the potential of the prospect. The Company has acquired 11 miles of seismic and studies of this data was completed in early January 2010 and an additional geological study was also completed early January 2010. The option allows the Company to purchase the leasehold interests for \$35,000. Based on these studies, the Company expects to exercise its option.

The continuation of the Company is dependent upon the ability of the Company to attain future profitable operations. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of United States generally accepted accounting principles applicable to a company with continuing operations, which assume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its obligations in the normal course of operations. Management believes the going concern assumption to be appropriate for these financial statements. If the going concern assumption were not appropriate for these financial statements, then

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

F-6

adjustments might be necessary to the carrying value of assets and liabilities, reported expenses and the balance sheet classifications used.

2. Significant accounting policies:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(a) Capital assets:

The Company uses the successful efforts method of accounting for its oil and gas activities. Costs incurred are deferred until exploration and completion results are evaluated. At such time, costs of activities with economically recoverable reserves are capitalized as proven properties, and costs of unsuccessful or uneconomical activities are expensed.

Capitalized drilling costs are reviewed periodically for impairment. Costs related to impaired prospects or unsuccessful exploratory drilling are charged to expense. Management's assessment of the results of exploration activities, commodity price outlooks, planned future sales or expiration of all or a portion of such leaseholds impact the amount and timing of impairment provisions. An impairment expense could result if oil and gas prices decline in the future as it may not be economic to develop some of these unproved properties.

(b) Per share amounts:

The Company calculates and discloses basic earnings per share ("Basic EPS") and diluted earnings per share ("Diluted EPS"). The computation of basic earnings per share is computed by dividing earnings available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of outstanding common shares during the period.

Diluted EPS gives effect to all dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the period. The computation of diluted EPS does not assume conversion, exercise or contingent exercise of securities that would have an anti-dilutive effect on losses. As a result, if there is a loss from continuing operations, Diluted EPS is computed in the same manner as Basic EPS is computed. At December 31, 2010 the Company had 1,095,000 and 2,222,226 options and warrants outstanding, respectively, that were not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share. Such financial instruments may become dilutive and would then need to be included in future calculations of Diluted EPS.

(c) Income taxes:

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under the asset and liability method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to the taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. A valuation allowance is established if management determines it is more likely than not that some portion of a deferred tax asset will not be realized.

F-7

(d) Financial instruments:

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

The carrying value of current assets and current liabilities approximate their fair value due to the relatively short period to maturity of the instruments.

(e) Stock option plan:

The Company expenses options granted over the vesting period based on the grant date fair value of the award.

(f) Obligations associated with the retirement of assets:

The Company follows Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) guidance on accounting for asset retirement obligations, which among other matters, addresses financial accounting and reporting for legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets and the associated asset retirement costs. This guidance requires that the fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation be recognized in the period in which it is incurred, with the associated asset retirement cost capitalized as part of the related asset and allocated to expense over the asset's useful life. The Company applies its analysis to producing wells. The Company accrued \$0 and \$34,200, respectively at December 31, 2010 and 2009 as an asset retirement obligation for wells in Nevada, which was recorded as an expense since the well costs have been fully impaired.

(g) Recent Accounting Pronouncements:

The Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") periodically issues new accounting standards in a continuing effort to improve standards of financial accounting and reporting. The Company has reviewed the recently issued pronouncements and concluded that the following new accounting standards are applicable:

In January 2010, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2010-03, "Oil and Gas Reserve Estimation and Disclosures." This ASU amends the FASB's Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 932, "Extractive Activities-Oil and Gas" to align the accounting requirements of Topic 932 with the Securities and Exchange Commission's final rule, "Modernization of the Oil and Gas Reporting Requirements" issued on December 31, 2008. In sum, the revisions in ASU 2010-3 modernize the disclosure rules to better align with current industry practices and expand the disclosure requirements for equity method investments so that more useful information is provided. More specifically, the main provisions include the following:

An expanded definition of oil and gas producing activities to include nontraditional resources such as bitumen extracted from oil sands.

The use of an average of the first-day-of-the-month price for the 12-month period, rather than a year-end price for determining whether reserves can be produced economically.

