

NuStar GP Holdings, LLC  
Form 10-Q  
November 09, 2007  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 10-Q**

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(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2007

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 1-32940

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**NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

2330 North Loop 1604 West

San Antonio, Texas

85-0470977  
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

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(Address of principal executive offices)

78248

(Zip Code)

Telephone number: (210) 918-2000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. **Yes**  **No**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. The definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer is in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

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

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The number of units outstanding as of November 1, 2007 was 42,500,990.

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**NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**FORM 10-Q**

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**Table of Contents****PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(Thousands of Dollars)

	September 30, 2007 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2006
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 228	\$ 1,107
Accounts receivable	27	624
Receivable from NuStar Energy L.P.		2,315
Income tax receivable	2,193	
Prepaid expenses	10	210
Deferred income tax asset	1,434	776
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>3,892</b>	<b>5,032</b>
Investment in NuStar Energy L.P.	557,236	557,775
Long-term receivable from NuStar Energy L.P.	5,700	5,749
Deferred income tax asset	1,576	1,929
Other assets	2,817	8
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 571,221</b>	<b>\$ 570,493</b>
<b>Liabilities and Members Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 193	\$
Payable to NuStar Energy L.P.	1,126	
Income taxes payable		811
Accrued compensation expense	5,002	3,001
Accrued liabilities	614	704
Taxes other than income taxes	685	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>7,620</b>	<b>4,516</b>
Employee benefit plan liabilities	10,629	10,334
Commitments and contingencies (Note 8)		
Members' equity	547,352	554,884
Accumulated other comprehensive income	5,620	759
<b>Total members' equity</b>	<b>552,972</b>	<b>555,643</b>
<b>Total liabilities and members' equity</b>	<b>\$ 571,221</b>	<b>\$ 570,493</b>

See Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.



**Table of Contents****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME****(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Unit and Per Unit Data)**

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	\$ 15,033	\$ 11,637	\$ 36,541	\$ 32,141
General and administrative expenses	(665)	(877)	(2,208)	(903)
Other expense, net		(286)	(2)	(249)
Interest expense, net affiliated		(901)		(10,315)
Interest income (expense), net	29	(6)	43	(6)
Income before income tax (expense) benefit	14,397	9,567	34,374	20,668
Income tax (expense) benefit	(313)	130	(271)	(273)
Net income	\$ 14,084	\$ 9,697	\$ 34,103	\$ 20,395
Basic net income per unit	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.48
Weighted average number of basic units outstanding	42,500,420	42,500,000	42,500,141	42,500,000
Diluted net income per unit	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.48
Weighted average number of diluted units outstanding	42,501,862	42,500,626	42,501,705	42,500,211

See Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars)**

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 34,103	\$ 20,395
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	(36,541)	(32,141)
Distributions of equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	36,541	32,141
(Benefit) provision for deferred income taxes	(305)	100
Increase in employee benefit plan liabilities	295	1,838
Changes in current assets and liabilities (Note 6)	4,023	(1,251)
Other, net	(2,727)	251
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>35,389</b>	<b>21,333</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>		
Distributions in excess of equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	7,013	7,408
Investment in NuStar Energy L.P.	(2,909)	(1,636)
Proceeds from sale of NuStar Energy L.P. units in connection with employee benefit plans	1,278	1,812
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>5,382</b>	<b>7,584</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>		
Distributions to unitholders	(41,650)	
Increase in notes payable to affiliates of Valero Energy		689
Proceeds from long-term debt borrowings		1,000
Distributions to Valero Energy		(29,611)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(41,650)</b>	<b>(27,922)</b>
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(879)	995
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	1,107	121
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	\$ 228	\$ 1,116

See Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.



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**NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC**

**CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

***Organization***

NuStar GP Holdings, LLC (NuStar GP Holdings), a Delaware limited liability company, was formed in June 2000 as UDS Logistics, LLC (UDS Logistics). Valero Energy Corporation (Valero Energy), acquired UDS Logistics in connection with its December 2001 acquisition (the UDS Acquisition) of Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corporation (UDS). UDS Logistics changed its name to Valero GP Holdings, LLC in January 2006, completed its initial public offering in July 2006 and completed its secondary public offering of its remaining limited liability company interests in December 2006. As a result of the December 2006 offering, Valero Energy no longer owns any interest in us. We changed our name to NuStar GP Holdings in April 2007.

As used in this report, references to we, us, or our collectively refer, depending on the context, to NuStar GP Holdings, LLC or a wholly owned subsidiary.

Our unitholders have no liability under our limited liability company agreement, or for any of our debts, obligations or liabilities, in their capacity as a unitholder.

We have no operations or sources of income or cash flows other than our investment in NuStar Energy L.P. On September 30, 2007, we owned approximately 23.4% of NuStar Energy L.P., consisting of the following:

the 2% general partner interest in NuStar Energy L.P.;

100% of the incentive distribution rights issued by NuStar Energy L.P., which entitles us to receive increasing percentages of the cash distributed by NuStar Energy L.P., currently at the maximum percentage of 23%; and

10,240,783 common units of NuStar Energy L.P. representing a 21.4% limited partner interest in NuStar Energy L.P.

NuStar Energy L.P. (NYSE: NS) is a publicly traded Delaware limited partnership primarily engaged in the crude oil and refined product transportation, terminalling and storage business. NuStar Energy L.P. has terminal facilities in the United States, the Netherland Antilles, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

***Basis of Presentation***

These unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of NuStar GP Holdings and subsidiaries in which it has a controlling interest. Intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. On June 1, 2006, Valero Energy contributed its ownership interest in NuStar GP, LLC to NuStar GP Holdings in exchange for an additional ownership interest in NuStar GP Holdings. The contribution was accounted for as a transaction between entities under common control. Therefore, the consolidated financial statements include the financial position and results of operations of NuStar GP, LLC for all periods presented. Such amounts are included at their historical balances.

We account for our ownership interest in NuStar Energy L.P. using the equity method. Therefore, our financial results reflect a portion of NuStar Energy L.P.'s net income based on our ownership interest in NuStar Energy L.P. We have no separate operating activities apart from those conducted by NuStar Energy L.P. and therefore generate no revenues from operations.

These unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by GAAP for complete consolidated financial

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statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature unless disclosed otherwise. Financial information for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006 included in these Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements is derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements. Operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2007.

