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STAR GAS PARTNERS LP  
Form S-4 POS  
October 31, 2001

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 31, 2001  
Registration No. 333-49751

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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Post-Effective  
AMENDMENT NO. 3  
TO  
FORM S-4  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933  
-----

Star Gas Partners, L.P.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or organization)  
2187 Atlantic Street  
P.O. Box 120011  
Stamford, Connecticut 06912-0011  
(203) 328-7300  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone  
number, including area code, of registrant's  
principal executive offices)

5984  
(Primary Standard Industrial  
Classification Code)

06-14377  
(I.R.S. Emp  
Identificati  
Richard F. A  
Vice President an  
Star Gas  
2187 Atlantic  
P.O. Box 1  
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(203) 328-  
(Name, address, includ  
telephone number, inclu  
agent for se

Copy to:  
Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon LLP  
666 Fifth Avenue, 28th Floor  
New York, New York 10103  
(212) 977-9700  
Attn: Alan Shapiro, Esq.

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

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in  
connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with  
General Instruction G, check the following box.

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

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effective registration statement for the same offering. [ ] .

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. [X] 333-49751.

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

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

Subject to Completion, dated October 31, 2001

PROSPECTUS

1,000,000 Common Units

[GRAPHIC]

Star Gas Partners, L.P.

Representing Limited Partner Interests

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We are offering up to an aggregate of 1,000,000 common units representing limited partner interests that we may issue from time to time in connection with our acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions. We expect that the terms of these acquisitions will be determined by direct negotiations with the owners or controlling persons of the business, properties or securities to be acquired. We will value the common units that we issue in these transactions at prices reasonably related to the market prices of the common units either at the time the terms of an acquisition are agreed upon or at or about the time of delivery of the common units. We are the eighth largest retail distributor of propane and the largest retail distributor of home heating oil in the United States.

We intend, to the extent we have sufficient cash available from operations, to distribute to each holder of common units a distribution of at least \$0.575 per common unit per quarter, which is the minimum quarterly distribution, or \$2.30 per common unit on a yearly basis. Our general partner has broad discretion in making cash disbursements and establishing reserves. During the subordination period, which generally will not end before December 31, 2003, we will make the minimum quarterly distribution to holders of common units before any distributions will be made on the Star Gas Partners interests that rank

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below the common units.

We may also permit persons who receive common units from us that are covered by this prospectus to reoffer and resell these units under this prospectus.

We will pay the costs and expenses of the registration and offering of the common units. We will not pay any underwriting discount or commissions for the issuance of the common units, although we may pay finder's fees for specific acquisitions. Any person receiving a finder's fee may be considered to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933.

The common units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SGU." The last reported sale price of common units on the NYSE on October 30, 2001 was \$21.16 per common unit.

You should read "Risk Factors" beginning on page 5 of this prospectus for a discussion of the material risks relating to an investment in the common units.

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

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The date of this prospectus is                   , 2001

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### GUIDE TO READING THIS PROSPECTUS

The following information should help you understand some of the conventions used in this prospectus.

- . Throughout this prospectus, we refer to ourselves, Star Gas Partners, L.P., as "we," or "us" or "Star Gas Partners." Generally we refer to ourselves as "we" or "us" when discussing operations (such as "We are the eighth largest retail distributor of propane . . . ."), and as "Star Gas Partners" when discussing our entity or its structure (such as "Star Gas Partners conducts its operations through Star Gas Propane, L.P. . . .").
- . Except as the context otherwise requires, references to:
  - (1) the "Petro transaction" refers to our acquisition of Petroleum Heat and Power Co., Inc. ("Petro") and certain related transactions that closed on March 26, 1999;
  - (2) our operations prior to the completion of the transaction included the operations of Star Gas Propane, L.P., referred to in this prospectus as "Star Gas Propane" and its subsidiary; and
  - (3) our operations from the time of completion of the Petro transaction include all of the operations cited above together with Petro's home heating oil operations.
- . When we refer to a fiscal year, we are referring to Star Gas Partners' fiscal year that ends September 30. Historically, Petro has operated on a calendar year basis.
- . This prospectus generally treats Petro's home heating oil operations as if they had historically been owned and operated by Star Gas Partners. Prior to the Petro transaction, the home heating oil business and operations referred to in this prospectus were owned and operated by Petro, which is the parent of our former general partner. Following the transaction, the home heating oil business and operations have been operated by Petro, which is our wholly-owned subsidiary, Petro's immediate parent corporation, Petro Holdings, Inc., referred to in this prospectus as "Petro Holdings," and Petro's wholly-owned subsidiaries.
- . As part of the Petro transaction, we appointed a new general partner, Star Gas LLC. References to the "general partner" generally refer to Star Gas LLC unless the context refers to the period prior to the transaction, in which case we are referring to Star Gas Corporation.

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- . In April 2000, we acquired a 72.7% interest in Total Gas & Electric, Inc., referred to in this prospectus as Total Gas & Electric. We currently have an 80% ownership interest in Total Gas & Electric.
- . For ease of reference, a glossary of some terms used in this prospectus is included as Annex B to this prospectus. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this prospectus have the meanings given in the glossary.

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### WHO WE ARE

#### General

We are the eighth largest retail distributor of propane and the largest retail distributor of home heating oil in the United States. Our propane operations serve customers in the Midwest and Northeast regions, Florida, and Georgia, and our home heating oil operations serve customers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Through our controlling interest in Total Gas & Electric, we are an independent reseller of natural gas and electricity to residential homeowners in deregulated energy markets primarily in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

#### Propane Operations

Our propane operations are primarily engaged in the retail distribution of propane and related supplies and equipment to residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and motor fuel customers. We serve our approximately 275,000 propane customers from 115 branch locations and 67 satellite storage facilities in the Midwest and the Northeast. In addition to our retail business, we also serve approximately 30 wholesale customers from our facilities in southern Indiana.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2000, approximately 90% of our total sales from our propane operations were to retail customers and approximately 10% were to wholesale customers. Our retail sales have historically had a greater profit margin, more stable customer base and less price sensitivity than our wholesale business. During this period, sales to residential customers represented 64% of the retail propane gallons sold and 73% of propane gross profits.

#### Home Heating Oil Operations

We are a leading consolidator in the highly fragmented home heating oil industry. We serve approximately 500,000 home heating oil customers from 32 branch locations in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. We also install and repair heating equipment 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, generally within four hours of requests. These services are an integral part of our basic home heating oil service, and are designed to maximize customer satisfaction and loyalty.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2000, approximately 78% of our total sales from our heating oil operations were from sales of home heating oil, approximately 16% were from the installation and repair of heating equipment and approximately 6% were from the sale of other petroleum products, including diesel fuel and gasoline, to commercial customers. During this period, sales to residential customers represented 85% of the retail heating oil gallons sold and 91% of heating oil gross profits.

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### Electricity and Natural Gas Operations

Through our 80% controlling interest in Total Gas & Electric, we are an independent reseller of electricity and natural gas to approximately 53,000 residential customers in 15 deregulated energy markets primarily in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Florida. In deregulated energy markets, customers have a choice in selecting energy suppliers to power and/or heat their homes. Competitors range from independent resellers, like Total Gas & Electric, to large public utilities. Our interest in Total Gas & Electric gives us the opportunity to extend our installation and equipment servicing expertise to electricity and natural gas customers.

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### THE OFFERING

- Common units offered by Star Gas Partners.....
- . 1,000,000 common units from time to time as consideration when we acquire other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions.
- Distribution of available cash (see page 17).....
- . We intend to distribute, to the extent there is sufficient available cash, at least a minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.575 per unit, or \$2.30 per unit on a yearly basis
  - . "Available cash" for any quarter consists generally of all cash on hand at the end of that quarter, as adjusted for reserves. The general partner has broad discretion in establishing reserves
  - . In general, available cash will be distributed per quarter based on the following priorities:
    - . First, to the common units until each has received \$0.575, plus any arrearages from prior quarters.
    - . Second, to the senior subordinated units until each has received \$0.575.
    - . Third, to the junior subordinated units and general partner units until each has received \$0.575.
    - . Finally, after each unit has received \$0.575, available cash will be distributed proportionately to all units until the target levels are met.
  - . If distributions of available cash exceed target levels greater than \$0.604, the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units will receive incentive distributions.

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### Timing of distributions

(see page 18)..... . We make distributions approximately 45 days after March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 to unitholders on the applicable record date.

### Subordination period (see page 18).....

- . The subordination period will end once we meet the financial tests in the partnership agreement, but it generally cannot end before December 31, 2003. However, if the general partner is removed under some circumstances, the subordination period will end
- . When the subordination periods ends, all senior subordinated units and junior subordinated units will convert into Class B common units on a one-for-one basis, and each common unit will be redesignated as a Class A common unit.
- . The main difference between the Class A common units and Class B common units is that the Class B common units will continue to have the right to receive incentive distributions and additional units.

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### Incentive distributions

(see page 19)..... If quarterly distributions of available cash exceed target levels, the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units will receive an increased percentage of distributions, resulting in their receiving a greater amount on a per unit basis than the common units.

NYSE trading symbol..... SGU

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## RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in the securities, you should be aware that there are risks in doing so, including those described below. You should consider carefully these risk factors together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference.

If any of the following risks actually occurs, then our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such event, we may be unable to make distributions to our unitholders or pay interest on or the principal of any debt securities, the trading price of our securities could decline and you may lose all or part of your investment.

### Risks Inherent in Our Businesses



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Since Weather Conditions May Adversely Affect the Demand for Propane, Home Heating Oil, Natural Gas and Electricity, Our Financial Condition Is Vulnerable to Warm Winters

Weather conditions have a significant impact on the demand for both propane and home heating oil because our customers depend on these products principally for space heating purposes. As a result, weather conditions may adversely impact our operating results and financial condition. During the peak heating season of October through March, sales of propane represent approximately 70% to 75% of our annual retail propane volume and sales of home heating oil represent approximately 75% to 80% of our annual home heating oil volume. Actual weather conditions can vary substantially from year to year, significantly affecting our financial performance. Furthermore, warmer than normal temperatures in one or more regions in which we operate can significantly decrease the total volume we sell and the gross profit realized on those sales and, consequently, our results of operations. For example, in fiscal 1999 and fiscal 2000, temperatures were significantly warmer than normal for the areas in which we sell propane and home heating oil. We believe that overall levels of both pro forma Available Cash from Operating Surplus and EBITDA generated during fiscal 1999 were adversely affected during fiscal 1999 and overall levels of Available Cash from Operating Surplus and EBITDA generated during fiscal 2000 were also adversely affected during fiscal 2000 primarily due to this abnormally warm weather. Weather variations also affect demand for propane from agricultural customers, because dry weather during the harvest season reduces demand for propane used in crop drying. Weather conditions also have a significant impact on the demand for both natural gas and electricity because Total Gas & Electric's customers depend on these products in part for space heating purposes.

Petro's Operating Results Will Be Adversely Affected If It Experiences Significant Customer Losses That Are Not Offset or Reduced by Customer Gains

Petro's net attrition of home heating oil customers averaged approximately 5% per year over the five years through 1998. This rate represents the net of its annual gross customer loss rate of approximately 15% offset by customer gains of approximately 10% per year. In 1999, net attrition was approximately 2.3%, representing gains of approximately 11.9% and gross losses of approximately 14.2%. In fiscal 2000, Petro had a net gain of home heating oil customers equal to 1.3%, representing gains of approximately 14.3% and gross losses of approximately 13.0%. Customer losses are the result of various factors, including:

- . customer relocations;
- . supplier changes based primarily on price and service;
- . natural gas conversions; and
- . credit problems.

Petro may not be able to continue to achieve net gains of home heating oil customers and may again experience customer attrition in the future.

Sudden and Sharp Oil and Propane Price Increases And Substantial Fluctuations in Natural Gas and Electricity Commodity Prices or the Cost of Transmitting and Distributing These Commodities That Cannot Be Passed on to Customers May Adversely Affect Our Operating Results

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The retail propane and home heating oil industries are "margin-based" businesses in which gross profits depend on the excess of retail sales prices over supply costs. Consequently, our profitability is sensitive to changes in wholesale prices of propane and heating oil caused by changes in supply or other market conditions. Many of these factors are beyond our control and thus, when there are sudden and sharp increases in the wholesale costs of propane and heating oil, we may not be able to pass on these increases to our customers through retail sales prices. In addition, the timing of cost pass-throughs can significantly affect margins. Wholesale price increases could reduce our gross profits and could, if continuing over an extended period of time, reduce demand by encouraging conservation or conversion to alternative energy sources.

Our home heating oil business also competes for customers with suppliers of alternative energy products, principally natural gas. We could face additional price competition from alternative heating sources such as electricity and natural gas as a result of deregulation in those industries. Over the past five years, conversions by Petro's customers from heating oil to other sources have averaged approximately 1% per year of the homes it serves.

Substantial fluctuations in energy commodity prices or the cost of transmitting and distributing those energy commodities could increase Total Gas & Electric's costs of operations.

A Significant Portion of Our Home Heating Oil Volume Is Sold to Capped-Price Customers and Our Operating Results Could Be Adversely Affected By Changes in the Cost of Supply That We Cannot Pass On To These Customers Or Otherwise Protect Against

A significant portion of our home heating oil volume is sold to individual customers under an agreement pre-establishing the maximum sales price of home heating oil over a twelve month period. The maximum price at which home heating oil is sold to these capped-price customers is generally renegotiated prior to the heating season of each year based on current market conditions. We currently enter into forward purchase contracts, futures contracts and option contracts for a substantial majority of the heating oil we sell to these capped-price customers in advance and at a fixed cost. Should events occur after a capped-sales price is established that increases the cost of home heating oil above the amount anticipated, margins for the capped-price customers whose heating oil was not purchased in advance would be lower than expected, while those customers whose heating oil was purchased in advance would be unaffected. Conversely, should events occur during this period that decrease the cost of heating oil below the amount anticipated, margins for the capped-price customers whose heating oil was purchased in advance could be lower than expected, while margins for those customers whose heating oil was not purchased in advance would be unaffected or higher than expected.

Market Volatility and/or Inflation May Cause Us to Sell Inventory at Less Than the Price That We Purchased It, Which Would Adversely Affect Operating Results

Because of the potential volatility of propane prices, the market price for propane could fall below the price at which we purchased it, which could adversely affect gross margin or render sales from inventory unprofitable. Propane is available from numerous sources, including integrated international oil companies, independent refiners and independent wholesalers. We purchase propane from a variety of suppliers under supply contracts and on the spot market. The major portion of propane purchased by us is produced domestically representing approximately 94% in fiscal 2000. To the extent that we purchase propane from Canadian sources, approximately 6% in fiscal 2000, our propane business will be subject to risks of disruption in foreign supply. We attempt to minimize inventory risks by purchasing propane on a short-term basis. During periods of low demand for propane, which generally occur during the summer

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months, we have on occasion purchased, and may purchase in the future, large volumes of propane at relatively attractive prices for storage in our 21 million gallon Indiana underground storage facility for future resale. We may from time to time engage in transactions, such as options or fixed price contracts to purchase propane, to hedge product costs in an attempt to reduce cost volatility. To date, the level of these activities has not been significant and we are currently engaged to only a minor extent for these transactions.

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Inflation increases our operating and administrative costs. We attempt to limit the effects of inflation on our operations through cost control efforts, productivity improvement and increases in gross profit margins.

If We Do not Make Acquisitions on Economically Acceptable Terms, Our Future Financial Performance Will Be Limited

Neither the propane nor the home heating oil industry is a growth industry because of increased competition from alternative energy sources. A significant portion of our growth in the past decade has been directly tied to the success of our acquisition programs. Accordingly, our future financial performance will depend on our ability to continue to make acquisitions at attractive prices. We cannot assure you that we will be able to identify attractive acquisition candidates, whether in the home heating oil or propane sector, in the future or that we will be able to acquire businesses on economically acceptable terms. In particular, competition for acquisitions in the propane business has intensified and become more costly. Factors that may adversely affect our propane and home heating oil operating and financial results, such as warm weather patterns, may limit our access to capital and adversely affect our ability to make acquisitions. Any acquisition may involve potential risks, including:

- . an increase in our indebtedness;
- . the inability to integrate the operations of the acquired business;
- . the inability to successfully expand our operations into new territories;
- . the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns;
- . an excess of customer loss or loss of key employees from the acquired business; and
- . unanticipated costs associated with environmental or other liabilities that we may assume or become subject to by operation of law.

In addition, acquisitions may be dilutive to earnings and distributions to the unitholders and any additional debt incurred to finance acquisitions may affect our ability to make distributions to the unitholders.

Because of the Highly Competitive Nature of the Retail Propane and Home Heating Oil Businesses, We May Not Be Able to Retain Existing Customers or Acquire New Customers, Which Would Have An Adverse Impact on Our Operating Results and Financial Condition

In both our propane and home heating oil business, if we are unable to compete effectively, we may lose existing customers or fail to acquire new customers, which would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

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Many of our propane competitors and potential competitors are larger or have substantially greater financial resources than we do, which may provide them with some advantages. Generally, competition in the past few years has intensified, partly as a result of warmer-than-normal weather and general economic conditions. Most of our propane retail branch locations compete with five or more marketers or distributors. The principal factors influencing competition with other retail marketers are:

- . price;
- . reliability and quality of service;
- . responsiveness to customer needs;
- . safety concerns;
- . long-standing customer relationships;
- . the inconvenience of switching tanks and suppliers; and
- . the lack of growth in the industry.

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We can make no assurances that we will be able to compete successfully on the basis of these factors. If a competitor attempts to increase market share by reducing prices, our operating results and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected. Competition from alternative energy sources has been increasing as a result of reduced regulation of many utilities, including natural gas and electricity.

