

MILLER ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.
Form 424B3
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SEC File No. 333-183750

PROSPECTUS

\$500,000,000

Miller Energy Resources, Inc.

COMMON STOCK, PREFERRED STOCK, WARRANTS, UNITS

We may offer common stock, preferred stock, warrants, and or any combination of those securities at an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$500,000,000. The warrants that we may offer will consist of warrants to purchase any of the other securities that may be sold under this prospectus. The securities offered under this prospectus may be offered separately, together, or in separate series, and in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of sale. A prospectus supplement that will set forth the terms of the offering of any securities will accompany this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

The aggregate of the offering prices of the securities covered by this prospectus will not exceed \$500,000,000.

The securities may be sold directly to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. See Plan of Distribution on page 9 of this prospectus. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such agents or underwriters and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "MILL". On September 5, 2012, the closing price of our common stock was \$4.66 per share. We expect that any common stock sold pursuant to this prospectus will be listed on the exchange, subject to official notification. As of the date of this prospectus, neither the preferred shares or warrants or units that we may offer by this prospectus are listed on any national securities exchange nor are they quoted in the over the counter market.

INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF RISK. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 4 OF THIS PROSPECTUS FOR A DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN MATTERS THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES.

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.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate the sale of any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement relating to the securities offered.

The date of this prospectus is September 18, 2012

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission utilizing a "shelf" registration, or continuous offering, process. Under the shelf registration process, we may issue and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings with a maximum offering price of up to \$500,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities under this shelf registration, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain certain specific information about the terms of that offering, including a description of any risks related to the offering, if those terms and risks are not described in this prospectus. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. The registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission includes exhibits that provide more details on the matters discussed in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the related exhibits filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the accompanying prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the headings "Available Information" and "Information Incorporated by Reference" before investing in any of the securities offered.

We may sell securities to or through underwriters or dealers, and also may sell securities directly to other purchasers or through agents. To the extent not described in this prospectus, the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents employed by us in the sale of the securities covered by this prospectus, the principal amounts or number of shares or other securities, if any, to be purchased by such underwriters or dealers and the compensation, if any, of such underwriters, dealers or agents will be set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

The information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover. Information incorporated by reference into this prospectus is accurate as of the date of the document from which the information is incorporated. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any other date.

Unless specifically set forth to the contrary, when used in this prospectus the terms "we," "us," "ours," and similar terms refers to Miller Energy Resources, Inc., a Tennessee corporation formerly known as Miller Petroleum, Inc. and our subsidiaries, including Cook Inlet Energy, LLC, East Tennessee Consultants, Inc., East Tennessee Consultants II, LLC, Miller Drilling, TN LLC, Miller Rig & Equipment, LLC, Miller Energy Services, LLC, and Miller Energy GP, LLC. MEI means Miller Energy Income 2009-A, LP. In addition, when used herein fiscal 2012 refers to the fiscal year ended April 30, 2012, fiscal 2011 refers to the year ended April 30, 2011 and fiscal 2010 refers to the year ended April 30, 2010.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy any materials that we file at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the Securities and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers such as our company that file electronically with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

We have filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to the securities to be sold by pursuant to this prospectus. This prospectus has been filed as part of the registration statement. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement because certain parts of the registration statement are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. You should refer to the registration statement, including the exhibits, for further information about us and the securities being offered pursuant to this prospectus. Statements in this prospectus regarding the provisions of certain documents filed with, or incorporated by reference in, the registration statement are not necessarily complete and each statement is qualified in all respects by that reference. You may:

- inspect a copy of the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules, without charge at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room;
- obtain a copy from the Securities and Exchange Commission upon payment of the fees prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission; or
- obtain a copy from the Securities and Exchange Commission's website.

Our Internet address is www.millerenergyresources.com. We make available free of charge, through the investor relations section of our website, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information which appears on this web site is not part of this prospectus.

THE COMPANY

We are an independent exploration and production company that utilizes seismic data, and other technologies for geophysical exploration and development of oil and gas wells in the Appalachian region of eastern Tennessee and the Cook Inlet Basin in south central Alaska. In addition to our engineering and geological capabilities, we provide land drilling services on a contract basis to customers primarily engaged in natural gas exploration and production.

