

MESA ROYALTY TRUST/TX
Form 10-Q
August 09, 2010

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the Quarterly Period ended June 30, 2010

o **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: 1-7884

MESA ROYALTY TRUST

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas

(State or other jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

76-6284806

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company,
N.A., Trustee
919 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

78701

(Zip Code)

1-800-852-1422

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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 ý No o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes o No o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

As of August 6, 2010 1,863,590 Units of Beneficial Interest were outstanding in Mesa Royalty Trust.

PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. *Financial Statements.*

MESA ROYALTY TRUST

STATEMENTS OF DISTRIBUTABLE INCOME

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Royalty income	\$ 2,043,341	\$ 745,374	\$ 3,813,900	\$ 1,880,148
Interest income	31	80	120	215
General and administrative expense	(58,632)	(44,130)	(99,041)	(93,104)
Distributable income	\$ 1,984,740	\$ 701,324	\$ 3,714,979	\$ 1,787,259
Distributable income per unit	\$ 1.0650	\$.3763	\$ 1.9934	\$.9590
Units outstanding	1,863,590	1,863,590	1,863,590	1,863,590

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND TRUST CORPUS

	June 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
(Unaudited)		
ASSETS		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 1,984,740	\$ 1,194,604
Net overriding royalty interest in oil and gas properties	42,498,034	42,498,034
Accumulated amortization	(36,638,991)	(36,112,034)
Total assets	\$ 7,843,783	\$ 7,580,604
LIABILITIES AND TRUST CORPUS		
Distributions payable	\$ 1,984,740	\$ 1,194,604
Trust corpus (1,863,590 units of beneficial interest authorized, issued and outstanding)	5,859,043	6,386,000
Total liabilities and trust corpus	\$ 7,843,783	\$ 7,580,604

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

MESA ROYALTY TRUST

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN TRUST CORPUS

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Trust corpus, beginning of period	\$ 6,164,213	\$ 6,890,974	\$ 6,386,000	\$ 7,035,039
Distributable income	1,984,740	701,324	3,714,979	1,787,259
Distributions to unitholders	(1,984,740)	(701,324)	(3,714,979)	(1,787,259)
Amortization of net overriding royalty interest	(305,170)	(122,158)	(526,957)	(266,223)
Trust corpus, end of period	\$ 5,859,043	\$ 6,768,816	\$ 5,859,043	\$ 6,768,816

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

MESA ROYALTY TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

Note 1 Trust Organization and Provisions

The Mesa Royalty Trust (the "Trust") was created on November 1, 1979. On that date, Mesa Petroleum Co., predecessor to Mesa Limited Partnership ("MLP") which was the predecessor to MESA Inc., conveyed to the Trust an overriding royalty interest (the "Royalty") equal to 90% of the Net Proceeds (as defined in the Conveyance and described below) attributable to the specified interests in properties conveyed by the assignor on that date (the "Subject Interests"). The Subject Interests consisted of interests in certain producing oil and gas properties located in the Hugoton field of Kansas, the San Juan Basin field of New Mexico and Colorado and the Yellow Creek field of Wyoming (the "Royalty Properties"). The Royalty is evidenced by counterparts of an Overriding Royalty Conveyance dated as of November 1, 1979 (the "Conveyance"). On April 30, 1991, MLP sold its interests in the Royalty Properties located in the San Juan Basin field to ConocoPhillips. ConocoPhillips sold the portion of its interests in the San Juan Basin Royalty Properties located in Colorado to MarkWest Energy Partners, Ltd. (effective January 1, 1993) and Red Willow Production Company (effective April 1, 1992). On October 26, 1994, MarkWest Energy Partners, Ltd. sold substantially all of its interest in the Colorado San Juan Basin Royalty Properties to BP Amoco Company ("BP"), a subsidiary of BP p.l.c. Until August 7, 1997, MESA Inc. operated the Hugoton Royalty Properties through Mesa Operating Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of MESA Inc. On August 7, 1997, MESA Inc. merged with and into Pioneer Natural Resources Company ("Pioneer"), formerly a wholly owned subsidiary of MESA Inc., and Parker & Parsley Petroleum Company merged with and into Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc. (successor to Mesa Operating Co.), a wholly owned subsidiary of Pioneer ("PNR") (collectively, the mergers are referred to herein as the "Merger"). Subsequent to the Merger, the Hugoton Royalty Properties have been operated by PNR. Substantially all of the San Juan Basin Royalty Properties located in New Mexico are operated by ConocoPhillips. Effective January 1, 2005, ConocoPhillips assigned its interest in an immaterial number of San Juan Basin Royalty Properties located in New Mexico to XTO Energy Inc. The San Juan Basin Royalty Properties located in Colorado are operated by BP. As used in this report, PNR refers to the operator of the Hugoton Royalty Properties, ConocoPhillips refers to the operator of the San Juan Basin Royalty Properties, other than the portion of such properties located in Colorado, and BP refers to the operator of the Colorado San Juan Basin Royalty Properties unless otherwise indicated.