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**NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC**

**CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2006 has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements as of that date. You should read these consolidated financial statements in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

**2. ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

***FASB Statement 159***

In February 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*. Statement No. 159 creates a fair value option under which an entity may irrevocably elect fair value as the initial and subsequent measurement attribute for certain financial assets and financial liabilities on an instrument-by-instrument basis, with changes in fair value recognized in earnings as those changes occur. The adoption of Statement No. 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. We are currently evaluating the effect of Statement No. 159.

***FASB Interpretation No. 48***

In June 2006, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (FIN 48). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertain income tax positions recognized in an enterprise's financial statements in accordance with FASB Statement No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, by defining a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. An enterprise recognizes a tax position if it is more-likely-than-not that the tax position will be sustained, based on the technical merits of the position, upon examination. An uncertain tax position is measured in the financial statements at the largest amount of benefit that is more-likely-than-not to be realized. We adopted FIN 48 effective January 1, 2007, which did not affect our financial position or results of operations. We had no unrecognized tax benefits as of January 1, 2007 or September 30, 2007.

NuStar GP Holdings or certain of its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various state jurisdictions. For U.S. federal and state purposes, tax years subject to examination are 2002 through 2006.

***EITF Issue No. 06-11***

In June 2007, the Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) reached a consensus on Issue No. 06-11, *Accounting for Income Tax Benefits of Dividends on Share-Based Payment Awards* (EITF No. 06-11). According to EITF 06-11, the income tax benefit realized from dividends related to unvested share-based payment awards that are charged to retained earnings should be recorded in additional paid-in capital. The amount recorded in additional paid-in capital for the realized income tax benefit should be included in the pool of excess tax benefits available to absorb tax deficiencies on share-based payment awards. EITF No. 06-11 is effective for tax benefits of dividends declared in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2007. The adoption of EITF 06-11 is not expected to materially affect our financial position or results of operations.

**3. INVESTMENT IN NUSTAR ENERGY L.P.**

As of September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, our ownership interest in NuStar Energy L.P. was composed of a 2% general partner interest, incentive distribution rights and an approximate 21.4% limited partner interest.

**Table of Contents****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Summary Financial Information**

Condensed financial information reported by NuStar Energy L.P. is presented below (in thousands of dollars):

	September 30, 2007 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2006
<b>Balance Sheet Information:</b>		
Current assets	\$ 267,891	\$ 212,998
Property and equipment, net	2,439,969	2,345,135
Goodwill	786,221	774,441
Other long-term assets, net	158,524	161,634
 Total assets	 \$ 3,652,605	 \$ 3,494,208
Current liabilities	\$ 158,289	\$ 156,735
Long-term debt, less current portion	1,513,497	1,353,720
Long-term payable to NuStar GP Holdings	5,700	5,749
Deferred income tax liability	36,330	32,926
Other long-term liabilities	65,621	69,397
 Total liabilities	 1,779,437	 1,618,527
Partners' equity	1,873,168	1,875,681
 Total liabilities and partners' equity	 \$ 3,652,605	 \$ 3,494,208

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2007		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	(Thousands of Dollars)			
<b>Statement of Income Information:</b>				
Revenues	\$ 394,542	\$ 291,023	\$ 1,011,872	\$ 844,995
Operating income	57,886	54,380	144,881	157,663
Net income	51,213	41,169	122,033	112,173

**Other**

As of September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, our investment in NuStar Energy L.P. reconciles to NuStar Energy L.P.'s total partners' equity as follows:

	September 30, 2007 (Thousands of Dollars)	December 31, 2006
NuStar Energy L.P. total partners' equity	\$ 1,873,168	\$ 1,875,681
NuStar GP Holdings' ownership interest in NuStar Energy L.P.	23.4%	23.4%

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NuStar GP Holdings' share of NuStar Energy L.P.'s partners' equity	438,321	438,909
Step-up in basis related to NuStar Energy L.P.'s assets and liabilities, including equity method goodwill, and other	118,915	118,866
<b>Investment in NuStar Energy L.P.</b>	<b>\$ 557,236</b>	<b>\$ 557,775</b>

The step-up in basis related to NuStar Energy L.P.'s assets and liabilities, including equity method goodwill, reflected in the table above relates to purchase accounting adjustments resulting from the UDS Acquisition. The amount represents the unamortized excess of the fair value over carrying amount applicable to our proportionate 73.6% interest in NuStar Energy L.P.'s identifiable assets and liabilities as of the date of the UDS Acquisition. This amount also includes the portion of goodwill resulting from the UDS Acquisition that was attributed to our investment in NuStar Energy L.P. Since 26.4% of the equity interest in NuStar Energy L.P. was owned by public unitholders as of the date of the UDS

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Acquisition, a significant portion of the total ownership interest in NuStar Energy L.P. was deemed to be held by the public under GAAP, thereby precluding the inclusion of these fair value adjustments in the reported financial statements of NuStar Energy L.P. In addition, this amount also contains changes due to the purchase and sale of NuStar Energy L.P.'s common units by NuStar GP, LLC to satisfy unit option exercises and restricted unit vestings, which causes insignificant changes in the ownership percentage.

**4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

We manage NuStar Energy L.P. through our ownership of NuStar GP, LLC, and Riverwalk Holdings LLC, which own the general partner of NuStar Energy L.P. Our officers are also officers of NuStar GP, LLC. The Chairman of our Board of Directors, William E. Greehey, is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NuStar GP, LLC. The Board of Directors of NuStar GP, LLC is responsible for overseeing NuStar GP, LLC's role as the owner of the general partner of NuStar Energy L.P., and we, as the sole owner of NuStar GP, LLC, must also approve matters that have or would reasonably be expected to have a material effect on our interests as the sole owner of NuStar GP, LLC.