Amended definitions of key terms such as "reliable technology" and "reasonable certainty" which are used in estimating proved oil and gas reserve quantities.

F-8

A requirement for disclosing separate information about reserve quantities and financial statement amounts for geographical areas representing 15 percent or more of proved reserves.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Clarification that an entity's equity investments must be considered in determining whether it has significant oil and gas activities and a requirement to disclose equity method investments in the same level of detail as is required for consolidated investments.

This ASU is effective for annual reporting periods ended on or after December 31, 2009, and it requires (1) the effect of the adoption to be included within each of the dollar amounts and quantities disclosed, (2) qualitative and quantitative disclosure of the estimated effect of adoption on each of the dollar amounts and quantities disclosed, if significant and practical to estimate and (3) the effect of adoption on the financial statements, if significant and practical to estimate. The adoption of this standard will not have a material effect on our financial statements until such time as the Company has reportable oil and gas reserves.

In January 2010, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-06, "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (Topic 820) - Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements." This Update requires new disclosures regarding the amount of transfers in or out of Levels 1 and 2 along with the reason for such transfers and also requires a greater level of disaggregation when disclosing valuation techniques and inputs used in estimating Level 2 and Level 3 fair value measurements. This Update also includes conforming amendments to the guidance on employers' disclosures about postretirement benefit plan assets. The disclosures will be required for reporting beginning in the first quarter 2010. Also, beginning with the first quarter 2011, the Standard requires additional categorization of items included in the rollforward of activity for Level 3 inputs on a gross basis. Adoption of this standard will not have a material effect on the financial statements.

3. Property and equipment:

In 2003, the Company acquired a 10% interest in the Gabbs Valley Prospect of Western Nevada by issuing 2,000,000 shares of Company stock. The Company has recorded its investment at \$200,000. In 2005, the Company conducted a seismic survey of the Gabbs Valley Prospect. Based on the results of the seismic survey, during 2006, the Company entered into an agreement to increase its working interest in the prospect to 40% by paying \$675,000 plus 55% of the drilling costs through completion. The Company contracted a drilling rig, which commenced drilling the Empire Cobble Cuesta 1-12-12N-34E, Nye County, Nevada in September 2006. After reaching a depth of 5,195 feet the Company ceased drilling operations, ran electronic logs, installed a wellhead, and conditioned the hole so that it might be re-entered or deepened at a later date. In April 2007, the Company re-entered the well and based on the results of drill stem tests, determined that the formation was very sensitive to the mud and water used in drilling the test well, causing clogs in the formation to swell which prevented any oil which might be present to flow into the well bore. The total gross acres of this prospect was increased to 92,826 acres by the acquisition of 30,917 acres from the U.S. Department of Interior in June, 2006 at a cost of \$36,689, the acquisition of 9,943.91 acres in September, 2008 at a cost of \$13,025 and the acquisition of 7,680 acres in September, 2009 at a cost of \$12,615. The Company increased its interest to 57% in the prospect leases in 2007 when one of the joint participants elected to surrender its 30% interest. The Company and the remaining joint owners assumed liabilities of approximately \$68,000 to

F-9

acquire the interest.

In 2010, the Company drilled a test well in the Paradise Unit of the Gabbs Valley Prospect to a depth of 4,250 feet. The well produced small amounts of oil containing paraffin which may have restricted oil flow. A co-owner of the

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

lease elected to take over the lease and well, including remediation of the site, as of December 31, 2010 the Company had expensed \$2,255,493 of intangible drilling costs related to the Paradise Unit test well. Also in 2010, the Company sold a 7% working interest in the Gabbs Valley Prospect for \$700,000. As of December 31, 2010, the Gabbs Valley Prospect consisted of approximately 48,541 acres of federal leases located in Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada, of which the Company owns a 50% working interest.

The Company's other property and equipment, totaling \$2,561 at December 31, 2010, consists entirely of office furniture, fixtures and equipment, which are fully depreciated.