Our home heating oil business competes with heating oil distributors offering a broad range of services and prices, from full service distributors, like Petro, to those offering delivery only. Competition with other companies in the home heating oil industry is based primarily on customer service and price. Long-standing customer relationships are typical in the industry. It is customary for companies to deliver home heating oil to their customers based upon weather conditions and historical consumption patterns, without the customer making an affirmative purchase decision. Most companies provide home heating equipment repair service on a 24-hour per day basis. In some cases, homeowners have formed buying cooperatives to purchase fuel oil from distributors at a price lower than individual customers are otherwise able to obtain. As a result of these factors, it may be difficult for Petro to acquire new customers.

Total Gas & Electric Faces Strong Competition From Incumbent Utilities And Other Competitors With Greater Resources And Is Required To Rely On Utilities, With Which It Competes, To Perform Some Functions For Its Customers

Total Gas & Electric faces strong competition from incumbent utilities and other competitors with greater resources, which may limit its ability to acquire customers and materially adversely affect its financial results. Total Gas & Electric is required to rely on utilities, with which it competes, to perform some functions for its customers. Because of this reliance, service failures that are beyond Total Gas & Electric's control may still lead to poor customer satisfaction and unforeseen costs of operation.

We Are Subject to Operating and Litigation Risks That Could Adversely Affect Our Operating Results to the Extent Not Covered by Insurance

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Our operations are subject to all operating hazards and risks normally incidental to handling, storing and transporting and otherwise providing customers with combustible liquids such as propane and home heating oil. As a result, we may be a defendant in various legal proceedings and litigation arising in the ordinary course of business. We maintain insurance policies with insurers in amounts and with coverages and deductibles as we believe are reasonable. However, there can be no assurance that this insurance will be adequate to protect us from all material expenses related to potential future claims for personal and property damage or that these levels of insurance will be available in the future at economical prices. In addition, the occurrence of an explosion, whether or not we are involved, may have an adverse effect on the public's desire to use our products.

We Are Dependent on Principal Suppliers and Carriers, Increasing the Risk of an Interruption in Supply That Might Result In a Loss of Revenues and/or Customers

During fiscal year 2000, 14% of our propane purchases in the Midwest were purchased on the spot market from various Mont Belvieu, Texas sources, 34% of our propane purchases were from three refineries in Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan owned by Marathon Ashland Petroleum, LLC and 13% were purchased from three refineries in Illinois and Indiana owned by Amoco Canada Marketing Group. Although we believe that alternative sources of propane are readily available, if we are unable to purchase propane from our usual sources, the failure to obtain alternate sources at competitive prices and on a timely basis could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Historically, a substantial portion of the propane we purchase has originated in Mont Belvieu, Texas and has been shipped to us through a major common carrier pipeline. Any significant interruption in the service at Mont Belvieu or on the common carrier pipeline could have a material adverse effect on our business.

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Our Results of Operations and Financial Condition May Be Adversely Affected by Governmental Regulation and Associated Environmental and Regulatory Costs

Our home heating oil business is subject to a wide range of federal and state laws and regulations related to environmental and other regulated matters. Petro has implemented environmental programs and policies designed to avoid potential liability and costs under applicable environmental laws. It is possible, however, that Petro will have increased costs due to stricter pollution control requirements or liabilities resulting from non-compliance with operating or other regulatory permits. New environmental regulations might adversely impact Petro's operations, including underground storage and transportation of home heating oil. In addition, the environmental risks inherently associated with our home heating oil operations, such as the risks of accidental release or spill, are greater than those associated with our propane operations. It is possible that material costs and liabilities will be incurred, including those relating to claims for damages to property and persons.

If Total Gas & Electric Fails To Comply With State Consumer Protection Laws And Other State Laws And Regulations To Which It Is Subject, It May Have A Material Adverse Affect On Total Gas & Electric's Operations

Total Gas & Electric is subject to state consumer protection laws and other state laws and regulations. Total Gas & Electric currently has been subject to

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investigations by the Attorneys General of New York and New Jersey and an informal investigation by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission into its practices for soliciting customers. Total Gas & Electric has been in discussions with these agencies to resolve their investigations, has settled the New Jersey investigation and anticipates that the remaining investigations will be satisfactorily resolved. Total Gas & Electric has adopted a comprehensive sales compliance program to comply with applicable regulations.

### A Reversal Of Or Delay In The Trend Towards Competitive Restructuring Of The Electric And Natural Gas Markets Could Materially Adversely Affect Total Gas & Electric's Business Prospects And Financial Condition

If the trend towards competitive restructuring of the electric and natural gas markets is delayed or reversed, Total Gas & Electric's business prospects and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. The current electricity shortage in California may cause such a delay or reversal.

### Total Gas & Electric Will Be Subject To Credit Risks From Its Customers That May Adversely Affect Its Operations

In most markets Total Gas & Electric will be required to bear credit risk for its customers, which may result in additional costs of operations to the extent it is not able to effectively manage this credit risk.

### Risks Inherent in an Investment in Star Gas Partners

#### Cash Distributions Are Not Guaranteed and May Fluctuate with Our Performance and Reserve Requirements

Because distributions on the common units and partnership securities are dependent on the amount of cash generated, distributions may fluctuate based on our performance. The actual amount of cash that is available will depend upon numerous factors, including:

- . profitability of operations;
- . required principal and interest payments on debt;
- . cost of acquisitions;
- . issuance of debt and equity securities;
- . fluctuations in working capital;
- . capital expenditures;

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- . adjustments in reserves;
- . prevailing economic conditions; and
- . financial, business and other factors.

Some of these factors are beyond the control of the general partner.

The partnership agreement gives the general partner discretion in establishing reserves for the proper conduct of our business. These reserves will also affect the amount of cash available for distribution. The general partner may establish reserves for distributions on the senior subordinated

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units only if those reserves will not prevent us from distributing the full minimum quarterly distribution, plus any arrearages, on the common units for the following four quarters.

The amount of cash needed to pay the minimum quarterly distribution for the next four quarters on units outstanding on the date of this prospectus is approximately \$62.3 million. This figure represents \$53.8 million for the common units, \$6.8 million for the senior subordinated units, \$0.9 million for the junior subordinated units and \$0.78 million for the general partner units. The amount of available cash generated in the twelve months ended June 30, 2001 was \$53.5 million. This amount does not reflect the full impact of the results of operations of the businesses that we acquired during the twelve month period (only the results commencing from the date that we acquired the businesses) and does not reflect the results of businesses that we have acquired since June 30, 2001.

### Our Indebtedness May Limit Our Ability to Make Distributions and Affect our Operations

We have debt that is substantial compared to our partners' capital. Principal and interest payable on this debt will reduce cash available to make distributions on the common units and partnership securities. Under specified circumstances, the terms of our debt instruments, including the guarantee of the senior secured notes which were issued in the Petro transaction, will limit our ability to distribute cash to our unitholders and to borrow additional funds. The limitations and restrictions in new debt that we and our subsidiaries issue may be more restrictive than those in current debt. In addition, some of our debt is secured by our assets. If we defaulted on this secured debt, the lenders could institute foreclosure proceedings to seize our assets. Any attempt to stay these foreclosure actions by seeking to reorganize under the federal Bankruptcy Code would have a material adverse effect on us and our unitholders.

### Provisions Concerning Change of Control, Default and Preclusion From Paying Distributions in Our Debt Instruments May Affect Distributions

Our debt instruments contain provisions relating to a "change of control." As of June 30, 2001, a change of control of Star Gas Partners would result in approximately \$219.17 million of Petro debt becoming immediately due and payable, and would result in the re-rating of approximately \$152.5 million of Star Gas Propane debt which could lead to an increase in the interest rate of such debt. A change of control at the Petro level would accelerate the Petro debt but not the Star Gas Propane debt. In either case, this would necessarily affect our ability to make distributions to unitholders. Neither Star Gas Partners nor Petro is restricted from entering into a transaction that would trigger the change of control provisions. If these change of control provisions are triggered, some of the outstanding debt may become due. It is possible that Star Gas Partners or Petro would not have sufficient funds at the time of any change of control to make the required debt payments or that restrictions in its other debt instruments would not permit those payments. In some instances, lenders would have the right to foreclose on Star Gas Partners' or Petro's assets if debt payments were not made upon a change of control.

### We May Sell Additional Limited Partner Interests, Diluting Existing Interests of Unitholders

Our partnership agreement generally allows us to issue additional common units and partnership securities. During the subordinated period, however, the number of common units that we may issue is subject to certain limitations. These limitations do not apply to issuances in connection with acquisitions that are accretive. When

we issue additional equity securities, your proportionate partnership interest will decrease. Such an issuance could negatively affect the amount of cash distributed to unitholders and the market price of common units and partnership securities. Issuance of additional common units will also diminish the relative voting strength of the previously outstanding units. Following the end of the subordination period there are no limits on the total number of common units or partnership securities that we may issue.

#### The Partnership Agreement Contains Provisions Intended to Discourage a Change of Management That May Diminish Trading Value

The partnership agreement contains specific provisions that may discourage attempts to remove an incumbent general partner or otherwise change the management of Star Gas Partners. These provisions may diminish the trading price of the units under some circumstances.

#### Unitholders Have Limited Voting Rights and Do Not Control the General Partner

Unitholders have no right to elect the general partner on an annual or other continuing basis. The general partner manages and operates Star Gas Partners and Star Gas Propane. Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, unitholders have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business. The general partner generally may not be removed unless approved by the holders of 66 2/3% of the outstanding units, voting together as a single class but excluding those held by the general partner and its affiliates. As a result, unitholders have only limited influence on matters affecting our operation, and it would be difficult for third parties to control or influence us. Although the partnership agreement provides that the general partner may not, with specified exceptions, transfer its general partner units to another person before December 31, 2005 unless approved by a unit majority, the members of Star Gas LLC may transfer their limited liability company interests in Star Gas LLC to a third party at any time without the approval of the unitholders.

#### There Is a Limited Call Right That May Require Unitholders to Sell Their Units at an Undesirable Time or Price

If at any time less than 20% of the outstanding units of any class are held by persons other than the general partner and its affiliates, the general partner has the right to acquire all, but not less than all, of those units held by the unaffiliated persons. The price for these units will generally equal the then-current market price of the units. As a consequence, a unitholder may be required to sell his units at an undesirable time or price. The general partner may assign this acquisition right to any of its affiliates or Star Gas Partners. After the subordination period ends, if we acquire more than 66 2/3% of the Class B common units in a twelve-month period, then we will have a similar call right.

#### Our Ability to Make Distributions May Be Adversely Affected by Our Obligation to First Reimburse the General Partner

Before we make any distributions on the units, we will reimburse the general partner for all expenses it has incurred on our behalf. The reimbursement of those expenses and the payment of reasonable fees charged by the general partner for services could adversely affect our ability to make distributions. Reimbursable expenses and fees are determined by the general partner in its sole discretion.

#### Unitholders May Not Have Limited Liability in Some Circumstances



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A number of states have not clearly established limitations on the liability of limited partners for the obligations of a limited partnership. If it were determined that we had been conducting business in any state and had failed to comply with the applicable limited partnership statute, or that the rights or exercise of the rights by the limited partners as a group under the partnership agreement constituted participation in the "control" of Star Gas Partners, then a unitholder might be held liable to the same extent as the general partner for our obligations.

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### The General Partner Has Conflicts of Interest and Limited Fiduciary Responsibilities, Which May Permit the General Partner to Favor Its Own Interests to the Detriment of Unitholders

Conflicts of interest have arisen and could arise in the future as a result of relationships between the general partner and its affiliates, on the one hand, and Star Gas Partners or any of the limited partners, on the other hand. As a result of these conflicts the general partner may favor its own interests and those of its affiliates over the interests of the unitholders. The nature of these conflicts is ongoing and includes the following considerations:

- . The general partner may limit its liability and reduce its fiduciary duties, while also restricting the remedies available to unitholders for actions that might, without the limitations, constitute breaches of fiduciary duty. Unitholders are deemed to have consented to some actions and conflicts of interest that might otherwise be deemed a breach of fiduciary or other duties under applicable state law.
- . The general partner is allowed to take into account the interests of parties in addition to Star Gas Partners in resolving conflicts of interest, thereby limiting its fiduciary duty to the unitholders.
- . Except for Irik P. Sevin, who is subject to a non-competition agreement, the general partner's affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in other business or activities, including direct competition with us.
- . The general partner determines the amount and timing of asset purchases and sales, capital expenditures, borrowings and reserves, each of which can impact the amount of cash that is distributed to unitholders.
- . The general partner determines whether to issue additional units or other equity securities of Star Gas Partners.
- . The general partner determines which costs are reimbursable by us.
- . The general partner controls the enforcement of obligations owed to us by the general partner.
- . The general partner decides whether to retain separate counsel, accountants or others to perform services for us.
- . Some officers of the general partner, who will provide services to us, may also devote significant time to the businesses of the general partner's affiliates and will be compensated by these affiliates for the services rendered to them.
- . The general partner is not restricted from causing us to pay the general partner or its affiliates for any services rendered on terms that are fair

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and reasonable to us or entering into additional contractual arrangements with any of these entities on our behalf.

- . In some instances the general partner may borrow funds in order to permit the payment of distributions.

Our Unit Purchase Rights Agreement and Provisions In Our Partnership Agreement May Inhibit A Takeover, Which Could Adversely Affect the Value of Our Partnership Securities.

Our unit purchase rights agreement and partnership agreement contain provisions that could delay or prevent a change in control of our management. These provisions apply even if the offer may be considered beneficial by some of our unitholders. If a change of control is delayed or prevented, the market price of our partnership securities could decline.

### Tax Risks to Common Unitholders

The Increase in Taxes Payable By Petro In the Future Will Reduce Dividends to Star Gas Partners, Which May Reduce Distributions to Unitholders

Petro and its corporate affiliates do not expect to pay significant federal income tax for several years following the Petro transaction. However, over time the amount of federal income taxes paid by Petro and its corporate affiliates will increase. In addition, a successful IRS challenge to the deductions of Petro, including depreciation or interest, will increase Petro's and its corporate affiliates' tax liability. This will reduce the amount

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of cash that Petro can distribute to Star Gas which in turn will reduce the amount of cash that we can distribute to our unitholders. In addition, Petro and its corporate affiliates do expect to generate earnings and profits, which will make part of the distributions from these entities to Star Gas Partners taxable dividend income to the unitholders. This dividend income cannot be offset by past or future losses generated by our propane activities.

The Petro transaction resulted in income to Petro equal to the difference in the value of the Star Gas Partners units distributed in the merger, including the amount of any debt of which Petro was relieved, and the federal income tax basis Petro had in those units. Petro's net operating losses generally offset this income and it incurred only nominal tax. The IRS could challenge the amount of Petro's net operating losses and the use of the net operating losses to offset income realized in the Petro transaction. A successful challenge could reduce the cash we have available for distribution.

The IRS Could Classify Us as an Association Taxable as a Corporation, Which Could Result in Our Paying Tax as an Entity Which Would Substantially Reduce the Cash Available for Distribution to Unitholders

The federal income tax benefit of an investment in Star Gas Partners depends largely on Star Gas Partners' classification as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Assuming the accuracy of factual matters represented as true by the general partner and Star Gas Partners, counsel is of the opinion that, as of October 31, 2001, Star Gas Partners has been and will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. No ruling from the IRS as to classification has been or is expected to be requested. Instead, we intend to rely on the opinion of counsel, which is not binding on the IRS. Based on the representations of Star Gas Partners and the general partner and a review of applicable legal authorities, counsel is also of the opinion that, as of

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October 31, 2001, at least 90% of our gross income is "qualifying income," within the meaning of Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code. This means that our income is derived from the exploration, development, mining or production, processing, refining, transportation or marketing of any mineral or natural resource or other items. Whether we will continue to be classified as a partnership depends, at least partly, on our ability to continue to meet this qualifying income test in the future.

If we were classified as an association taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, we would pay tax on our income at corporate rates, which is currently a 35% federal rate. If this were to occur, distributions to the unitholders would generally be taxed again as corporate distributions, and no income, gains, losses or deductions would flow through to the unitholders. Because a tax would be imposed upon Star Gas Partners as an entity, the cash available for distribution to unitholders would be substantially reduced. Treatment of Star Gas Partners as an association that is taxable as a corporation or otherwise as a taxable entity would result in a material reduction in the anticipated cash flow and after-tax return to the unitholders, likely causing a substantial reduction in the market value of the units.

There can be no assurance that the law will not change so as to cause Star Gas Partners to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes or otherwise to be subject to entity-level taxation. The partnership agreement provides that, if a law is enacted or existing law is modified or interpreted in a manner that subjects Star Gas Partners to taxation as a corporation or otherwise subjects Star Gas Partners to entity-level taxation for income tax purposes, then specified provisions of the partnership agreement are subject to change, including a decrease in distributions to reflect the impact of that law on us.

### A Unitholder May Be Required to Pay Taxes on Income From Star Gas Partners Even if He Receives No Cash Distributions

A unitholder will be required to pay federal income taxes and, in some cases, state and local income taxes on his allocable share of our income, whether or not he receives cash distributions from us. No assurance can be given that a unitholder will receive cash distributions equal to his allocable share of our taxable income or even equal to the actual tax liability that results from this allocable share of income. Further, upon the sale of his units, a unitholder may incur a tax liability in excess of the amount of cash he receives.

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### Investors, Other Than Individuals That Are U.S. Residents, May Have Adverse Tax Consequences From Owning Units

Investment in units by specific tax-exempt entities, regulated investment companies and foreign persons raises issues unique to these persons. For example, for any unitholder that is an organization exempt from federal income tax, including IRAs and other retirement plans, virtually all of the unitholder's allocable share of taxable income in the first few years will constitute unrelated business taxable income and thus will be taxable to this unitholder.