As of September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, we had a payable to NuStar Energy L.P. of \$1.1 million and a receivable from NuStar Energy L.P. of \$2.3 million, respectively, with both amounts representing payroll and plan benefits, net of payments made by NuStar Energy L.P. We also had a long-term receivable as of September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006 of \$5.7 million from NuStar Energy L.P. related to amounts payable for retiree medical benefits and other post-employment benefits. Expenses for employee benefit plan expenses including compensation expense related to grants of NuStar Energy's restricted common units and options were \$9.5 million and \$8.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively and \$33.6 million and \$25.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

**5. DISTRIBUTIONS FROM NUSTAR ENERGY L.P.**

NuStar Energy L.P.'s partnership agreement, as amended, determines the amount and priority of cash distributions that NuStar Energy L.P.'s common unitholders and general partner may receive. The general partner is entitled to incentive distributions if the amount NuStar Energy L.P. distributes with respect to any quarter exceeds \$0.60 per unit, with the maximum percentage of 23% of the amount of any quarterly distribution in excess of \$0.66 per unit. The general partner also receives a 2% distribution with respect to its general partner interest.

The following table reflects the allocation of NuStar Energy L.P.'s cash distributions earned for the period indicated among its general and limited partners:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2007		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	(Thousands of Dollars, except per unit data)			
General partner interest (2%)	\$ 1,041	\$ 955	\$ 2,992	\$ 2,787
General partner incentive distribution	4,915	3,909	13,238	10,869
<b>Total general partner distribution</b>	<b>5,956</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>16,230</b>	<b>13,656</b>
Limited partner distribution	10,083	9,350	29,156	27,447
<b>Total distributions to NuStar GP Holdings</b>	<b>16,039</b>	<b>14,214</b>	<b>45,386</b>	<b>41,103</b>
Public unitholders' distributions	36,025	33,480	104,252	98,237
<b>Total cash distributions</b>	<b>\$ 52,064</b>	<b>\$ 47,694</b>	<b>\$ 149,638</b>	<b>\$ 139,340</b>
Cash distributions per unit applicable to limited partners	\$ 0.985	\$ 0.915	\$ 2.850	\$ 2.685

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On July 26, 2007, NuStar Energy L.P. declared cash distributions related to the second quarter of 2007 of \$0.950 per unit, which was paid on August 14, 2007 to unitholders of record on August 7, 2007, totaling \$49.9 million. On October 25, 2007, NuStar Energy L.P. declared a quarterly cash distribution of \$0.985 per unit to be paid on November 14, 2007 to unitholders of record on November 8, 2007, totaling \$52.1 million.

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Changes in current assets and liabilities were as follows:

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>(Thousands of Dollars)</b>	
Decrease (increase) in current assets:		
Accounts receivable	\$ 597	\$
Receivable from NuStar Energy L.P.	2,315	(10,291)
Receivable from Valero Energy		(72)
Income taxes receivable	(2,193)	(227)
Prepaid expenses	200	
Increase (decrease) in current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	193	96
Payable to NuStar Energy L.P.	1,126	
Payable to Valero Energy		9,820
Income taxes payable.	(811)	(10)
Accrued compensation expense	2,001	
Accrued liabilities	(90)	(567)
Taxes other than income taxes	685	
<b>Changes in current assets and liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 4,023</b>	<b>\$ (1,251)</b>

Cash flows related to interest and income taxes were as follows:

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>(Thousands of Dollars)</b>	
Cash paid for interest	\$ 19	\$ 10,368
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 3,581	\$ 37

**7. CREDIT FACILITY**

We are a party to a three-year revolving credit facility with a borrowing capacity of up to \$20 million (the Credit Facility), of which up to \$10 million may be available for letters of credit. Our obligations under the Credit Facility are unsecured. As of September 30, 2007, we had no borrowings outstanding under the Credit Facility.

Under the terms of the Credit Facility, NuStar Energy L.P. must maintain a total debt-to-EBITDA ratio of less than 4.75-to-1.0 for any four consecutive quarters, subject to adjustment following certain acquisitions. We are also required to receive cash distributions of at least \$25.0 million in respect to our ownership interests in NuStar Energy L.P. for the preceding four fiscal quarters ending on the last day of each fiscal quarter. Our management believes that we are in compliance with the requirements of the Credit Facility as of September 30, 2007.



## 8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### *Litigation and Environmental Matter*

We are not currently a party to any material legal proceedings. However, NuStar Energy L.P. is subject to certain loss contingencies, the outcome of which could have an effect on NuStar Energy L.P.'s results of operations and ability to pay distributions, which would impact our results of operations and ability to pay distributions. NuStar Energy L.P.'s most significant contingent liabilities resulting from various litigation, claims and commitments are discussed below.

*Grace Energy Corporation Matter.* In 1997, Grace Energy Corporation (Grace Energy) sued subsidiaries of Kaneb Pipe Line Partners, L.P. (KPP) and Kaneb Services, LLC (KSL and, collectively with KPP and their respective subsidiaries, Kaneb) in Texas state court. The complaint sought recovery of the cost of remediation of fuel leaks occurring during the

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1970s from a pipeline that had once connected a former Grace Energy terminal with Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts (Otis AFB). Grace Energy alleges the Otis AFB pipeline and related environmental liabilities had been transferred in 1978 to an entity that was part of Kaneb's acquisition of Support Terminal Services, Inc. and its subsidiaries from Grace Energy in 1993. Kaneb contends that it did not acquire the Otis AFB pipeline and never assumed any responsibility for any associated environmental damage.

In 2000, the court entered final judgment that: (i) Grace Energy could not recover its own remediation costs of \$3.5 million, (ii) Kaneb owned the Otis AFB pipeline and its related environmental liabilities and (iii) Grace Energy was awarded \$1.8 million in attorney costs. Both Kaneb and Grace Energy appealed the trial court's final judgment to the Texas Court of Appeals in Dallas. In 2001, Grace Energy filed a petition in bankruptcy, which created an automatic stay of actions against Grace Energy. Once that stay is lifted, NuStar Energy L.P. intends to resume vigorous prosecution of the appeal.

The Otis AFB is a part of a Superfund Site pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The site contains a number of groundwater contamination plumes, two of which are allegedly associated with the Otis AFB pipeline. Relying on the Texas state court's final judgment assigning ownership of the Otis AFB pipeline to Kaneb, the U.S. Department of Justice advised Kaneb in 2001 that it intends to seek reimbursement from Kaneb for the remediation costs associated with the two spill areas. In 2002, the Department of Justice asserted that it had incurred over \$49.0 million in costs and expected to incur additional costs of approximately \$19.0 million for remediation of the two spill areas. The Department of Justice has not filed a lawsuit against NuStar Energy L.P. related to this matter, and it has not made any payments toward costs incurred by the Department of Justice.