Unless specifically set forth to the contrary, when used in this prospectus, the terms Miller Energy Resources, "Miller," "we," "us," "ours," and similar terms refers to our Tennessee corporation Miller Energy Resources, Inc., formerly known as Miller Petroleum, Inc., and our subsidiaries, Miller Rig & Equipment, LLC, Miller Drilling, TN LLC, Miller Energy Services, LLC, East Tennessee Consultants, Inc. ("ETC"), East Tennessee Consultants II, LLC ("ETCII"), Miller Energy GP, LLC, and Cook Inlet Energy, LLC ("CIE").

Our principal executive offices are located at 9721 Cogdill Road, Suite 302, Knoxville, TN 37932 and our telephone number is (865) 223-6575. Our fiscal year end is April 30. We maintain a corporate web site at www.millerenergyresources.com. The information which appears on this web site is not part of this prospectus.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD LOOKING INFORMATION

We have made forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2012, as amended, and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and may make other forward-looking statements from time to time in other public filings, press releases and discussions with our management. These forward-looking statements include information concerning future production and reserves, schedules, plans, timing of development, contributions from oil and gas properties, marketing and midstream activities, and also include those statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words may, could, believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, projects, ta objective, should or similar expressions or variations on such expressions. For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we

can give no assurance that our expectations will prove to be correct. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. These forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainties. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, the following risks and uncertainties:

- the potential for Miller to experience additional operating losses;
- high debt costs under our existing senior credit facility;
- potential limitations imposed by debt covenants under our senior credit facility on our growth and our ability to meet our business objectives;
- our need to enhance our management, systems, accounting, controls and reporting performance;
- litigation risks;
- our ability to perform under the terms of our oil and gas leases, and exploration licenses with the Alaska DNR, including meeting the funding or work commitments of those agreements;
- our ability to successfully acquire, integrate and exploit new productive assets in the future;
- our ability to recover proved undeveloped reserves and convert probable and possible reserves to proved reserves;
- risks associated with the hedging of commodity prices;
- our dependence on third party transportation facilities;
- concentration risk in the market for the oil we produce in Alaska;
- the impact of natural disasters on our Cook Inlet Basin operations;
- adverse effects of the national and global economic downturns on our profitability;
- the imprecise nature of our reserve estimates;
- drilling risks;

- fluctuating oil and gas prices and the impact on our results from operations;
- the need to discover or acquire new reserves in the future to avoid declines in production;
- differences between the estimated present value of cash flows from proved reserves and the market value of those reserves;
- the existence within the industry of risks that may be uninsurable;
- constraints on production and costs of compliance that may arise from current and future environmental, FERC and other statutes, rules and regulations at the state and federal level;
- the impact that future legislation could have on access to tax incentives currently enjoyed by Miller;
- that no dividends may be paid on our common stock for some time;
- cashless exercise provisions of outstanding warrants;
- market overhang related to restricted securities and outstanding options and warrants;
- the impact of non-cash gains and losses from derivative accounting on future financial results; and
- risks to non-affiliate shareholders arising from the substantial ownership positions of affiliates.

Most of these factors are difficult to predict accurately and are generally beyond our control. You should consider the areas of risk described in connection with any forward-looking statements that may be made herein. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, and readers should carefully review our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2012, as amended, in its entirety, including the risks described in Item 1A. Risk Factors, and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Except for our ongoing obligations to disclose material information under the Federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements, to report events or to report the occurrence of unanticipated events. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus, and you should not rely on these statements without also considering the risks and uncertainties associated with these statements and our business.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. Our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows can be impacted by a number of factors, any of which could cause our results to vary materially from recent results or from our anticipated future results. See the risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2012, as amended, together with any material changes contained in subsequent filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and those contained in our other filings with the SEC for our most recent fiscal year, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. These risks could materially affect our business, results of operations or financial condition and cause the value of our securities to decline. You could lose all or part of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby will be used for general corporate purposes, which may include working capital, capital expenditures,

development costs, strategic investments and possible acquisitions. We have not allocated any portion of the net proceeds for any particular use at this time. The net proceeds may be invested temporarily until they are used for their stated purpose. Specific information concerning the use of proceeds from the sale of any securities will be included in the prospectus supplement relating to such securities. We will have significant discretion in the use of any net proceeds. The net proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term marketable securities or applied to repay indebtedness outstanding at that time until they are used for their stated purpose.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our historical ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. This information should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes incorporated by reference here in.

