

INERGY L P
Form S-3
April 15, 2005
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 15, 2005

Registration Statement No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

INERGY, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

43-1918951
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Two Brush Creek Boulevard, Suite 200

Kansas City, Missouri 64112

(816) 842-8181

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

R. Brooks Sherman

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Two Brush Creek Boulevard, Suite 200

Kansas City, Missouri 64112

(816) 842-8181

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

David P. Oelman

Vinson & Elkins

2300 First City Tower

1001 Fannin Street, Suite 3600

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 758-2222

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

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, 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 effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) 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.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per unit (2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)	Amount of registration fee
Common Units representing limited partner interests	3,379,175 common units	\$ 32.64	\$ 110,296,272	\$ 12,982

-
- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a), the number of common units being registered shall be adjusted to include any additional units that may become issuable as a result of any unit distribution, split, combination or similar transaction.
 - (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) on the basis of the average of the high and low sales prices of the common units reported on the Nasdaq National Market on April 14, 2005.

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 Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The offering unitholder 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 it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated April 15, 2005

PROSPECTUS

3,379,175 Common Units

Inergy, L.P.

Representing Limited Partner Interests

This prospectus relates to 3,379,175 common units representing limited partner interests in Inergy, L.P. that may be offered and sold from time to time by the unitholders named in this prospectus. All of the common units were originally sold to the offering unitholders in a direct placement. The offering unitholders may sell none, some or all of the common units offered by this prospectus. Sales may be at fixed prices, which may be changed, at prices related to the prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. Such sales may occur in the open market, in negotiated transactions and sales by a combination of these methods. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common units covered by this prospectus.

Our common units are traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol NRGY. On April 14, 2005, the last reported sale price of our common units on the Nasdaq was \$ 32.77 per common unit.

Common units are entitled to receive minimum distributions of operating cash of \$0.30 per quarter, or \$1.20 on an annualized basis, before any distributions are paid on senior subordinated units or junior subordinated units, to the extent we have sufficient cash from operations after establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses, including payments to our general partners. For the quarter ended December 31, 2004, we distributed \$0.475 on each of our outstanding common, senior subordinated and junior subordinated units. In addition, on March 10, 2005, the board of directors of Inergy GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Inergy, L.P., declared a quarterly distribution of \$0.50 or \$2.00 on an annualized basis for the quarter ended March 31, 2005. This distribution will be paid on May 13, 2005.

The common units are limited partner interests, which are inherently different from the capital stock of a corporation. You should carefully consider the risks relating to investing in common units and each of the

other risk factors described under Risk Factors beginning on page 1 of this prospectus before you make an investment in our securities.

Our principal executive offices are located at Two Brush Creek Boulevard, Suite 200, Kansas City, Missouri 64112, and our phone number is (816) 842-8181.

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.

Prospectus dated _____, 2005

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Neither we nor the offering unitholders have authorized any other person to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>GUIDE TO READING THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	ii
<u>INFORMATION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	ii
<u>INERGY, L.P.</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	1
<u>Risks Inherent in Our Business</u>	1
<u>Tax Risks to Common Unitholders</u>	7
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS</u>	11
<u>Distributions</u>	11
<u>Timing of Distributions</u>	11
<u>Subordination Period</u>	11
<u>Early Conversion of Subordinated Units</u>	11
<u>Issuance of Additional Units</u>	12
<u>Voting Rights</u>	12
<u>Limited Call Right</u>	12
<u>Exchange Listing</u>	12
<u>Transfer Agent and Registrar Duties</u>	12
<u>Transfer of Common Units</u>	13
<u>MATERIAL TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	14
<u>Partnership Status</u>	14
<u>Limited Partner Status</u>	15
<u>Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership</u>	16
<u>Tax Treatment of Operations</u>	20
<u>Disposition of Common Units</u>	21
<u>Uniformity of Units</u>	23
<u>Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors</u>	23
<u>Administrative Matters</u>	24
<u>OFFERING UNITHOLDERS</u>	28
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	29
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	31
<u>EXPERTS</u>	31
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	31

Table of Contents

GUIDE TO READING THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission utilizing a shelf registration process or continuous offering process. Under this shelf registration process, the offering unitholders may, from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities which may be offered by the offering unitholders. Each time an offering unitholder sells securities, the offering unitholder is required to provide you with this prospectus and, in certain cases, a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the offering unitholder and the terms of the securities being offered. That prospectus supplement may include additional risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update, or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement.

Additional information, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, is incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our reports filed with the SEC. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#). You are urged to read this prospectus, including the [Risk Factors](#), and our SEC reports in their entirety.

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

Throughout this prospectus, when we use the terms [we](#), [us](#), or [Inergy, L.P.](#), we are referring either to [Inergy, L.P.](#), the registrant itself, or to [Inergy, L.P.](#) and its operating subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires.

We have a managing general partner and a non-managing general partner. Our managing general partner is responsible for the management of our partnership and its operations are governed by a board of directors. Our managing general partner does not have rights to allocations or distributions from our partnership and does not receive a management fee, but it is reimbursed for expenses incurred on our behalf. Our non-managing general partner owns an approximate 1.4% general partner interest in our partnership. Generally, we refer to each general partner as [managing](#) or [non-managing](#), as the case may be. We collectively refer to our managing general partner and our non-managing general partner as our [general partners](#).

INFORMATION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information in this prospectus and the documents that we have incorporated herein by reference may contain forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology including [may](#), [believe](#), [will](#), [expect](#), [anticipate](#), [estimate](#), [continue](#) or other similar words. These statements discuss plans, strategies, events or developments that we expect or anticipate will or may occur in the future. Specific factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. These factors include, but are not limited to:

the effect of weather conditions on demand for propane;

the price volatility and availability of propane;

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

our inability to make business acquisitions on economically acceptable terms;

our inability to integrate recent acquisitions, including our acquisition of Star Gas Propane, L.P.;

our ability to achieve expected operating cost savings, synergies and productivity improvements from the integration of the businesses we acquire;

the availability of capacity to transport propane to market areas and our customers;

competition from other energy sources and within the propane industry;

Table of Contents

improvements in energy efficiency and technology trends resulting in reduced demand for propane;

our ability to obtain new customers and retain existing customers;

operating hazards and risks incidental to transporting, storing and distributing propane and related products, including the risk of explosions and fires resulting in personal injury and property damage;

liability for environmental claims;

adverse labor relations;

governmental legislation and regulation;

the condition of the capital markets in the United States; and

the political and economic stability of oil producing nations of the world.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe that we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, we caution you that assumed facts or bases almost always vary from actual results, and the differences between assumed facts or bases and actual results can be material, depending on the circumstances. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus and the documents that we have incorporated by reference, including those described in the Risk Factors section of this prospectus. We will not update these statements unless the securities laws require us to do so.

Table of Contents

INERGY, L.P.

Inergy L.P. owns and operates a rapidly growing, geographically diverse retail and wholesale propane supply, marketing and distribution business. We believe we are currently the fifth largest propane retailer in the United States, based on retail propane gallons sold. Our retail business includes the retail marketing, sale and distribution of propane, including the sale and lease of propane supplies and equipment, to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural customers. We currently serve approximately 600,000 customers in 27 states from 280 customer service centers which have an aggregate of approximately 22.4 million gallons of above-ground propane storage capacity. In addition to our retail business, we operate a wholesale supply, marketing and distribution business through which we provide propane procurement, transportation and supply and price risk management services to our customer service centers and multi-state marketers, petrochemical companies, refinery and gas processors and a number of other natural gas liquids marketing and distribution companies in the United States and in Canada. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004, or fiscal 2004, pro forma for our acquisition of Star Gas Propane, L.P., we sold and physically delivered approximately 309 million gallons of propane to retail customers and approximately 385 million gallons of propane to wholesale customers.

We have grown primarily through acquisitions of retail propane operations. Since our predecessor's inception in November 1996 and through December 31, 2004, we acquired 45 propane businesses in 18 states and Canada for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$1.0 billion, including working capital, assumed liabilities and acquisition costs.

RISK FACTORS

Common units, representing limited partner interests, are inherently different from capital stock of a corporation, although many of the business risks to which we are subject are similar to those that would be faced by a corporation engaged in a similar business. You should carefully consider the following risk factors together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the information that we have incorporated herein by reference before investing in the common units.

If any of the following risks were actually to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In that case, we may be unable to make distributions to our unitholders, the trading price of our common units could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Inherent in Our Business

Since weather conditions may adversely affect the demand for propane, our financial condition and results of operations are vulnerable to, and will be adversely affected by, warm winters.

Weather conditions have a significant impact on the demand for propane because our customers depend on propane principally for heating purposes. As a result, warm weather conditions will adversely impact our operating results and financial condition. Actual weather conditions can substantially change from one year to the next. Furthermore, warmer than normal temperatures in one or more regions in which we operate can significantly decrease the total volume of propane we sell. Consequently, our operating results may vary significantly due to actual changes in temperature. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2004, temperatures were significantly warmer than normal in our areas of operation. We believe that our results of operations during these periods were adversely affected as a result of this warm weather.