*Port of Vancouver Matter.* NuStar Energy L.P. owns a chemical and refined product terminal on property owned by the Port of Vancouver, and it leases the land under the terminal from the Port of Vancouver. Under an Agreed Order entered into with the Washington Department of Ecology when Kaneb purchased the terminal in 1998, Kaneb agreed to investigate and remediate groundwater contamination by the terminal's previous owner and operator originating from the terminal. Investigation and remediation at the terminal are ongoing in compliance with the Agreed Order. In April 2006, the Washington Department of Ecology commented on NuStar Energy L.P.'s site investigation work plan and asserted that the groundwater contamination at the terminal was commingled with a groundwater contamination plume under other property owned by the Port of Vancouver. Since that time, NuStar Energy L.P. has negotiated with the Washington Department of Ecology, and on November 7, 2007, NuStar Energy L.P. entered into an Agreed Order that outlines a plan for site assessment, monitoring and interim action with regard to the plume for which Kaneb is responsible. The Agreed Order contains a diagram indicating that the plume for which Kaneb is responsible is separate from proximately located plumes.

*EPA Investigation.* On November 14, 2006, agents of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) presented a search warrant issued by a U.S. District Court at one of NuStar Energy L.P.'s terminals. Since then, the U.S. District Court has also served NuStar Energy L.P. with four subpoenas. The search warrant and subpoenas all seek information regarding allegations of potential illegal conduct by NuStar Energy L.P., certain of its subsidiaries and/or its employees concerning compliance with certain environmental and safety laws and regulations. NuStar Energy L.P. is cooperating fully with the EPA in producing documents in response to the subpoenas. It has no information as to when the EPA will conclude their investigation, and it is also conducting an internal investigation of any possible noncompliance. At this time, the EPA has not suggested any fines or penalties. There can be no assurances that the conclusion of the EPA's investigation will not result in a determination that NuStar Energy L.P. violated applicable laws. If it is found to have violated such laws, it could be subject to fines, civil penalties and criminal penalties. A final determination that NuStar Energy L.P. violated applicable laws could, among other things, result in its debarment from future federal government contracts. Because of the preliminary nature of the investigation, NuStar Energy L.P. is not able to estimate a loss or range of loss, if any. However, if any of the consequences described above ultimately occur, it is reasonably possible that the effects could be material to its results of operations in the period in which it would be required to record a liability, and could be material to its cash flows in the periods in which it would be required to pay such liability.

***Other***

NuStar Energy L.P. is also a party to additional claims and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. NuStar Energy L.P. believes the possibility is remote that the final outcome of any of these claims or proceedings to which it is a party would have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations or liquidity; however, due to the inherent uncertainty of litigation, there can be no assurance that the resolution of any particular claim or proceeding would not have a material adverse effect on NuStar Energy L.P.'s results of operations, financial position or liquidity.



**Table of Contents****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****9. MEMBERS EQUITY AND NET INCOME PER UNIT**

On June 28, 2006, our existing membership interests were represented by 10,000,000 units. In connection with our IPO on July 19, 2006, a 4.25-for-1 unit split was effected, resulting in total outstanding units of 42,500,000. Prior to June 28, 2006, we had no outstanding units. Our net income per unit amounts assume that 42,500,000 units were outstanding for all periods presented.

We calculate basic net income per unit by dividing net income by the weighted average number of units outstanding for the period. Diluted net income per unit is calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of units outstanding and the effect of non-vested restricted units granted under the NuStar GP Holdings, LLC 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan calculated using the treasury stock method.

Net income per unit amounts were computed as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
(Thousands of Dollars, Except Unit and Per Unit data)				
<b>Basic Net Income per Unit:</b>				
Net income	\$ 14,084	\$ 9,697	\$ 34,103	\$ 20,395
Weighted average number of basic units outstanding	42,500,420	42,500,000	42,500,141	42,500,000
Basic net income per unit	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.48
<b>Diluted Net Income per Unit:</b>				
Net income	\$ 14,084	\$ 9,697	\$ 34,103	\$ 20,395
Weighted average number of basic units outstanding	42,500,420	42,500,000	42,500,141	42,500,000
Effect of dilutive securities restricted unit grants	1,442	626	1,564	211
Weighted average number of diluted units outstanding	42,501,862	42,500,626	42,501,705	42,500,211
Diluted net income per unit	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.48

In August 2007, we issued 990 new units to our board of directors related to restricted unit grants.

The following table presents changes to our members equity (in thousands):

Balance as of December 31, 2006	\$ 555,643
Net income	34,103
Distributions to unitholders	(41,650)
Share of NuStar Energy L.P.'s other comprehensive income	4,845
Other	31

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Balance as of September 30, 2007

\$ 552,972

**Table of Contents****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Comprehensive Income**

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, the difference between our net income and our comprehensive income resulted mainly from our proportionate share of NuStar Energy L.P.'s other comprehensive income. Our total comprehensive income was as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>(Thousands of Dollars)</b>			
Net income	\$ 14,084	\$ 9,697	\$ 34,103	\$ 20,395
Share of NuStar Energy L.P.'s other comprehensive income	2,189	(24)	4,845	1,801
Other	5		16	
Comprehensive income	\$ 16,278	\$ 9,673	\$ 38,964	\$ 22,196

In the Consolidated Statement of Members' Equity and in the related note in our 2006 Annual Report on Form 10-K, we disclosed and included the \$0.8 million loss on cumulative effect of adopting FASB Statement No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*, in the line item *Total comprehensive income*. We based that presentation on our interpretation of the principles in FASB Statement 130, *Reporting Comprehensive Income*, which requires accounting changes to be included in other comprehensive income for the period. Subsequently, we became aware that transition provisions of Statement No. 158 required this cumulative effect be presented as a direct adjustment to the ending balance of *Accumulated other comprehensive income* rather than as part of comprehensive income for the period. Consequently, the amount reported under the line item *Total comprehensive income* for 2006 should have been \$32.3 million, rather than the \$31.5 million we reported. In our 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K, we will modify our presentation. This modification only affects the display of the cumulative effect of the accounting change within equity and does not otherwise affect our financial statements.