### Because We Are a Registered Tax Shelter, A Unitholder or Star Gas Partners Faces an Increased Risk of an IRS Audit Resulting In Taxes Payable on Star Gas Partners' and Non-Star Gas Partners' Income

We are registered with the Secretary of the Treasury as a "tax shelter." The

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IRS has issued the following tax shelter registration number to Star Gas Partners: 9602600016. We cannot assure unitholders that we will not be audited by the IRS or that adjustments to our income or losses will not be made. Any unitholder owning less than a 1% profit interest in Star Gas Partners has very limited rights to participate in the income tax audit process. Further, any adjustments in our tax returns will lead to adjustments in the unitholders' tax returns and may lead to audits of unitholders' tax returns and adjustments of items unrelated to us. Each unitholder is responsible for any tax owed as the result of an examination of his personal tax return.

### There Is A Possibility Of Loss Of Tax Benefits Relating To Nonuniformity Of Common Units And Nonconforming Depreciation Conventions

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of common units, uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the common units to a purchaser of common units of the same class must be maintained. To maintain uniformity and for other reasons, we have adopted certain depreciation and amortization conventions which to a certain extent may arguably not conform to Treasury regulations. In addition, under our partnership agreement, the general partner is authorized to adopt a convention to preserve the uniformity of units even if that convention is not consistent with Treasury regulations. A successful challenge to those conventions by the IRS could adversely affect the amount of tax benefits available to a purchaser of common units and could have a negative impact on the value of the common units.

### There Are State, Local and Other Taxes To Which Unitholders Will Probably Be Subject Solely Because of an Investment In the Units

In addition to federal income taxes, unitholders will likely be subject to other taxes, such as state and local taxes, unincorporated business taxes and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that are imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property. A unitholder will likely be required to file state and local income tax returns and pay state and local income taxes in some or all of the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. The general partner anticipates that substantially all of our income will be generated in the following states: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia and Wisconsin. Each of these states currently imposes a personal income tax; however, New Hampshire's tax only applies to interest and dividend income. It is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all United States federal, state and local tax returns that may be required of him. Counsel has not rendered an opinion on the state or local tax consequences of ownership or sale of units.

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### USE OF PROCEEDS

The common units that we are offering under this prospectus may be issued by us from time to time as the consideration when we acquire other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions. See "Plan of Distribution". From time to time we are engaged in ongoing discussions concerning potential acquisitions, and we expect to continue to pursue acquisition opportunities actively. As of the date of this prospectus, we do not have any agreements concerning any material acquisitions, but we are involved in ongoing discussions with several companies and we are continuing to assess these and other acquisition opportunities.

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## OUTSTANDING SECURITIES COVERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS

We may permit persons, known as selling unitholders, who receive common units from us that are covered by this prospectus to reoffer and resell these common units by means of this prospectus under circumstances requiring the use of a prospectus. However, no selling unitholder is authorized to use this prospectus for an offering of common units without first obtaining our consent. We may consent to the use of this prospectus by selling unitholders for a limited period of time and subject to limitations and conditions, which may be varied by agreement between us and the selling unitholders. Resales of common units may be made on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on which the common units may be listed, in the over-the-counter market, in private transactions or pursuant to underwriting agreements.

In our agreements with selling unitholders permitting use of this prospectus we may require that any such offering be effected in an orderly manner through securities dealers, acting as broker or dealers, selected by us; that selling unitholders enter into custody agreements with one or more banks with respect to the common units offered; and that sales be made only by one or more of the methods described in this prospectus, as appropriately supplemented or amended when required. The selling unitholders and any such broker or dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, and any commissions earned by such broker or dealer may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933.

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## PRICE RANGE OF COMMON UNITS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The common units are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SGU." The following table shows the high and low closing prices for the common units on the NYSE and the cash distribution paid per common unit for the periods indicated.

Fiscal Quarter Ended	Common Unit Closing Price Range								
	Fiscal 2002			Fiscal 2001			Fiscal 2000		
	High	Low	Cash Distri- butions (a)	High	Low	Cash Distri- butions (a)	High	Low	Cash Distri- butions (a)
December 31,..	\$21.40 (b)	\$20.21 (b)		\$17.81	\$15.50	\$0.575	\$16.88	\$12.88	\$0.575
March 31,.....				19.00	16.94	0.575	15.88	13.25	0.575
June 30,.....				21.68	18.70	0.575	16.00	13.00	0.575
September 30,..				21.45	18.20	0.575	17.94	15.19	0.575

(a) Distributions are shown in the quarter they were paid. The board of directors of our general partner has declared a distribution of \$0.575 on all of the common units for the quarter ended September 30, 2001, which is payable on November 14, 2001 to holders of record on November 5, 2001.

(b) Through October 30, 2001.

The last reported sales price of common units on the NYSE on October 30, 2001 was \$21.16 per common unit. As of October 30, 2001 there were approximately 747 holders of record of Star Gas Partners' common units.

CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY

General Description of Cash Distribution

In general, we distribute to our partners on a quarterly basis, all of our Available Cash in the manner described below. Available Cash is defined in the glossary and generally means, for any of our fiscal quarters, all cash on hand at the end of that quarter, less the amount of cash reserves that are necessary or appropriate in the reasonable discretion of the general partner to:

- (1) provide for the proper conduct of our business;
- (2) comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments or other agreements; or
- (3) provide funds for distributions to the common unitholders and the senior subordinated unitholders during the next four quarters, in some circumstances.

The general partner may not establish cash reserves for distributions to the senior subordinated units unless the general partner has determined that the establishment of reserves will not prevent us from distributing the minimum quarterly distribution on all common units and any common unit arrearages for the next four quarters. As discussed below, the restrictions on distributions to senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units could result in cash that would otherwise be Available Cash being reserved for other purposes.

Cash distributions will be characterized as distributions from either Operating Surplus or Capital Surplus. This distinction affects the amounts distributed among different classes of units. See "--Quarterly Distributions of Available Cash."

Operating Surplus is defined in the glossary and generally means:

- (1) the cash balance of Star Gas Partners on the date we began operations, plus approximately \$20.3 million, plus all of our cash receipts, excluding cash receipts that constitute Capital Surplus; less
- (2) all of our operating expenses, debt service payments, maintenance capital expenditures and reserves established for future operations; provided, however, that Operating Surplus is calculated without any reduction for costs or expenses incurred in the transaction.

Capital Surplus is also defined in the glossary and is generally generated only by borrowings other than for working capital purposes, sales of debt and equity securities and sales or other dispositions of assets for cash, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other assets, all as disposed of in the ordinary course of business.

All Available Cash distributed from any source will be treated as distributed from Operating Surplus until the sum of all Available Cash distributed since our commencement equals the Operating Surplus as of the end of the quarter before that distribution. This method of cash distribution avoids the difficulty of trying to determine whether Available Cash is distributed from Operating Surplus or Capital Surplus. Any excess Available Cash, irrespective of its source, will be deemed to be Capital Surplus and

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distributed accordingly.

If Capital Surplus is distributed on each common unit issued in our initial public offering in an aggregate amount per unit equal to \$22.00 per common unit, the distinction between Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus will cease. All distributions after that date will be treated as from Operating Surplus. The general partner does not expect that there will be significant distributions from Capital Surplus.

The senior subordinated units and the junior subordinated units are each a separate class of interests in Star Gas Partners, and the rights of holders of those interests to participate in distributions differ from the rights of the holders of common units. When issued, the Class B common units will also be a separate class of interests in Star Gas Partners.

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### Quarterly Distributions of Available Cash

Except for the limitations and prohibitions on distributions discussed below, we will make distributions to our partners for each of our fiscal quarters before liquidation in an amount equal to all of our Available Cash for that quarter. Distributions will be made approximately 45 days after each March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31, to holders of record on the applicable record date. For a discussion of the restrictions on distributions to the holders of subordinated interests, see "--Limitations and Prohibitions on Distributions on Subordinated Interests."

Upon expiration of the subordination period, all senior subordinated units and junior subordinated units will be converted, on a one-for-one basis, into Class B common units, and distributions on the general partner units will no longer be subordinated to distributions on the common units. All references to common units after the expiration of the subordination period are references to Class A common units and Class B common units, collectively, unless otherwise indicated. Neither Class A common units nor Class B common units will accrue arrearages for any quarter after the subordination period, and senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units will not accrue any arrearages on distributions for any quarter.

### Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus During the Subordination Period

The subordination period is defined in the glossary and will generally extend until the first day of any quarter beginning on or after October 1, 2002 that each of the following three events occur:

- (1) distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus on the common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units equal or exceed the sum of the minimum quarterly distributions on all of the outstanding common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units for each of the three non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date;
- (2) the Adjusted Operating Surplus generated during each of the three immediately preceding non-overlapping four-quarter periods equaled or exceeded the sum of the minimum quarterly distributions on all of the outstanding common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units during those periods on a fully diluted basis for employee options or other employee incentive compensation.

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This includes all outstanding units and all common units issuable upon exercise of employee options that have, as of the date of determination, already vested or are scheduled to vest before the end of the quarter immediately following the quarter for which the determination is made. It also includes all units that have as of the date of determination been earned by but not yet issued to our management for incentive compensation; and

- (3) there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.

In specific circumstances, if the general partner is removed without cause, the subordination period will end, any existing arrearages on the common units will be extinguished, the senior subordinated units and junior subordinated units will immediately convert into Class B common units and distributions on the general partner units will no longer be subordinated.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus for any quarter during the subordination period will be made in the following manner:

- . First, 100% to the common units, pro rata, until there has been distributed for each common unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter.
- . Second, 100% to the common units, pro rata, until there has been distributed for each common unit an amount equal to any cumulative common unit arrearages on each common unit for any prior quarter.
- . Third, 100% to the senior subordinated units, pro rata, until there has been distributed for each senior subordinated unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter.

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- . Fourth, 100% to the junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, until there has been distributed for each junior subordinated unit and general partner unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter.
- . Thereafter, in the manner described in "--Incentive Distributions During the Subordination Period" below.

The general partner has a 1.85% general partner interest in Star Gas Partners in the form of general partner units and a 0.01% general partner interest in Star Gas Propane. References in this prospectus to distributions on the general partner units disregard the general partner's 0.01% general partner interest in Star Gas Propane.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus After the Subordination Period

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus for any quarter after the subordination period will be made in the following manner:

- (1) First, 100% to all units, pro rata, until there has been distributed to each unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter.
- (2) Thereafter, in the manner described in "--Incentive Distributions After the Subordination Period" below.



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### Incentive Distributions During the Subordination Period

For any quarter that both (1) and (2) below occur, holders of the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units will receive incentive distributions as described below.

- (1) Available Cash from Operating Surplus is distributed to each of the common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution.
- (2) Available Cash has been distributed on outstanding common units in the amount as may be necessary to eliminate any cumulative common unit arrearages.

After the distributions described in (1) and (2) above are met, additional Available Cash from Operating Surplus for that quarter will be distributed among the units in the following manner:

- . First, 100% to all units, until each unit has received, in addition to any distributions to the common units to eliminate any cumulative common unit arrearages, a total of \$0.604 per unit for that quarter (the "First Target Distribution").
- . Second, 86.7% to all units, pro rata, and 13.3% to all senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, until each common unit has received, in addition to any distributions to eliminate any cumulative common unit arrearages, a total of \$0.711 per unit for that quarter (the "Second Target Distribution").
- . Third, 76.5% to all units, pro rata, and 23.5% to all senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, until each common unit has received, in addition to any distributions to eliminate any cumulative common unit arrearages, a total of \$0.926 per unit for that quarter (the "Third Target Distribution").
- . Thereafter, 51.0% to all units, pro rata, and 49.0% to all senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata.

The partnership agreement may not be amended, including the issuance of additional Star Gas Partners securities, in any manner that would increase the aggregate amount of incentive distributions without the approval of a majority of the outstanding units of the classes, each class voting separately, that would be adversely affected.

The following table illustrates the amount of Available Cash from Operating Surplus distributed pro rata as the base distribution to all unitholders pro rata and the percentage of Available Cash distributed as incentive

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distributions to the holders of senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units only at the target distribution levels. The percentages in the table below are the percentage interests of the unitholders in Available Cash from Operating Surplus distributed as base distributions to all unitholders and distributed as incentive distributions based on the number of units outstanding on the date of this prospectus.

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	Quarterly Distribution Amount per Common Unit	Percentage of Available Cash Distributed as Base Distributions	Percentage of Available Cash Distributed as Incentive Distributions	Percentage of Distributed as Incentive to the Specific Senior Subordinated Units
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Minimum Quarterly Distribution	\$0.575	100.0%	--	--
First Target Distribution.....	0.604	100.0	--	--
Second Target Distribution....	0.711	86.7	13.3%	10.6%
Third Target Distribution.....	0.926	76.5	23.5	18.8
Thereafter.....	--	51.0	49.0	39.2

The percentage allocation of incentive distributions among senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, will change in the future if there are additional non-proportional issuances of units.

### Incentive Distributions After the Subordination Period

For any quarter for which Available Cash from Operating Surplus is distributed to each of the Class A common units, the Class B common units and general partner units in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution, then any additional Available Cash from Operating Surplus for that quarter will be distributed among the unitholders in the following manner:

- . First, 100% to all units, pro rata, until each unit has received the First Target Distribution.
- . Second, 86.7% to all units, pro rata, and 13.3% to all Class B common units and general partner units, pro rata, until each Class A common unit has received the Second Target Distribution.
- . Third, 76.5% to all units, pro rata, and 23.5% to all Class B common units and general partner units, pro rata, until each Class A common unit has received the Third Target Distribution.
- . Thereafter, 51% to all units, pro rata, and 49% to all Class B common units and general partner units, pro rata.

### Distributions from Capital Surplus

Distributions of Available Cash from Capital Surplus will be made 100% on all units, pro rata, until each common unit that was issued in our initial public offering has received distributions equal to \$22.00. This was the unit price from the initial public offering. Thereafter, all distributions from Capital Surplus will be distributed as if they were from Operating Surplus.

When a distribution is made from Capital Surplus, it is treated as if it were a repayment of the unit price from the initial public offering. To reflect repayment, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be adjusted downward by multiplying each amount by a fraction. This fraction is determined as follows: the numerator is the unrecovered initial unit price immediately after giving effect to the repayment and the denominator is the unrecovered initial unit price immediately before the repayment. For

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example, based on the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price of \$22.00 per unit and assuming Available Cash from Capital Surplus of \$11.00 per unit is distributed on all common units issued in the initial public offering, then the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels would each be reduced to 50% of its initial level.

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A "payback" of the unit price from the initial public offering occurs when the unrecovered initial unit price is zero. At that time, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels each will have been reduced to zero. All distributions of Available Cash from all sources after that time will be treated as if they were from Operating Surplus. Because the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will have been reduced to zero, the holders of the rights to incentive distributions will then be entitled to receive 49% of all distributions of Available Cash, after distributions for cumulative common unit arrearages.

Distributions from Capital Surplus will not reduce the minimum quarterly distribution or any of the target distribution levels for the quarter in which they are distributed.

### Limitations and Prohibitions on Distributions on Subordinated Interests

Distributions on the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units were prohibited during our fiscal year 1999 following the completion of the Petro transaction. There was no prohibition on distributions to common units during this time and all minimum quarterly distributions were paid to common unitholders.

Beginning with the first quarter of our fiscal year 2000, which began on October 1, 1999, no distributions will be made on the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units or general partner units, unless the aggregate amount of distributions on all units for all quarters, beginning with the first quarter of our fiscal year 2000, is equal to or less than the total Operating Surplus generated by us since October 1, 1999. Solely for purposes of this limitation, Operating Surplus does not include our cash balance on the date we began operations, plus approximately \$20.3 million.

The holders of the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units are not prohibited from receiving distributions from Capital Surplus in a partial liquidation during the subordination period.

### Adjustment of Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels

In addition to adjustments made upon a distribution of Available Cash from Capital Surplus, the following will each be proportionately adjusted upward or downward, as appropriate, if any combination or subdivision of units should occur:

- (1) the minimum quarterly distribution;
- (2) the target distribution levels;
- (3) the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price;
- (4) the number of additional common units issuable during the subordination period without a unitholder vote;
- (5) the number of Class B common units issuable upon conversion of the

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senior subordinated units and the junior subordinated units; and

(6) other amounts calculated on a per unit basis

However, no adjustment will be made by reason of the issuance of additional units for cash or property. For example, if a two-for-one split of the common units should occur, the minimum quarterly distribution, the target distribution levels and the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price would each be reduced to 50% of its initial level.

The minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels may also be adjusted if legislation is enacted or if existing law is modified or interpreted in a manner that causes us to become taxable as a corporation or otherwise subject to taxation as an entity for federal, state or local income tax purposes. In this event, the minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels for each quarter after that time would be reduced to amounts equal to the product of:

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(1) the minimum quarterly distribution or target distribution level; multiplied by

(2) one minus the sum of:

(x) the highest marginal federal corporate income tax rate to which we are then subject as an entity; plus

(y) any increase in the effective overall state and local income tax rate to which we are subject as a result of the new imposition of the entity level tax, after taking into account the benefit of any deduction allowable for federal income tax purposes for the payment of state and local income taxes, but only to the extent of the increase in rates resulting from that legislation or interpretation.

For example, assuming we are not previously subject to state and local income tax, if we were to become taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes and we became subject to a maximum marginal federal, and effective state and local, income tax rate of 38%, then the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels would each be reduced to 62% of the amount thereof immediately before the adjustment.

The minimum quarterly distributions and target level distributions may also be adjusted in connection with the occurrence of certain events under our unit purchase rights agreement.

