

WHITING PETROLEUM CORP
Form 8-K
October 18, 2010

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

**FORM 8-K
CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 15, 2010
Whiting Petroleum Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Delaware | 1-31899 | 20-0098515 |
| (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) | (Commission File Number) | (IRS Employer Identification No.) |

1700 Broadway, Suite 2300, Denver, Colorado 80290-2300

(Address of principal executive offices, including ZIP code)
(303) 837-1661

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 C.F.R. §230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 C.F.R. §240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 C.F.R. §240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 C.F.R. §240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.03. Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.

On October 15, 2010, Whiting Petroleum Corporation (the Company) and its subsidiary Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation (Whiting Oil and Gas) entered into a Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement with the lenders party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the various other agents party thereto (the Credit Agreement). The Credit Agreement replaces Whiting Oil and Gas' existing credit agreement. The Credit Agreement provides for a revolving credit facility in an amount up to a borrowing base, which is \$1.1 billion until May 1, 2011. The borrowing base under the Credit Agreement is determined at the discretion of the lenders, based on the collateral value of the proved reserves that have been mortgaged to the lenders, and is subject to regular redeterminations on May 1 and November 1 of each year, as well as special redeterminations described in the Credit Agreement, in each case which may reduce the amount of the borrowing base. A portion of the revolving credit facility in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50 million may be used to issue letters of credit for the account of Whiting Oil and Gas or other designated subsidiaries of the Company. As of October 14, 2010, Whiting Oil and Gas had borrowed \$190.0 million under the Credit Agreement and had \$0.4 million of letters of credit outstanding under the Credit Agreement, leaving \$909.6 million of available borrowing capacity.

The Credit Agreement provides for interest only payments until October 15, 2015, when the entire amount borrowed is due. Interest accrues at Whiting Oil and Gas' option at either (i) a base rate for a base rate loan plus the margin in the table below, where the base rate is defined as the greatest of the prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.50% or an adjusted LIBOR rate plus 1.00%, or (ii) an adjusted LIBOR rate for a Eurodollar loan plus the margin in the table below.

| | Applicable Margin for Base Rate Loans | Applicable Margin for Eurodollar Loans |
|--|--|---|
| Ratio of Outstanding Borrowings to Borrowing Base | | |
| Less than .25 to 1.0 | 0.75% | 1.75% |
| Greater than or equal to .25 to 1.0 but less than .50 to 1.0 | 1.00% | 2.00% |
| Greater than or equal to .50 to 1.0 but less than .75 to 1.0 | 1.25% | 2.25% |
| Greater than or equal to .75 to 1.0 but less than .90 to 1.0 | 1.50% | 2.50% |
| Greater than or equal to .90 to 1.0 | 1.75% | 2.75% |

Under the Credit Agreement, Whiting Oil and Gas will also incur commitment fees of 0.50% on the unused portion of the lesser of the aggregate commitments of the lenders or the borrowing base.

The Credit Agreement contains restrictive covenants that may limit the Company's ability to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness, sell assets, make loans to others, make investments, enter into mergers, enter into hedging contracts, incur liens and engage in certain other transactions without the prior consent of the lenders. The Credit Agreement requires the Company, as of the last day of any quarter, (i) to not exceed a total debt to the last four quarters' EBITDAX ratio (as defined in the Credit Agreement) of 4.25 to 1.0 for quarters ending prior to and on December 31, 2012 and 4.0 to 1.0 for quarters ending March 31, 2013 and thereafter and (ii) to have a consolidated current assets to consolidated current liabilities ratio (as defined in the Credit Agreement) of not less than 1.0 to 1.0. Except for limited exceptions, which include the payment of dividends on the Company's 6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock, the credit agreement restricts the Company's ability to make any dividend payments or distributions on its common stock.

The obligations of Whiting Oil and Gas under the Credit Agreement are secured by a first lien on substantially all of Whiting Oil and Gas' properties included in the borrowing base for the Credit

Agreement. The Company has guaranteed the obligations of Whiting Oil and Gas under the Credit Agreement and has pledged the stock of Whiting Oil and Gas as security for its guarantee.

The Credit Agreement also contains customary events of default. The lenders may declare any outstanding obligations under the Credit Agreement immediately due and payable upon the occurrence of an event of default. In addition, the amount of any outstanding obligations under the Credit Agreement will be immediately due and payable in the event that the Company or any of its subsidiaries that are obligors or guarantors under the Credit Agreement becomes the subject of voluntary or involuntary proceedings under any bankruptcy, insolvency or similar law or becomes unable to pay its debts generally as they become due.

The foregoing description of the Credit Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Credit Agreement, a copy of which is filed herewith as Exhibit 4 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Exhibits:

- (4) Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 15, 2010, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, the lenders party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the various other agents party thereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Date: October 18, 2010

By: /s/ James J. Volker
James J. Volker
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

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WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
FORM 8-K
EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|---|
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