**Cash Distributions**

On July 26, 2007, we declared a quarterly cash distribution of \$0.34 per unit, which was paid on August 16, 2007 to unitholders of record on August 7, 2007, totaling \$14.5 million. On October 25, 2007, we declared a quarterly cash distribution of \$0.36 per unit to be paid on November 16, 2007 to unitholders of record on November 8, 2007, totaling \$15.3 million.

**10. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS AND UNIT BASED COMPENSATION**

All costs incurred by us related to employee benefit plans are reimbursed by NuStar Energy L.P. at cost. Additionally, NuStar Energy L.P. reimburses us for the compensation expense of restricted unit and unit option awards granted to employees of NuStar GP, LLC under various long-term incentive plans. For 2006, compensation expense pertaining to awards of restricted units and unit options to corporate officers of Valero Energy was reimbursed by Valero Energy affiliates. Our liabilities for employee benefits are included in *Employee benefit plan liabilities* and our liability related to the long-term incentive plans is included in *Accrued compensation expense* on our consolidated balance sheets. For the nine months ended September 30, 2007, we contributed \$9.2 million to our pension plan.

**Table of Contents****NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC****CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The components of net periodic benefit cost related to our defined benefit plans were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Pension Plans (a)</b>		<b>Other Postretirement Benefit Plans</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>For the three months ended September 30:</b>				
Components of net periodic benefit cost:				
Service cost	\$ 1,932	\$ 1,588	\$ 141	\$ 130
Interest cost	72	22	103	95
Expected return on assets	(78)			
Amortization of net loss	5	5		
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 1,931	\$ 1,615	\$ 244	\$ 225

	<b>Pension Plans (a)</b>		<b>Other Postretirement Benefit Plans</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>For the nine months ended September 30:</b>				
Components of net periodic benefit cost:				
Service cost	\$ 5,796	\$ 1,588	\$ 423	\$ 130
Interest cost	215	22	309	95
Expected return on assets	(234)			
Amortization of net loss	16	5		
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 5,793	\$ 1,615	\$ 732	\$ 225

(a) Includes amounts related to the Pension Plan, the Excess Pension Plan and the Supplemental executive retirement plan. Employees of NuStar GP, LLC were previously included in the various employee benefit plans of Valero Energy. Beginning in July 2006, employees of NuStar GP, LLC began participating in newly enacted, comparable plans sponsored by NuStar GP, LLC.

**11. SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

On November 6, 2007, NuStar Energy L.P. entered into a definitive agreement to acquire CITGO Asphalt Refining Company's asphalt operations and assets for \$450 million, plus an estimated \$100 million for working capital. The purchased assets include a 74,000 barrels-per-day (BPD) asphalt refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey, a 30,000 BPD asphalt refinery in Savannah, Georgia and three asphalt terminals on the East coast with a combined storage capacity of 4.8 million barrels.

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**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**  
**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

*This Form 10-Q contains certain estimates, predictions, projections, assumptions and other forward-looking statements that involve various risks and uncertainties. While these forward-looking statements, and any assumptions upon which they are based, are made in good faith and reflect our current judgment regarding the direction of our business, actual results will almost always vary, sometimes materially, from any estimates, predictions, projections, assumptions or other future performance suggested in this report. These forward-looking statements can generally be identified by the words anticipates, believes, expects, plans, intends, estimates, forecasts, budgets, projects, will, could, should, may and similar expressions. These statements reflect our current views with regard to future events and are subject to various risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Please read our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, Part I, as well as our subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, Part II, Item 1A, Risk Factors, for a discussion of certain of those risks, uncertainties and assumptions.*

*If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if the underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from those described in any forward-looking statement. Other unknown or unpredictable factors could also have material adverse effects on our future results. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on this forward-looking information, which is as of the date of this Form 10-Q. We do not intend to update these statements unless it is required by the securities laws to do so, and we undertake no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to any such forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.*

**Overview**

NuStar GP Holdings, LLC (NuStar GP Holdings), a Delaware limited liability company, was formed in June 2000 as UDS Logistics, LLC (UDS Logistics). Valero Energy Corporation (Valero Energy), acquired UDS Logistics in connection with its December 2001 acquisition (the UDS Acquisition) of Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corporation (UDS). UDS Logistics changed its name to Valero GP Holdings, LLC in January 2006, completed its initial public offering in July 2006 and completed its secondary public offering of its remaining limited liability company interests in December 2006. As a result of the December 2006 offering, Valero Energy no longer owns any interest in us. We changed our name to NuStar GP Holdings in April 2007.

Our only cash generating assets are our indirect ownership interests in NuStar Energy L.P. Our aggregate ownership interests in NuStar Energy L.P. consist of the following:

the 2% general partner interest in NuStar Energy L.P.;

100% of the incentive distribution rights issued by NuStar Energy L.P., which entitle us to receive increasing percentages of the cash distributed by NuStar Energy L.P., currently at the maximum percentage of 23%; and

10,240,783 common units of NuStar Energy L.P. representing a 21.4% limited partner interest in NuStar Energy L.P.

We account for our ownership interest in NuStar Energy L.P. using the equity method. Therefore, our financial results reflect a portion of NuStar Energy L.P.'s net income based on our ownership interest. We have no separate operating activities apart from those conducted by NuStar Energy L.P. and therefore generate no revenues from operations.

NuStar Energy L.P. conducts substantially all of its business through its wholly owned subsidiaries, NuStar Logistics, L.P. and Kaneb Pipe Line Operating Partnership, L.P. Through its subsidiaries, NuStar Energy L.P. is primarily engaged in the crude oil and refined product transportation, terminalling and storage business in the United States, the Netherland Antilles, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

NuStar Energy L.P. is required by its partnership agreement to distribute all of its available cash at the end of each quarter, less reserves established by its general partner in its sole discretion to provide for the proper conduct of NuStar Energy L.P.'s business or to provide funds for future distributions. Similarly, we are required by our limited liability company agreement to distribute all of our available cash at the end of each quarter, less reserves established by our board of directors.





**Table of Contents****Recent Development**

On November 6, 2007, NuStar Energy L.P. entered into a definitive agreement to acquire CITGO Asphalt Refining Company's asphalt operations and assets for \$450 million, plus an estimated \$100 million for working capital. The purchased assets include a 74,000 barrels-per-day (BPD) asphalt refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey, a 30,000 BPD asphalt refinery in Savannah, Georgia and three asphalt terminals on the East coast with a combined storage capacity of 4.8 million barrels.