### Issuance of Additional Senior Subordinated Units

The partnership agreement provides for the issuance of up to 909,000 additional senior subordinated units if Petro meets specified financial tests. Specifically, if the dollar amount of Petro Adjusted Operating Surplus per Petro Unit equals or exceeds \$2.90 for any four-quarter period that occurs between the first and fifth anniversaries of the Petro transaction, we will issue 303,000 senior subordinated units to the holders of the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units of record for the final quarter of that four-quarter period. After the end of the subordination period, we would instead issue 303,000 Class B common units to the holders of the Class B common units and the general partner units. In any case, we may not issue more than 303,000 senior subordinated units or Class B common units in any 365-day period. Furthermore, we may not issue more than

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909,000 senior subordinated units or Class B common units under this provision in the aggregate. We will not issue any fractional units in the issuance of these additional units but will pay to each holder who would otherwise be entitled to a fractional unit an amount in cash in lieu of those fractional units. The amount of cash to be paid will be determined by multiplying the fraction by the current market price of a senior subordinated unit or a Class B common unit, as the case may be. For this purpose, the current market price is set as of the date three days prior to issuance of the additional units. On the first day after the record date for distributions for the first quarter ending on or after the fifth anniversary of completion of the Petro transaction, the right to receive the additional units shall lapse and all conversion rights shall cease to exist. On October 26, 2001, we announced that the partnership had achieved the specified financial test for the four-quarter period ended September 30, 2001 and that we would distribute 303,000 senior subordinated units, pro rata, to the holders of record on November 5, 2001 of the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units on or about November 14, 2001.

In addition, in lieu of a portion of the cash purchase price that would otherwise be due to the holders of the Petro 12 7/8% preferred stock, we may in the future issue an additional 175,000 senior subordinated units.

"Petro Adjusted Operating Surplus" means, for any four-quarter period, the Adjusted Operating Surplus generated by Petro, which includes all subsidiaries of Star Gas Partners primarily engaged in the home heating oil business, during that four quarter period. The determination of this amount is made in good faith by a majority of the members of the board of directors of the general partner acting with the concurrence of the audit committee. In calculating Petro Adjusted Operating Surplus:

- (1) debt service, including the payment of principal, interest and premium on all debt incurred or assumed by Petro or any of its affiliates, the proceeds of which are used by or for the benefit of Petro, including the proceeds from the debt offering, shall be included to the extent that debt service is included in the calculation of Operating Surplus; and

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- (2) debt service, including the payment of principal, interest and premium, on all debt incurred or assumed by Petro or any of its affiliates, the proceeds of which are not used by or for the benefit of Petro, shall be excluded.

"Petro Units", for any date, means the sum of:

- (1) the excess of the number of units outstanding at completion of the Petro transaction over the number of units outstanding immediately before the completion of the Petro transaction;
- (2) the number of units issued by Star Gas Partners after the transaction to the extent the net proceeds of which are contributed to Petro, which for these purposes includes all subsidiaries of Star Gas Partners primarily engaged in the home heating oil business;
- (3) the number of senior subordinated units or Class B common units issued under the partnership agreement based on the performance of Petro; and
- (4) the deemed number of units outstanding based upon a contribution of capital to Petro by Star Gas Partners or any of its affiliates after completion of the transaction, which contribution is not covered by (2)

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above or traceable to debt proceeds, which number of deemed units is obtained by dividing:

- (A) the amount of that Star Gas Partners' contribution; by
- (B) the Current Market Price of a common unit, or of a Class A common unit after the termination of the subordination period.

For purposes of (4) above, the amount used to pay down the Petro debt discussed below will be treated as if it were contributed to Petro by Star Gas Partners. Specifically, Petro debt paid or debt allocated to Petro from internally generated funds that exist at Petro only because Petro has not paid dividends up to Star Gas Partners in an amount equal to the distributions that would have been paid on the Petro Units had they been actual outstanding units of Star Gas Partners will fall within (4) above. The distribution per senior subordinated unit of Star Gas Partners shall be the amount that Star Gas Partners would have been deemed to have distributed per Petro Unit had they been actual outstanding units of Star Gas Partners. For purposes of the number of deemed outstanding units in (4) above, those units shall be deemed to be issued on the date of the capital contribution. For purposes of determining the number of outstanding Petro Units for any period of time, the number of units issued under (2), (3) and (4) above shall be determined on a weighted average basis based on the amount of time they have been outstanding. For this purpose, common unit means Class A common unit upon expiration of the subordination period. Petro Units are not "units" as such term is used in this prospectus.

The terms upon which any of the said additional units may be issued may not be amended in a manner that would materially adversely affect the rights of the holders of those units without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, voting together as a single class.

### Distributions of Cash upon Liquidation During the Subordination Period

Following the beginning of the dissolution and liquidation, assets will be sold or otherwise disposed of and the partners' capital account balances will be adjusted to reflect any resulting gain or loss. The proceeds of liquidation will first be applied to the payment of our creditors in the order of priority provided in the partnership agreement and by law and, thereafter, be distributed on the units in accordance with respective capital account balances, as so adjusted.

Partners are entitled to liquidation distributions in accordance with capital account balances. Although operating losses are allocated on all units pro rata, the allocations of gains and losses attributable to liquidation are intended to favor the holders of outstanding common units over the holders of all other outstanding units, to the extent of the unrecovered initial unit price plus any cumulative common unit arrearages. However, no

assurance can be given that there will be sufficient gain upon liquidation of Star Gas Partners to enable the holders of common units to fully recover their Unrecovered Initial Unit Price and arrearages, even though there may be cash available for distribution to the holders of senior subordinated units and junior subordinated units. The manner of the adjustment is provided in the partnership agreement. If our liquidation occurs before the end of the subordination period, any gain, or unrealized gain attributable to assets distributed in kind, will be allocated to the partners in the following manner:

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- . First, to the partners that have negative balances in their capital accounts, to the extent of and in proportion to, those negative balances.
- . Second, 100% to the common units, pro rata, until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price for that common unit plus the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the fiscal quarter during which the dissolution occurs, plus any cumulative common unit arrearages on those common units.
- . Third, 100% to the senior subordinated units, pro rata, until the capital account for each senior subordinated unit is equal to the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price plus the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the fiscal quarter during which the dissolution occurs.
- . Fourth, 100% to the junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, until the capital account for each junior subordinated unit is equal to the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price plus the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the fiscal quarter during which the dissolution occurs.
- . Fifth, 100% to all units, pro rata, until there has been allocated under this clause an amount per common unit equal to (a) the excess of the First Target Distribution per unit over the then effective minimum quarterly distribution per unit for each quarter of Star Gas Partners' existence, less (b) the amount per common unit of any distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus in excess of the then effective minimum quarterly distribution per unit that was distributed 100% to all units, pro rata, for each quarter of Star Gas Partners' existence.
- . Sixth, 86.7% to all units, pro rata, 13.3% to senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, until there has been allocated under this clause an amount per common unit equal to (a) the excess of the Second Target Distribution per common unit over the First Target Distribution per common unit for each quarter of Star Gas Partners' existence, less (b) the amount per common unit of any distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus in excess of the First Target Distribution per common unit but not in excess of the Second Target Distribution for each quarter of Star Gas Partners' existence.
- . Seventh, 76.5% to all units, pro rata, and 23.5% to all senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, until there has been allocated under this clause an amount per common unit equal to (a) the excess of the Third Target Distribution per common unit over the Second Target Distribution but not in excess of the Third Target Distribution for each quarter of Star Gas Partners' existence.
- . Thereafter, 51.0% to all units, pro rata, and 49.0% to all senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata.

Any loss or unrealized loss will be allocated to the unitholders in the following manner:

- . First, 100% to the junior subordinated units and general partner units, pro rata, in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts until the positive balances in their capital accounts have been reduced to zero.
- . Second, 100% to the senior subordinated units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts until the positive balances in their capital accounts have been reduced to zero.

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- . Third, 100% to the common units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts until the positive balances in their capital accounts have been reduced to zero.

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- . Thereafter, to the general partner units.

### Distributions of Cash upon Liquidation After the Subordination Period

If our liquidation occurs after the end of the subordination period, any gain, or unrealized gain attributable to assets distributed in kind, will be allocated to the partners in the following manner:

- . First, to the partners that have negative balances in their capital accounts to the extent of and in proportion to those negative balances.
- . Second, 100% to all Class A common units and Class B common units, until the capital account for each Class A common unit and Class B common unit is equal to the Unrecovered Initial Unit Price, plus the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the fiscal quarter during which the dissolution occurs.
- . Third, 100% to all units, pro rata, until there has been allocated under this clause an amount per Class A common unit equal to (a) the excess of the First Target Distribution per Class A common unit over the then effective minimum quarterly distribution for each quarter of our existence, less (b) the amount per Class A common unit of any distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus in excess of the then effective minimum quarterly distribution per Class A common unit that was distributed 100% to units, pro rata, for each quarter of our existence.
- . Fourth, 86.7% to all units, pro rata, and 13.3% to Class B common units and general partner units, pro rata, until there has been allocated under this clause an amount per Class A common unit equal to (a) the excess of the Second Target Distribution per Class A common unit over the First Target Distribution per Class A common unit for each quarter of our existence, less (b) the amount per Class A common unit of any distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus in excess of the First Target Distribution but not in excess of the Second Target Distribution for each quarter of our existence.
- . Fifth, 76.5% to all units, pro rata, and 23.5% to Class B common units and general partner units, pro rata, until there has been allocated under this clause an amount per Class A common unit equal to (a) the excess of the Third Target Distribution per Class A common unit over the Second Target Distribution per Class A common unit for each quarter of our existence, less (b) the amount per Class A common unit of any distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus in excess of the Second Target Distribution but not in excess of the Third Target Distribution for each quarter of our existence.
- . Thereafter, 51.0% to all units, pro rata, and 49.0% to all Class B common units and general partner units, pro rata.

Any loss or unrealized loss will be allocated to the general partner units, the Class A common units and the Class B common units, pro rata, in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts, until the positive balances in those capital accounts have been reduced to zero.



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Interim adjustments to capital accounts will be made at the time we issue additional interests or make distributions of property. These adjustments will be based on the fair market value of the interests issued or the property distributed and any gain or loss resulting from the adjustments will be allocated to the unitholders in the same manner as gain or loss is allocated upon liquidation.

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The common units have been registered under the Exchange Act and we are subject to the reporting and certain other requirements of the Exchange Act. We are required to file periodic reports containing financial and other information with the SEC.

Purchasers of common units in this offering and later transferees of common units, or their brokers, agents or nominees on their behalf, will be required to execute transfer applications. The form of transfer application is included as Annex A to this prospectus and is also shown on the reverse side of the certificate representing common units. Purchasers may hold common units in nominee accounts, provided that the broker, or other nominee, executes and delivers a transfer application and becomes a limited partner. We will be entitled to treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner of that unit, and the beneficial owner's rights will be limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder.

#### The Rights of Unitholders

Generally, the common units represent limited partner interests, which entitle the holders of those units to participate in our distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to limited partners under the partnership agreement. For a description of the relative rights and preferences of holders of common units in and to our distributions, see "Cash Distribution Policy."

#### Transfer Agent and Registrar

We have retained Fleet National Bank as registrar and transfer agent for the common units. The transfer agent receives a fee from us for serving in these capacities. All fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units will be borne by us and not by the holders of common units, except that fees similar to those customarily paid by stockholders for surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes and other governmental charges, special charges for services requested by a holder of a common unit and other similar fees or charges will be borne by the unitholder. There will be no charge to holders for disbursements of cash distributions. We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their shareholders, directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses that may arise out of acts performed or omitted for its activities as transfer agent, except for any liability due to any negligence, gross negligence, bad faith or intentional misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

The transfer agent may resign, or be removed by us. If no successor is appointed within 30 days, the general partner may act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

#### Obligations and Procedures for the Transfer of Units

Until a common unit has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer

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agent, notwithstanding any notice to the contrary, may treat the record holder as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations. The transfer of the common units to persons that purchase directly from underwriters will be accomplished through the completion, execution and delivery of a transfer application by that purchaser for that purchase. Any later transfers of a common unit will not be recorded by the transfer agent or recognized by us unless the transferee executes and delivers a transfer application. By executing and delivering a transfer application, the transferee of common units does the following:

- . Becomes the record holder of those units and shall be constituted as an assignee until admitted into Star Gas Partners as a substituted limited partner;
- . Automatically requests admission as a substituted limited partner in Star Gas Partners;
- . Agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of, and executes, the partnership agreement;
- . Represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to enter into the partnership agreement;

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- . Grants powers of attorney to the general partner and any liquidator of Star Gas Partners as specified in the partnership agreement; and
- . Makes the consents and waivers contained in the partnership agreement.

An assignee will become a substituted limited partner of Star Gas Partners for the transferred common units upon satisfaction of the following two conditions:

- . The consent of the general partner, which may be withheld for any reason in its sole discretion.
- . The recording of the name of the assignee on the books and records of Star Gas Partners.

Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfer of securities. In addition to other rights acquired upon transfer, the transferor gives the transferee the right to request admission as a substituted limited partner in Star Gas Partners for the transferred common units. A purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application obtains only the following rights:

- . The right to assign the common unit to a purchaser or other transferee.
- . The right to transfer the right to seek admission as a substituted limited partner in Star Gas Partners for the transferred common units.

Thus, a purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application will not receive cash distributions, unless the common units are held in a nominee or "street name" account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application for those common units. In addition, such purchaser or transferee may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units. The transferor of common units will have a duty to provide the transferee with all information that may be necessary to obtain registration of the transfer of

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the common units, but a transferee agrees, by acceptance of the certificate representing common units, that the transferor will not have a duty to insure the execution of the transfer application by the transferee and will have no liability or responsibility if the transferee neglects or fails to execute and forward the transfer application to the transfer agent.

### Unit Purchase Rights

Each common unit and each other partnership security consisting of a unit of limited or general partnership interest includes a right to purchase from us a Class A common unit at a purchase price of \$80.00 per unit, subject to adjustment. The rights are issued pursuant to a rights agreement between us and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company as rights agent. We have summarized selected portions of the rights agreement and the rights below. For a complete description of the rights, we encourage you to read the summary below and the rights agreement, which we have filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

### Detachment of Rights; Exercisability

The rights are attached to all certificates representing our currently outstanding units and will attach to all unit certificates we issue prior to the "distribution date." That date will occur, except in some cases, on the earlier of:

- . ten days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons, who we refer to collectively as an "acquiring person," has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 15% or more of either our outstanding common units or the aggregate of our outstanding senior subordinated units and junior subordinated units, or
- . ten business days following the start of a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person becoming an acquiring person.

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Our general partner may defer the distribution date in some circumstances. Also, some inadvertent acquisitions of our units will not result in a person becoming an acquiring person if the person promptly divests itself of sufficient units.

Until the distribution date:

- . unit certificates will evidence the rights,
- . the rights will be transferable only with those certificates,
- . new unit certificates will contain a notation incorporating the rights agreement by reference, and
- . the surrender for transfer of any unit certificate will also constitute the transfer of the rights associated with the units represented by the certificate.

The rights are not exercisable until the distribution date and will expire at the close of business on April 16, 2011, unless we redeem or exchange them at an earlier date as described below.

As soon as practicable after the distribution date, the rights agent will

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mail certificates representing the rights to holders of record of units as of the close of business on the distribution date. From that date on, only separate rights certificates will represent the rights. We will issue rights with all units issued prior to the distribution date. We will also issue rights with units issued after the distribution date in connection with some employee benefit plans or upon conversion of some securities. Except as otherwise determined by our board of directors, we will not issue rights with any other units issued after the distribution date.

### Flip-In Event

A "flip-in event" will occur under the rights agreement when a person becomes an acquiring person otherwise than pursuant to a "permitted offer." The rights agreement defines "permitted offer" as a tender or exchange offer for all outstanding units at a price and on terms that our general partner determines to be fair to and otherwise in the best interests of our unitholders.

If a flip-in event occurs, each right, other than any right that has become null and void as described below, will become exercisable following the end of the subordination period to receive the number of Class A common units, or in some specified circumstances, cash, property or other securities, which has a "current per unit market price" equal to two times the exercise price of the right. Please refer to the rights agreement for the definition of "current per unit market price."

### Flip-Over Event

A "flip-over event" will occur under the rights agreement when, at any time from and after the time a person becomes an acquiring person:

- . we are acquired or we acquire such person in a merger or other business combination transaction, other than specified mergers that follow a permitted offer, or
- . 50% or more of our assets, cash flow or earning power is sold, leased or transferred.

If a flip-over event occurs, each holder of a right, except rights that are voided as described below, will thereafter have the right to receive, on exercise of the right, a number of common units or equivalent securities of the acquiring company that has a current market price equal to two times the exercise price of the right.

When a flip-in event or a flip-over event occurs, all rights that then are, or under the circumstances the rights agreement specifies previously were, beneficially owned by an acquiring person or specified related parties will become null and void in the circumstances the rights agreement specifies.

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### Class A Common Units

After the distribution date and following the end of the subordination period, each right will entitle the holder to purchase Class A common units, which is how we refer to common units in the partnership agreement following the end of the subordination period. Please refer to the "Description of Common Units" section in this prospectus for additional information about our common units.

### Antidilution

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The number of rights associated with a unit, the number of Class A common units issuable upon exercise of a right and the exercise price of the right are subject to adjustment in the event of a unit distribution on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, our common units occurring prior to the distribution date. The exercise price of the rights and the number of Class A common units or other securities or property issuable on exercise of the rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution in the event of some specified transactions affecting the common units.

