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EQUITABLE RESOURCES INC /PA/

Form 11-K

March 21, 2001

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 11-K

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000

or

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-3551

EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

(Full title of the Plan and address of the Plan,
if different from that of the issuer named below)

EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
One Oxford Centre, Suite 3300
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the
plan and the address of principal executive office)

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EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Administrative Committee
Equitable Resources, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Equitable Resources, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the periods ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the periods ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Ernst & Young LLP

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
March 19, 2001

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EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

	DECEMBER 31, 2000	
	-----	---
Investment in Equitable Resources, Inc. Common Stock, at fair value (65,607 and 63,798 shares at \$66.75 and \$33.37 per share in 2000 and 1999, respectively)	\$4,379,281	\$2
Contribution receivable--employee	53,702	
Contribution receivable--employer	2,540	
	-----	---
Net assets available for benefits	\$4,435,523	\$2
	=====	==

See accompanying notes.

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EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

	YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000	1999	
	-----	-----	---
Additions to net assets attributed to:			
Contributions:			
Employer	\$ 71,620	\$ 62,700	\$
Employee	694,040	548,625	
Dividend income	76,976	69,648	
Realized gain on sale of investments	245,665	44,018	
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	1,925,432	192,306	
	-----	-----	---
Total additions	3,013,733	917,297	
Deductions to net assets attributed to:			
Employee withdrawals	755,007	322,437	

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Total deductions	755,007	322,437
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	2,258,726	594,860
Net assets available for benefits:		
At beginning of year	2,176,797	1,581,937
At end of year	\$4,435,523	\$2,176,797
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes.

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EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Equitable Resources, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the summary plan description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is an employee stock purchase plan implemented on October 1, 1995 by Equitable Resources, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company or Companies). Employees of the Company may purchase shares of the Company's common stock at a 10 percent discount through payroll deductions. All nonrepresented employees of the Companies are eligible to participate in the Plan immediately upon employment. Represented employee eligibility is subject to collective bargaining.

Contributions and Purchase of Stock

Eligible employees can contribute from 1 to 10 percent of their annual base pay to the Plan on an after-tax basis. No interest will accrue or be payable with respect to any of the payroll deductions of a participant in the Plan. Contributions are initially deposited with Putnam Investments (Trustee) and are used to purchase shares of the Company's common stock in accordance with the provisions set forth in the plan agreement.

The price of stock purchased for a participant is 90 percent of the closing price of the stock on the second business day after the close of each monthly period. The Plan holds contributions as cash pending the purchase of shares of the Company's common stock.

The Company contributes the remaining 10 percent of the stock price and pays fees for the administration of the Plan and any commission charges associated with the purchase of the stock.

Dividends on Stock

Dividends on stock are automatically used to purchase additional shares for all participants. Participants may, however, make a written request to receive a cash distribution of dividend payments.

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EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000

1. Description of the Plan (Continued)

Sale of Stock

Participants are required to hold any shares purchased through the Plan for a minimum of one year. Participants may elect withdrawals, subject to the holding period restriction, of shares of stock or cash from the proceeds of sale of shares. Participants are responsible for all costs associated with the sale of stock from their individual accounts. The costs of shares sold are calculated using the "first-in, first-out" cost method.

Termination of Employment

Upon termination of the participant's employment for any reason, payroll deductions credited to the participant's account(s) which have not yet been used to purchase stock will be returned to the participant. The participant has the option of either selling the total number of shares in his/her account or receiving a certificate for his/her holdings. Terminated participants are not permitted to purchase shares through the Plan or continue to hold shares in the Plan.

Plan Expenses

Expenses associated with the administration of the Plan are paid by the Company. Participants are responsible for all charges and expenses incurred through the sale of their shares.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2000

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Investments

The Equitable Resources, Inc. Common Stock is valued at market price as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

Investments at December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 are comprised of Equitable Resources, Inc. Common Stock:

	SHARES -----	FAIR VALUE -----	ORIGINAL COST -----	UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) -----
2000	65,607	\$4,379,281	\$2,283,151	\$2,096,130
1999	63,798	2,129,250	1,958,552	170,698
1998	52,376	1,525,444	1,547,052	(21,608)
	SHARES SOLD -----	PROCEEDS FROM SALES -----	ORIGINAL COST (FIFO) -----	REALIZED GAIN -----
2000	15,386	\$535,617	\$289,952	\$245,665
1999	10,671	217,449	173,431	44,018
1998	5,000	147,117	142,111	5,006

3. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right to terminate or to amend the Plan at any time. Upon dissolution or liquidation of the Company, or upon a reorganization, merger or consolidation of which the Company is not the surviving corporation, participants will be entitled to receive on the last day of the offering period the cash and/or securities determined to be owed as of the date of such transaction.

4. Income Tax Status of Plan

It is the intention of the Company to have the Plan qualify under Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). The provisions of the Plan have been construed to extend and limit participation in a manner consistent with the requirements of that section of the Code. Participating employees are subject to state and federal income tax on income derived from the Plan.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the members of the Administrative Committee of the Plan have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

EQUITABLE RESOURCES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
(Name of Plan)

By /s/ David L. Porges

David L. Porges
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

March 19, 2001