We may be unable to successfully integrate our acquisition of 100% of the partnership interests in Star Gas Propane, L.P. or our other acquisitions with our operations or realize all of the anticipated benefits of these acquisitions.

Integration of the Star Gas Propane business and operations with our existing business and operations will be a complex, time-consuming and costly process, particularly given that the acquisition will approximately

Table of Contents

double our size and significantly diversify the geographic areas in which we operate. Failure to successfully integrate the Star Gas Propane business and operations with our existing business and operations in a timely manner may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Similarly, our other recent acquisitions and ongoing acquisition program expose us to integration risks as well. The difficulties of combining the acquired operations include, among other things:

operating a significantly larger combined organization and integrating additional retail and wholesale distribution operations to our existing supply, marketing and distribution operations;

coordinating geographically disparate organizations, systems and facilities;

integrating personnel from diverse business backgrounds and organizational cultures;

consolidating corporate, technological and administrative functions;

integrating internal controls, compliance under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and other corporate governance matters;

the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns;

customer or key employee loss from the acquired businesses;

a significant increase in our indebtedness; and

potential environmental or regulatory liabilities and title problems.

In addition, we may not realize all of the anticipated benefits from our acquisition of Star Gas Propane, such as cost savings and revenue enhancements, for various reasons, including difficulties integrating operations and personnel, higher costs, unknown liabilities and fluctuations in markets.

Our acquisition of Star Gas Propane exposes us to potential significant liabilities.

In the Star Gas Propane acquisition, we purchased the partnership interests of Star Gas Propane rather than just its assets. As a result, we purchased the liabilities of Star Gas Propane as well, including unknown and contingent liabilities. We have performed a certain level of due diligence in connection with the Star Gas Propane acquisition, but there may be pending, threatened, contemplated or contingent claims against Star Gas Propane related to environmental, title, regulatory, litigation or other matters of which we are unaware. Although Star Gas Partners, L.P., the former parent company of Star Gas Propane, has agreed to indemnify us against some of these liabilities, there is a risk that we could ultimately be liable for some or all of these indemnified risks.

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Star Gas Partners, L.P. is a named defendant in multiple federal securities class action lawsuits alleging that public disclosures made by it contained materially misleading information or omits to state material information. Star Gas Propane is a named defendant in one of these lawsuits and it is possible that Star Gas Propane and its subsidiaries could be named as a defendant in additional lawsuits relating to the allegations described above.

Under our purchase agreement entered into in connection with the Star Gas Propane acquisition, Star Gas Partners, L.P. agreed to indemnify us for damages relating to the securities disclosure claims described above without limitation as to the ultimate amount of such indemnity. Star Gas Partners, L.P. has also agreed to generally indemnify us against other liabilities up to a maximum aggregate amount of approximately \$107 million, subject to certain of our claims being brought within specific time periods. On October 18, 2004, Star Gas Partners, L.P. announced that it expected a substantial deterioration of its results of operations for its Petro heating oil division for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004 and projected a further decline in operating results for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. On December 14, 2004, Star Gas Partners, L.P. filed its annual report on Form 10-K. The audit opinion contained in that report indicated that there is substantial doubt about the ability of Star Gas Partners, L.P. to continue as a going concern. The audit opinion for the audited combined financial statements of Star Gas Propane incorporated by reference into this prospectus similarly

Table of Contents

indicates that there is substantial doubt about the ability of Star Gas Propane to continue as a going concern. The footnotes to these combined financial statements further state that if Star Gas Partners, L.P. is unable to close a new revolving credit facility and either a bridge facility or the sale of Star Gas Propane, Star Gas Partners, L.P. may be forced to seek the protection of the bankruptcy courts. If we incur damages arising from any such liabilities and Star Gas Partners, L.P. is financially or contractually unable to fulfill its indemnification obligations to us or disputes its liability under the indemnity, we could be responsible for any amounts not covered. Accordingly, these potential liabilities may have a material adverse effect on us.

If Star Gas Partners, L.P. is unable to meet its obligations to its creditors and the creditors successfully challenge the Star Gas Propane acquisition under federal or state bankruptcy or fraudulent transfer laws, which would require the creditors to prove that (i) Star Gas Partners, L.P. received inadequate consideration for the Star Gas Propane acquisition and that Star Gas Partners, L.P. was insolvent or was rendered insolvent by reason of the acquisition, or (ii) that such acquisition was made with the intent of defrauding Star Gas Partners, L.P.'s creditors, we could be subject to material losses. While we believe that a successful fraudulent conveyance claim is unlikely, we cannot assure you that such a claim will not be made. Moreover, any such claim, if resolved adversely to us, may have a material adverse effect on us.

If we do not continue to make acquisitions on economically acceptable terms, our future financial performance will be limited.

The propane industry is not a growth industry because of increased competition from alternative energy sources. In addition, as a result of long-standing customer relationships that are typical in the retail home propane industry, the inconvenience of switching tanks and suppliers and propane's higher cost as compared to other energy sources, we may have difficulty in increasing our retail customer base other than through acquisitions. Therefore, while our business strategy includes internal growth, our ability to grow will depend principally on acquisitions. Our future financial performance depends on our ability to continue to make acquisitions at attractive prices. We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to identify attractive acquisition candidates 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. We may not be able to grow as rapidly as we expect through our acquisition of additional businesses for various reasons, including the following:

We will use our cash from operations primarily for distributions to unitholders and reinvestment in our business. Consequently, the extent to which we are unable to use cash or access capital to pay for additional acquisitions may limit our growth and impair our operating results. Further, we are subject to certain debt incurrence covenants under our bank credit facility and our indenture for the notes that may restrict our ability to incur additional debt to finance acquisitions.

Although we intend to use our securities as acquisition currency, some prospective sellers may not be willing to accept our securities as consideration.

Sudden and sharp propane price increases that cannot be passed on to customers may adversely affect our profit margins.

The propane industry is a margin-based business in which gross profits depend on the excess of sales prices over supply costs. As a result, our profitability will be sensitive to changes in wholesale prices of propane caused by changes in supply or other market conditions. When there are sudden and sharp increases in the wholesale cost of propane, we may not be able to pass on these increases to our customers through retail or wholesale prices. Propane is a commodity and the price we pay for it can fluctuate significantly in response to changes in supply or other market conditions. We have no control over supply or market conditions. In addition, the timing of cost pass-throughs can significantly affect margins. Sudden and extended wholesale price increases could reduce our gross profits and could, if continued over an extended period of time, reduce demand by encouraging our retail customers to conserve or convert to alternative energy sources.

Table of Contents

Our indebtedness may limit our ability to borrow additional funds or capitalize on acquisition or other business opportunities, in addition to impairing our ability to fulfill our debt obligations under the notes.

Our leverage, various limitations in our credit facility, other restrictions governing our indebtedness and the indenture governing the notes may reduce our ability to incur additional indebtedness, to engage in some transactions and to capitalize on acquisition or other business opportunities.

Our indebtedness and other financial obligations could have important consequences to you. For example, they could:

make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our indebtedness;

impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general partnership purposes or other purposes;

result in higher interest expense in the event of increases in interest rates since some of our debt is, and will continue to be, at variable rates of interest;

have a material adverse effect on us if we fail to comply with financial and restrictive covenants in our debt agreements and an event of default occurs as a result of that failure that is not cured or waived;

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow to payments of our indebtedness and other financial obligations, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures and other general partnership requirements;

limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the propane industry; and

place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have proportionately less debt.

If we are unable to meet our debt service obligations and other financial obligations, we could be forced to restructure or refinance our indebtedness and other financial transactions, seek additional equity capital or sell our assets. We may then be unable to obtain such financing or capital or sell our assets on satisfactory terms, if at all.

Restrictive covenants in the agreements governing our indebtedness may reduce our operating flexibility.

The indenture governing both the outstanding and the exchange notes and agreements governing our credit facility and other future indebtedness contain or will contain various covenants limiting our ability and the ability of specified subsidiaries of ours to, among other things:

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

pay distributions on, redeem or repurchase our equity interests or redeem or repurchase our subordinated debt;

make investments;

incur or guarantee additional indebtedness or issue preferred securities;

create or incur certain liens;

enter into agreements that restrict distributions or other payments from our restricted subsidiaries to us;

consolidate, merge or transfer all or substantially all of our assets;

engage in transactions with affiliates;

create unrestricted subsidiaries;

create non-guarantor subsidiaries;

enter into sale and leaseback transactions; and

engage in any material business other than a permitted business.

Table of Contents

These restrictions could limit our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to obtain future financings, make needed capital expenditures, withstand a future downturn in our business or the economy in general, conduct operations or otherwise take advantage of business opportunities that may arise. Our credit facility contains covenants requiring us to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy other financial conditions. We may be unable to meet those ratios and conditions. Any future breach of these covenants and our failure to meet any of those ratios and conditions could result in a default under the terms of our credit facility, which could result in the acceleration of our debt and other financial obligations. If we were unable to repay these amounts, the lenders could initiate a bankruptcy proceeding or liquidation proceeding or proceed against the collateral pledged towards the obligations.

The highly competitive nature of the retail propane business could cause us to lose customers or affect our ability to acquire new customers, thereby reducing our revenues.