**Results of Operations**

As discussed above, we account for our investment in NuStar Energy L.P. using the equity method. As a result, our equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P., our only source of income, directly fluctuates with the amount of NuStar Energy L.P.'s distributions, which determines the amount of our incentive distribution earnings, and the results of operations of NuStar Energy L.P., which determines the amounts of earnings attributable to our general partner and limited partner interests.

**Three Months Ended September 30, 2007 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2006****Financial Highlights**

(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Unit and Per Unit Data)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Change
	2007	2006	
Equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	\$ 15,033	\$ 11,637	\$ 3,396
General and administrative expenses	(665)	(877)	212
Other expense, net		(286)	286
Interest expense, net - affiliated		(901)	901
Interest income (expense), net	29	(6)	35
Income before income tax (expense) benefit	14,397	9,567	4,830
Income tax (expense) benefit	(313)	130	(443)
Net income	\$ 14,084	\$ 9,697	\$ 4,387
Basic net income per unit	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.10
Weighted average number of basic units outstanding	42,500,420	42,500,000	420
Diluted net income per unit	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.10
Weighted average number of diluted units outstanding	42,501,862	42,500,626	1,236

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The following table summarizes NuStar Energy L.P.'s results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Per Unit Data)</b>			
<b>NuStar Energy L.P. Statement of Income Data:</b>			
Revenues	\$ 394,542	\$ 291,023	\$ 103,519
Cost of product sales	199,023	117,759	81,264
Operating expenses	91,981	82,502	9,479
Depreciation and amortization	29,534	24,994	4,540
Segment operating income	74,004	65,768	8,236
General and administrative expenses	16,118	11,388	4,730
Operating income	\$ 57,886	\$ 54,380	\$ 3,506
Net income	\$ 51,213	\$ 41,169	\$ 10,044
Net income per unit applicable to limited partners	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.18
Cash distributions per unit applicable to limited partners	\$ 0.985	\$ 0.915	\$ 0.07

NuStar Energy L.P.'s net income for the three months ended September 30, 2007 increased \$10.0 million, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2006, due to higher segmental operating income and an increase in other income, partially offset by increased general and administrative expense, interest expense and income tax expense.

The following table summarizes our equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P. for the three months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>(Thousands of Dollars)</b>			
<b>NuStar GP Holdings' Equity in Earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.:</b>			
General partner interest	\$ 927	\$ 753	\$ 174
General partner incentive distribution	4,915	3,909	1,006
Direct charges to NuStar GP Holdings, LLC		(352)	352
General partner's interest in net income and incentive distributions of NuStar Energy L.P.	5,842	4,310	1,532
NuStar GP Holdings' limited partner interest in net income of NuStar Energy L.P.	9,912	8,048	1,864
Amortization of step-up in basis related to NuStar Energy L.P.'s assets and liabilities	(721)	(721)	
NuStar GP Holdings' equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	\$ 15,033	\$ 11,637	\$ 3,396

Our equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P. related to our general partner interest and our limited partner interest increased for the three months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2006, due to higher earnings at NuStar Energy L.P. NuStar Energy L.P.'s per unit distributions for the three months ended September 30, 2007 increased to \$0.985 from \$0.915 in the same period of 2006. Because our incentive distribution rights entitle us to an increasing amount of NuStar Energy L.P.'s cash distributions, our equity in earnings related to our incentive distribution rights increased for that same period.

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General and administrative expenses decreased \$0.2 million, for the three months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the same period in 2006, due to certain costs associated with our initial public offering. For the period prior to our initial public offering in July 2006, no corporate costs were allocated to us by Valero Energy as Valero Energy management determined that no such corporate costs were incurred specifically on our behalf.

Affiliated interest expense decreased \$0.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2006, due to Valero Energy's capital contribution to us of the outstanding balance of the notes payable to Valero Energy affiliates effective July 19, 2006.

Income tax expense increased 0.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2006 due to adjustments resulting from filing our 2006 income tax returns.

**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006****Financial Highlights**

(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Unit and Per Unit Data)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Change
	2007	2006	
Equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	\$ 36,541	\$ 32,141	\$ 4,400
General and administrative expenses	(2,208)	(903)	(1,305)
Other expense, net	(2)	(249)	247
Interest expense, net affiliated		(10,315)	10,315
Interest income (expense), net	43	(6)	49
Income before income tax expense	34,374	20,668	13,706
Income tax expense	(271)	(273)	2
Net income	\$ 34,103	\$ 20,395	\$ 13,708
Basic net income per unit	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.32
Weighted average number of basic units outstanding	42,500,141	42,500,000	141
Diluted net income per unit	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.32
Weighted average number of diluted units outstanding	42,501,705	42,500,211	1,494

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The following table summarizes NuStar Energy L.P.'s results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2007	2006	Change
(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars,			
Except Per Unit Data)			
<b>NuStar Energy L.P. Statement of Income Data:</b>			
Revenues	\$ 1,011,872	\$ 844,995	\$ 166,877
Cost of product sales	475,011	350,260	124,751
Operating expenses	258,637	232,727	25,910
Depreciation and amortization	84,736	74,022	10,714
Segment operating income	193,488	187,986	5,502
General and administrative expenses	48,607	30,323	18,284
Operating income	\$ 144,881	\$ 157,663	\$ (12,782)
Net income	\$ 122,033	\$ 112,173	\$ 9,860
Net income per unit applicable to limited partners	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.13	\$ 0.15
Cash distributions per unit applicable to limited partners	\$ 2.850	\$ 2.685	\$ 0.165

NuStar Energy L.P.'s net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 increased \$9.9 million, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2006, due to higher segmental operating income and an increase in other income, partially offset by increased general and administrative expense, interest expense and income tax expense.