	Year Ended April 30,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
(Unaudited, in thousands except ratios)					
Pretax income	\$ (29,696)	\$ (10,161)	\$ 435,618	\$ 8,357	\$ (2,436)
Fixed charges:					
Interest expense, net of capitalized interest	724	989	898	212	368
Interest capitalized	3,700				
Amortization of debt costs	1,123	491			
Total fixed charges	5,547	1,480	898	212	368
Earnings	\$ (24,149)	\$ (8,681)	\$ 436,516	\$ 8,569	\$ (2,068)
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	(4.4)	(5.9)	486.1	40.4	(5.6)

Because our preferred stock outstanding during fiscal 2012 did not have required dividends, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends is identical to the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for fiscal 2012 and is not disclosed separately. No preferred stock was outstanding for any of the other periods presented.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES

We may from time to time offer under this prospectus, separately or together:

- common stock;
- preferred stock;
- warrants to purchase from us shares of our common stock or preferred stock; and
- units, each representing a combination of two or more of the foregoing securities.

The aggregate of the offering prices of the securities covered by this prospectus will not exceed \$500,000,000.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a general description of our capital stock. The terms of our amended and restated charter and bylaws are more detailed than the general information provided below. You should read our amended and restated charter and bylaws, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Authorized and outstanding capital stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, of which 250,000 shares have been designated as Series B redeemable preferred stock, and 500,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share. As of August 31, 2012, there were 42,021,893 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Description of common stock

Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters submitted to a shareholder vote. Holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights. Holders of common stock are entitled to share in those dividends that the board of directors, in its discretion, declares from legally available funds on our common stock. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, subject to the preferences of any shares of preferred stock which may then be authorized and outstanding, each outstanding share entitles its holder to participate in all assets that remain after payment of liabilities and after providing for each class of stock, if any, having preference over the common stock.

Holders of common stock have no conversion, preemptive or other subscription rights, and there are no redemption provisions for the common stock. The rights of the holders of common stock are subject to any rights that may be fixed for holders of preferred stock, when and if any preferred stock is authorized and issued. All outstanding shares of common stock are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Transfer agent

The transfer agent for our common stock is Interwest Transfer Company, Inc., 1981 East Murray Holladay Road, Suite 100, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115, and its telephone number is (801) 272-9294.

Description of preferred stock

The preferred stock authorized under our amended and restated charter may be issued from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors has the full authority permitted by law to establish, without further shareholder approval, one or more series and the number of shares constituting each such series and to fix by resolution full or limited, multiple or fractional, or no voting rights, and such designations, preferences, qualifications, privileges, limitations, restrictions, options, conversion rights and other special or relative rights of any series of the preferred stock that may be desired. Our board of directors has designated a series of preferred stock as Series B redeemable preferred stock consisting of up to 275,000 shares. The designations, rights and preferences of this series include:

- a stated value of \$100 per share,
- the holders will be entitled to receive a 12% semi-annual dividend, payable in cash on March 1 and September 1 of each year after issuance providing that we are in compliance with our Capital Covenants (under the terms of our loan agreement with Apollo Investment Corporation, dated June 29, 2012, which we refer to as the Apollo Loan Agreement), as of the end of the prior fiscal quarter and on a pro forma basis on the dividend date, and there is no default or event of default (as set forth in the Apollo Loan Agreement) on the dividend date;
- the dividend is cumulative, to the extent not paid in cash;
- we are entitled to redeem the shares in our sole discretion without premium at the stated value plus any accrued but unpaid dividends, with a mandatory redemption on the later of the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance or the 30th day after the security termination under the Apollo Loan Agreement;
- the Series B redeemable preferred stock is senior to all classes of our securities;
- the shares are not convertible into any other class of our securities; and
- the shares do not have any voting rights, except may be required under Tennessee law and with respect to the issuance of any new class of securities senior to or equal with the Series B redeemable preferred stock, in which case shareholders representing a majority of the Series B shares, voting as a class, must vote to approve the new issuance.

We do not have any shares of Series B redeemable preferred stock presently issued and outstanding.

Any preferred stock that we issue under this prospectus will have the voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption and conversion rights described below, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock. You should read the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of preferred stock for specific terms of the series, including:

- the title and liquidation preference per share and the number of shares offered;
- the price at which shares of the series will be sold;
- the form of dividend and dividend rate, if any, or method of calculation of dividends, the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether such dividends shall be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will commence to accumulate;
- any redemption or sinking fund provisions;
- any conversion provisions; and
- any additional dividend, liquidation, redemption or sinking fund provisions and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of such preferred stock.