We have competitors and potential competitors who are larger and have substantially greater financial resources than we do, which may provide them with some advantages. Also, because of relatively low barriers to entry into the retail propane business, numerous small retail propane distributors, as well as companies not engaged in retail propane distribution, may enter our markets and compete with us. Most of our propane retail branch locations compete with several 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

lack of growth in the industry.

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, we may lose customers, which would reduce our revenues.

If we are not able to purchase propane from our principal suppliers, our results of operations would be adversely affected.

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Most of our total volume purchases are made under supply contracts that have a term of one year, are subject to annual renewal, and provide various pricing formulas. Three of our suppliers, Sunoco, Inc. (18%), Dominion Transmission Inc. (12%) and ExxonMobil Oil Corp. (11%), accounted for approximately 41% of propane purchases during fiscal 2004. Similarly, Star Gas Propane purchases a significant amount of its propane from certain suppliers, several of whom are also suppliers to us. In the event that we are unable to purchase propane from our significant suppliers, our failure to obtain alternate sources of supply at competitive prices and on a timely basis would hurt our ability to satisfy customer demand, reduce our revenues and adversely affect our results of operations.

Competition from alternative energy sources may cause us to lose customers, thereby reducing our revenues.

Competition from alternative energy sources, including natural gas and electricity, has been increasing as a result of reduced regulation of many utilities, including natural gas and electricity. Propane is generally not competitive with natural gas in areas where natural gas pipelines already exist because natural gas is a less

Table of Contents

expensive source of energy than propane. The gradual expansion of natural gas distribution systems and availability of natural gas in many areas that previously depended upon propane could cause us to lose customers, thereby reducing our revenues.

Our business would be adversely affected if service at our principal storage facilities or on the common carrier pipelines we use is interrupted.

Historically, a substantial portion of the propane we purchase to support our operations originates at Conway, Kansas, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Mont Belvieu, Texas and is shipped to us through major common carrier pipelines. Any significant interruption in the service at these storage facilities or on the common carrier pipelines we use would adversely affect our ability to obtain propane.

If we are not able to sell propane that we have purchased through wholesale supply agreements to either our own retail propane customers or to other retailers and wholesalers, the results of our operations would be adversely affected.

We currently are party to propane supply contracts and expect to enter into additional propane supply contracts which require us to purchase substantially all the propane production from certain refineries. Our inability to sell the propane supply in our own propane distribution business, to other retail propane distributors, or to other propane wholesalers would have a substantial adverse impact on our operating results and could adversely impact our capital liquidity.

We are subject to operating and litigation risks that could adversely affect our operating results to the extent not covered by insurance.

Our operations are subject to all operating hazards and risks incidental to handling, storing, transporting and providing customers with combustible liquids such as propane. As a result, we have been, and likely will be, a defendant in legal proceedings and litigation arising in the ordinary course of business. We maintain insurance policies with insurers in such amounts and with such coverages and deductibles as we believe are reasonable and prudent. However, our insurance may not be adequate to protect us from all material expenses related to potential future claims for personal injury and property damage. In addition, the occurrence of a serious accident, whether or not we are involved, may have an adverse effect on the public's desire to use our products.

Our operations are subject to compliance with environmental laws and regulations that can adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Our operations are subject to the environmental laws and regulations of federal, state, and local authorities. Such environmental laws and regulations impose restrictions on the generation, handling, treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation of certain materials and wastes. Failure to comply with such environmental laws and regulations can result in the assessment of substantial administrative, civil, and criminal penalties and even the issuance of injunctions restricting or prohibiting our activities. Certain environmental laws impose strict, joint and several liability for costs required to clean up and restore sites where hazardous substances have been disposed or otherwise released. Many of the properties owned or leased by us were previously operated by third parties whose management, disposal, or release of materials and wastes was not under our control. Accordingly, we may be liable for the costs of cleaning up or remediating contamination caused by releases of hazardous substances at properties that we own or operate or will own or operate or at properties to which hazardous substances were transported from these properties. It is also possible that implementation of stricter environmental laws and regulations in the future could result in additional costs or liabilities to us as well as the industry in general.

Energy efficiency and new technology may reduce the demand for propane and adversely affect our operating results.

Increased conservation and technological advances, including installation of improved insulation and the development of more efficient furnaces and other heating devices, have adversely affected the demand for

Table of Contents

propane by retail customers. Future conservation measures or technological advances in heating, conservation, energy generation or other devices might reduce demand for propane and adversely affect our operating results.

Due to our lack of asset diversification, adverse developments in our propane business would adversely affect our operating results.

We rely almost exclusively on the revenues generated from our propane business. Due to our lack of asset diversification, an adverse development in this business would have a significantly greater impact on our financial condition and results of operations than if we maintained more diverse assets.

Cost reimbursements due our managing general partner may be substantial and will reduce the cash available for principal and interest on our outstanding indebtedness.

We reimburse our managing general partner and its affiliates, including officers and directors of our managing general partner, for all expenses they incur on our behalf. The reimbursement of expenses could adversely affect our ability to make payments of principal and interest on our outstanding indebtedness. Our managing general partner has sole discretion to determine the amount of these expenses. In addition, our managing general partner and its affiliates provide us with services for which we are charged reasonable fees as determined by our managing general partner in its sole discretion.

Our business and operations could be adversely affected by terrorist attacks.

On September 11, 2001, the United States was the target of terrorist attacks of unprecedented scope, and the United States and others instituted military action in response. Since the September 11th attacks, the U.S. government has issued public warnings that indicate that energy assets, specifically our nation's pipeline infrastructure, production facilities and transmission and distribution facilities, might be specific targets of terrorist organizations. The continued threat of terrorism and the impact of military and other actions will likely lead to increased volatility in prices for natural gas and oil and could affect the markets for our products. In addition, future acts of terrorism could be directed against companies operating in the United States, particularly those engaged in sectors essential to our economic prosperity, such as natural resources. These developments have subjected our operations to increased risk and, depending on their ultimate magnitude, could have a material adverse affect on our business.

Tax Risks to Common Unitholders

You should read **Material Tax Consequences** for a more complete discussion of the expected federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of common units.

Our tax treatment depends on our status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, as well as our not being subject to entity level taxation by states. If the IRS treats us as a corporation or we become subject to entity level taxation for state tax purposes, it would reduce the amount of cash available for distribution to you.

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

The after-tax benefit of an investment in our common units depends largely on our being treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. We have not requested, and do not plan to request, a ruling from the IRS on this or any other tax matter that affects us.

If we were treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, we would pay federal income tax on our taxable income at the corporate tax rate, which is currently a maximum rate of 35%, and would likely pay state income tax at varying rates. Distributions to you would generally be taxed again as corporate distributions, and no income, gain, loss or deduction would flow through to you. Treatment of us as a corporation would result in a material reduction in the after-tax return to our unitholders, likely causing a substantial reduction in the value of our common units.

Table of Contents

Current law or our business may change so as to cause us to be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes or otherwise subject us to entity level taxation. In addition, because of widespread state budget deficits, several states are evaluating ways to subject partnerships to entity level taxation through the imposition of state income, franchise or other forms of taxation. If any state were to impose a tax upon us as an entity, the cash available to pay distributions would be reduced. Our partnership agreement provides that, if a law is enacted or existing law is modified or interpreted in a manner that subjects us to taxation as a corporation or otherwise subjects us to entity level taxation for federal, state or local income tax purposes, then the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution amount will be adjusted to reflect the impact of that law on us.

A successful IRS contest of the federal income tax positions we take may adversely impact the market for our common units.

We have not requested a ruling from the IRS with respect to our treatment as a partnership for federal income tax purposes or any other matter that affects us. The IRS may adopt positions that differ from the positions we take. It may be necessary to resort to administrative or court proceedings to sustain some or all of the positions we take. A court may not concur with our counsel's conclusions or the positions we take. Any contest with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for our common units and the price at which they trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS, principally legal, accounting and related fees, will be borne by us and indirectly by our unitholders and our general partner.

You may be required to pay taxes even if you do not receive any cash distributions.

You will be required to pay any federal income taxes and, in some cases, state and local income taxes on your share of our taxable income whether or not you receive cash distributions from us. You may not receive cash distributions from us equal to your share of our taxable income or even the tax liability that results from that income.

Tax gain or loss on disposition of common units could be different than expected.

A unitholder who sells common units will recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the adjusted tax basis in those common units. Prior distributions to a unitholder in excess of the total net taxable income allocated to that unitholder, which decreased the tax basis in that unitholder's common unit, will, in effect, become taxable income to that unitholder if the common unit is sold at a price greater than that unitholder's tax basis in that common unit, even if the price is less than the original cost. A substantial portion of the amount realized, whether or not representing gain, may be ordinary income to that unitholder.

Tax-exempt entities, regulated investment companies and foreign persons face unique tax issues from owning common units that may result in adverse tax consequences to them.

