

Nuveen Energy MLP Total Return Fund
Form N-Q
October 30, 2014

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM N-Q

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT
INVESTMENT COMPANY**

Investment Company Act file number 811-22482

Nuveen Energy MLP Total Return Fund

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy Vice President and Secretary

333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 312-917-7700

Date of fiscal year

end: November 30

Date of reporting period: August 31, 2014

Form N-Q is to be used by management investment companies, other than small business investment companies registered on Form N-5 (§§ 239.24 and 274.5 of this chapter), to file reports with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the close of the first and third fiscal quarters, pursuant to rule 30b1-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30b1-5). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-Q in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-Q, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-Q unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Item 1. Schedule of Investments

Portfolio of Investments

Nuveen Energy MLP Total Return Fund (JMF)

August 31, 2014(Unaudited)

Shares/Units	Description (1)	Value
	LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 156.8% (99.2% of Total Investments)	
	MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS & MLP AFFILIATES - 156.8% (99.2% of Total Investments)	
	Energy Equipment & Services - 1.1% (0.7% of Total Investments)	
320,336	Exterran Partners, LP	\$ 9,289,744
43,200	Transocean Partners LLC, (2)	1,231,632
	Total Energy Equipment & Services	10,521,376
	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels - 155.7% (98.5% of Total Investments)	
587,590	Access Midstream Partners LP	37,811,417
181,545	Alliance Holdings GP LP	13,038,562
226,850	Alliance Resource Partners LP	11,288,056
723,539	Atlas Pipeline Partners LP	26,720,295
934,885	Buckeye Partners LP	73,855,915
2,352,805	Crestwood Equity Partners LP	29,998,264
1,796,142	Crestwood Midstream Partners LP	41,957,877
1,267,469	DCP Midstream Partners LP	71,713,396
491,590	Delek Logistics Partners LP	20,400,985
101,600	El Paso Pipeline Partners LP	4,222,496
724,175	Enable Midstream Partners LP	18,560,605
355,712	Enbridge Energy Management LLC, (3)	12,741,604
115,000	Enbridge Energy Partners LP	4,176,800
2,580,419	Energy Transfer Equity LP	156,502,414
576,005	EnLink Midstream Partners LP	17,850,395
2,971,608	Enterprise Products Partners LP	120,736,433
465,760	EQT Midstream Partners LP	45,406,942
1,011,215	EV Energy Partners, LP	42,268,787
741,252	Genesis Energy LP	41,287,736
341,180	Golar LNG Partners LP	12,992,134
62,889	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP	6,061,242
711,870	Kinder Morgan Management LLC, (3)	69,563,900
1,423,355	Kinder Morgan, Inc.	57,304,272
105,465	KNOT Offshore Partners LP	2,958,293
1,069,451	Magellan Midstream Partners LP	89,759,022
801,895	MarkWest Energy Partners LP	63,935,088
260,820	Oiltanking Partners LP	12,803,654
91,250	ONEOK Partners LP	5,422,988
709,615	Oxford Resource Partners LP	730,903
71,965	PBF Logistics LP	1,796,246
1,638,298	Plains All American Pipeline LP	98,183,199
152,745	QEP Midstream Partners LP	3,971,370
131,850	Rose Rock Midstream LP	8,041,532
754,910	Southcross Energy Partners LP	16,691,060
162,550	Tallgrass Energy Partners LP	6,957,140
511,955	TC Pipelines LP	30,010,802
692,635	Teekay Offshore Partners LP	24,408,457
341,910	Tesoro Logistics LP	24,029,435
49,720	Valero Energy Partners LP	2,650,573
287,885	VTTI Energy Partners LP, (2)	7,876,534
357,575	Western Gas Partners LP	27,708,487
448,690	Western Gas Equity Partners LP	26,898,966
1,809,422	Williams Partners LP	95,917,460
327,922	World Point Terminals LP	6,263,310
	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	1,493,475,046

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Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$909,582,638) 1,503,996,422