When issued, the preferred stock will be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock, in the event of a liquidation, each series of preferred stock will rank on a parity as to dividends and distributions with all other outstanding preferred stock, if any. The following is a discussion of terms we expect to be generally applicable to the preferred stock that we may issue from time to time. The particular terms relating to a series of preferred stock that we offer pursuant to this prospectus, which may be different from or in addition to the terms described below, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock.

Voting Rights

If we issue shares of any series of preferred stock, holders of such shares will be entitled to one vote for each share held on matters on which holders of such series are entitled to vote, as set forth in the prospectus supplement with respect to such series or as expressly required by applicable law. The affirmative vote or consent of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series of preferred stock, unless our board of directors establishes a higher amount, voting as a separate class, will be required for any amendment of our charter that adversely changes any rights or preferences of such series of preferred stock.

Dividend Rights

Holders of the preferred stock of a particular series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of our assets legally available therefor, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates as are set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. The rate may be fixed or variable or both. Our ability, however, to declare and pay cash dividends may be limited by the terms of the Apollo Loan Agreement or any other similar agreement which may then be in effect. Dividends will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on the record dates and dividend dates fixed by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof.

Dividends on any series of preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. If our board of directors fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on such dividend payment day will be lost, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends are declared for any subsequent period.

If the prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock so provides, when dividends are not paid in full upon any series of preferred stock and any other preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with such series of preferred stock, all dividends declared upon such series of preferred stock and any other preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends will be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on such series and such other preferred stock will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on such series of preferred stock and such other preferred stock bear to each other. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, unless full dividends, including, in the case of cumulative preferred stock, accumulations, if any, in respect of prior dividend payment periods on all outstanding shares of any series of preferred stock have been paid, no dividends, other than in shares of common stock or another stock ranking junior to such series of preferred stock as to

dividends and upon liquidation, will be declared or paid or set aside for payment or other distributions made upon our common stock or any of our other stock ranking junior to such preferred stock, including other series of preferred stock ranking junior to such series of preferred stock, as to dividends. If the prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock so provides, no common stock or any other stock, including other series of preferred stock, ranking junior to or on a parity with such series of preferred stock as to dividends or upon liquidation may be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration, or any monies paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any shares of any such stock, by us, while such preferred stock remains outstanding, except by conversion into or exchange for our stock ranking junior to such series of preferred stock as to dividends and upon liquidation.

The amount of dividends payable for each dividend period will be computed by annualizing the applicable dividend rate and dividing by the number of dividend periods in a year, except that the amount of dividends payable for the initial dividend period or any period shorter than a full dividend period will be computed on the basis of 30-day months, a 360-day year and the actual number of days elapsed in the period.

Liquidation and Distribution

In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our business, the holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to shareholders, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of common stock or any other class of stock ranking junior to such series of preferred stock upon liquidation, liquidating distributions in the amount set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. If, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our business, the amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock of any series and any other shares of our stock ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with such series of preferred stock are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of such series and of such other shares will share ratably in any such distribution of our assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled.

Redemption

A series of preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or in part, at our option, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, in each case upon terms, at the times and the redemption prices and for the types of consideration set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock will state the terms, if any, on which shares of that series are convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock, debt securities or another series of our preferred stock. These provisions may allow or require the number of our shares of common stock or other securities to be received by holders of shares of preferred stock to be adjusted upon the occurrence of events described in the applicable prospectus supplement, including: the issuance of a stock dividend to common shareholders or a combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock; the issuance of rights, warrants or options to all common and preferred shareholders entitling them to purchase common stock for an aggregate purchase price per share less than the current market price per share of common stock; and any other events described in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock so provides, our preferred stock will have no preemptive rights.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of preferred stock or common stock, or any combination of these securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with other securities and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement. The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the warrants that we may issue from time to time. Additional terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The following descriptions, and any description of the warrants included in a prospectus supplement, may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the applicable warrant agreement, which we will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with any offering of warrants.

General

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

- the title of the warrants;
- the offering price for the warrants, if any;
- the aggregate number of the warrants;
- the terms of the security that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities that the warrants are issued with and the number of warrants issued with each security;
- if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and any securities issued with the warrants will be separately transferable;
- the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants commence and expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- if applicable, a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations;
- anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;
- redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the warrants; and
- any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder of the warrant to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders may exercise warrants at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will be void. Holders may exercise warrants as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants being offered.