Investment in common units by tax-exempt entities, including employee benefit plans and individual retirement accounts (known as IRAs), regulated investment companies (known as mutual funds) and foreign persons raises issues unique to them. For example, virtually all of our income allocated to organizations exempt from federal income tax, including individual retirement accounts and other retirement plans, will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to them. Recent legislation treats net income derived from the ownership of certain publicly traded partnerships (including us) as qualifying income to a regulated investment company. However, this legislation is only effective for regulated investment companies with taxable years beginning after October 22, 2004, the date of enactment. For taxable years beginning on

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

or before the date of enactment, very little of our income will be qualifying income. Distributions to foreign persons will be reduced by withholding taxes imposed at the highest effective applicable tax rate, and foreign persons will be required to file United States federal income tax returns and pay tax on their share of our taxable income.

Table of Contents

We will treat each purchaser of common units as having the same tax benefits without regard to the units purchased. The IRS may challenge this treatment, which could adversely affect the value of our common units.

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of common units, we will adopt depreciation and amortization positions that may not conform with all aspects of existing Treasury regulations. A successful IRS challenge to those positions could adversely affect the amount of tax benefits available to our unitholders. It also could affect the timing of these tax benefits or the amount of gain on the sale of common units and could have a negative impact on the value of our common units or result in audits of and adjustments to our unitholders' tax returns.

You will likely be subject to state and local taxes in states where you do not live as a result of an investment in our common units.

In addition to federal income taxes, you will likely be subject to other taxes, including state and local income 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, even if you do not reside in any of those jurisdictions. You will likely be required to file state and local income tax returns and pay state and local income taxes in many or all of the jurisdictions. Further, you may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. It is your responsibility to file all United States federal, state and local tax returns. Our counsel has not rendered an opinion on the state or local tax consequences of an investment in the common units.

You are urged to read **Material Tax Considerations** for a discussion of the expected material federal income tax consequences of owning our securities.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common units contemplated by this prospectus. Please read [Offering Unitholders](#) for a list of the persons receiving proceeds from the sale of the common units.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The common units and the subordinated units represent limited partner interests in us. The holders of these units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. As of March 31, 2005, we had 26,254,645 common units, representing a 78.7% limited partner interest, 5,478,568 senior subordinated units, representing a 16.4% limited partner interest; and 1,145,084 junior subordinated units, representing a 3.5% limited partner interest. Thus, as of that date our equity consisted of a 98.6% limited partner interest and an approximate 1.4% general partner interest.

Distributions

Common units are entitled to receive distributions of available cash of \$0.30 per quarter, or \$1.20 on an annualized basis, before any distributions are paid on our subordinated units.

In general, we will pay any cash distributions we make each quarter in the following manner:

first, 98.6% to the common units and 1.4% to the non-managing general partner, until each common unit has received a minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.30 plus any arrearages from prior quarters;

second, 98.6% to the senior subordinated units and 1.4% to the non-managing general partner, until each senior subordinated unit has received a minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.30;

third, 98.6% to the junior subordinated units and 1.4% to the non-managing general partner, until each junior subordinated unit has received a minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.30; and

fourth, 98.6% to all units, pro rata, and 1.4% to the non-managing general partner, until each unit has received a distribution of \$0.33 per quarter.

If cash distributions exceed \$0.33 per unit in any quarter, Inergy Holdings, LLC, the sole member of our managing general partner, will receive increasing percentages, up to 48%, of the cash we distribute in excess of that amount.

We must distribute all of our cash on hand at the end of each quarter, less reserves established by our managing general partner. The amount of this available cash may be greater than or less than the minimum quarterly distribution.

Timing of Distributions

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

We pay distributions approximately 45 days after March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 to unitholders of record on the applicable record date and to our non-managing general partner.

Subordination Period

The subordination period will end once we meet the financial tests in the partnership agreement, but it generally cannot end before June 30, 2006 with respect to the senior subordinated units and June 30, 2008 with respect to the junior subordinated units.

When the applicable subordination period ends, all remaining senior subordinated units or junior subordinated units, as applicable, will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis. Once all subordinated units have been converted into common units, the common units will no longer be entitled to arrearages.

Early Conversion of Subordinated Units

On August 13, 2004, after meeting the financial tests provided for in our partnership agreement, we completed the conversion of 1,656,684 senior subordinated units into common units. If we meet these tests for

Table of Contents

any quarter ending on or after June 30, 2005, an additional 1,656,684 senior subordinated units will convert into common units. The early conversion of the second 1,656,684 senior subordinated units may not occur until at least one year after the early conversion of the first 1,656,684 senior subordinated units.

If we meet the applicable financial tests in our partnership agreement as of any quarter ending on or after June 30, 2006, 286,272 junior subordinated units will convert into common units. If we meet these tests as of any quarter ending on or after June 30, 2007, an additional 286,272 junior subordinated units will convert into common units. The early conversion of the second 286,272 junior subordinated units may not occur until at least one year after the early conversion of the first 286,272 junior subordinated units.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, all outstanding junior subordinated units may convert into common units on a one-for-one basis on or after June 30, 2006, if we have paid a distribution of at least \$1.40 on each outstanding unit for each of the three preceding non-overlapping four-quarter periods, all of the senior subordinated units have been converted into common units, and we have met other applicable financial tests in our partnership agreement.

Issuance of Additional Units

In general, while any senior subordinated units remain outstanding, we may not issue more than 1,353,628 additional common units without obtaining unitholder approval. We may, however, issue an unlimited number of common units in connection with acquisitions that increase cash flow from operations per unit on a pro forma basis. We refer to acquisitions which increase cash flow from operations on a per unit basis as accretive.

Voting Rights

Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, our common unitholders will have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business. Our common unitholders will have no right to elect our managing general partner or its directors on an annual or other continuing basis. The managing general partner may not be removed except by the vote of the holders of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding common units, including units owned by the general partners and their affiliates.

Limited Call Right

If at any time not more than 20% of the outstanding common units are held by persons other than our general partners and their affiliates, our managing general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to purchase all of the remaining common units at a price not less than the then current market price of the common units.

Exchange Listing

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Our common units are traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol NRGY.

Transfer Agent and Registrar Duties

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company serves as registrar and transfer agent for the common units. We pay all fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units, except the following that must be paid by unitholders:

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.

There is no charge to unitholders for disbursements of our cash distributions. We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their stockholders, directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses

Table of Contents

that may arise out of acts performed or omitted for its activities as transfer agent, except for any liability due to any gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

Transfer of Common Units

Any 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:

becomes the record holder of the common units and is an assignee until admitted into our partnership as a substituted limited partner,

automatically requests admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership,

agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of, and executes, our partnership agreement,

represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to enter into the partnership agreement,

grants powers of attorney to officers of our managing general partner and any liquidator of us 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 our partnership for the transferred common units upon the consent of our managing general partner and the recording of the name of the assignee on our books and records. The managing general partner may withhold its consent in its sole discretion.

A transferee's broker, agent or nominee may complete, execute and deliver a transfer application. We are entitled to treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the nominee holder.

Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfer of securities. In addition to other rights acquired upon admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership for the transferred common units, a purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application obtains only:

the right to assign the common unit to a purchaser or other transferee, and

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

the right to transfer the right to seek admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership 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 or federal income tax allocations, 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, and

may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units.

The transferor of common units has a duty to provide the transferee with all information that may be necessary to transfer the common units. The transferor does not have a duty to insure the execution of the transfer application by the transferee and has no liability or responsibility if the transferee neglects or chooses not to execute and forward the transfer application to the transfer agent.

Until a common unit has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer agent, may treat the record holder of the unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL TAX CONSIDERATIONS

This section is a summary of the material tax considerations that may be relevant to prospective unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and, unless otherwise noted in the following discussion, is the opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., counsel to the general partners and us, insofar as it relates to matters of United States federal income tax law and legal conclusions with respect to those matters. This section is based upon current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, existing and proposed regulations and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change. 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 us or we are references to Inergy, L.P. and our operating company.

The following discussion does not 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, nonresident aliens or other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt institutions, foreign persons, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), real estate investment trusts (REITs) or mutual funds. Accordingly, we urge each prospective unitholder to consult, and depend on, his own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences particular to him of the ownership or disposition of common units.

All statements as to matters of law and legal conclusions, but not as to factual matters, contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, are the opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. and are based on the accuracy of the representations made by us.

No ruling has been or will be requested from the IRS regarding any matter affecting us or prospective unitholders. Instead, we will rely on opinions of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Unlike a ruling, an opinion of counsel represents only that counsel's best legal judgment and does not bind the IRS or the courts. Accordingly, the opinions and statements made here may not 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 common units and the prices at which common units trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS, principally legal, accounting and related fees, will result in a reduction in cash available for distribution to our unitholders and our general partners and thus will be borne indirectly by our unitholders and our general partner. Furthermore, the tax treatment of us, or of an investment in us, may 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, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion with respect to the following specific federal income tax issues: (1) the treatment of a unitholder whose common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units (please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Treatment of Short Sales); (2) whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (please read Disposition of Common Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees); and (3) whether our method for depreciating Section 743 adjustments is sustainable in certain cases (please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election).

Partnership Status

A partnership is not a taxable entity and incurs no federal income tax liability. Instead, each partner of a partnership is required to take into account his 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 to him by the partnership. 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.