The following table summarizes our equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P. for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2007	2006	Change
(Thousands of Dollars)			
<b>NuStar GP Holdings' Equity in Earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.:</b>			
General partner interest	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,033	\$ 143
General partner incentive distribution	13,238	10,869	2,369
Direct charges to NuStar GP Holdings, LLC		(352)	352
General partner's interest in net income and incentive distributions of NuStar Energy L.P.	15,414	12,550	2,864
NuStar GP Holdings' limited partner interest in net income of NuStar Energy L.P.	23,290	21,754	1,536
Amortization of step-up in basis related to NuStar Energy L.P.'s assets and liabilities	(2,163)	(2,163)	
NuStar GP Holdings' equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P.	\$ 36,541	\$ 32,141	\$ 4,400

Our equity in earnings of NuStar Energy L.P. related to our general partner interest and our limited partner interest increased for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2006, due to higher earnings at NuStar Energy L.P. NuStar Energy L.P.'s per unit distributions for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 increased to \$2.850 from \$2.685 in the same period of 2006. Because our incentive distribution rights entitle us to an increasing amount of NuStar Energy L.P.'s cash distributions, our equity in earnings related to our incentive distribution rights increased for that same period.

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## **Table of Contents**

General and administrative expenses increased \$1.3 million, for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the same period in 2006, due to the costs we incurred as a separate publicly traded company. For the period prior to our initial public offering on July 19, 2006, no corporate costs were allocated to us by Valero Energy as management determined that no such corporate costs were incurred specifically on our behalf.

Affiliated interest expense decreased \$10.3 million, for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2006, due to Valero Energy's capital contribution to us of the outstanding balance of the notes payable to Valero Energy affiliates effective July 19, 2006.

### ***Outlook***

NuStar Energy L.P. expects Valero Energy's McKee refinery fire to have a minimal effect on its operations in the fourth quarter of 2007, as the refinery is currently running at or near capacity. Even though NuStar Energy L.P. believes it has adequate insurance to cover the amount of losses resulting from the McKee refinery fire, NuStar Energy L.P. cannot precisely predict the timing or amounts of insurance proceeds it will receive. As a result, the timing of receiving insurance proceeds will affect its earnings and cash flows in any particular quarter over the next few quarters until they finalize the insurance claim.

NuStar Energy L.P. expects the results in the fourth quarter to be lower than the third quarter mainly due to a seasonal decline in product demand, higher operating expenses as they experience increased maintenance activity in the fourth quarter and a lack of one-time income items that they experienced throughout 2007. They may also experience additional volatility in their earnings and cash flows, as they will be exposed to commodity price risk related to their marketing and trading organization.

Despite the decrease from third quarter, NuStar Energy L.P. expects its results for the fourth quarter of 2007 to benefit from several of its terminal expansion projects coming on-line, increases in its pipeline tariffs effective July 1 and fewer turnarounds at the refineries it serves.

We expect our general and administrative expenses to be higher in 2007 compared to historical amounts as we incur a full year of administrative expenses as a separate publicly traded company.

Our interest expense in future periods will depend upon the amount of outstanding borrowings and the interest rate related to our three-year revolving credit facility with a borrowing capacity of up to \$20 million.

## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

### ***General***

Our cash flows consist of distributions from NuStar Energy L.P. on our partnership interests, including our incentive distribution rights. Due to our ownership of NuStar Energy L.P.'s incentive distribution rights, our portion of NuStar Energy L.P.'s total distributions may exceed our percentage ownership interest of 23.4%. Our primary cash requirements are for distributions to members, capital contributions to maintain our 2% general partner interest in NuStar Energy L.P. in the event NuStar Energy L.P. issues additional units, debt service requirements, if any, and general and administrative expenses. In addition, because NuStar GP, LLC elected to be treated as a taxable entity, we may be required to pay income taxes. These tax payments may exceed the amount of tax expense recorded on the consolidated financial statements. We expect to fund our cash requirements primarily with the quarterly cash distributions we receive from NuStar Energy L.P. and borrowings on our three-year revolving credit facility, if necessary.

### ***Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007 and 2006***

Cash distributions received from NuStar Energy L.P. for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were \$43.6 million compared to \$39.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. The cash distributions we received were used principally to fund distributions to our unitholders.

**Table of Contents****Cash Distributions**

The table set forth below shows NuStar Energy L.P.'s cash distributions with respect to our ownership interests in NuStar Energy L.P. including our incentive distribution rights applicable to the period in which the distributions were earned:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Cash distributions per unit	\$ 0.985	\$ 0.915	\$ 2.850	\$ 2.685
Total cash distributions by NuStar Energy L.P. to all partners (a)	\$ 52,064	\$ 47,694	\$ 149,638	\$ 139,340
<b>Cash distributions to us:</b>				
Distributions on our general partner interest (2%)	\$ 1,041	\$ 955	\$ 2,992	\$ 2,787
Distributions on our incentive distribution rights	4,915	3,909	13,238	10,869
Distributions on our limited partnership interests	10,083	9,350	29,156	27,447
<b>Total cash distributions to us</b>	<b>\$ 16,039</b>	<b>\$ 14,214</b>	<b>\$ 45,386</b>	<b>\$ 41,103</b>
Distributions to us as a percentage of total cash distributions	30.8%	29.8%	30.3%	29.5%

(a) Distributions declared for a quarter are paid by NuStar Energy L.P. within 45 days following the end of each quarter based on the partnership interests outstanding as of a record date that is set after the end of each quarter.

**Long-Term Contractual Obligations****Credit Facility**

On July 19, 2006, we entered into a three-year revolving credit facility with a borrowing capacity of up to \$20 million (the Credit Facility) to enable us to manage our cash flow obligations. For example, we expect to fund capital contributions to NuStar Energy L.P. to maintain our 2% general partner interest in the event NuStar Energy L.P. issues additional units and meet other liquidity and capital resource requirements through borrowings under the Credit Facility.

Of the Credit Facility's \$20 million commitment, up to \$10 million may be available for letters of credit. Our obligations under the Credit Facility are unsecured. The Credit Facility contains customary covenants and provisions including limitations on indebtedness, liens, dispositions of material property, mergers and asset transfers. Borrowings under the Credit Facility bear interest, at our option, at either: (i) the higher of (a) JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.'s prime rate or (b) the federal funds effective rate plus one-half percent; or (ii) the Eurodollar rate, as adjusted for statutory reserve requirements for Eurocurrency liabilities, plus an applicable margin that will vary between 0.27% and 0.70% based upon our credit rating.

Under the terms of the Credit Facility, NuStar Energy L.P. will be required to maintain a total debt-to-EBITDA ratio of less than 4.75-to-1.0 for any four consecutive quarters, subject to adjustment following certain acquisitions. We are also required to receive cash distributions of at least \$25.0 million in respect to our ownership interests in NuStar Energy L.P. for the preceding four fiscal quarters ending on the last day of each fiscal quarter.