With some exceptions, we will not be required to adjust the exercise price of the rights until cumulative adjustments amount to at least 1% of the exercise price. The rights agreement also will not require us to issue fractional Class A common units and, in lieu thereof, we will make a cash payment based on the market price of the common units.

### Redemption of Rights

At any time until the time a person becomes an acquiring person, we may redeem the rights in, whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.01 per right, payable, at our option, in cash, securities or such other consideration as our general partner may determine. Upon such redemption, the rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of rights will be to receive the \$0.01 redemption price.

### Exchange of Rights

At any time after the occurrence of a flip-in event and prior to a person's becoming the beneficial owner of 50% or more of our outstanding units or the occurrence of a flip-over event, we may exchange the rights, other than rights owned by an acquiring person or an affiliate or an associate of an acquiring person, which will have become void, in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one Class A common unit, and/or other equity securities deemed to have the same value as one Class A common unit, per right, subject to adjustment.

### Substitution

If we have an insufficient number of authorized but unissued Class A common units available to permit an exercise or exchange of rights upon the occurrence of a flip-in event, we may substitute other specified types of property for Class A common units so long as the total value received by the holder of the rights is equivalent to the value of the Class A common units that the unitholder would otherwise have received. We may substitute cash, property, equity securities or debt, reduce the exercise price of the rights or use any combination of the foregoing.

### No Rights as a Unitholder; Taxes

Until a right is exercised, a holder of rights will have no rights to vote or receive distributions or any other rights as a holder of our units. Unitholders may, depending upon the circumstances, recognize taxable income in the event that the rights become exercisable for our Class A common units, or other consideration, or for the common units or equivalent securities of the acquiring company or are exchanged as described above.

### Amendment of Terms of Rights

Our general partner may amend any of the provisions of the rights agreement,

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other than some specified provisions relating to the principal economic terms of the rights and the expiration date of the rights, at any time prior to the time a person becomes an acquiring person. Thereafter, our general partner may only amend the rights agreement in order to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency or to make changes that do not materially and adversely affect the interests of holders of the rights, excluding the interests of any acquiring person.

### Rights Agent

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company serves as rights agent with regard to the rights.

### Antitakeover Effects

The rights will have anti-takeover effects. They will cause substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire us without the approval of our general partner. As a result, the overall effect of the rights may be to make more difficult or discourage any attempt to acquire us even if such acquisition may be favorable to the interests of our unitholders. Because our general partner can redeem the rights or approve a permitted offer, the rights should not interfere with a merger or other business combination approved by our general partner.

### Adoption of Amendments to Partnership Agreement

On April 17, 2001, we adopted Amendment No. 1 to our amended and restated partnership agreement to provide for new Article 36 which is substantially the same as Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law.

New Article 36 prohibits an "interested holder," which is defined generally as a person or group owning 15% or more of the partnership's outstanding units, from engaging in a "business combination" with the partnership for three years following the date such person became an interested holder unless:

(i) Before such person or group became an interested holder, the general partner approved either the transaction in which the interested holder became an interested holder or the proposed business combination;

(ii) Upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the interested holder becoming an interested holder, the interested holder owns at least 85% of the outstanding units at the time the transaction commenced (excluding units held by the general partner and its affiliates); or

(iii) Following the transaction in which such person or group became an interested holder, the business combination is approved by the general partner and authorized at a meeting of the unitholders by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding units that are not owned by the interested holder.

Amendment No. 1 also includes certain amendments to the terms of our partnership agreement that are necessary in order to implement the rights agreement.

## FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

This section is a summary of the material tax considerations that may be relevant to prospective unitholders and, to the extent described below under

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"--Legal Opinions and Advice," expresses the opinion of Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon, LLP special counsel to the General Partner and us, insofar as it relates to matters of law and legal conclusions. This section is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, its existing and proposed regulations and administrative rulings and court decisions as of October 31, 2001, all of which are subject to change even with retroactive effect. Later changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences described below. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to we or us are references to both us and Star Gas Propane.

No attempt has been made in the following discussion to comment on all federal income tax matters affecting us or the unitholders. Moreover, the discussion focuses on unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and has only limited application to corporations, estates, trusts, non-resident aliens or other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt institutions, foreign persons, individual retirement accounts, REITs or mutual funds. Accordingly, each prospective unitholder should consult, and should depend on, his own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences peculiar to him of the ownership or disposition of units.

### Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership

Legal Opinions and Advice. Counsel is of the opinion that, as of October 31, 2001 and based on the representations and subject to the qualifications in the detailed discussion that follows, for federal income tax purposes:

- (1) Star Gas Partners and Star Gas Propane have been and will each be treated as a partnership; and
- (2) owners of units, with certain exceptions, as described in "--Tax Treatment of Unitholders--Limited Partner Status" below, will be treated as partners of Star Gas Partners, but not Star Gas Propane.

In addition, all statements as to matters of law and legal conclusions contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, reflect the opinion of counsel as of October 31, 2001.

No ruling has been or is expected to be requested from the IRS regarding our classification as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, whether our operations generate "qualifying income" under Section 7704 of the Code or any other matter affecting us or prospective unitholders. An opinion of counsel represents only that counsel's best legal judgment and does not bind the IRS or the courts. Thus, no assurance can be provided that the opinions and statements made here would be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS. Any contest of this sort with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for the units and the prices at which units trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS will be borne directly or indirectly by the unitholders and the general partner. Furthermore, no assurance can be given that the treatment of Star Gas Partners or an investment in Star Gas Partners will not be significantly modified by future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions. Any modifications may or may not be retroactively applied.

For the reasons described below, counsel has not rendered an opinion on the following specific federal income tax issues:

- (1) the treatment of a unitholder whose units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of units (see "--Tax Treatment of Unitholders--Treatment of Short Sales");
- (2) whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (see "--Disposition of

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Units--Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees");

- (3) whether our method for depreciating Section 743 adjustments is sustainable (see "--Disposition of Units--Section 754 Election"); and

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- (4) whether the allocations of recapture income contained in the partnership agreement will be respected (see "Tax Treatment of Unitholders--Allocation of Star Gas Partners Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction").

Partnership Status. A partnership is not a taxable entity and incurs no federal income tax liability. Instead, each partner is required to take into account his allocable share of items of income, gain, loss and deduction of the partnership in computing his federal income tax liability, regardless of whether cash distributions are made. Distributions by a partnership to a partner are generally not taxable unless the amount of cash distributed is in excess of the partner's adjusted basis in his partnership interest.

No ruling has been or is expected to be sought from the IRS as to the status of Star Gas Partners or Star Gas Propane as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Instead, we have relied on the opinion of counsel that, based upon the Code, its regulations, published revenue rulings and court decisions and representations described below, Star Gas Partners and Star Gas Propane have been and will each be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

In rendering its opinion, counsel has relied on factual representations made by Star Gas Partners and the general partner. Such factual matters for taxable years beginning before December 31, 1996 are as follows:

- (a) For Star Gas Partners and Star Gas Propane, the general partner, at all times while acting as general partner of the relevant partnership, had a net worth, computed on a fair market value basis, excluding its interest in Star Gas Partners and Star Gas Propane and any notes or receivables due from such partnerships, equal to at least \$6.0 million;
- (b) Star Gas Partners has been operated in accordance with
- (1) all applicable partnership statutes,
  - (2) the partnership agreement and
  - (3) its description in this prospectus;
- (c) Star Gas Propane has been operated in accordance with
- (1) all applicable partnership statutes,
  - (2) the limited partnership agreement for Star Gas Propane and
  - (3) its description in this prospectus;
- (d) The general partner has at all times acted independently of the limited partners; and
- (e) For each taxable year, less than 10% of the gross income of Star Gas Partners has been derived from sources other than



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- (1) the exploration, development, production, processing, refining, transportation or marketing of any mineral or natural resource, including oil, gas or products thereof, or
- (2) other items of qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Code.

These factual matters for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1996 are as follows:

- (a) Neither Star Gas Partners nor Star Gas Propane has elected, or will elect, to be treated as an association or corporation;
- (b) Star Gas Partners has been and will be operated in accordance with
  - (1) all applicable partnership statutes,
  - (2) the partnership agreement of Star Gas Partners as it may be amended or restated, and
  - (3) its description in this prospectus;
- (c) Star Gas Propane has been and will be operated in accordance with
  - (1) all applicable partnership statutes,
  - (2) the Star Gas Propane partnership agreement, and
  - (3) its description in this prospectus; and
- (d) For each taxable year, more than 90% of the gross income of Star Gas Partners has been and will be
  - (1) derived from the exploration, development, production, processing, refining, transportation or marketing of any mineral or natural resource, including oil, gas or their products or
  - (2) other items of "qualifying income" within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Code.

Section 7704 of the Code provides that publicly-traded partnerships will, as a general rule, be taxed as corporations. However, an exception (the "Qualifying Income Exception") exists with respect to publicly-traded partnerships, 90% or more of whose gross income for every taxable year consists of "qualifying income." Qualifying income includes interest from other than a financial business, dividends and income and gains from the transportation and marketing of crude oil, natural gas, and products thereof, including the retail and wholesale marketing of propane and the transportation of propane and natural gas liquids. Based upon the representations of Star Gas Partners and the general partner and a review of the applicable legal authorities, counsel is of the opinion that at least 90% of our gross income will constitute qualifying income. We estimate that less than 7.0% of our gross income for each taxable year will not constitute qualifying income.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and is cured within a reasonable time after discovery, we will be treated as if we had transferred all of our assets (subject to liabilities) to a newly formed corporation, on

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the first day of the year in which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, in return for stock in that corporation, and then distributed that stock to the partners in liquidation of their interests in Star Gas Partners. This contribution and liquidation should be tax-free to unitholders and Star Gas Partners, so long as we, at that time, do not have liabilities in excess of the tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

If Star Gas Partners or Star Gas Propane were taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, either as a result of a failure to meet the Qualifying Income Exception or otherwise, its items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be reflected only on its tax return rather than being passed through to the unitholders, and its net income would be taxed to Star Gas Partners or Star Gas Propane at corporate rates. In addition, any distribution made to a unitholder would be treated as either taxable dividend income, to the extent of Star Gas Partners' current or accumulated earnings and profits, or, in the absence of earnings and profits, a nontaxable return of capital, to the extent of the unitholder's tax basis in his units, or taxable capital gain, after the unitholder's tax basis in the units is reduced to zero. Accordingly, treatment of either Star Gas Partners or Star Gas Propane as an association taxable as a corporation would result in a material reduction in a unitholder's cash flow and after-tax return and thus would likely result in a substantial reduction of the value of the units.

The discussion below is based on the assumption that we will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

### Tax Treatment of Unitholders

Limited Partner Status. Unitholders who have become limited partners of Star Gas Partners will be treated as partners of Star Gas Partners for federal income tax purposes. Counsel is of the opinion that (a) assignees who have executed and delivered transfer applications, and are awaiting admission as limited partners and (b) Star Gas Partners unitholders whose units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to

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direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their units will be treated as partners of Star Gas Partners for federal income tax purposes. As there is no direct authority addressing assignees of units who are entitled to execute and deliver transfer applications and thereby become entitled to direct the exercise of attendant rights, but who fail to execute and deliver transfer applications, Phillips Nizer's opinion does not extend to these persons. Furthermore, a purchaser or other transferee of units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of units unless the units are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application for those units.

A beneficial owner of units whose units have been transferred to a short seller to complete a short sale would appear to lose his status as a partner with respect to such units for federal income tax purposes. See "--Treatment of Short Sales." Income, gain, deductions or losses would not appear to be reportable by a unitholder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes, and any cash distributions received by this unitholder would therefore be fully taxable as ordinary income. These holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to their status as partners in Star Gas Partners for federal income tax purposes.

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Flow-through of Taxable Income. No federal income tax will be paid by Star Gas Partners. Instead, each Star Gas Partners unitholder who is a partner for federal income tax purposes will be required to report on his income tax return his allocable share of the income, gains, losses and deductions of Star Gas Partners without regard to whether corresponding cash distributions are received by that unitholder. Consequently, a unitholder may be allocated income from Star Gas Partners even if he has not received a cash distribution. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his allocable share of Star Gas Partners income, gain, loss and deduction for the taxable year of Star Gas Partners ending with or within the taxable year of the unitholder.

Although it is not expected that Petro and its affiliates will pay significant federal income tax for several years, Petro and its affiliates expect to generate earnings and profits during that time making a portion of the distributions from them to Star Gas Partners taxable dividend income to Star Gas Partners and thus, to the unitholders. Such dividend income cannot be offset by past or future losses generated by our propane activities.

Treatment of Partnership Distributions. Distributions by Star Gas Partners to a unitholder generally will not be taxable to him for federal income tax purposes to the extent of the tax basis he has in his units immediately before the distribution. Our cash distributions in excess of a Star Gas Partners unitholder's tax basis generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of the units, taxable in accordance with the rules described under "Disposition of Units" below. Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our liabilities for which no partner, including the general partner, bears the economic risk of loss, known as "nonrecourse liabilities", will be treated as a distribution of cash to that unitholder. To the extent our distributions cause a unitholder's "at risk" amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year, he must recapture any losses deducted in previous years. See "--Limitations on Deductibility of Star Gas Partners Losses."

A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional units will decrease his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, and will result in a corresponding deemed distribution of cash. A non-pro rata distribution of money or property may result in ordinary income to a unitholder, regardless of the tax basis he has in his units, if such distribution reduces his share of our "unrealized receivables", including depreciation recapture, and/or substantially appreciated "inventory items", both as defined in Section 751 of the Code, and collectively, "Section 751 Assets". To that extent, he will be treated as having received a distribution of his proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and having exchanged those assets with us in return for the non-pro rata portion of the actual distribution made to him. This latter deemed exchange will generally result in a unitholder's realization of ordinary income under Section 751(b) of the Code. That income will equal the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (2) the Star Gas Partners unitholder's tax basis for the share of such Section 751 Assets deemed relinquished in the exchange.

Tax Rate. The top marginal income tax rate for individuals for 2001 is 39.6%. In general, net capital gains of an individual are generally subject to a maximum 20% tax rate if the asset was held for more than 12 months

at the time of disposition. However, a portion of the capital gain that a unitholder realizes upon the sale or exchange of a unit may be subject to a maximum tax rate of 25% (instead of 20%) to the extent of the "unrecaptured section 1250 gain."

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Alternative Minimum Tax. Each unitholder will be required to take into account his distributive share of any items of our income, gain, deduction, or loss for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. The minimum tax rate for non-corporate taxpayers is 26% on the first \$175,000 of alternative minimum taxable income in excess of the exemption amount and 28% on any additional alternative minimum taxable income. Prospective unitholders should consult with their tax advisors as to the impact of an investment in units on their liability for the alternative minimum tax.

Basis of Units. A unitholder will have an initial tax basis for his units equal to the price he paid for them or, generally, the adjusted basis of any property contributed in exchange for units. His basis will be increased by his share of our income and by any increases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be decreased, but not below zero, by distributions from Star Gas Partners and by the unitholder's share of Star Gas Partners' losses, by any decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and by his share of our expenditures that are not deductible in computing taxable income and are not required to be capitalized. A limited partner will have no share of our debt that is recourse to the general partner, but will have a share, generally based on his share of profits, of our nonrecourse liabilities. See "--Disposition of Units--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

Limitations on Deductibility of Star Gas Partners Losses. The deduction by a Star Gas Partners unitholder of his share of our losses will be limited to the tax basis in his units and, in the case of an individual unitholder or a corporate unitholder, if more than 50% of the value of its stock is owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer individuals or tax-exempt organizations, to the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be "at risk" regarding our activities, if that is less than his tax basis. A unitholder must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions made to him cause his "at risk" amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year. Losses disallowed to a unitholder or recaptured as a result of these limitations will carry forward and will be allowable to the extent that his tax basis or "at risk" amount, whichever is the limiting factor, is subsequently increased. Upon the taxable disposition of a unit, any gain recognized by a unitholder can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at risk limitation but may not be offset by losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any excess loss above such gain previously suspended by the at risk or basis limitations is no longer utilizable.

In general, a unitholder will be at risk to the extent of the tax basis of his units, excluding any portion of that basis attributable to his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, reduced by any amount of money he borrows to acquire or hold his units, if the lender of such borrowed funds owns an interest in us, is related to the unitholder or can look only to the units for repayment. A unitholder's at risk amount will increase or decrease as the tax basis of his units increases or decreases, other than tax basis increases or decreases attributable to increases or decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities.

The passive loss limitations generally provide that individuals, estates, trusts and some closely held corporations and personal service corporations can deduct losses from passive activities, which are generally, activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate, only to the extent of the taxpayer's income from those passive activities. The passive loss limitations are applied separately for each publicly-traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses we generate will only be available to offset our passive income generated in the future and will not be available to offset income from other passive activities or investments, including other publicly-traded companies, interest and dividend income generated by us, such as dividends from Petro and its affiliates, or salary or active business income. Passive losses that are

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not deductible because they exceed a unitholder's income generated by us may be deducted in full when he disposes of his entire investment in us in a fully taxable transaction with an unrelated party. The passive activity loss rules are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions such as the at risk rules and the basis limitation.

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A unitholder's share of our net income may be offset by any suspended passive losses, but it may not be offset by any other current or carryover losses from other passive activities, including those attributable to other publicly-traded companies. The IRS has announced that Treasury Regulations will be issued that characterize net passive income from a publicly-traded partnership as investment income for purposes of the limitations on the deductibility of investment interest.

Limitations on Interest Deductions. The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's "investment interest expense" is generally limited to the amount of such taxpayer's "net investment income." As noted, a unitholder's share of our net passive income will be treated as investment income for this purpose. In addition, the unitholder's share of our portfolio income will be treated as investment income. Investment interest expense includes:

- (1) interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment;
- (2) our interest expense attributed to portfolio income; and
- (3) the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent attributable to portfolio income.