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code provides that publicly traded partnerships will, as a general rule, be taxed as corporations. However, an exception, referred to as the Qualifying Income Exception, exists with

Table of Contents

respect to publicly traded partnerships of which 90% or more of the gross income for every taxable year consists of qualifying income. Qualifying income includes income and gains derived from the wholesale and retail marketing and transportation of propane. Other types of qualifying income include interest (other than from a financial business), dividends, gains from the sale of real property and gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of income that otherwise constitutes qualifying income. We estimate that less than 6% of our current income is not qualifying income; however, this estimate could change from time to time. Based upon and subject to this estimate, the factual representations made by us and the managing general partner and a review of the applicable legal authorities, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is of the opinion that at least 90% of our current gross income constitutes qualifying income.

No ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS and the IRS has made no determination as to our status for federal income tax purposes or whether our operations generate qualifying income under Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code. Instead, we will rely on the opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. that, based upon the Internal Revenue Code, its regulations, published revenue rulings and court decisions and the representations described below, we will be classified as a partnership and the operating company will be disregarded as an entity separate from us for federal income tax purposes.

In rendering its opinion, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has relied on factual representations made by us and the managing general partner. The representations made by us and our managing general partner upon which Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has relied are:

(a) Neither Inergy, L.P. nor the operating company will elect to be treated as a corporation; and

(b) For each taxable year, more than 90% of our gross income will be income that Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has opined or will opine is qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and that 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 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 unitholders in liquidation of their interests in us. This contribution and liquidation should be tax-free to unitholders and us 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 we were taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, either as a result of a failure to meet the Qualifying Income Exception or otherwise, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be reflected only on our tax return rather than being passed through to the unitholders, and our net income would be taxed to us at corporate rates. In addition, any distribution made to a unitholder would be treated as either taxable dividend income, to the extent of our 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 common units, or taxable capital gain, after the unitholder's tax basis in his common units is reduced to zero. Accordingly, taxation 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 Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.'s opinion that we will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

Limited Partner Status

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Unitholders who have become limited partners of Inergy, L.P. will be treated as partners of Inergy, L.P. for federal income tax purposes. Also:

(a) assignees who have executed and delivered transfer applications, and are awaiting admission as limited partners, and

Table of Contents

(b) unitholders whose common units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their common units

will be treated as partners of Inergy, L.P. for federal income tax purposes. As there is no direct authority addressing assignees of common 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, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.'s opinion does not extend to these persons. Furthermore, a purchaser or other transferee of common 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 common units 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.

A beneficial owner of common 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 those units for federal income tax purposes. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [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 a unitholder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes would therefore appear to be fully taxable as ordinary income. These holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to their tax consequences of holding common units in Inergy, L.P.

Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership

Flow-through of Taxable Income. We will not pay any federal income tax. Instead, each unitholder will be required to report on his income tax return his share of our income, gains, losses and deductions without regard to whether corresponding cash distributions are received by him. Consequently, we may allocate income to a unitholder even if he has not received a cash distribution. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his allocable share of our income, gains, losses and deductions for our taxable year ending with or within his taxable year.

Treatment of Distributions. Distributions by us to a unitholder generally will not be taxable to the unitholder for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent the amount of any such cash distribution exceeds his tax basis in his common units immediately before the distribution. Our cash distributions in excess of a unitholder's tax basis generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of the common units, taxable in accordance with the rules described under [Disposition of Common Units](#) below. Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our liabilities for which no partner, including our general partners, 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. Please read [Limitations on Deductibility of Losses](#).

A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional common units will decrease his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, and thus 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 his tax basis in his common units, if the distribution reduces the unitholder's share of our unrealized receivables, including depreciation recapture, and/or substantially appreciated inventory items, both as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, and collectively, Section 751 Assets. To that extent, he will be treated as having been distributed 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 the unitholder's realization of ordinary income, which will equal the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (2) the unitholder's tax basis for the share of Section 751 Assets deemed relinquished in the exchange.

Table of Contents

Basis of Common Units. A unitholder's initial tax basis for his common units will be the amount he paid for the common units plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That 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 us, by the unitholder's share of our 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 unitholder will have no share of our debt that is recourse to either general partner, but will have a share, generally based on his share of profits, of our nonrecourse liabilities. Please read "Disposition of Common Units" and "Recognition of Gain or Loss."

Limitations on Deductibility of Losses. The deduction by a 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 the corporate unitholder's stock is owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer individuals or some tax-exempt organizations, to the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be "at risk" with respect to our activities, if that is less than his tax basis. A unitholder must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions 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 that 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 those 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 the unitholder's 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 corporate or partnership 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 with respect to 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 our investments or investments in other publicly traded partnerships, or salary or active business income. Passive losses that are not deductible because they exceed a unitholder's share of income we generate 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, including the at risk rules and the basis limitation.

A unitholder's share of our net income may be offset by any of our 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 partnerships.

Limitations on Interest Deductions. The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's investment interest expense is generally limited to the amount of that taxpayer's net investment income. Investment interest expense includes:

interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment;

our interest expense attributed to portfolio income; and

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent attributable to portfolio income.

Table of Contents

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. The IRS has indicated that net passive income earned by a publicly traded partnership will be treated as investment income to its unitholders. In addition, the unitholder's share of our portfolio income will be treated as investment income.

Entity-Level Collections. If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state, local or foreign income tax on behalf of any unitholder or the non-managing general partner or any former unitholder, we are 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 all current 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 us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of an individual partner in which event the partner would be required to file a claim in order to obtain a credit or refund.

Allocation of 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 non-managing general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that distributions are made to the common units in excess of distributions to the subordinated units, or incentive distributions are made to Inergy Holdings, LLC, gross income will be allocated to the recipients to the extent of these distributions. If we have a net loss for the entire year, that loss will be allocated first to the non-managing general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us to the extent of their positive capital accounts and, second, to the non-managing general partner.

Specified items of our income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated to account for the difference between the tax basis and fair market value of property contributed to us by the non-managing general partner and its affiliates, referred to in this discussion as **Contributed Property**. The effect of these allocations to a unitholder purchasing common units in this offering will be essentially the same as if the tax basis of our assets were equal to their fair market value at the time of this offering. In addition, 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 to eliminate the negative balance as quickly as possible.

An allocation of items of our income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by the Internal Revenue 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, referred to in this discussion as the **Book-Tax Disparity**, will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has substantial economic effect. In any other case, a partner's share of an item will be determined on the basis of his interest in us, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including:

his relative contributions to us;

the interests of all the partners in profits and losses;

the interest of all the partners in cash flow; and

the rights of all the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation.

Table of Contents

Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is of the opinion that, with the exception of the issues described in **Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election** and **Disposition of Common Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees**, allocations under our partnership agreement will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

Treatment of Short Sales. A unitholder whose units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of units may be considered as having disposed of those units. If so, he would no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to 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, loss or deduction with respect to those units would not be reportable by the unitholder;

any cash distributions received by the unitholder as to those units would be fully taxable; and

all of these distributions would appear to be ordinary income.

Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion regarding the treatment of a unitholder where common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units; therefore, unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition from a loan to a short seller are urged to 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. Please also read **Disposition of Common Units Recognition of Gain or Loss**.

Alternative Minimum Tax. Each unitholder will be required to take into account his distributive share of any items of our income, gain, loss or deduction for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. The current minimum tax rate for noncorporate 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 are urged to consult with their tax advisors as to the impact of an investment in units on their liability for the alternative minimum tax.

Tax Rates. In general, the highest effective United States federal income tax rate for individuals is currently 35.0% and the maximum United States federal income tax rate for net capital gains of an individual is currently 15.0% if the asset disposed of was held for more than 12 months at the time of disposition.

Section 754 Election. We will make the election permitted by Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS. The election will generally permit us to adjust a common unit purchaser's tax basis in our assets (inside basis) under Section 743(b) of the Internal Revenue Code to reflect his purchase price. This election does not apply to a person who purchases common units directly from us. 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 our assets (common basis) and (2) his Section 743(b) adjustment to that basis.

Treasury regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code require, if the remedial allocation method is adopted (which we will adopt), a portion of the Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to recovery property to be depreciated over the remaining cost recovery period for the Section 704(c) built-in gain. Under Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to property

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

subject to depreciation under Section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code, rather than cost recovery deductions under Section 168, is generally required to be depreciated using either the straight-line method or the 150% declining balance method. Under our partnership agreement, the managing general partner is authorized to take a position to preserve the uniformity of units even if that position is not consistent with these Treasury Regulations. Please read Uniformity of Units.

Although Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is unable to opine as to the validity of this approach because there is no clear authority on this issue, we intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to

Table of Contents

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 the property, or treat that portion as non-amortizable to the extent attributable to property the common basis of which is not amortizable. This method is consistent with the regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code but is 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. 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 Treasury Regulations and legislative history. If we determine that this position cannot reasonably be taken, we may take a depreciation or amortization position under which all purchasers acquiring units in the same month would receive depreciation or amortization, whether attributable to common basis or a Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our assets. This kind of aggregate approach may result in lower annual depreciation or amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to some unitholders. Please read Uniformity of Units.