4. Capital Stock:

In 2005, the Company raised \$500,000 of net proceeds by selling 5,000,000 shares of newly issued common stock along with warrants to purchase 1,250,000 shares of common stock which, subject to certain restrictions, could have been exercised for a period of one year at an exercise price of \$0.25. Proceeds of the original placement were allocated \$67,875 to common stock warrants and \$432,125 to common stock and paid in capital. In 2006, the warrants were extended twice; the extensions reduced the value of the warrants to \$18,250. The value assigned to the warrants was determined using the Black-Scholes option valuation method with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 154%, risk free interest rate of 3.28% and expected life of one year. Assumptions used for the extensions were: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 153%, risk free interest rate of 4.86% and expected life of 6 months. The warrants expired on November 15, 2010 with none being exercised.

In 2006, the Company raised \$1,450,000 of net proceeds by selling 7,250,000 shares of newly issued stock along with warrants to purchase 1,812,500 shares of common stock, which, subject to certain restrictions, could have been exercised on or before March 15, 2009 (subsequently extended to November 15, 2010—See Note 10) at an exercise price of \$0.50. Proceeds of the placement were allocated \$144,675 to common stock warrants and \$1,305,325 to common stock and paid in capital. The value assigned to the warrants was determined using the Black-Scholes option valuation method with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 148% risk-free interest rate of 5.09% and an expected life of one year. The warrants expired November 15, 2010 with none being exercised.

In 2007, the Company raised \$1,000,000 of net proceeds by selling 5,000,000 shares of newly issued stock, along with warrants to purchase 1,250,000 shares of common stock, which subject to certain restrictions, could have been exercised until March 15, 2009 (subsequently extended to November 15, 2010 (See Note 10)) at an exercise price of \$0.50 per share. Proceeds of the placement were allocated \$80,000 to common stock warrants and \$920,000 to common stock and paid in capital. The value assigned to the warrants was determined by using the Black-Scholes option valuation methods with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 136%, risk free interest rate of 4.94%, and an expected useful life of one year. The warrants expired November 15, 2010 with none being exercised.

F-10

In 2009, the Company raised \$1,215,216 of net proceeds by selling 17,360,233 shares of newly issued common stock. Proceeds were utilized for the Company's share of costs to drill a new well on the Gabbs Valley Prospect (See Note 1).

In 2010, the Company raised \$685,000 of net proceeds by selling 8,515,874 shares of newly issued stock, along with warrants to purchase 2,222,226 shares of Common Stock, which subject to certain restrictions, can be exercised

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

until June 16, 2011 at an exercise price of \$0.50 per share. Proceeds of the placements were allocated \$101,250 to Common Stock Warrants and \$583,750 to Common Stock and paid in capital. The value assigned to the warrants was determined by using the Black-Scholes option valuation methods with the following assumptions: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 155%, risk free interest rate of .3% and an expected useful life of one year.

5. Stock options:

Under a stock option plan adopted in 1995, the Company had the discretion to grant options for up to 1,600,000 shares of common stock until May 15, 2005 at which time the plan terminated except to the extent necessary to govern outstanding options. Stock options granted under the plan vest on grant date and expire ten years from the date of grant plus 30 days. The exercise price of the options is the fair market value on the date of grant.

At the Company's 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the stockholders approved the 2006 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan permits the issuance of stock options, restricted stock awards, and performance shares to employees, officers, directors, and consultants of the Company. Initially, and until such time as the Board creates a Compensation Committee, the Board of Directors will administer the Plan. The total number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to awards under the Plan is 5,000,000. Under the Plan, no participant may receive awards of stock options that cover in the aggregate more than 500,000 shares of common stock in any fiscal year. Unless terminated by the Board, or upon the granting of awards covering all of the shares subject to the Plan, the Plan shall terminate on June 5, 2016.

The Company expenses the cost of options granted over the vesting period of the option based on the grant-date fair value of the award. No options were granted in 2009. For the year ended December 31, 2010, the Company recognized an expense of \$28,080 related to options granted under the Plan.