The computation of a unitholder's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income under the passive loss rules, less deductible expenses, other than interest, directly connected with the production of investment income, but generally does not include gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment.

Allocation of Star Gas Partners Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction. In general, if we have a net profit, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated among the general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that distributions are made to the common units and not to the senior subordinated units or junior subordinated units, or that incentive distributions are made to holders of senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units or general partner units or to holders of senior subordinated units and not to junior subordinated units or general partner units, gross income will be allocated to the recipients to the extent of those distributions. If we have a net loss, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction will generally be allocated first, to the general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests to the extent of their positive capital accounts, as maintained under our partnership, agreement, and, second, to the general partner.

As required by Section 704(c) of the Code and as permitted by its Regulations, some items of our income, deduction, gain and loss will be allocated in a manner to account for the difference between the tax basis and fair market value of property that is contributed or deemed contributed to us by a partner ("Contributed Property"). The effect of these allocations to a

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noncontributing unitholder will be essentially the same as if the tax basis of the Contributed Property were equal to its fair market value at the time of contribution or deemed contribution. In addition, specified items of recapture income will be allocated to the extent possible to the partner who was allocated the deduction giving rise to the treatment of that gain as recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by some unitholders. Finally, although we do not expect that our operations will result in the creation of negative capital accounts, if negative capital accounts nevertheless result, items of our income and gain will be allocated in an amount and manner sufficient to eliminate the negative balance as quickly as possible.

Regulations provide that an allocation of items of Star Gas Partners income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by Section 704(c) of the Code to eliminate the difference between a partner's "book" capital account, credited with the fair market value of Contributed Property, and "tax" capital account, credited with the tax basis of Contributed Property, (the "Book-Tax Disparity"), will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's distributive share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction

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only if the allocation has substantial economic effect. In any other case, a partner's distributive share of an item will be determined on the basis of the partner's interest in Star Gas Partners, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including the partner's relative contributions to Star Gas Partners, the interests of the partners in economic profits and losses, the interest of the partners in cash flow and other nonliquidating distributions and rights of the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation.

Counsel is of the opinion that allocations under our partnership agreement, with the possible exception of the allocation of recapture income discussed above, will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's distributive share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

Entity-Level Collections. If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state or local income tax on behalf of any unitholder or any general partner or any former unitholder, Star Gas Partners is authorized to pay those taxes from our funds. That payment, if made, will be treated as a distribution of cash to the partner on whose behalf the payment was made. If the payment is made on behalf of a person whose identity cannot be determined, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to current Star Gas Partners unitholders. We are authorized to amend the partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units and to adjust later distributions, so that after giving effect to these distributions, the priority and characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under the partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by Star Gas Partners as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of an individual partner in which event the partner could file a claim for credit or refund.

Treatment of Short Sales. A Star Gas Partners unitholder whose units are loaned to a "short seller" to cover a short sale of units may be considered as having disposed of ownership of those units. If so, he would no longer be a partner for those units during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition. As a result, during this period, any of our income, gain, deduction or loss for those units would not be reportable by the unitholder, any cash distributions received by the unitholder for those units

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would be fully taxable and all of these distributions would appear to be treated as ordinary income. Unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition should modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing their units. The IRS has announced that it is actively studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. See also "--Disposition of Units--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

### Tax-exempt Organizations and Other Investors

Ownership of units by employee benefit plans, other tax-exempt organizations, nonresident aliens, foreign corporations, other foreign persons and regulated investment companies raises issues unique to such persons and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax consequences. Employee benefit plans and most other organizations that are exempt from federal income tax, including individual retirement accounts and other retirement plans, are subject to federal income tax on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of the taxable income derived by such an organization from the ownership of a unit will be unrelated business taxable income and thus will be taxable to that unitholder.

A regulated investment company or "mutual fund" is required to derive 90% or more of its gross income from interest, dividends and gains from the sale of stocks or securities or foreign currency or certain related sources. It is not anticipated that any significant amount of our gross income will include that type of income at least in the next few years.

Under current rules applicable to publicly-traded partnerships, we are required to withhold as taxes 39.6% of any cash distributions made to foreign unitholders. A foreign unitholder may claim a credit for those taxes. If that tax exceeds the taxes due from the foreign unitholder, he may claim a refund. Each foreign unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on the

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applicable Form W-8 in order to obtain a credit for the taxes withheld. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures. In addition, non-resident aliens and foreign corporations, trusts or estates that own units will be considered to be engaged in business in the United States on account of ownership of those units. As a consequence, they will be required to file federal tax returns for their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax at regular rates on any net income or gain.

Because a foreign corporation that owns units will be treated as engaged in a United States trade or business, such a corporation may be subject to United States branch profits tax a rate of 30%, in addition to regular federal income tax, on its share of our income and gain, as adjusted for changes in the foreign corporation's "U.S. net equity", which are effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the foreign corporate unitholder is a "qualified resident." In addition, such a unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Code.

Under a ruling of the IRS, a foreign unitholder who sells or otherwise disposes of a unit will be subject to federal income tax on gain realized on the disposition of that unit to the extent that this gain is effectively connected with a United States trade or business. Except to the extent the ruling applies, as to which counsel has not opined, a foreign unitholder will

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not be taxed or subject to withholding upon the disposition of a unit if he has owned less than 5% in value of the units during the five-year period ending on the date of the disposition and if the units are regularly traded on an established securities market at the time of the disposition.

### Tax Treatment of Operations

**Accounting Method and Taxable Year.** We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and we have adopted the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each Star Gas Partners unitholder will be required to include in income his allocable share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our taxable year ending within or with his taxable year. In addition, a unitholder who has a taxable year ending on a date other than December 31 and who disposes of all of his units following the close of our taxable year but before the close of his taxable year must include his allocable share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for his taxable year, with the result that he will be required to report in income for his taxable year his share of more than one year of our income, gain, loss and deduction. See "--Disposition of Units--Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees."

**Initial Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization.** The tax basis of our assets is used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of such assets. The federal income tax burden associated with the difference between the fair market value of property contributed and the tax basis established for such property will be borne by the contributors of such property. See "--Tax Treatment of Unitholders--Allocation of Star Gas Partners Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction."

To the extent allowable, we may elect to use the depreciation and cost recovery methods that will result in the largest deductions being taken in the early years after assets are placed in service. We are not entitled to any amortization deductions for goodwill conveyed to us on formation. Property subsequently acquired or constructed by us may be depreciated using accelerated methods permitted by the Code.

If we dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure, or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain, determined by reference to the amount of depreciation previously deducted and the nature of the property, may be subject to the recapture rules and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a partner who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions for our property may be required to recapture such deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of his interest in us. See "--Tax Treatment of Unitholders--Allocation of Star Gas Partners Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction" and "--Disposition of Units--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

**Uniformity of Units.** Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units, uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units must be maintained. In the absence of

uniformity, compliance with a number of federal income tax requirements, both statutory and regulatory, could be substantially diminished. A lack of uniformity can result from a literal application of Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6) and Treasury Regulation Section 1.197-2(g)(3). Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units. See "--Disposition of Units--Section 754 Election."



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We intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of contributed property or adjusted property, to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the basis of such property, or treat that portion as nonamortizable, to the extent attributable to property the basis of which is not amortizable consistent with the regulations under Section 743, but despite its inconsistency with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6) and Treasury Regulation Section 1.197-2(g)(3), neither of which is expected to directly apply to a material portion of the Partnership's assets. See "--Disposition of Units--Section 754 Election." To the extent this Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, we will apply the rules described in the regulations and legislative history. If we determine that this a position cannot reasonably be taken, we may adopt a depreciation and amortization convention under which all purchasers acquiring units in the same month would receive depreciation and amortization deductions, whether attributable to basis or Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our property. If such an aggregate approach is adopted, it may result in lower annual depreciation and amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to certain unitholders and risk the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions not taken in the year that such deductions are otherwise allowable. This convention will not be adopted if we determine that the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions will have a material adverse effect on the unitholders. If we choose not to utilize this aggregate method, we may use any other reasonable depreciation and amortization convention to preserve the uniformity of the intrinsic tax characteristics of any units that would not have a material adverse effect on the unitholders. The IRS may challenge any method of depreciating the Section 743(b) adjustment described in this paragraph. If this type of challenge were sustained, the uniformity of units might be affected, and the gain from the sale of units might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions. See "--Disposition of Units--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

Valuation of Star Gas Partners Property and Basis of Properties. The federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of units will depend in part on our estimates of the relative fair market values, and determinations of the initial tax bases, of our assets. Although we may from time to time consult with professional appraisers regarding valuation matters, we will make many of the relative fair market value estimates. These estimates and determinations of basis are subject to challenge and will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. If the estimates of fair market value or determinations of basis are later found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deductions previously reported by Star Gas Partners unitholders might change, and unitholders might be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years.

State and Local Tax Considerations. For a discussion of the state and local tax considerations arising from an investment in units, see "--State and Local Tax Considerations" at the end of this section.

### Administrative Matters

Information Returns and Audit Procedures. We intend to furnish to each unitholder, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, specific tax information, including a Schedule K-1, which describes each unitholder's share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will generally not be reviewed by counsel, we will use various accounting and reporting conventions, some of which have been mentioned earlier, to determine the unitholder's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. There is no assurance that any of those conventions will yield a result that conforms to the requirements of the Code, regulations or

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administrative interpretations of the IRS. Neither we nor counsel can assure prospective Star Gas Partners unitholders that the IRS will not successfully contend in court that such accounting and reporting conventions are impermissible. Any such challenge by the IRS could negatively affect the value of the units.

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The IRS may audit our federal income tax information returns. Adjustments resulting from any audit of this kind may require each unitholder to adjust a prior year's tax liability, and possibly may result in an audit of that unitholder's own return. Any audit of a unitholder's return could result in adjustments not related to our returns as well as those related to our returns.

Partnerships generally are treated as separate entities for purposes of federal tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings with the partners. The Code provides for one partner to be designated as the "Tax Matters Partner" for these purposes. The amended and restated partnership agreement appoints the general partner as the Tax Matters Partner of Star Gas Partners.

The Tax Matters Partner will make specified elections on our behalf and on behalf of unitholders. In addition, the Tax Matters Partner can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against unitholders for items in our returns. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a Star Gas Partners unitholder with less than a 1% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that unitholder elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give such authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review, by which all the unitholders are bound, of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, such review may be sought by any unitholder having at least a 1% interest in profits and by the unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5% profits interest. However, only one action for judicial review will go forward, and each unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate. If Star Gas Partners elects to be treated as a large partnership, which we have not done and do not currently intend to do, a unitholder will not have the right to participate in settlement conferences with the IRS or to seek a refund.

A unitholder must file a statement with the IRS identifying the treatment of any item on his federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of the consistency requirement may subject a unitholder to substantial penalties. However, if we elect to be treated as a large partnership, which it does not currently intend to do, the unitholders would be required to treat all partnership items in a manner consistent with our return.

Each partner in an electing large partnership takes into account separately a number of items determined at the partnership level. In addition, miscellaneous itemized deductions of an electing large partnership are not passed through to the partners and 30% of such deductions are used at the partnership level.

A number of changes have recently been made to the tax compliance and administrative rules relating to electing large partnerships. Adjustments relating to partnership items for a previous taxable year are generally taken into account by those persons who were partners in the previous taxable year. Each partner in an electing large partnership, however, must take into account

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his share of any adjustments to partnership items in the year those adjustments are made. Alternatively, an electing large partnership could elect, or in some circumstances could be required to, directly pay the tax resulting from any adjustments of this kind. In either case, therefore, unitholders could bear significant costs associated with tax adjustments relating to periods predating their acquisition of units. Although we are authorized under our partnership agreement to do so, we have not and do not expect to elect to have the large partnership provisions apply to us because of the cost of their application.

Nominee Reporting. Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required to furnish to us:

- (a) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee;
- (b) whether the beneficial owner is;
  - (1) a person that is not a United States person,
  - (2) a foreign government, an international organization or any wholly-owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing, or
- (3) a tax-exempt entity.
- (c) the amount and description of units held, acquired or transferred for the beneficial owner; and
- (d) specific information including the dates of acquisitions and transfers, means of acquisitions and transfers, and acquisition cost for purchases, as well as the amount of net proceeds from sales.

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Brokers and financial institutions are required to furnish additional information, including whether they are United States persons and specific information on units they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$50 per failure, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per calendar year, is imposed by the Code for failure to report this information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

Registration as a Tax Shelter. The predecessor general partner, as our organizer, has registered us as a tax shelter with the Secretary of the Treasury in the absence of assurance that we will not be subject to tax shelter registration and in light of the substantial penalties which might be imposed if registration is required and not undertaken.

The IRS has issued the following tax shelter registration number to Star Gas Partners: 96026000016. Issuance of this Registration Number does not indicate that investment in Star Gas Partners or the claimed tax benefits have been reviewed, examined or approved by the IRS.

We must furnish the registration number to the unitholders, and a unitholder who sells or otherwise transfers a unit in a later transaction must furnish the registration number to the transferee. The penalty for failure of the transferor of a unit to furnish the registration number to the transferee is \$100 for each failure. The unitholders must disclose the tax shelter registration number of Star Gas Partners on Form 8271 to be attached to the tax return on which any deduction, loss or other benefit generated by Star Gas Partners is claimed or income of Star Gas Partners is included. A unitholder

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who fails to disclose the tax shelter registration number on his return, without reasonable cause for that failure, will be subject to a \$250 penalty for each failure. Any penalties discussed are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

**Accuracy-related Penalties.** An additional tax equal to 20% of the amount of any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to one or more specified causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements, is imposed by the Code. No penalty will be imposed, however, for portion of an underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith regarding that portion.

A substantial understatement of income tax in any taxable year exists if the amount of the understatement exceeds the greater of 10% of the tax required to be shown on the return for the taxable year or \$5,000, \$10,000 for most corporations. The amount of any understatement subject to penalty generally is reduced if any portion of the understatement is attributable to a position adopted on the return (1) for which there is, or was, "substantial authority" or (2) as to which there is a reasonable basis and the pertinent facts of such position are disclosed on the return. More stringent rules apply to "tax shelters," a term that in this context does not appear to include Star Gas Partners. If any Star Gas Partners item of income, gain, loss or deduction included in the distributive shares of unitholders might result in such an "understatement" of income for which no "substantial authority" exists, we must disclose the pertinent facts on its return. In addition, we will make a reasonable effort to furnish sufficient information for unitholders to make adequate disclosure on their returns to avoid liability for this penalty.

A substantial valuation misstatement exists if the value of any property, or the adjusted basis of any property, claimed on a tax return is 200% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount of that valuation or adjusted basis. No penalty is imposed unless the portion of the underpayment attributable to a substantial valuation misstatement exceeds \$5,000, \$10,000 for most corporations. If the valuation claimed on a return is 400% or more than the correct valuation, the penalty imposed increases to 40%.

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### Disposition of Units

**Recognition of Gain or Loss.** Gain or loss will be recognized on a sale of units equal to the difference between the amount realized and the unitholder's tax basis in the units that were sold. The amount realized by the unitholder will be measured by the sum of the cash or the fair market value of other property received plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. Because the amount realized includes a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale of units could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from such sale.

Prior distributions from us in excess of cumulative net taxable income for a unit that decreased a unitholder's tax basis in that unit will, in effect, become taxable income if the unit is sold at a price greater than the unitholder's tax basis in that unit, even if the price is less than his original cost.

Should the IRS successfully contest our convention to amortize only a portion of the Section 743(b) adjustment, described under "--Disposition of Units--Section 754 Election", attributable to an amortizable Section 197 intangible after a sale by the general partner of units, a unitholder could

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realize additional gain from the sale of units than if that convention had been respected. In that case, the unitholder may have been entitled to additional deductions against income in prior years but may be unable to claim them, resulting in greater overall taxable income allocable to him than appropriate. Counsel is unable to opine as to the validity of the convention but believes such a contest by the IRS is unlikely because a successful contest could result in substantial additional deductions to other unitholders.

Gain or loss recognized by a unitholder, other than a "dealer" in units, on the sale or exchange of a unit held for more than one year will generally be taxable as capital gain or loss. Capital gain recognized by an individual on the sale of units held more than 12 months will generally be taxed a maximum rate of 20%. However, a portion of the capital gain that a unitholder realizes upon the sale or exchange of a unit may be subject to a maximum tax rate of 25% (instead of 20%) to the extent of the "unrecaptured section 1250 gain." A portion of this gain or loss, which could be substantial, however, will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other "unrealized receivables" or to "inventory items" owned by us. The term "unrealized receivables" includes potential recapture items, including depreciation recapture. Ordinary income attributable to unrealized receivables, inventory items and depreciation recapture may exceed net taxable gain realized upon the sale of the unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of the unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a disposition of units. Net capital loss may offset no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income in the case of individuals and may only be used to offset capital gain in the case of corporations.

The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of such interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an "equitable apportionment" method. However, a selling unitholder who can identify the units transferred with an ascertainable holding period can elect to use the actual holding period of the units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling, a unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury regulations, may designate specific units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of units transferred must use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchange of units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of units purchased in separate transactions should consult his tax advisor.

Specific provisions of the Code affect the taxation of certain financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an "appreciated" partnership interest, one in which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, if the taxpayer or related persons enter(s) into:

(1) a short sale;

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(2) an offsetting notional principal contract; or

(3) a futures or forward contract for the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

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Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract for a partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold that position if the taxpayer or a related party then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of Treasury is also authorized to issue regulations that treat a taxpayer who or that enters into transactions or positions that have substantially the same effect as the preceding transactions as having constructively sold the financial position.

Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees. In general, our taxable income and losses will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the unitholders in proportion to the number of units owned by each of them as of the opening of the principal national securities exchange on which the units are then traded on the first business day of the month (the "Allocation Date"). However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets other than in the ordinary course of business will be allocated among the unitholders on the Allocation Date in the month in which that gain or loss is recognized. As a result, a unitholder transferring units in the open market may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction accrued after the date of transfer.

The use of this allocation method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations. Accordingly, counsel is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between the transferors and the transferees of units. If this method is not allowed under the Treasury Regulations, or only applies to transfers of less than all of the unitholder's interest, our taxable income or losses might be reallocated among the unitholders. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferors and transferees, as well as among partners whose interests otherwise vary during a taxable period, to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A unitholder who owns units any time during a quarter and who disposes of these units prior to the record date set for a cash distribution for that quarter will be allocated items of our income, gain, loss and deductions attributable to that quarter but will not be entitled to receive that cash distribution.

Section 754 Election. We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Code, which generally permits us to adjust a unit purchaser's tax basis in our assets ("inside basis") under Section 743(b) of the Code to reflect his purchase price. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS. The Section 743(b) adjustment belongs to the purchaser and not to other unitholders. For purposes of this discussion, a unitholder's inside basis in our assets will be considered to have two components: (1) his share of our tax basis in such assets ("Basis") and (2) his Section 743(b) adjustment to that basis.

Treasury regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code require a partnership that adopts the remedial allocation method (which we have done) to depreciate the portion of the Section 743(b) increase with respect to the recovery property that is attributable to Section 704(c) built-in gain over the remaining cost recovery period for the Section 704(c) built-in gain. Any remaining portion of the Section 743(b) adjustment is recovered as if it were newly-purchased recovery property placed in service when the purchaser purchased his partnership interest. The recovery allowance for the purchaser's share of common basis is unaffected by the Section 743(b) adjustment.

However, the Treasury regulations under Section 197 indicate that the Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to a section 197 intangible should be treated as a newly-acquired asset placed in service in the month when the purchaser acquires the common unit. Furthermore, under Treasury regulation

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Section 1.167(c)-1(a) (6), a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to property subject to depreciation under Section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code rather than cost recovery deductions under Section 168 of the Internal Revenue is generally required to be depreciated using either the straight-line method or the 150% declining balance method.

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Pursuant to our partnership agreement, we have adopted a convention to preserve the uniformity of common units even if such convention is not consistent with certain Treasury regulations. See "Tax Treatment of Operations--Uniformity of Common Units." Although counsel is unable to opine as to the validity of this method, we intend to depreciate the portion of Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of contributed property, to the extent of any unamortized book-tax disparity, using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the common basis of such property. This method is consistent with the regulations under Section 743, but arguably inconsistent with Treasury regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a) (6), which is not expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets, and Treasury regulation Section 1.197-2(g) (3). To the extent such Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized book-tax disparity, we will apply the rules described in the Treasury regulations and legislative history. If we determine that this position cannot reasonably be taken, we may adopt a depreciation or amortization convention under which all purchasers acquiring common units in the same month would receive depreciation or amortization, whether attributable to common basis or Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our assets. Such an aggregate approach may result in lower annual depreciation or amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to certain unitholders. See "Tax Treatment of Operations--Uniformity of Common Units."

The allocation of the Section 743(b) adjustment must be made in accordance with the Code. The IRS may seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment not so allocated by us to goodwill which, as an intangible asset, would be amortizable over a longer period of time than our tangible assets.

A Section 754 election is advantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is higher than those units' share of the aggregate tax basis to us of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. In such a case, as a result of the election, the transferee would have a higher tax basis in his share of our assets for purposes of calculating, among other items, his depreciation and depletion deductions and his share of any gain or loss on a sale of our assets. Conversely, a Section 754 election is disadvantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is lower than those unit's share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. Thus, the fair market value of the units may be affected either favorably or adversely by the election.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and we will make them on the basis of assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. We cannot assure that our determinations will not be successfully challenged by the IRS and that the deductions resulting from them will not be reduced or disallowed altogether. Should the IRS require a different basis adjustment to be made, and should, in our opinion, the expense of compliance exceed the benefit of the election, we may seek permission from the IRS to revoke our Section 754 election. If such permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of Star Gas Partners units may be allocated more income than he would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

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Notification Requirements. A Star Gas Partners unitholder who sells or exchanges units is required to notify us in writing of that sale or exchange within 30 days after the sale or exchange and in any event by no later than January 15 of the year following the calendar year in which the sale or exchange occurred. We are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish certain information to the transferor and transferee. However, these reporting requirements do not apply to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the United States and who effects the sale or exchange through a broker. Additionally, a transferor and a transferee of a unit will be required to furnish statements to the IRS, filed with their income tax returns for the taxable year in which the sale or exchange occurred, that describe the amount of the consideration received for the unit that is allocated to our goodwill or going concern value. Failure to satisfy these reporting obligations may lead to the imposition of substantial penalties.

Constructive Termination. Star Gas Partners and Star Gas Propane will be considered to have been terminated if there is a sale or exchange of 50% or more of the total interests in Star Gas Partners capital and profits within a 12-month period. A termination of Star Gas Partners will cause a termination of Star Gas

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Propane. A termination of Star Gas Partners will result in the closing of Star Gas Partners' taxable year for all Star Gas Partners unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of the tax year of Star Gas Partners may result in more than 12 months' taxable income or loss of Star Gas Partners being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. Tax elections required to be made by Star Gas Partners, including a new election under Section 754 of the Code, must be made after a termination and a termination could result in a deferral of Star Gas Partners deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if Star Gas Partners were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject Star Gas Partners to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination.

### State, Local and Other Tax Considerations

In addition to federal income taxes, a unitholder will be subject to other taxes, such as state and local income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which he or she resides or in which we do business or own property. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective unitholder should consider their potential impact on his investment in Star Gas Partners. A unitholder will likely be required to file state and local income tax returns and pay state and local income taxes in some or all of the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. Star Gas LLC anticipates that substantially all of our income will be generated in the following states: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Each of these states currently imposes a personal income tax; however, New Hampshire's tax only applies to interest and dividend income. Some of them may require us, or we may elect, to withhold a percentage of income from amounts to be distributed to a unitholder who is not a resident of the state. A unitholder will be required to file state income tax returns and to pay state income taxes in some or all of these states and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. In some states, tax losses may not produce a



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tax benefit in the year incurred and also may not be available to offset income in subsequent taxable years. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular unitholder's income tax liability to the state, generally does not relieve the non-resident unitholder from the obligation to file an income tax return. Amounts withheld may be treated as if distributed to unitholders for purposes of determining the amounts distributed by us. See "--Tax Treatment of Unitholders--Entity-Level Collections." Based on current law and our estimate of our future operations, we do not anticipate that any amounts required to be withheld will be material.

It is the responsibility of each unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences of his investment in us, under the laws of pertinent states and localities. Accordingly, each prospective unitholder should consult, and must depend upon, his own tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all U.S. federal, state and local, tax returns that may be required. Counsel has not rendered an opinion on the state or local tax consequences of an investment in us.

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### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

#### Conflicts of Interest May Arise as a Result of the Publicly-Traded Limited Partnership Structure

Conflicts of interest have arisen and could arise in the future as a result of relationships between the general partner and its affiliates, on the one hand, and Star Gas Partners or any of the limited partners, on the other hand. The directors and officers of the general partner have fiduciary duties to manage the general partner in a manner beneficial to its members. In general the general partner has a fiduciary duty to manage Star Gas Partners in a manner beneficial to Star Gas Partners and the unitholders. The partnership agreement contains provisions that allow the general partner to take into account the interests of parties in addition to Star Gas Partners in resolving conflicts of interest. In effect, these provisions limit its fiduciary duty to the unitholders. The partnership agreement also restricts the remedies available to unitholders for actions taken that without those limitations, constitute breaches of fiduciary duty. An audit committee of the Star Gas LLC board has been created, consisting of two directors who are not officers of the general partner. At the request of the general partner the audit committee will review conflicts of interest that may arise between the general partner or its affiliates, on the one hand, and Star Gas Partners, on the other. Conflicts of interest could arise in the situations described below, among others:

Actions Taken by the General Partner May Affect the Amount of Cash Available for Distribution to Unitholders or Accelerate the Right to Convert Senior Subordinated Units and Junior Subordinated Units. The amount of cash that is available for distribution to unitholders is affected by decisions of the general partner regarding matters such as:

- . cash expenditures;
- . participation in capital expansions and acquisitions;
- . borrowings;
- . issuance of additional units; and
- . establishment of reserves.

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In addition, borrowings by Star Gas Partners do not constitute a breach of any duty owed by the general partner to the unitholders, including those borrowings that have the purpose or effect of:

- . causing incentive distributions to be made; or
- . hastening the expiration of the subordination period.

The partnership agreements provides that we may borrow funds from the general partner and its affiliates although the general partner and its affiliates may not borrow funds from us.

Star Gas Partners' Borrowings May Enable the General Partner to Permit Distributions on the Senior Subordinated Units, Junior Subordinated Units and General Partner Units. Typically the general partner must act as a fiduciary to Star Gas Partners and the unitholder, and therefore must consider our best interests. However, it is not a breach of the general partner's fiduciary duty under the partnership agreement if our borrowings are effected in a manner that, directly or indirectly, enables the general partner to permit the payment of distributions on the senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units.

The General Partner Intends to Limit Its Liability with Respect to Star Gas Partners' Obligations. The general partner intends to limit its liability under contractual arrangements so that the other party has recourse only as to all or particular assets of Star Gas Partners, and not against the general partner or its assets. The partnership agreement provides that any action taken by the general partner to limit its liability, or that of Star Gas Partners, is not a breach of the general partner's fiduciary duties, even if we could have obtained more favorable terms without the limitation on liability.

Unitholders Have No Right to Enforce Obligations of the General Partner and Its Affiliates Under Agreements with Star Gas Partners. We will acquire services from, or provide services to, the general partner and its affiliates

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on an ongoing basis. The agreements relating to these arrangements will not grant to the unitholders, separate and apart from Star Gas Partners, the right to enforce the obligations of the general partner and its affiliates in favor of Star Gas Partners.

Contracts Between Star Gas Partners on the One Hand, and the General Partner and Its Affiliates on the Other Will Not Be the Result of Arm's-Length Negotiations. The partnership agreement allows the general partner to pay itself or its affiliates for any services rendered, provided these services are rendered on terms that are fair and reasonable to us. The general partner may also enter into additional contractual arrangements with any of its affiliates on our behalf. Neither the partnership agreement nor any of the other agreements, contracts and arrangements between Star Gas Partners, on the one hand, and the general partner and its affiliates, on the other, are or will be the result of arm's-length negotiations. All of these transactions entered into are required to be on terms that are fair and reasonable to us.

The General Partner's Affiliates May Compete with Star Gas Partners. Except for Irik P. Sevin, affiliates of the general partner are not prohibited from competing with us. Mr. Sevin's noncompetition agreement with us provides that he will not engage in the retail propane or retail home heating oil business in the United States so long as he:

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- . is a director, officer or employee of the general partner, Star Gas Partners or a subsidiary of Star Gas Partners; or
- . has access to information that would put Star Gas Partners at a competitive disadvantage.

Further, Mr. Sevin is precluded from employing any person who was a managerial employee of the general partner, Star Gas Partners or a subsidiary of Star Gas Partners for the twelve-months after that employment so long as Mr. Sevin and his mother, Ms. Audrey Sevin, own in the aggregate more than a 10% voting interest in the general partner.

### Fiduciary Duties Owed to Unitholders by the General Partner as Prescribed by Law and the Partnership Agreement

The general partner is accountable to us and the Star Gas Partners unitholders as a fiduciary. Consequently, the general partner must exercise good faith and integrity in handling our assets and affairs. In contrast to the relatively well-developed law concerning fiduciary duties owed by officers and directors to the common stockholders of a corporation, the law concerning the duties owed by general partners to other partners and to partnerships is relatively undeveloped. Neither the Delaware Act nor case law defines with particularity the fiduciary duties owed by general partners to limited partners of a limited partnership. The Delaware Act does provide that Delaware limited partnerships may, in their partnership agreements, restrict or expand the fiduciary duties owed by general partners to limited partners and the partnership. Fiduciary duties are generally considered to include an obligation to act with the highest good faith, fairness and loyalty. Such duty of loyalty, in the absence of a provision in a partnership agreement providing otherwise, would generally prohibit a general partner from taking any action or engaging in any transaction where a conflict of interest is present. In order to induce the general partner to manage the business of Star Gas Partners, the partnership agreement contains various provisions limiting the fiduciary duties that might otherwise be owed by the general partner. The partnership agreement also contains provisions that waive or consent to conduct by the general partner that might otherwise raise issues of compliance with fiduciary duties or applicable law.

In order to become a limited partner of Star Gas Partners, a unitholder is required to agree to be bound by its provisions, including the provisions discussed above. This is in accordance with the policy of the Delaware Act favoring the principle of freedom of contract and the enforceability of partnership agreements. The Delaware Act also provides that a partnership agreement is enforceable even if not signed by a person being admitted as a limited partner or becoming an assignee of a limited partner interest in accordance with the terms of that agreement.

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Whenever a conflict of interest arises between the general partner or its affiliates, on the one hand, and Star Gas Partners or any other partner, on the other, the general partner shall resolve this conflict. The general partner shall not be in breach of its obligations under the partnership agreement or its duties to Star Gas Partners or the unitholders if the resolution of this conflict is fair and reasonable to Star Gas Partners. Any resolution is deemed to be fair and reasonable to Star Gas Partners if the resolution is:

- (1) approved by the audit committee, although no party is obligated to seek approval and the general partner may adopt a resolution or course of action that has not received approval;

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- (2) on terms no less favorable to us than those generally being provided to or available from unrelated third parties; or
- (3) fair to us, taking into account the totality of the relationships between the parties involved, including other transactions that may be particularly favorable or advantageous to us.

### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may use this prospectus for the offer and sale of up to 1,000,000 common units from time to time as consideration for our acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions. The consideration offered by us in such acquisitions, in addition to any common units offered by this prospectus may include assets, debt or other securities or assumption by us of liabilities of the business being acquired, or a combination of different types of consideration. The terms of acquisition are typically determined by negotiation between us and the owners of the businesses, properties or securities to be acquired, with our taking into account the quality of the management, the past and potential earning power and growth of the businesses, properties or securities to be acquired, and other relevant factors. Common units issued to the owners of the businesses, properties or securities to be acquired are generally valued at a price reasonably related to the market value of the common units either at the time the terms of the acquisitions are tentatively agreed upon or at or about the time or times of delivery of the common units.

### VALIDITY OF COMMON UNITS

The validity of the common units will be passed upon for Star Gas Partners by Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon LLP, New York, New York.

### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedule of Star Gas Partners, L.P. and Subsidiaries, as of September 30, 1999 and 2000 and for each of the years in the three year period ended September 30, 2000, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the Registration Statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of Meenan Oil Co., L.P. and Subsidiaries, as of June 30, 1999 and 2000 and for each of the years in the three year period ended June 30, 2000, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the Registration Statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read our SEC filings over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy documents at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room.

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We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4, regarding the securities offered by this prospectus. The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Regarding Star Gas Partners and the Securities offered by this prospectus, we refer you to that registration statement on Form S-4 and its related exhibits and schedules for further information.

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Many of the statements contained in this prospectus, including, without limitation, statements regarding our business strategy, plans and objectives of our management for future operations and statements made under "Cash Available for Distribution" are forward-looking within the meaning of the federal securities laws. These statements use forward-looking words, such as "anticipate," "continue," "expect," "may," "will," "estimate," "believe" or other similar words. These statements discuss future expectations or contain projections. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, actual results may differ from those suggested by the forward-looking statements for various reasons, including:

- . the effect of weather conditions on our financial performance;
- . our ability to obtain new customers and retain existing customers;
- . the price and supply of propane, home heating oil, natural gas and electricity;
- . our ability to successfully identify and close strategic acquisitions and make cost saving changes in operations;
- . the effect of national and regional economic conditions;
- . the condition of the capital markets in the U.S.; and
- . the political and economic stability of the oil producing regions of the world.

When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors referred to in this prospectus. The risk factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. We disclaim any obligation to update the above list or to announce publicly the result of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements to reflect future events or developments.

You should consider the above information when reading any forward-looking statement in:

- . this prospectus; or
- . documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents filed by Star Gas Partners with the SEC (File No. 33-98490) are incorporated by reference in this prospectus:

- . Star Gas Partners' 2000 Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- . Star Gas Partners' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2000.

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- . Star Gas Partners' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2001.
- . Star Gas Partners' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2001.

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- . Star Gas Partners' Current Report on Form 8-K, dated February 18, 1999.
- . Star Gas Partners' Current Report on Form 8-K, dated April 12, 1999.
- . Star Gas Partners' Current Report on Form 8-K, dated April 17, 2001.
- . Star Gas Partner's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated August 3, 2001;
- . Star Gas Partners' Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated April 17, 2001.

In addition, all other reports and documents, we have filed under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before this offering shall be deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the date of filing of those reports and documents. If information in incorporated documents conflicts with information in this prospectus you should rely on the most recent information. If information in an incorporated document conflicts with information in another incorporated document, you should rely on the most recent incorporated document.

This prospectus incorporates documents by reference that are not included with this prospectus. These documents, excluding exhibits to the documents, are available without charge, upon oral or written request by any person to whom this prospectus is delivered. Contact Star Gas LLC, 2187 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, Attention: Richard F. Ambury, Vice President and Treasurer, telephone (203) 328-7313.