Effective October 2, 2006, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (the "Trustee") succeeded JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee of the Trust. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. is the successor by mergers to the original name of the Trustee, Texas Commerce Bank National Association. The terms of the Mesa Royalty Trust Indenture (the "Trust Indenture") provide, among other things, that:

- (a) the Trust cannot engage in any business or investment activity or purchase any assets;
- (b) the Royalty can be sold in part or in total for cash upon approval by the unitholders;
- (c) the Trustee can establish cash reserves and borrow funds to pay liabilities of the Trust and can pledge assets of the Trust to secure payment of the borrowings;

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(d) the Trustee will make cash distributions to the unitholders in January, April, July and October each year as discussed more fully in Note 2;

(e) the Trust will terminate upon the first to occur of the following events: (i) at such time as the Trust's royalty income for two successive years is less than \$250,000 per year or (ii) a vote by the unitholders in favor of termination. Upon termination of the Trust, the Trustee will sell for cash all the assets held in the Trust estate and make a final distribution to unitholders of any funds remaining after all Trust liabilities have been satisfied; and

(f) PNR, ConocoPhillips and BP (collectively the "Working Interest Owners") will reimburse the Trust for 59.34%, 27.45% and 1.77%, respectively, for general and administrative expenses of the Trust.

Note 2 Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited financial information has been prepared by the Trustee in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q. The preparation of the financial statements requires estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The Trustee believes such information includes all the disclosures necessary to make the information presented not misleading. The information furnished reflects all adjustments which are, in the opinion of the Trustee, necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods presented. The financial information should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. The Trust considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Subsequent events were evaluated through the issuance date of the financial statements.

In accordance with the Conveyance, the Working Interest Owners are obligated to calculate and pay the Trust each month an amount equal to 90% of the Net Proceeds (as defined in the Conveyance) attributable to the month. In 1985, the Trust Indenture was amended and the Trust conveyed to an affiliate of Mesa Petroleum Co. 88.5571% of the original Royalty (such transfer, the "1985 Assignment"). The effect of the 1985 Assignment was an overall reduction of approximately 88.56% in the size of the Trust. As a result, the Trust is now entitled to receive 11.44% of 90% of the Net Proceeds attributable to each month.

The financial statements of the Trust are prepared on the following basis:

(a) Royalty income recorded for a month is the amount computed and paid by the Working Interest Owners to the Trustee for such month rather than either the value of a portion of the oil and gas produced by the Working Interest Owners for such month or the amount subsequently determined to be the Trust's proportionate share of the net proceeds for such month;

(b) Interest income, interest receivable and distributions payable to unitholders include interest to be earned on short-term investments from the financial statement date through the next date of distribution;

(c) Trust general and administrative expenses, net of reimbursements, are recorded in the month they are included in the calculation of the monthly distribution amount;

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(d) Amortization of the Royalty is computed on a unit-of-production basis and is charged directly to trust corpus since such amount does not affect distributable income; and

(e) Distributions payable are determined on a monthly basis and are payable to unitholders of record as of the last business day of each month or such later date as the Trustee determines is required to comply with applicable law or stock exchange requirements. However, cash distributions are made quarterly in January, April, July and October, and include interest earned from the monthly record dates to the date of distribution.

This basis for reporting distributable income is considered to be the most meaningful because distributions to the unitholders for a month are based on net cash receipts for such month. However, these statements differ from financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America because, under such principles, royalty income for a month would be based on net proceeds from production for such month without regard to when calculated or received, general and administrative expenses would be recorded in the month they accrue, and interest income for a month would be calculated only through the end of such month.

Note 3 Legal Proceedings

There are no pending legal proceedings to which the Trust is a named party. The Trustee has been advised by PNR, ConocoPhillips and BP Amoco that it is subject to litigation in the ordinary course of business for certain matters that include the Royalty Properties. While each of the working interest owners has advised the Trustee that it does not currently believe any of the pending litigation will have a material adverse effect net to the Trust, in the event such matters were adjudicated or settled in a material amount and charges were made against Royalty income, such charges could have a material impact of future Royalty income.

Note 4 Income Tax Matters

In a technical advice memorandum dated February 26, 1982, the IRS advised the Dallas District Director that the Trust is classifiable as a grantor trust and not as an association taxable as a corporation. As a grantor trust, the Trust incurs no federal income tax liability and each unitholder is subject to tax on the unitholder's pro rata share of the income and expense of the Trust as if the unitholder were the direct owner of a pro rata share of the Trust's assets. In addition, there is no state tax liability for the period.