A Section 754 election is advantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is higher than the units' share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. In that case, as a result of the election, the transferee would have, among other items, a greater amount of depreciation and depletion deductions and his share of any gain or loss on a sale of our assets would be less. Conversely, a Section 754 election is disadvantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is lower than those units' 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 unfavorably by the election.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and will be made on the basis of assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. For example, the allocation of the Section 743(b) adjustment among our assets must be made in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS could seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment allocated by us to our tangible assets to goodwill instead. Goodwill, as an intangible asset, is generally amortizable over a longer period of time or under a less accelerated method than our tangible assets. We cannot assure you that the determinations we make 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 permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of units may be allocated more income than he would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

Tax Treatment of Operations

Accounting Method and Taxable Year. We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his 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 share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for his taxable year, with the result that he will be required to include in income for his taxable year his share of more than one year of our income, gain, loss and deduction. Please read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees](#).

Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization. The tax basis of our assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of these assets. The federal income tax burden associated with the difference between the fair market value of our assets and their tax basis immediately prior to an offering will be borne by the non-managing general partner and our other unitholders as of that time. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#).

Table of Contents

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 with respect to any goodwill conveyed to us on formation. Property we subsequently acquire or construct may be depreciated using accelerated methods permitted by the Internal Revenue 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 unitholder who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to property we own will likely be required to recapture some or all of those deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of his interest in us. Please read *Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction* and *Disposition of Common Units Recognition of Gain or Loss*.

The costs incurred in selling our units (called *syndication expenses*) must be capitalized and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. There are uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized by us, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized by us. The underwriting discounts and commissions we incur will be treated as syndication expenses.

Valuation and Tax Basis of Our 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 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 ourselves. 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 basis are later found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deductions previously reported by unitholders might change, and unitholders might be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years and incur interest and penalties with respect to those adjustments.

Disposition of Common 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 for the units sold. A unitholder's amount realized will be measured by the sum of the cash or the fair market value of other property received by him 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 the sale.

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

Except as noted below, 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 at a maximum rate of 15%. However, a portion of this gain or loss will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Internal Revenue Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other unrealized receivables or to inventory items we own. 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 a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a sale of units. Net capital losses may offset capital gains and no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income, in the case of individuals, and may only be used to offset capital gains in the case of corporations.

Table of Contents

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 for all those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method. Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Internal Revenue Code allow a selling unitholder who can identify common units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the common units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling, a common unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis common units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the regulations, may designate specific common units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of common units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchanges of common units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of common units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult his tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the regulations.

Specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code affect the taxation of some 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:

a short sale;

an offsetting notional principal contract; or

a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold that position if the taxpayer or a related person then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized to issue regulations that treat a taxpayer 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 applicable exchange on the first business day of the month, which we refer to in this prospectus as 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 may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction realized after the date of transfer.

The use of this method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations. Accordingly, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between unitholders. 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 unitholders, as well as unitholders whose interests vary during a taxable year, to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A unitholder who owns units at any time during a quarter and who disposes of them 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.

Notification Requirements. A unitholder who sells any of his units, other than through a broker, generally is required to notify us in writing if that sale is within 30 days after the sale (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the sale). A purchaser of units who purchases units from another unitholder generally is required to

Table of Contents

notify us in writing of that purchase within 30 days after the purchase, unless a broker or nominee will satisfy such requirements. We are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish specified information to the transferor and transferee. Failure to notify us of a purchase may, in some cases, lead to the imposition of penalties.

Constructive Termination. We will be considered to have been terminated for tax purposes if there is a sale or exchange of 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a 12-month period. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than 12 months of our taxable income or loss being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. We would be required to make new tax elections after a termination, including a new election under Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code, and a termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination.

Uniformity of Units

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units. In the absence of uniformity, we may be unable to completely comply with a number of federal income tax requirements, both statutory and regulatory. A lack of uniformity can result from a literal application of Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6). Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units. Please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election.

We intend to depreciate the portion of a 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 that property, or treat that portion as nonamortizable, to the extent attributable to property the common basis of which is not amortizable, consistent with the regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code, even though that position may be 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. Please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election. To the extent that the 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 and amortization position under which all purchasers acquiring units in the same month would receive depreciation and amortization deductions, whether attributable to a common basis or Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our property. If this position is adopted, it may result in lower annual depreciation and amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to some unitholders and risk the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions not taken in the year that these deductions are otherwise allowable. This position 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 method 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 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. Please read Disposition of Common Units Recognition of Gain or Loss.

Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors

Ownership of units by employee benefit plans, other tax-exempt organizations, regulated investment companies, non-resident aliens, foreign corporations and other foreign persons raises issues unique to those investors and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax

consequences to them.

Table of Contents

Employee benefit plans and most other organizations 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 our income allocated to a unitholder that is a tax-exempt organization will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to them.

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 specified related sources. It is not anticipated that any significant amount of our gross income will include that type of income. Recent legislation also includes net income derived from the ownership of an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership as qualified income to a regulated investment company. We expect that we will meet the definition of a qualified publicly traded partnership. However, this legislation is only effective for regulated investment companies with taxable years beginning after October 22, 2004.

Non-resident aliens and foreign corporations, trusts or estates that own units will be considered to be engaged in business in the United States because of the ownership of units. As a consequence, they will be required to file federal tax returns to report their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax at regular rates on their share of our net income or gain. Moreover, under rules applicable to publicly traded partnerships, we will withhold at the highest applicable effective tax rate from cash distributions made quarterly to foreign unitholders. Each foreign unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on a Form W-8BEN or applicable substitute form in order to obtain credit for these withholding taxes. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures.

In addition, because a foreign corporation that owns units will be treated as engaged in a United States trade or business, that corporation may be subject to the United States branch profits tax at 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, this type of unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Internal Revenue 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 sale or disposition of that unit to the extent that this gain is effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the foreign unitholder. Apart from the ruling, a foreign unitholder will not be taxed or subject to withholding upon the sale or 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 sale or disposition.

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 his share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will not be reviewed by counsel, we will take various accounting and reporting positions, some of which have been mentioned earlier, to determine each unitholder's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. We cannot assure you that those positions will yield a result that conforms to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations or administrative interpretations of the IRS. Neither we nor Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. can assure prospective unitholders that the IRS will not successfully contend in court that those positions are impermissible. Any challenge by the IRS could negatively affect the value of the units.

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

The IRS may audit our federal income tax information returns. Adjustments resulting from an IRS audit may require each unitholder to adjust a prior year's tax liability, and possibly may result in an audit of his 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.

Table of Contents

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 Internal Revenue Code requires that one partner be designated as the Tax Matters Partner for these purposes. The partnership agreement names Inergy GP, LLC as our Tax Matters Partner.

The Tax Matters Partner will make some 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 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 that 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, judicial review may be sought by any unitholder having at least a 1% interest in profits or by any group of unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5% interest in profits. However, only one action for judicial review will go forward, and each unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate.

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 this consistency requirement may subject a unitholder to substantial penalties.

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.

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 Internal Revenue Code for failure to report that information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

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 Internal Revenue Code. No penalty will be imposed, however, for any 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. The amount of any understatement subject to penalty generally is reduced if any portion is attributable to a position adopted on the return:

- (1) for which there is, or was, substantial authority ; or

Table of Contents

(2) as to which there is a reasonable basis and the pertinent facts of that position are disclosed on the return.

If any item of income, gain, loss or deduction included in the distributive shares of unitholders might result in that kind of an understatement of income for which no substantial authority exists, we must disclose the pertinent facts on our return. In addition, we will make a reasonable effort to furnish sufficient information for unitholders to make adequate disclosure on their returns and to take other actions as may be appropriate to permit unitholders to avoid liability for this penalty. More stringent rules apply to tax shelters, which we do not believe includes us.

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 the 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%.

Reportable Transactions. If we were to engage in a reportable transaction, we (and possibly you and others) would be required to make a detailed disclosure of the transaction to the IRS. A transaction may be a reportable transaction based upon any of several factors, including the fact that it is a type of tax avoidance transaction publicly identified by the IRS as a listed transaction or that it produces certain kinds of losses in excess of \$2 million. Our participation in a reportable transaction could increase the likelihood that our federal income tax information return (and possibly your tax return) would be audited by the IRS. Please read Information Returns and Audit Procedures.

Moreover, if we were to participate in a reportable transaction with a significant purpose to avoid or evade tax, or in any listed transaction, you may be subject to the following provisions of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004:

accuracy-related penalties with a broader scope, significantly narrower exceptions, and potentially greater amounts than described above at Accuracy-related Penalties,

for those persons otherwise entitled to deduct interest on federal tax deficiencies, nondeductibility of interest on any resulting tax liability and

in the case of a listed transaction, an extended statute of limitations.

We do not expect to engage in any reportable transactions.

State, Local, Foreign and Other Tax Considerations

In addition to federal income taxes, you likely will be subject to other taxes, such as state, local and foreign income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property or in which you are a resident. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective unitholder should consider their potential impact on his investment in us. We own property or do business in Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Each of these states, except Florida and Texas, currently imposes a personal income tax. We may also own property or do business in other jurisdictions in the future. Although you may not be required to file a return and pay taxes in some jurisdictions because your income from that

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

jurisdiction falls below the filing and payment requirement, you will be required to file income tax returns and to pay income taxes in many of these jurisdictions in which we do business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. In some jurisdictions, tax losses may not produce a tax benefit in the year incurred and may not be available to offset income in subsequent taxable years. Some of the

Table of Contents

jurisdictions 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 jurisdiction. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular unitholder's income tax liability to the jurisdiction, generally does not relieve a nonresident unitholder from the obligation to file an income tax return. Amounts withheld will be treated as if distributed to unitholders for purposes of determining the amounts distributed by us. Please read "Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership - Entity-Level Collections." Based on current law and our estimate of our future operations, the managing general partner anticipates that any amounts required to be withheld will not be material.