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### ANNEX A--APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF COMMON UNITS

No transfer of the Common Units evidenced hereby will be registered on the books of the Partnership, unless the certificate evidencing the Common Units to be transferred is surrendered for registration or transfer and an Application for Transfer of Common Units has been executed by a transferee either (a) on the form shown or (b) on a separate application that the Partnership will furnish on request without charge. A transferor of the Common Units shall have no duty to the transferee with respect to execution of the transfer application in order for such transferee to obtain registration of the transfer of the Common Units.

### APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF COMMON UNITS

The undersigned ("Assignee") hereby applies for transfer to the name of the Assignee of the Common Units evidenced hereby.

The Assignee

- (a) requests admission as a Substituted Limited Partner and agrees to comply

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with and be bound by, and hereby executes, the Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Star Gas Partners, L.P. (the "Partnership"), as amended, supplemented or restated to the date hereof (the "Partnership Agreement"),

- (b) represents and warrants that the Assignee has all right, power and authority and, if an individual, the capacity necessary to enter into the Partnership Agreement,
- (c) appoints the General Partner and, if a Liquidator shall be appointed, the Liquidator of the Partnership as the Assignee's attorney-in-fact to execute, swear to, acknowledge and file any document, including, without limitation, the Partnership Agreement and any amendment thereto and the Certificate of Limited Partnership of the Partnership and any amendment hereto, necessary or appropriate for the Assignee's admission as a Substituted Limited Partner and as a party to the Partnership Agreement,
- (d) gives the powers of attorney provided for in the Partnership Agreement and
- (e) makes the waivers and gives the consents and approvals contained in the Partnership Agreement. Capitalized terms not defined here have the meanings assigned to those terms in the Partnership Agreement.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Social Security or other identifying number of Assignee Signature of Assignee

-----  
Purchase Price including commissions, if any Name and Address of Assignee

Type of Entity (check one):

- Individual  Partnership  Corporation
- Trust  Other (specify)

Nationality (check one):

- U.S. Citizen, Resident or Domestic Entity
- Foreign Corporation  Non-resident Alien

If the U.S. Citizen, Resident or Domestic Entity box is checked, the following certification must be completed.

Under Section 1445(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the Partnership must withhold tax with respect to certain transfers of property if a holder of an interest in the Partnership is a foreign person. To inform the Partnership that no withholding is required with respect to the undersigned interestholder's interest in it, the undersigned hereby certifies the following (or, if applicable, certifies the following on behalf of the interestholder).

Complete Either A or B:

A. Individual Interestholder

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- 1. I am not a non-resident alien for purposes of U.S. income taxation.
- 2. My U.S. taxpayer identification number (Social Security Number) is\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. My home address is\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Partnership, Corporation or Other Interestholder

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is not a foreign  
(Name of Interestholder)  
  
corporation, foreign partnership, foreign trust or foreign estate (as those terms are defined in the Code and Treasury Regulations).
- 2. The interestholder's U.S. employer identification number is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The interestholder's office address and place of incorporation (if applicable) is \_\_\_\_\_.

The interestholder agrees to notify the Partnership within sixty (60) days of the date the interestholder becomes a foreign person.

The interestholder understands that this certificate may be disclosed to the Internal Revenue Service by the Partnership and that any false statement contained herein could be punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this certification and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete and, if applicable, I further declare that I have authority to sign this document on behalf of

-----  
(Name of Interestholder)

-----  
Signature and Date

-----  
Title (if applicable)

Note: If the Assignee is a broker, dealer, bank, trust company, clearing corporation, other nominee holder or an agent of any of the foregoing, and is holding for the account of any other person, this application should be completed by an officer thereof or, in the case of a broker or dealer, by a registered representative who is a member of a registered national securities exchange or a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or, in the case of any other nominee holder, a person performing a similar function. If the Assignee is a broker, dealer, bank, trust company, clearing corporation, other nominee owner or an agent of any of the foregoing, the above certification as to any person for whom the Assignee will hold the Common Units shall be made to the best of the Assignee's knowledge.

ANNEX B--GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adjusted Operating Surplus: For any period, Operating Surplus generated during that period as adjusted to:

- (a) decrease Operating Surplus by;



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- (1) any net increase in working capital borrowings during that period, and
  - (2) any net reduction in cash reserves for Operating Expenditures during that period not relating to an Operating Expenditure made during that period; and
- (b) increase Operating Surplus by;
- (1) any net decrease in working capital borrowings during that period; and
  - (2) any net increase in cash reserves for Operating Expenditures during that period required by any debt instrument for the repayment of principal, interest or premium.

Adjusted Operating Surplus does not include that portion of Operating Surplus included in clause (a) (1) of the definition of Operating Surplus.

Available Cash: For any quarter prior to liquidation:

- (a) the sum of:
- (1) all cash and cash equivalents of the Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries on hand at the end of that quarter; and
  - (2) all additional cash and cash equivalents of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries on hand on the date of determination of Available Cash for that quarter resulting from Working Capital Borrowings after the end of that quarter;
- (b) less the amount of cash reserves that is necessary or appropriate in the reasonable discretion of the general partner to:
- (1) provide for the proper conduct of the business of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries (including reserves for future capital expenditures) after that quarter;
  - (2) provide funds for minimum quarterly distributions and cumulative common unit arrearages for any one or more of the next four quarters; or
  - (3) comply with applicable law or any debt instrument or other agreement or obligation to which any member of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries is a party or its assets are subject;

provided, however, that the general partner may not establish cash reserves for distributions to the senior subordinated units unless the general partner has determined that in its judgment the establishment of reserves will not prevent Star Gas Partners from distributing the minimum quarterly distribution on all common units and any common unit arrearages thereon for the next four quarters; and,

provided further, that disbursements made by Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries or cash reserves established, increased or reduced after the end of that quarter but on or before the date of determination of Available Cash for that quarter shall be deemed to have been made, established, increased or reduced, for purposes of determining Available Cash, within that quarter if the general partner so determines.

Capital Account: The capital account maintained for a partner under the amended and restated partnership agreement. The Capital Account for a common unit, a subordinated unit, a junior subordinated unit, a general partner unit

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or any other specified interest in Star Gas Partners shall be the amount which that Capital Account

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would be if that common unit, subordinated unit, junior subordinated unit, general partner unit or other interest in Star Gas Partners were the only interest in Star Gas Partners held by a partner.

**Capital Surplus:** All Available Cash distributed by Star Gas Partners from any source will be treated as distributed from Operating Surplus until the sum of all Available Cash distributed since the commencement of Star Gas Partners equals the Operating Surplus as of the end of the quarter before that distribution. Any excess Available Cash will be deemed to be Capital Surplus.

**Closing Price:** The last sale price on a day, regular way, or in case no sale takes place on that day, the average of the closing bid and asked prices on that day, regular way. In either case, as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system for securities listed or admitted to trading on the principal national securities exchange on which the units of that class are listed or admitted to trading. If the units of that class are not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the last quoted price on that day. If no quoted price exists, the average of the high bid and low asked prices on that day in the over-the-counter market, as reported by the Nasdaq Stock Market or any other system then in use. If on any day the units of that class are not quoted by any organization of that type, the average of the closing bid and asked prices on that day as furnished by a professional market maker making a market in the units of the class selected by the board of directors of the general partner. If on that day no market maker is making a market in the units of that class, the fair value of such units on that day as determined reasonably and in good faith by the board of directors of the general partner.

**Current Market Price:** With respect to any class of units listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange as of any date, the average of the daily Closing Prices for the 20 consecutive trading days immediately prior to such date.

### Interim Capital Transactions:

- (a) borrowings, refinancings or refundings of indebtedness and sales of debt securities (other than Working Capital Borrowings and other than for items purchased on open account in the ordinary course of business) by any member of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries;
- (b) sales of equity interests (including common units sold to the underwriters in the exercise of their over-allotment option) by any member of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries; and
- (c) sales or other voluntary or involuntary dispositions of any assets of any member of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries (other than sales or other dispositions of inventory in the ordinary course of business, sales or other dispositions of other current assets, including, without limitation, receivables and accounts, in the ordinary course of business and sales or other dispositions of assets as a part of normal retirements or replacements), in each case before the dissolution and liquidation of Star Gas Partners.

**Operating Expenditures:** All expenditures of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries including taxes, reimbursements of the general partner, debt

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service payments, and capital expenditures, subject to the following:

- (a) Payments (including prepayments) of principal and premium on a debt shall not be an Operating Expenditure if the payment is;
  - (1) required for the sale or other disposition of assets or
  - (2) made for the refinancing or refunding of indebtedness with the proceeds from new indebtedness or from the sale of equity interests. For purposes of the foregoing, at the election and in the reasonable discretion of the general partner, any payment of principal or premium shall be deemed to be refunded or refinanced by any indebtedness incurred or to be incurred by Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries within 180 days before or after that payment to the extent of the principal amount of that indebtedness.
- (b) Operating Expenditures shall not include;

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- (1) capital expenditures made for acquisitions or for capital improvements (as opposed to capital expenditures made to maintain assets);
- (2) payment of transaction expenses relating to Interim Capital Transactions;
- (3) payment of transaction expenses related to the merger and the transactions contemplated by the merger; or
- (4) distributions to partners. Where capital expenditures are made in part for acquisitions or capital improvements and in part for other purposes, the general partner's good faith allocation between the amounts paid for each shall be conclusive.

Operating Surplus: As to any period before liquidation:

- (a) the sum of:
  - (1) \$20,340,600 plus all cash of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries on hand as of the close of business on the closing date of the initial public offering;
  - (2) all the cash receipts of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries for the period beginning on the closing date of the initial public offering and ending with the last day of that period, other than cash receipts from Interim Capital Transactions (except to the extent specified in the amended and restated partnership agreement; and
  - (3) all cash receipts of Star Gas Partners and its subsidiaries after the end of that period but on or before the date of determination of Operating Surplus for the period resulting from borrowings for working capital purposes; less
- (b) the sum of:
  - (1) Operating Expenditures for the period beginning on the date of the closing of the initial public offering and ending with the last day of that period; and

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- (2) the amount of cash reserves that is necessary or advisable in the reasonable discretion of the general partner to provide funds for future Operating Expenditures; provided, however, that disbursements made (including contributions to Star Gas Partners or any of its subsidiaries or disbursements on behalf of Star Gas Partners or any of its subsidiaries) or cash reserves established, increased or reduced after the end of that period but on or before the date of determination of Available Cash for that period shall be deemed to have been made, established, increased or reduced, for purposes of determining Operating Surplus, within that period if the general partner so determines.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, "Operating Surplus" for the quarter in which the liquidation date occurs and any later quarter shall equal zero.

subordination period: The subordination period will extend from the date of the closing of the initial public offering until the first to occur of the following:

- (a) the first day of any quarter beginning on or after October 1, 2002 for which;
  - (1) distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus on each of the outstanding common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units equaled or exceeded the sum of the minimum quarterly distribution on all of the outstanding common units and junior subordinated units for each of the three non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date;
  - (2) the Adjusted Operating Surplus, generated during each of the three immediately preceding, non-overlapping four quarter periods equaled or exceeded the sum of minimum quarterly distribution

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on all of the common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units that were outstanding during those periods on a fully diluted basis for employee options or other employee incentive compensation (i.e., taking into account for purposes of that determination all outstanding common units, senior subordinated units, junior subordinated units and general partner units and all common units issuable upon exercise of employee options that have, as of the date of determination, already vested or are scheduled to vest before the end of the quarter immediately following the quarter for which determination is made, and all units that have, as of the date of determination, been earned by but not yet issued to management of Star Gas Partners for incentive compensation); and

- (3) there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.
- (b) the date on which the general partner is removed as general partner of Star Gas Partners upon the requisite vote by limited partners under circumstances where cause does not exist; provided, however, that if the general partner is removed during the subordination period within 12 months after the end of a six-quarter period in which the minimum quarterly distribution was not made on the common units for more than one of those quarters (excluding for this purpose the payment of any common unit arrearages) and the first quarter of that six-quarter period that the minimum quarterly distribution on common units was not made

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occurs after March 31, 2001, then the subordination period will not end. In the event that the general partner is removed under the circumstances described above, the junior subordinated units shall convert into senior subordinated units on a one-for-one basis and the distribution rights on the general partner units will rank equally with the senior subordinated units.

Working Capital Borrowings: Borrowings under to a facility or other arrangement requiring all of its borrowings to be reduced to a relatively small amount each year for an economically meaningful period of time. Borrowings that are not intended exclusively for working capital purposes shall not be treated as Working Capital Borrowings.

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We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or represent anything not contained in this prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information. This prospectus does not offer to sell or buy any common units in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful. The information in this prospectus is correct as of the date that information is given.  
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1,000,000 Common Units

Star Gas Partners, L.P.

Representing  
Limited Partner Interests

-----  
PROSPECTUS  
-----  
-----

, 2001  
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PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 20. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The Partnership Agreement and the Operating Partnership Agreement provide that the Partnership or the Operating Partnership, as the case may be, will indemnify (to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law) certain persons from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities (joint or

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several), expenses (including, without limitation, legal fees and expenses), judgements, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such Indemnitee in connection with any claim, demand, action, suit or proceeding to which the Indemnitee is or was an actual or threatened party and which relates to the Partnership Agreement or the Operating Partnership Agreement or the property, business, affairs or management of the Partnership or the Operating Partnership. This indemnity is available only if the Indemnitee acted in good faith, in a manner in which such Indemnitee believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Partnership and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe its conduct was unlawful. Indemnitees include the General Partner, any Departing Partner, any affiliate of the General Partner or any Departing Partner or any affiliate of either, or any person who is or was serving at the request of the General Partner, any Departing Partner, or any such affiliate as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another person. Expenses subject to indemnity will be paid by the applicable partnership to the Indemnitee in advance, subject to receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Indemnitee to repay such amount if it is ultimately determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification. The Partnership will, to the extent commercially reasonable, purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of the Indemnitees, whether or not the Partnership would have the power to indemnify such Indemnitees against liability under the applicable partnership agreement. Star Gas LLC maintains a policy of directors' and officers' liability insurance on behalf of its officers and directors.

### Item 21. Exhibits

The following is a complete list of Exhibits filed or incorporated by reference as part of this Registration Statement.

Exhibit	Description
4.2	Form of Agreement of Limited Partnership of Star Gas Partners, L.P.+
4.3	Form of Agreement of Limited Partnership of Star Gas Propane, L.P.+
5.1	Opinion of Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon LLP as to the validity of the securities
8.1	Opinion of Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon LLP as to certain federal income tax mat
10.1	Form of Unit Purchase Rights Agreement between the Partnership and American Stock Transfe Company as rights agent.++
10.2	Form of Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement of Star Gas Partner
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP.**
23.2	Consents of Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim & Ballon LLP (included in their opinions filed a Exhibits 5.1 and 8.1).*
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included on the Registration Statement Signature Page).*
99.1	Balance Sheet of Star Gas LLC.*

\* Previously filed.

\*\* Filed herewith.

+ Incorporated by reference to an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-66005, filed with the Commission on October 22, 1998.

++ Incorporated by reference to an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the Commission April 17, 2001.

+++ Incorporated by reference to an exhibit to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on April 17, 2001.

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### Item 22. Undertakings

(1) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(2) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers or controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(3) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

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

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

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(i) and (a)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

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

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

(4) To respond to requests for information that is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus pursuant to Items 4, 10(b), 11 or 13 of this Form, within one business day of receipt of such request, and to send the incorporated documents by first class mail or other equally promptly means. This includes information contained in documents filed subsequent to the effective day of the Registration Statement through the date of responding to the request.

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(5) To supply by means of a post-effective amendment all information concerning a transaction, and the company being acquired involved therein, that was not the subject of and included in the Registration Statement when it became effective.

(6) That prior to any public reoffering of the securities registered hereunder through use of a prospectus which is a part of this Registration Statement, by any person or party who is deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Rule 145(c), the Registrant undertakes that such reoffering prospectus will contain the information called for by the applicable registration form with respect to reofferings by persons who may be deemed underwriters, in addition to the information called for by the other items of the applicable form.

(7) That every prospectus (i) that is filed pursuant to paragraph (6) immediately preceding, or (ii) that purports to meet the requirements of Section 10(a)(3) of the Act and is used in connection with an offering of securities subject to Rule 415, will be filed as a part of an amendment to the Registration Statement and will not be used until such amendment is effective, and that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant has caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the city of Stamford, state of Connecticut, on October 30, 2001.

Star Gas Partners, L.P.

By: STAR GAS LLC,  
as General Partner



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By: /S/ IRIK P. SEVIN

-----  
 Irik P. Sevin  
 Chairman of the Board and  
 Chief Executive Officer

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

Signature -----	Title -----	Date ----
/S/ IRIK P. SEVIN ----- Irik P. Sevin	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	October 30, 2001
/S/ GEORGE LEIBOWITZ ----- George Leibowitz	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	October 30, 2001
/S/ AUDREY L. SEVIN* ----- Audrey L. Sevin	Director	October 30, 2001
/S/ WILLIAM NICOLETTI* ----- William Nicoletti	Director	October 30, 2001
/S/ PAUL BIDDELMAN* ----- Paul Biddelman	Director	October 30, 2001
/S/ THOMAS J. EDELMAN* ----- Thomas J. Edelman	Director	October 30, 2001

/S/ I. JOSEPH MASSOUD* ----- I. Joseph Massoud	Director	October 30, 2001
----- Stephen Russell	Director	October , 2001
/S/ IRIK P. SEVIN ----- Irik P. Sevin		October 30, 2001

\* As Attorney in Fact, pursuant to a Power of Attorney filed as part of the original Registration Statement.