Until a holder exercises the warrants to purchase any securities underlying the warrants, the holder will not have any rights as a holder of the underlying securities by virtue of ownership of warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, warrants or any combination of those securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any units and the related offering in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including the following:

- the terms of each of the securities included in the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities included in the units may or may not be traded separately or exchanged for or converted into any other securities;
- the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;
- if applicable, a discussion of certain United States federal income tax considerations; and
- the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

A summary of any material United States federal income tax consequences to persons investing in the securities offered by this prospectus will be set forth in any applicable prospectus supplement. The summary will be presented for informational purposes only, however, and will not be intended as legal or tax advice to prospective purchasers. Prospective purchasers of securities are urged to consult their own tax advisors prior to any purchase of securities.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities in any one or more of the following ways:

- directly to investors, including through a specific bidding, auction or other process;
- to investors through agents;
- directly to agents;
- to or through brokers or dealers;
- to the public through underwriting syndicates led by one or more managing underwriters;
- in at the market offerings, within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market on an exchange or otherwise;
- to one or more underwriters acting alone for resale to investors or to the public; and
- through a combination of any such methods of sale.

If we sell securities to a dealer acting as principal, the dealer may resell such securities at varying prices to be determined by such dealer in its discretion at the time of resale without consulting with us and such resale prices may not be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement. Any underwritten offering may be on a best efforts or a firm commitment basis.

Sales of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions:

- at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

Any of the prices may represent a discount from the then prevailing market prices.

In connection with the sale of any of the securities, underwriters or agents may receive compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive compensation from purchasers of the securities, for whom they may act as agents, in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and such 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 agents.

Discounts, concessions and commissions may be changed from time to time. Dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act of 1933, and any discounts, concessions or commissions they receive from us and any profit on the resale of securities they realize may be deemed to be underwriting compensation under applicable federal and state securities laws.

The applicable prospectus supplement will, where applicable:

- identify any such underwriter, dealer or agent;
- describe any compensation in the form of discounts, concessions, commissions or otherwise received from us by each such underwriter or agent and in the aggregate by all underwriters and agents;
- describe any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers;
- identify the amounts underwritten; and
- identify the nature of the underwriter's or underwriters' obligation to take the securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, each series of securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on the NYSE. We expect that any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be listed on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance. We may elect to list any series of preferred stock on an exchange, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of, or the trading market for, any offered securities.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with those derivative transactions, third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and such prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or from others to settle those short sales or to close out any related open borrowings of securities, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivative transactions to close out any related open borrowings of securities. If the third party is or may be deemed to be an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, it will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplements.

Until the distribution of the securities is completed, rules of the SEC may limit the ability of any underwriters and selling group members to bid for and purchase the securities. As an exception to these rules, underwriters are permitted to engage in some transactions that stabilize the price of the securities. Such transactions consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities.

Underwriters may engage in overallotment. If any underwriters create a short position in the securities in an offering in which they sell more securities than are set forth on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement, the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing the securities in the open market.

The lead underwriters may also impose a penalty bid on other underwriters and selling group members participating in an offering. This means that if the lead underwriters purchase securities in the open market to reduce the underwriters' short position or to stabilize the price of the securities, they may reclaim the amount of any selling concession from the underwriters and selling group members who sold those securities as part of the offering.

In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. The imposition of a penalty bid might also have an effect on the price of a security to the extent that it were to discourage resales of the security before the distribution is completed.

We do not make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above might have on the price of the securities. In addition, we do not make any representation that underwriters will engage in such transactions or that such transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Under agreements into which we may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of the securities may be entitled to indemnification by us against or contribution towards certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the applicable securities laws.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with us or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by particular institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in such prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in such prospectus supplement. Each delayed delivery contract will be for an amount no less than, and the aggregate amounts of securities sold under delayed delivery contracts shall be not less nor more than, the respective amounts stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Institutions with which such contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others, but will in all cases be subject to our approval. The obligations of any purchaser under any such contract will be subject to the conditions that:

- the purchase of the securities shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which the purchaser is subject, and
- if the securities are being sold to underwriters, we shall have sold to the underwriters the total amount of the securities less the amount thereof covered by the contracts.