It is the responsibility of each unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent jurisdictions, of his investment in us. Accordingly, each prospective unitholder is urged to consult, and depend upon, his tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all state, local and foreign, as well as United States federal tax returns, that may be required of him. Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion on the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in us.

Table of Contents**OFFERING UNITHOLDERS**

The following table sets forth information relating to the offering unitholders' beneficial ownership of our common units. This prospectus covers the offering for resale from time to time of up to 3,379,175 common units by owned by the offering unitholders, all of which were acquired in connection with our December 2004 direct placement. As used herein, Offering Unitholders includes donees and pledgees selling units received from a named offering unitholder after the date of this prospectus.

No offer or sale under this prospectus may be made by a unitholder unless that holder is listed in the table below, in a supplement to this prospectus or in an amendment to the related registration statement that has become effective. We will supplement or amend this prospectus to include additional offering unitholders upon request and upon provision of all required information to us, subject to the terms of the Registration Rights Agreement dated as of December 17, 2004 between us and the initial purchasers. In addition, upon our being notified by an offering unitholder that a donee or pledgee intends to sell more than 500 units, we will file a supplement to this prospectus specifically naming such donee or pledgee.

The following table sets forth the name of each offering unitholder, the nature of any position, office, or other material relationship which the offering unitholders have had within the past three years with us or with any of our predecessors or affiliates, the amount of our common units beneficially owned by such unitholder prior to the offering, the amount being offered for the unitholder's account, the amount to be owned by such unitholder after completion of the offering (assuming the sale of all common units offered by this prospectus) and the percentage of common units outstanding owned after completion of the offering.

We prepared the table based on information supplied to us by the offering unitholders. We have not sought to verify such information. The percentages of shares of common units beneficially owned and being offered are based on the number of common units that were outstanding as of April 13, 2005. Additionally, some or all of the offering unitholders may have sold or transferred some or all of their common units in exempt or non-exempt transactions, since such date. Other information about the offering unitholders may also change over time.

Offering Unitholders	Number of Common Units Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering	Number of Common Units Being Offered Hereby	Number of Common Units Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering	Percentage of Common Units Outstanding Beneficially Owned After Completion of the Offering
Kayne Anderson MLP Investment Company	2,956,255	2,946,955	9,300	*
Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corporation(a)	1,732,220	432,220	1,300,000	5.0%

* less than 1%

(a) Mr. David J. Schulte, Chief Executive Officer and President of Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corporation, was formerly a member of each of our predecessor's and our managing general partner's board of directors from January 2001 through July 2004.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Subject to certain restrictions on transfer that may be applicable to the offering unitholders, the offering unitholders may sell the common units described in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale, or they may sell the common units to investors directly or through dealers or agents. As used herein, "Offering Unitholders" includes donees and pledgees selling units received from a named offering unitholder after the date of this prospectus. Any underwriter, dealer or agent involved in the offer and sale of these common units will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. If these common units are to be offered and sold in an underwritten public offering, we may designate the managing underwriter for such offering, subject to the approval of the offering unitholders.

The offering unitholders may act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each of their sales. The offering unitholders may make sales on the Nasdaq National Market or otherwise, at prices and under terms prevailing at the time of the sale, or at prices related to the then-current market price, at fixed prices, or in privately negotiated transactions. The offering unitholders may sell the common units offered by this prospectus by one or more of, or a combination of, the following methods:

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resales by such broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to this prospectus;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the common units as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; or

privately negotiated transactions, which include direct sales to purchasers and sales effected through agents.

The offering unitholders may be required by the securities laws of certain states to offer and sell the common units only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers.

Underwriters may offer and sell these common units at fixed prices, which may be changed, at prices related to the prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. The offering unitholders also may authorize underwriters acting as their agent to offer and sell these common units upon the terms and conditions as are set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of these common units, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from the offering unitholders in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of these common units for whom they may act as agent or to whom they sell as principals, or both. Underwriters may sell these common units to or through dealers. Dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent or to whom they sell as principals, or both. A member firm of the Nasdaq National Market may be engaged to act as the agent of the offering unitholders in the sale of common units.

Any underwriting compensation paid by the offering unitholders to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of these common units, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of these common units may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of these common units may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933.

We have agreed to indemnify the offering unitholders and each underwriter, selling agent or other securities professional, if any, against certain liabilities to which they may become subject in connection with the sale of the common units owned by the offering unitholders and registered under this prospectus, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933.

Table of Contents

If a prospectus supplement so indicates, the offering unitholders may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain institutional investors to purchase those common units to which such prospectus supplement relates, providing for payment and delivery on a future date specified in such prospectus supplement. There may be limitations on the minimum amount that may be purchased by any institutional investor or on the number of common units that may be sold pursuant to such arrangements. Institutional investors include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and such other institutions as we may approve.

If a prospectus supplement so indicates, the underwriters may, pursuant to Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, engage in transactions, including stabilization bids or the imposition of penalty bids, that may have the effect of stabilizing or maintaining the market price of the common units at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market.

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may be customers of, may engage in transactions with and may perform services for us or our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

A prospectus in electronic form may be made available on the web sites maintained by the underwriters. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of common units for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Such allocations of common units for Internet distributions will be made on the same basis as other allocations. In addition, common units may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell shares to online brokerage account holders.

We will pay all reasonable costs and expenses incurred for the registration under the Securities Act of 1933 of common units to be offered by the offering unitholders, including without limitation all: (i) registration and filing fees; (ii) printing expenses; and (iii) certain fees and expenses of counsel and accountants. The offering unitholders will pay all brokerage fees and commissions, if any, incurred in the sale of common units owned by the offering unitholders, and all underwriting discounts and selling commissions, if any.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. will pass upon the validity of the securities offered in this registration statement. The offering unitholders' counsel will advise them about other issues related to the offering.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements and schedule included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2004 and the balance sheet of Inergy GP, LLC included in our Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 17, 2004, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The combined financial statements of Star Gas Propane, L.P. and Subsidiary as of September 30, 2003 and 2004 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended September 30, 2004 have been incorporated in this prospectus and registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent auditors, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The audit report on the combined financial statements of Star Gas Propane, L.P. and Subsidiary contains an explanatory paragraph that states that there is substantial doubt about the ability of Star Gas Propane, L.P.'s parent to continue as a going concern and consequently there is substantial doubt about the ability of Star Gas Propane, L.P. to continue as a going concern. The combined financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty. The audit report refers to the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and other reports and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information filed by us at the SEC's public reference room at Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such materials can be obtained by mail at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Room of the SEC, 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. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained expressly in this prospectus, and the information we file later with the SEC will automatically supersede this information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is current as of any date other than the date on the front page of this prospectus.

Any information that we file under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and that is deemed filed with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below:

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2004;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended December 31, 2004; and

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed November 22, 2004; November 24, 2004; December 3, 2004; December 15, 2004; December 17, 2004; December 22, 2004; December 27, 2004, January 24, 2005 and March 17, 2005.

Table of Contents

You may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any exhibit specifically incorporated by reference in those documents, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address or phone number:

Inergy, L.P.

Investor Relations

Two Brush Creek Boulevard, Suite 200

Kansas City, Missouri 64112

(816) 842-8181

We also make available free of charge on our internet website at <http://www.inergyservices.com> our annual reports on Form 10-K and our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and any amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our website as part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

Set forth below are the expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) expected to be incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities registered hereby. With the exception of the Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee, the amounts set forth below are estimates. We will pay all expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) incurred by the offering unitholders.

Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee	\$ 12,982
Legal fees and expenses	25,000
Accounting fees and expenses	10,000
Printing expenses	20,000
Miscellaneous	6,962
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$ 75,027
	<hr/>

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**Inergy GP, LLC**

Section 18-108 of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act provides that, subject to such standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in its limited liability company agreement, a limited liability company may, and shall have the power to, indemnify and hold harmless any member or manager or other person from and against any and all claims and demands whatsoever. The Company's limited liability company agreement provides that the Company will, to the extent deemed advisable by the Company's board of directors, indemnify any person who is or was an officer or director of the Company, the record holder of the Company's voting shares, and any person who is or was an officer, director or affiliate of the record holder of the Company's voting shares, from liabilities arising by reason of such person's status, provided that the indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner which such indemnitee believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Company and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such indemnitee's conduct was unlawful. Such liabilities include any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities (joint or several), expenses (including, without limitation, legal fees and expenses), judgments, fines, penalties, interest, settlements and other amounts. Officers and directors of the Company are also indemnified by Inergy, L.P., as described below.