The Trustee assumes that some Trust Units are held by a middleman, as such term is broadly defined in U.S. Treasury Regulations (and includes custodians, nominees, certain joint owners, and brokers holding an interest for a custodian in street name). Therefore, the Trustee considers the Trust to be a non-mortgage widely held fixed investment trust ("WHFIT") for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., 919 Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701, telephone number 1-800-852-1422, is the representative of the Trust that will provide tax information in accordance with applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations governing the information reporting requirements of the Trust as a WHFIT.

Note 5 Excess Production Costs

Excess production costs result when costs, charges, and expenses attributable to a Working Interest Property exceed the revenue received from the sale of oil, gas, and other hydrocarbons produced from

such property. Excess production costs related to the San Juan Basin Colorado properties were approximately \$0 as of June 30, 2010 and \$20,606 as of December 31, 2009. The excess production costs must be recovered by the Working Interest Owners before any distribution of Royalty income from the properties will be made to the Trust.

Note 6 Tax Assessment

PNR has advised the Trustee that it received a proposed assessment from the Kansas Department of Revenue on September 10, 2009, for additional tax, penalty and interest of approximately \$4.1 million resulting primarily from the settlement of the lawsuit *John Steven Alford and Robert Larrabee, individually and on behalf of a Plaintiff Class v. Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc.* in early 2007. The portion of the tax assessment net to the Trust is approximately \$181,000, which could adversely affect Trust distributions. PNR has submitted a written response objecting to the proposed assessment. On March 25, 2010, The Kansas Department of Revenue issued a final assessment, which included additional interest and penalties, increasing the amount assessed to approximately \$4.5 million. The portion of the tax assessment net to the Trust is approximately \$197,000, which could adversely affect Trust distributions. PNR intends to challenge the March 25, 2010 final assessment through the administrative process provided for under Kansas law. No assurance can be made that any objections or disputed items raised by PNR will be successful.

PNR has also advised the Trustee that as of June 30, 2010 it has filed approximately \$3.0 million of severance tax refunds with the state of Kansas, the estimated share of the refund due and already paid to the Trust is approximately \$167,000. There can be no assurance that the state will agree to PNR's position which in turn could adversely affect Trust distributions in the future.

Item 2. *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.*

The following review of the Trust's financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto. The discussion of net production attributable to the Hugoton and San Juan properties represents production volumes that are to a large extent hypothetical as the Trust does not own and is not entitled to any specific production volumes. See Note 10 to the financial statements in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. Any discussion of "actual" production volumes represents the hydrocarbons that were produced from the properties in which the Trust has an overriding royalty interest.

The Trust is a passive entity whose purposes are limited to: (1) converting the Royalties to cash, either by retaining them and collecting the proceeds of production (until production has ceased or the Royalties are otherwise terminated) or by selling or otherwise disposing of the Royalties; and (2) distributing such cash, net of amounts for payments of liabilities to the Trust, to the unitholders. The Trust has no sources of liquidity or capital resources other than the revenues, if any, attributable to the Royalties and interest on cash held by the Trustee as a reserve for liabilities or for distribution.

Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Form 10-Q includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this Form 10-Q, including without limitation the statements under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," are forward-looking statements. Although the Working Interest Owners have advised the Trust that they believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements contained herein are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to be correct. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations ("Cautionary Statements") are disclosed in this Form 10-Q and in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, including under "Item 1A. Risk Factors". All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to the Trust or persons acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the Cautionary Statements.

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**SUMMARY OF ROYALTY INCOME, PRODUCTION AND AVERAGE PRICES
(Unaudited)**

Royalty income is computed after deducting the Trust's proportionate share of capital costs, operating costs and interest on any cost carryforward from the Trust's proportionate share of "Gross Proceeds," as defined in the Conveyance. The following summary illustrates the net effect of the components of the actual Royalty computation for the periods indicated.