Fair values were estimated at the date of grants of the options, using the Black-Scholes option valuation model with the following weighted average assumptions: risk-free interest rate of 3.65% and 2.77%, volatility factor of the expected market price of the Company's common stock of 162% and 142%, no dividend yield on the Company's common stock, and a weighted average expected life of the options of 5 years. The Black-Scholes option valuation model was developed for use in estimating the fair value of traded options, which have no vesting restrictions and are fully transferable. For purposes of determining the expected life of the options, the Company utilizes the Simplified Method as defined in Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In addition options valuation models require the input of highly subjective assumptions including stock price volatility.

As of December 31, 2010, there was no unrecognized compensation expense related to nonvested share-based compensation arrangements under the Plan.

F-11

A summary of the Company's Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2010 and changes during the year is presented below:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
	_____	_____
Outstanding at Beginning of Year 2009	1,140,000	.18

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

Granted	0	.00
Cancelled or Exercised	70,000	.44
Outstanding at ending of Year 2009	1,070,000	.162
Granted	120,000	.25
Cancelled or Exercised	95,000	.44
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Outstanding at End of Year 2010	1,095,000	.148
	=====	=====

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding at December 31, 2010:

Range of Exercise Prices	Options Outstanding			Options Exercisable	
	Number Outstanding at 12/31/10	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Number Exercisable at 12/31/10	Weighted Average Exercise Price
\$0.10-\$0.26	1,095,000	6.41 Years	\$0.148	1,095,000	\$0.148

No options were granted in 2009.

6. Income taxes:

The provision for income taxes differs from the amount obtained by applying the Federal income tax rate of 34% to income before income taxes. The difference relates to the following items:

	2010	2009
Statutory tax rate	34%	34%
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expected tax benefit	\$ (890,000)	\$ (70,000)
Benefit of losses not recognized	890,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tax provision (benefit) as reported	\$ -	\$ -
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The components of deferred income taxes at December 31, 2010 are as follows:

	2010	2009
Deferred tax assets:		
Loss carry-forwards	\$ 2,650,000	\$ 1,750,000
F-12 Valuation allowance	(2,125,000)	(1,250,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	525	500,000
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Property and equipment	525	500,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net deferred taxes	\$ -	\$ -
	<hr/>	<hr/>

At December 31, 2010, the Company had net operating loss carryforwards of

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

approximately \$2,578,000 which expire beginning in 2011.

Utilization of the Company's loss carryforwards is dependent on realizing taxable income. Deferred tax assets for these carryforwards have been reduced by a valuation allowance up to an amount equal to estimated deferred tax liability.

7. Oil Sale Revenue

The Company currently records revenue from petroleum sales when received from the operator of the well. Oil Sale Revenue is reported net of working interest and overriding royalty amounts due. Prior to 2006, the Company was responsible for distributing allocable portions of oil sale revenue to working interest and royalty owners for production in the Cheyenne River Prospect. Accordingly, a liability for estimated royalty payments was recorded when oil sale proceeds were received since a division order had not been completed, certain amounts were credited to royalties payable until the division order issue was resolved.

8. Operating lease:

The Company leases office space under an operating lease agreement with an unrelated party which expires in June 2012. Monthly lease payments are \$1,100.

Rent expense for each of the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, was \$12,649 and \$12,487, respectively.

9. Subsequent Events

On February 1, 2011 the Company and its Chief Executive Officer entered into an agreement where the Company received \$100,000 in exchange for entering into a Convertible Note agreement. The note accrues interest of 4% and matures February 1, 2012. The note may be converted into Common Stock of the Company by the holder at a conversion price of \$.10 per share.

F-13

EXHIBIT 31

CERTIFICATION

I, Albert E. Whitehead, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Empire Petroleum Corporation;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a - 15(f) and 15d - 15(f)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

March 23, 2011

/s/ Albert E. Whitehead
Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive
Officer (and principal financial officer)

EXHIBIT 32

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10-K

In connection with the annual report of Empire Petroleum Corporation (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ending December 31, 2010, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

(1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

March 23, 2011

/s/ Albert E. Whitehead
Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer
(and principal financial officer)

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

The foregoing certification is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to the Report and shall not be considered filed as part of the Report.