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity	Value
	SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 1.2% (0.8% of Total Investments)			
\$ 11,483	Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 8/29/14, repurchase price \$11,483,358, collateralized by \$11,615,000 U.S. Treasury Notes, 2.000%, due 7/31/20, value \$11,716,631	0.000%	9/02/14	\$ 11,483,358
	Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$11,483,358)			11,483,358
	Total Investments (cost \$921,065,996) - 158.0%			1,515,479,780
	Borrowings - (32.8)% (4), (5)			(315,000,000)
	Other Assets Less Liabilities - (25.2)% (6)			(241,181,374)
	Net Assets - 100%			\$ 959,298,406

Investments in Derivatives as of August 31, 2014

Interest Rate Swaps outstanding:

Counterparty	Notional Amount	Fund Pay/Receive Floating Rate	Floating Rate Index	Fixed Rate (Annualized)	Fixed Rate Payment Frequency	Effective Date (7)	Termination Date	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) (6)
JP Morgan	\$ 96,375,000	Receive	1-Month USD-LIBOR-BBA	1.498%	Monthly	12/01/14	12/01/18	\$ 194,174
JP Morgan	96,375,000	Receive	1-Month USD-LIBOR-BBA	1.995	Monthly	12/01/14	12/01/20	(82,197)
	\$ 192,750,000							\$ 111,977

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received upon selling an investment or transferring a liability in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market for the investment. A three-tier hierarchy is used to maximize the use of observable market data and minimize the use of unobservable inputs and to establish classification of fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. Observable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Observable inputs are based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are based on the best information available in the circumstances. The following is a summary of the three-tiered hierarchy of valuation input levels.

Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted and prices are determined using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 Prices are determined using other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3 Prices are determined using significant unobservable inputs (including management's assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodologies used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the Fund's fair value measurements as of the end of the reporting period:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Long-Term Investments:				
Master Limited Partnerships & MLP Affiliates	\$ 1,503,996,422	\$	\$	\$ 1,503,996,422
Short-Term Investments:				
Repurchase Agreements		11,483,358		11,483,358
Investments in Derivatives:				
Interest Rate Swaps*		111,977		111,977
Total	\$ 1,503,996,422	\$ 11,595,335	\$	\$ 1,515,591,757

*Represents net unrealized appreciation (depreciation).

Income Tax Information

As of August 31, 2014, the cost of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) was \$923,496,492.

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Gross unrealized appreciation and gross unrealized depreciation of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) as of August 31, 2014, were as follows:

Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$ 611,663,093
Depreciation	(19,679,805)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	\$ 591,983,288

For Fund portfolio compliance purposes, the Fund's industry classifications refer to any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or ratings group indexes, and/or as defined by Fund management. This definition may not apply for purposes of this report, which may combine industry sub-classifications into sectors for reporting ease.

- (1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets unless otherwise noted.
- (2) Represents a new issue security, which has not made an initial distribution to shareholders.
- (3) Distributions are paid in-kind.
- (4) Borrowings as a percentage of Total Investments is 20.8%.
- (5) The Fund may pledge up to 100% of its eligible investments in the Portfolio of Investments as collateral for Borrowings. As of the end of the reporting period, investments with a value of \$680,273,007 have been pledged as collateral for Borrowings.
- (6) Other Assets Less Liabilities includes the Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of derivative instruments as listed within Investments in Derivatives as of the end of the reporting period.
- (7) Effective date represents the date on which both the Fund and Counterparty commence interest payment accruals on each contract.

USD-LIBOR-BBA United States Dollar London Inter-Bank Offered Rate British Bankers' Association.

Item 2. Controls and Procedures.

a. The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of the controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rule 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).

b. There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 3. Exhibits.

File as exhibits as part of this Form a separate certification for each principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the registrant as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-2(a)), exactly as set forth below: EX-99 CERT Attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) Nuveen Energy MLP Total Return Fund

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Kevin J. McCarthy
Kevin J. McCarthy
Vice President and Secretary

Date: October 30, 2014

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Gifford R. Zimmerman
Gifford R. Zimmerman
Chief Administrative Officer (principal executive officer)

Date: October 30, 2014

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Stephen D. Foy
Stephen D. Foy
Vice President and Controller (principal financial officer)

Date: October 30, 2014
