

MCDEP Income and Small Cap Weekly

Analysis of Oil & Gas Stocks October 14, 2011

#### **Enerplus Corporation (ERF)** Marcellus, Bakken and Canada with 8% a Year Income

Symbol	ERF	Ebitda Next Twelve Months ending 9/30/12 (US\$mm)	740
Rating	Contrarian Buy	North American Natural Gas/Ebitda (%)	28
Price (US\$/sh)	26.10	Natural Gas and Oil Production/Ebitda (%)	100
Pricing Date	10/13/11	Adjusted Reserves/Production NTM	8.3
Shares (mm)	180	EV/Ebitda	7.8
Market Capitalization (US\$mm)	4,690	PV/Ebitda	10.5
Debt (US\$mm)	1,080	Probable Reserves (%)	28
Enterprise Value (EV) (US\$mm)	5,760	Natural Gas and Oil Ebitda (US\$/boe)	31.00
Present Value (PV) (US\$mm)	7,720	Present Value Proven and Probable Reserves(US\$/boe)	31.50
Net Present Value (US\$/share)	37	Oil and Gas Ebitda Margin (%)	66
Debt/Present Value	0.14	Earnings Next Twelve Months (US\$/sh)	0.82
McDep Ratio - EV/PV	0.75	Price/Earnings Next Twelve Months	32
Dividend Yield (%/year)	8.1	Indicated Annual Dividend (US\$/sh)	2.12
Note: Estimated cash flow and	d earnings tied to o	one-year futures prices for oil and natural gas.	
Reported results may va	ry widely from est	imates. Estimated present value per share revised only infreq	uently.
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Estimated present value presumes a long-term price for oil of US\$100 a barrel and natural gas, \$8 a million btu.

#### **Summary and Recommendation**

Among our official buys **Enerplus Corporation (ERF)** offers the highest income yield at 8.1% and it has attractive resource potential in Appalachian Marcellus, North Dakota Bakken and Canada light oil. Debt is low and the distribution is amply covered by cash flow. Chief executive Gordon Kerr and his management have a solid record. The Marcellus formation appears to sustain attractive economics despite continued pressure on natural gas price. Crude oil price looks robust in the face of general investor pessimism. That keeps economics profitable for expanding oil production by Enerplus on the Native American lands in the Ft. Berthold reservation (see slide on page 2). The company's base asset in Canadian light oil shows increasing promise as the technological innovations advanced most in the U.S. are having a growing impact in the less-developed north. Little of the upside in Marcellus, Bakken and Canada light oil is reflected in estimated Net Present Value of \$37 a share tied primarily to reserves already booked (see tables Functional Cash Flow and Present Value on page 2 and Next Twelve Months Operating and Financial Estimates on page 3). ERF's low McDep Ratio of 0.75 is corroborated by its unlevered cash flow multiple (EV/Ebitda) of 7.8 times, the lowest of income-paying peers (see Tables 1-4 on pages 4-7). New commitments to a well-managed, high income payer with visible oil and gas volume growth seem especially appealing during current stock market weakness.

Kurt H. Wulff, CFA

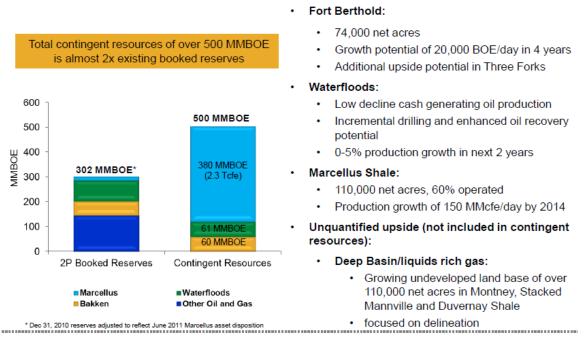


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### **Growth Potential**



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	Enerplus Corpor	ration						
Funct	tional Cash Flow and	l Present V	alue					
		Present						
	NTM Ebitda	Adjusted	PV/	Value				
	<u>(US\$mm)</u>	<u>R/P</u>	<u>Ebitda</u>	<u>(US\$mm)</u>				
North American Natural Gas	200	6.8	11.5	2,300	30%			
Oil	540	10.2	10.0	5,380	70%			
	740	8.3	10.4	7,680	100%			
Debt (US\$mm)					1,080			
Net Present Value (US\$mm)					6,600			
Shares (mm)					180			
Net Present Value - Standard Estimate (US\$/sh)								
NPV Approximation by Cash Flow Mu	ltiple Depending on R	eserve Life	(US\$/sh)		40			