As of September 30, 2007, we had \$20.0 million available for borrowing under the Credit Facility.

**Employee Benefit Plans**

All costs incurred by us related to employee benefit plans are reimbursed by NuStar Energy L.P. at cost. Additionally, NuStar Energy L.P. reimburses us for the compensation expense of restricted unit and unit option awards granted to employees of NuStar GP, LLC under various long-term incentive plans. For 2006, compensation expense pertaining to awards of restricted units and unit options to corporate officers of Valero Energy was reimbursed by Valero Energy affiliates. Our liabilities for employee benefits are included in Employee benefit plan liabilities and our liability related to the long-term incentive plans is included in Accrued compensation expense on our consolidated balance sheets. For the nine months ended September 30, 2007, we contributed \$9.2 million to our pension plan.





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*Contingencies*

As previously discussed, our only cash-generating assets are our indirect ownership interests in NuStar Energy L.P. NuStar Energy L.P. is subject to certain loss contingencies, the outcome of which could have an effect on NuStar Energy L.P.'s cash flows. Specifically, NuStar Energy L.P. may be required to make substantial payments to the U.S. Department of Justice for certain remediation costs.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Our critical accounting policies are disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

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**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

*(a) Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.*

Our management has evaluated, with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of the end of the period covered by this report, and has concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2007.

*(b) Changes in internal control over financial reporting.*

There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

The information below describes new proceedings or material developments in proceedings that we previously reported in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

***PORT OF VANCOUVER MATTER***

NuStar Energy L.P. owns a chemical and refined product terminal on property owned by the Port of Vancouver, and it leases the land under the terminal from the Port of Vancouver. Under an Agreed Order entered into with the Washington Department of Ecology when Kaneb purchased the terminal in 1998, Kaneb agreed to investigate and remediate groundwater contamination by the terminal's previous owner and operator originating from the terminal. Investigation and remediation at the terminal are ongoing in compliance with the Agreed Order. In April 2006, the Washington Department of Ecology commented on NuStar Energy L.P.'s site investigation work plan and asserted that the groundwater contamination at the terminal was commingled with a groundwater contamination plume under other property owned by the Port of Vancouver. Since that time, NuStar Energy L.P. has negotiated with the Washington Department of Ecology, and on November 7, 2007, NuStar Energy L.P. entered into an Agreed Order that outlines a plan for site assessment, monitoring and interim action with regard to the plume for which Kaneb is responsible. The Agreed Order contains a diagram indicating that the plume for which Kaneb is responsible is separate from proximately located plumes.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

***NuStar Energy L.P.'s pending acquisition of CITGO Asphalt Refining Company's East Coast Asphalt Operations may not be successful and it may not realize the anticipated benefits from this acquisition.***

NuStar Energy L.P. may be unable to obtain the governmental and regulatory approvals necessary in order to consummate the acquisition of the East Coast Asphalt Operations. Further, the other customary conditions to closing may not be satisfied, or the parties may agree to terminate the agreement, and as a result NuStar Energy may not be able to consummate the transaction without a material adjustment to its proposed terms or at all, which may have an adverse effect on the trading price of both NuStar Energy's and our units. Even if NuStar Energy does obtain all required approvals, and even if the other conditions to the consummation of the acquisition are satisfied, NuStar Energy's acquisition of the East Coast Asphalt Operations may pose risks to NuStar Energy's business. In addition to the risks ordinarily associated with an acquisition, NuStar Energy will also be exposed to risks specific to the East Coast Asphalt Operations, such as:

earnings volatility;

additional working capital requirements;

dependence on Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. as the exclusive supplier of crude oil; and

the asphalt operations' exposure to the volatility of the cost of crude oil and the price and volumes at which asphalt may be sold. Accordingly, NuStar Energy may not be able to realize strategic, operational and financial benefits as a result of the East Coast Asphalt Operations acquisition, which could adversely affect its operating and financial results.

In addition, NuStar Energy will face certain challenges as it works to integrate the asphalt operations into its business. In particular, the acquisition of the East Coast Asphalt Operations will, by adding two refineries, expand NuStar Energy's operations and the types of businesses in which NuStar Energy engages, significantly expand its geographic scope and increasing the number of its employees, thereby presenting NuStar Energy with significant challenges as it works to manage the increase in scale resulting from the acquisition. NuStar Energy has to integrate a

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large number of systems, both operational and administrative, which it has not historically used in its operations. Delays in this process could have a material adverse effect on NuStar Energy's revenues, expenses, operating results and financial condition. In addition, events outside of NuStar Energy's control, including changes in state and federal regulation and laws as well as economic trends, also could adversely affect its ability to realize the anticipated benefits from the acquisition of the East Coast Asphalt Operations.

Further, the asphalt operations may not perform in accordance with NuStar Energy's expectations, it may lose customers or key employees, and its expectations with regards to integration and synergies may not be fully realized. NuStar Energy's failure to successfully integrate and operate the asphalt refineries, and to realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisition, could adversely affect its operating and financial results.

### Item 6. Exhibits

- +Exhibit 10.01 Form of Non-employee Director Restricted Unit Agreement under NuStar GP Holdings, LLC's Long-Term Incentive Plan- incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.02 to NuStar GP Holdings, LLC's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 24, 2007 and filed October 29, 2007.
- +Exhibit 10.02 Form of Unit Option Award Agreement under NuStar GP Holdings, LLC's Long-Term Incentive Plan- incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.03 to NuStar GP Holdings, LLC's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 24, 2007 and filed October 29, 2007.
- \*Exhibit 31.01 Rule 13a-14(a) Certifications (under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
- \*Exhibit 32.01 Section 1350 Certifications (as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).

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\* Filed herewith.

+ Identifies management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements required to be filed as an exhibit hereto.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

**NUSTAR GP HOLDINGS, LLC**  
**(Registrant)**

**By: /s/ Curtis V. Anastasio**  
**Curtis V. Anastasio**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**November 9, 2007**

**By: /s/ Steven A. Blank**  
**Steven A. Blank**  
**Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer**  
**November 9, 2007**

**By: /s/ Thomas R. Shoaf**  
**Thomas R. Shoaf**  
**Vice President and Controller**  
**November 9, 2007**