	Three Months Ended June 30,			
	2010		2009	
	Natural Gas	Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids	Natural Gas	Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids
The Trust's proportionate share of Gross Proceeds(1)	1,731,595	1,018,886	1,091,899	618,368
Less the Trust's proportionate share of:				
Capital costs recovered	(52,898)	(44,897)	(126,913)	(99,248)
Operating costs	(379,060)	(230,285)	(602,262)	(246,282)
Net Proceeds	1,299,637	743,704	362,724	272,838
Royalty income(2)	1,299,637	743,704	472,536	272,838
Average sales price	\$ 4.43	\$ 47.80	\$ 2.98	\$ 23.23
	(Mcf)	(Bbls)	(Mcf)	(Bbls)
Net production volumes attributable to the Royalty paid(3)	293,091	15,558	158,592	11,747

	Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2010		2009	
	Natural Gas	Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids	Natural Gas	Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids
The Trust's proportionate share of Gross Proceeds(1)	3,260,283	2,095,958	2,707,681	1,320,575
Less the Trust's proportionate share of:				
Capital costs recovered	(109,893)	(103,245)	(374,537)	(214,514)
Operating costs	(803,919)	(504,989)	(1,192,243)	(476,626)
Net Proceeds	2,346,471	1,487,724	1,140,901	629,435
Royalty income(2)	2,326,176	1,487,724	1,250,713	629,435
Average sales price	\$ 4.11	\$ 41.41	\$ 3.42	\$ 26.13
	(Mcf)	(Bbls)	(Mcf)	(Bbls)
Net production volumes attributable to the Royalty paid(3)	565,328	35,927	365,974	24,093

- (1) Gross Proceeds from natural gas liquids attributable to the Hugoton and San Juan Basin Properties are net of a volumetric in-kind processing fee retained by PNR and ConocoPhillips, respectively.
- (2) As a result of excess production costs incurred in one monthly operating period and then recovered in a subsequent monthly operating period(s), the Royalty income paid to the Trust may not agree to the Trust's royalty interest in the Net Proceeds. Excess production costs related to the San Juan Basin Colorado properties operated by BP were approximately \$110,000 as of June 30, 2009. The excess production costs must be recovered by the Working Interest Owners before any distribution of Royalty income will be made to the Trust.
- (3) Net production volumes attributable to the Royalty are determined by dividing Royalty income by the average sales price received.

Three Months Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

Financial Review

	Three Months Ended June 30,	
	2010	2009
Royalty income	\$ 2,043,341	\$ 745,374
Interest income	31	80
General and administrative expense	(58,632)	(44,130)
Distributable income	\$ 1,984,740	\$ 701,324
Distributable income per unit	\$ 1.0650	\$ 0.3763
Units outstanding	1,863,590	1,863,590

The Trust's Royalty income was \$2,043,351 in the second quarter of 2010, an increase of approximately 174% as compared to \$745,374 in the second quarter of 2009, primarily as a result of higher natural gas and natural gas liquid prices, and decreased capital costs in the second quarter of 2010 as compared to the second quarter of 2009.

The distributable income of the Trust for each period includes the Royalty income received from the working interest owners during such period, plus interest income earned to the date of distribution (if any). Trust administration expenses are deducted in the computation of distributable income. Distributable income for the quarter ended June 30, 2010 was \$1,984,740, representing \$1.0650 per unit, compared to \$701,324, representing \$0.3763 per unit, for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. Based on 1,863,590 units outstanding for the quarters ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively, the per unit distributions were as follows:

	2010	2009
April	\$.4046	\$ 0.1413
May	.3422	0.1153
June	.3182	0.1197
	\$ 1.0650	\$ 0.3763

*Operational Review**Hugoton Field*

Natural gas and natural gas liquids production attributable to the Royalty from the Hugoton field accounted for approximately 48% of the Royalty income of the Trust during the second quarter of 2010.

PNR has advised the Trust that since June 1, 1995 natural gas produced from the Hugoton field has generally been sold under short-term and multi-month contracts at market clearing prices to multiple purchasers. During 2010 the primary purchaser was Oneok Gas Marketing, Inc. PNR has advised the Trust that it expects to continue to market gas production from the Hugoton field under short-term and multi-month contracts. As discussed below, overall market prices received for natural

gas from the Hugoton Royalty Properties were higher in the second quarter of 2010 compared to the second quarter of 2009.

In June 1994, PNR entered into a Gas Transportation Agreement ("Gas Transportation Agreement") with Western Resources, Inc. ("WRI") for a primary term of five years commencing June 1, 1995. This contract has renewed on a year-to-year basis being effective June 1, 2001. The contract is renewed a year in advance, so PNR extended the contract to June 1, 2011. Pursuant to the Gas Transportation Agreement, WRI agreed to compress and transport up to 160 MMcf per day of gas and redeliver such gas to PNR at the inlet of PNR's Satanta Plant. PNR agreed to pay WRI a fee of \$0.06 per Mcf escalating 4% annually as of June 1, 1996. This Gas Transportation Agreement was assigned to Kansas Gas Service.

Royalty income attributable to the Hugoton Royalty increased to \$970,715 in the second quarter of 2010, from \$393,656 in the second quarter of 2009 primarily due to increases in natural gas and natural gas liquid prices from the Hugoton Royalty Properties and decreased capital and operating expenditures. The average price received in the