Inergy Partners, LLC

Section 18-108 of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act provides that, subject to such standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in its limited liability company agreement, a limited liability company may, and shall have the power to, indemnify and hold harmless any member or manager or other person from and against any and all claims and demands whatsoever. The Company's limited liability company agreement provides that the Company will, to the extent deemed advisable by the Company's board of directors, indemnify any person who is or

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

was an officer or director of the Company, the record holder of the Company's voting shares, and any person who is or was an officer, director or affiliate of the record holder of the Company's voting shares, from liabilities arising by reason of such person's status, provided that the indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner which such indemnitee believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Company and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such indemnitee's conduct was unlawful. Such liabilities include any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities (joint or several), expenses (including, without limitation, legal fees and expenses), judgments, fines, penalties, interest, settlements and other amounts. Officers and directors of the Company are also indemnified by Inergy, L.P., as described below.

II-1

Table of Contents**Inergy, L.P.**

Section 17-108 of the Delaware Revised Limited Partnership Act empowers a Delaware limited partnership to indemnify and hold harmless any partner or other person from and against all claims and demands whatsoever. The partnership agreement of Inergy, L.P. provides that, in most circumstances, we will indemnify the following persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from and against all losses, claims, damages or similar events:

our general partners;

any departing general partner;

any person who is or was an affiliate of our general partners or any departing general partner;

any person who is or was a member, partner, officer, director employee, agent or trustee of our general partners or any departing general partner or any affiliate of our general partners or any departing general partner; or

any person who is or was serving at the request of our general partners or any departing general partners or any affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner as an officer, director, employee, member, partner, agent or trustee of another person.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Our general partners will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or loan funds or assets to us to enable us to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under the partnership agreement.

Item 16. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
*3.1	Certificate of Limited Partnership of Inergy, L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on March 14, 2001)
*3.1 A	Certificate of Correction of Certificate of Limited Partnership of Inergy, L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 10-Q (Registration No. 000-32543) filed on May 12, 2003.)
*3.2	Form of Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Inergy, L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on March 14, 2001)
*3.2 A	Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Inergy, L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2A to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-89010) filed on June 13, 2002)
*3.2 B	Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Inergy, L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 10-Q (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on February 13, 2004).
*3.2 C	Amendment No. 1 to Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Inergy L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 10-Q (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on May 14, 2004).

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

*3.2D Amendment No. 2 to Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Inergy, L.P. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 8-K filed on January 24, 2005).

II-2

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description
*3.3	Certificate of Formation as relating to Inergy Propane, LLC, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)
*3.4	Third Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Inergy Propane, LLC, dated as of July 31, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.4 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-89010 filed on May 24, 2002)
*3.5	Certificate of Formation of Inergy GP, LLC (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.5 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)
*3.6	Limited Liability Company Agreement of Inergy GP, LLC (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.6 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)
*3.7	Certificate of Formation as relating to Inergy Partners, LLC, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.7 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)
*3.8	Second Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Inergy Partners, LLC, dated as of July 31, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.8 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-89010) filed on May 24, 2002.
*3.9	Certificate of Inergy Finance Corp. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.9 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-123399) filed on March 17, 2005).
*3.10	Bylaws of Inergy Finance Corp. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.10 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-123399) filed on March 17, 2005).
*4.2	Registration Rights Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 8-K filed on December 27, 2005)
*4.2	Indenture (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 8-K filed on December 27, 2005)
**5.1	Opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. as to the legality of the securities being registered
**8.1	Opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. as to tax matters (included in Exhibit 5.1)
*10.1	Sixth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement by and among Inergy Propane, LLC and the lenders named therein, dated as of May 27, 2004 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 10-Q (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on August 13, 2004)
*10.1A	5-Year Credit Agreement dated as of December 17, 2004, among Inergy, L.P., the lenders party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, Lehman Commercial Paper, Inc. and Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Co-Syndication Agents, and Fleet National Bank and Bank of Oklahoma, National Association, as Co-Documentation Agents (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Inergy, L.P.'s Form 8-K filed on December 22, 2005)
*10.2	Securities Purchase Agreement by and among Inergy Partners, LLC and various investors, dated as of January 12, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)
*10.3	Investor Rights Agreement by and among Inergy Partners, LLC and various investors, dated as of January 12, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Inergy, L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)

Table of Contents

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
*10.4	Inergy Employee Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on July 2, 2001)
*10.4 A	Inergy Employee Long-Term Incentive Plan (Amended and Restated), adopted April 4, 2003. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 10-Q (Registration No. 000-32543) filed on May 12, 2003)
*10.5	Employment Agreement John J. Sherman (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on July 2, 2001)
*10.6	Employment Agreement Phillip L. Elbert (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on May 7, 2001)
*10.6 A	First Amendment to Employment Agreement Phillip L. Elbert (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.9A to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on July 20, 2001)
*10.7	Employment Agreement Carl A. Hughes (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on July 2, 2001)
*10.8	Employment Agreement William C. Gautreaux (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-56976) filed on July 2, 2001)
*10.9	Intercreditor and Collateral Agency Agreement entered into as of June 7, 2002, by and among Wachovia Bank, National Association, the lenders named therein and the noteholders named therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to Inergy, L.P. s Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-89010) filed on June 13, 2002)
*10.10	Option Agreement by and between Phillip L. Elbert and Inergy Holdings, LLC, dated January 12, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 10-K (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on December 26, 2002)
*10.11	Employment Agreement R. Brooks Sherman (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 10-K (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on December 26, 2002)
*10.12	Option Agreement by and between R. Brooks Sherman and Inergy Holdings, LLC, dated September 11, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 10-K (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on December 26, 2002)
*10.13	Employment Agreement Dean E. Watson
*10.14	Amended and Restated Inergy Unit Purchase Plan
*10.15	Employment Agreement David G. Dehaemers, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 10-K (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on December 9, 2004)
*10.16	Second Amendment to Employment Agreement Phillip L. Elbert (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 10-Q (Registration No. 000-32453) filed on February 9, 2005)

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description
*10.17	Guaranty dated as of December 17, 2004 among Inergy Propane, LLC, L & L Transportation, LLC, Inergy Transportation, LLC, Inergy Sales & Service, Inc., Inergy Finance Corp., Inergy Acquisition Company, LLC, Stellar Propane Service, LLC and Inergy Gas, LLC in favor of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent for the benefit of the Holders of Secured Obligations under the Credit Agreements (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 8-K filed on December 22, 2005)
*10.18	Pledge and Security Agreement dated as of December 17, 2004 among Inergy, L.P. and the other Subsidiaries of Inergy, L.P. listed on the signature pages thereto, and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders party to the Credit Agreements (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 8-K filed on December 22, 2005)
*10.19	Trademark Security Agreement dated as of December 17, 2004 among Inergy, L.P. and the subsidiaries of Inergy, L.P. listed on the signature page attached thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent on behalf of itself and on behalf of the Holders of Secured Obligations under the Credit Agreements (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 8-K filed on December 22, 2005)
*10.20	Noncompetition Agreement, dated December 17, 2004, among Inergy Propane, LLC, Star Gas Partners, L.P. and Star Gas LLC (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Inergy, L.P. s Form 8-K filed on December 22, 2005)
**23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
**23.2	Consent of KPMG LLP
**23.3	Consent of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. (contained in Exhibits 5.1 and 8.1)
**24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page of this registration statement)

* Previously filed

** Filed herewith

Item 17 Undertakings.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) 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 this 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 this 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 a prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

II-5

Table of Contents

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) above do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrants pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement;

(2) That, for the purpose 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.

(3) 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.

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 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this 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.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 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 Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Kansas City, State of Missouri, on April 15, 2005.

INERGY, L.P.

By: **Inergy GP, LLC,**
its Managing General Partner

By: /s/ R. BROOKS SHERMAN
Name: **R. Brooks Sherman Jr.**
Title: **Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

Each person whose signature appears below appoints John J. Sherman, R. Brooks Sherman Jr., and Laura L. Ozenberger, and each of them, any of whom may act without the joinder of the other, as his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and any Registration Statement (including any amendment thereto) for this offering that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or would do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them of their or his substitute and substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following officers and directors of Inergy GP, LLC, as managing general partner of Inergy, L.P., the registrant, in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ JOHN J. SHERMAN <hr/> John J. Sherman	President and Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board (Principal Executive Officer)	April 15, 2005
/s/ R. BROOKS SHERMAN JR. <hr/> R. Brooks Sherman Jr.	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Accounting and Financial Officer)	April 15, 2005
/s/ PHILIP L. ELBERT <hr/> Philip L. Elbert	Director	April 15, 2005
/s/ ARTHUR B. KRAUSE <hr/>	Director	April 15, 2005

Edgar Filing: INERGY L P - Form S-3

Arthur B. Krause

/s/ WARREN H. GFELLER

Warren H. Gfeller

/s/ ROBERT A. PASCAL

Robert A. Pascal

Director

April 15, 2005

Director

April 15, 2005

II-7

Table of Contents

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

- 5.1 Opinion of Vinson & Elkins LLP as to the legality of the securities being registered
- 8.1 Opinion of Vinson & Elkins LLP as to certain tax matters
- 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
- 23.2 Consent of KPMG LLP
- 23.3 Consent of Vinson & Elkins LLP (contained in Exhibit 5.1 and 8.1)
- 24.1 Power of attorney (included on the signature page of this registration statement).