The underwriters and such other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of such contracts.

To comply with applicable state securities laws, the securities offered by this prospectus will be sold, if necessary, in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, securities may not be sold in some states unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Pearlman Schneider LLP, 2200 Corporate Boulevard, N.W., Suite 210, Boca Raton, Florida 33431. In rendering its opinion, as to specific applications regarding Tennessee law and the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, Pearlman Schneider LLP has relied on the supporting opinion of Anna E. Corcoran, Esq., our Assistant General Counsel and a member of the Bar of the State of Tennessee, which has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Miller Energy Resources, Inc. and subsidiaries as of April 30, 2012 and 2011, and for the years then ended, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG

LLP, independent registered accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of Miller Energy Resources, Inc. and subsidiaries as of April 30, 2010, and for the year then ended, has been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report of Sherb & Co., LLP, independent registered accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, in accordance therewith, we file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Certain of our SEC filings are available over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference facilities:

Public Reference Room Office

100 F Street, N.E.

Room 1580

Washington, D.C. 20549

You may also obtain copies of the documents at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Callers in the United States can also call 1-202-551-8090 for further information on the operations of the public reference facilities.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The Securities and Exchange Commission allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission will update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, any of such documents filed since the date this registration statement was filed and any future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the termination of the offering of securities covered by this prospectus:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended April 30, 2012 as filed on July 16, 2012 and amended on August 28, 2012, and further amended on September 6, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on July 17, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on July 26, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on July 27, 2012 and amended on August 1, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on July 31, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on August 1, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on August 17, 2012,
- Current Report on Form 8-K/A as filed on August 27, 2012, and
- Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on September 4, 2012.

We will provide without charge to any person to whom this prospectus is delivered, on the written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all of the foregoing documents incorporated by reference, excluding exhibits, unless we have specifically incorporated an exhibit in the incorporated document. Written requests should be directed to: Corporate Secretary, Miller Energy Resources, Inc., 9721 Cogdill Road, Suite 302, Knoxville, TN 37932.

Each document or report subsequently filed by us pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date hereof and prior to the termination of the offering of the securities shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be a part of this prospectus from the date of filing of such document, unless otherwise provided in the relevant document. Any statement contained herein, or in a document all or a portion of which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the registration statement and this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of the registration statement or this prospectus.

The information relating to our company contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is not comprehensive, and you should read it together with the information contained in the incorporated documents.

LIMITATION ON DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY AND COMMISSION POSITION ON INDEMNIFICATION FOR SECURITIES ACT LIABILITIES

The Tennessee Business Corporation Act provides that a corporation may indemnify any of its directors and officers against liability incurred in connection with a proceeding if:

- the director or officer acted in good faith;
- in the case of conduct in his or her official capacity with the corporation, the director or officer reasonably believed such conduct was in the corporation's best interest;
- in all other cases, the director or officer reasonably believed that his or her conduct was not opposed to the best interest of the corporation; and
- in connection with any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

In actions brought by or in the right of the corporation, however, the Tennessee Business Corporation Act provides that no indemnification may be made if the director or officer was adjudged to be liable to the corporation. In cases where the director or officer is wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding instituted because of his or her status as an officer or director of a corporation, the Tennessee Business Corporation Act mandates that the corporation indemnify the director or officer against reasonable expenses incurred in the proceeding. The Tennessee Business Corporation Act also provides that in connection with any proceeding charging improper personal benefit to an officer or director, no indemnification may be made if the officer or director is adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Tennessee Business Corporation Act provides that a court of competent jurisdiction, upon application, may order that an officer or director be indemnified for reasonable expenses if, in consideration of all relevant circumstances, the court determines that the individual is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, notwithstanding the fact that:

- the officer or director was adjudged liable to the corporation in a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation;
- the officer or director was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by him or her; or
- the officer or director breached his or her duty of care to the corporation.

Our board of directors has adopted these provisions to indemnify our directors, executive officers and agents.

The Tennessee Business Corporation Act also provides that a corporation may limit the liability of a director for monetary damages in the event of a breach of fiduciary duty. Our shareholders approved an amendment to our charter to provide for this limitation on our directors' liability.

Insofar as the limitation of, or indemnification for, liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers, or persons controlling us pursuant to the foregoing, or otherwise, we have been advised that, in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such limitation or indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable.

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