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			Enerplus	Corporatio	n				
	Next T	welve Mo	nths Oper	ating and Fi	inancial E	stimates			
			-						Next
									Twelve
	Q3	Q2	Q3E	Q4E	Year	Q1E	Q2E	Q3E	Months
	9/30/10	6/30/11	9/30/11	12/31/11	2011E	3/31/12	6/30/12	9/30/12	9/30/12
Volume									
Natural Gas (mmcfd)	286	256	256	272	259	272	279	279	276
Oil (mbd)	35	33	33	35	33.4	35	36	36	35.2
Total (mb)	7.63	6.86	6.93	7.37	27.95	7.29	7.47	7.55	29.69
Total (mbd)	83.0	75.4	75.4	80.1	76.6	80.1	82.1	82.1	81.1
Price									
Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	4.38	4.32	4.19	3.71	4.08	4.01	4.02	4.11	3.96
Currency (US\$/C\$)	0.96	1.03	1.02	0.98	1.01	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98
Henry Hub (C\$/mmbtu)	4.55	4.18	4.11	3.79	4.03	4.09	4.10	4.20	4.04
Differential (\$/mmbtu)	0.88	0.32	0.31	0.29	0.27	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.31
Company (\$/mcf)	3.67	3.86	3.80	3.50	3.76	3.78	3.79	3.88	3.74
WTI Cushing (\$/bbl)	76.08	102.55	89.76	85.45	92.97	85.78	85.93	86.23	85.85
WTI Cushing (C\$/bbl)	79.05	99.21	87.94	87.18	91.84	87.51	87.67	87.97	87.58
Differential	14.21	10.86	9.63	9.55	11.83	9.58	11.29	11.33	10.44
Company (\$/bbl)	64.84	88.35	78.31	77.63	80.01	77.93	76.38	76.64	77.14
Total (\$/bbl)	40.24	51.44	46.88	45.58	47.65	46.65	46.00	46.43	46.17
Revenue (C\$mm)									
Natural Gas	97	90	89	88	355	94	96	100	377
Oil	211	263	236	248	976	247	248	251	994
Royalty	(56)	(62)	(57)	(59)	(237)	(60)	(60)	(62)	(241)
Total	251	291	268	277	1,095	280	283	289	1,130
Expense					,				,
Operating	78	68							
Other	21	25							
Total	99	93	90	93	359	94	95	97	379
Ebitda	152	198	178	184	736	186	188	192	751
Deprec., Deplet., & Amort.	167	104	105	112	421	110	113	114	448
Other Non Cash	(5)	(283)			(260)				-
Ebit	(10)	377	73	72	575	77	76	78	303
Interest	8	18	18	18	68	18	18	18	72
Ebt	(18)	359	55	54	507	59	58	60	231
Income Tax	(34)	90	19	19	138	20	20	21	81
Net Income (\$mm)	16	269	36	35	369	38	38	39	150
Per Share (\$)	0.09	1.50	0.20	0.20	2.06	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.84
Shares (millions)	178	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
Distributions (\$mm)	96	97	97	97	388	97	97	97	388
Per Share (\$)	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	2.16	0.54	0.54	0.54	2.16
Ebitda Margin	61%	68%	66%	66%	67%	66%	66%	66%	66%
Tax rate	189%	25%	35%	35%	5.70	35%	35%	35%	35%



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				Table IS			_				
McI	Dep In	ico	me and	Small	Cap Ene	rgy I	Portf	olio			
Debt, Se	egmei	nts	, Cash l	F <mark>low, I</mark>	ncome ai	nd M	<b>cDe</b> ]	p Ratio	0		
			Price								
Svm	hol/Rat	ino	(US\$/sh)	EV/	Enterprise	PV	%)	EV/	Dist.	Dist.	
Sym	B = 1	0	13-Oct	Market	Value	Nat	/0]	Ebitda	NTM	Yield	McDep
СВ	(see bel	2	2011	Сар	(\$ <i>mm</i> )	Gas	Oil	NTM	(\$/un)	(%)	Ratic
Small Cap Independent Producer		P	60.44	1.10	10.070	60	1	15.1	0.1.6	0.0	0.00
Range Resources	RRC	B	68.44	1.18	12,860	69	31	17.1	0.16	0.2	0.98
Peyto Exploration and Developmen			20.50	1.18	3,230	76	24	10.1	0.74	3.6	0.87
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	BIREF	В	13.25	1.21	2,110	55	45	13.0	-	-	0.86
Berry Petroleum Company	BRY		39.28	1.69	3,640	23	77	7.2	0.30	0.8	0.68
Denbury Resources Inc.	DNR		13.47	1.43	7,800	5	95	6.5	-	-	0.57
Cimarex Energy Company	XEC	CB		1.15	5,730	46	54	4.8	0.40	0.7	0.52
Whiting Petroleum Corporation	WLL	CB	38.07	1.35	6,130	11	89	4.2	-	-	0.50
Total or Median					41,500			7.2			0.68
Top Line Cash Payers											
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		46.75	1.00	280	87	13		2.86	6.1	1.04
Sabine Royalty Trust	SBR		64.62	1.00	940	51	49		4.09	6.3	0.92
Permian Basin RT	PBT		19.60	1.00	910	42	58		1.42	7.2	0.89
Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	DMLP	CB	25.03	1.00	770	61	39		1.61	6.4	0.83
Freehold Royalties Ltd.	FRHLF		16.55	1.07	1,040	18	82		1.62	9.8	0.76
Total or Median					3,900					6.4	0.89
Bottom Line Cash Payers											
Linn Energy, LLC	LINE		37.19	1.47	9,640	31	69	16.1	2.76	7.4	1.06
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust	HGT		21.91	1.00	880	88	13	15.6	1.27	5.8	1.00
Vanguard Natural Resources, LLC	VNR		26.17	1.48	1,980	23	77	10.9	2.30	8.8	0.98
Legacy Reserves L.P.	LGCY		27.80	1.47	1,780	21	79	9.8	2.16	7.8	0.95
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	CB		1.00	1,100	100	-	14.2	1.30	5.5	0.94
Mesa RoyaltyTrust	MTR		43.00	1.00	80	75	25	12.2	2.95	6.9	0.81
Enerplus Corporation	ERF	CB		1.23	5,800	30	70	7.8	2.12	8.1	0.75
Total or Median	Litt		20.10	1.23	21,300	50	70	12.2	2.12	7.4	0.95
Composite											
Enterprise Value Weighting					66 700	39	61				0.75
1 0 0					66,700	39 48	52				0.75
Equal Weighting						48 47	52 53				
Equal Weighted Buys						47	33				0.78

CB=Contrarian Buy, Stock Price apparently in downtrend compared to 200-day average.

McDep Ratio = Market cap and Debt to present value of oil and gas and other businesses.

Present Value (PV) presumes long-term prices of \$100 a barrel for oil and \$8 a million btu for natural gas.

Dist. = Income distribution. NTM = Next Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2012. Enterprise Value = Market Cap and Debt.



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		Tab	le ISC-2					
McDep Inco	ome an	d Sr	nall Ca	p Ener	gy Port	folio		
Net Pi	esent `	Valu	e and l	McDep	Ratio			
			Price			Net		
			(\$/sh)		Market	Present	Debt/	
	Symbol/		13-Oct	Shares	Cap	Value	Present	McDep
	Ra	ting	2011	(mm)	(\$mm)	(\$/un)	Value	Ratio
Small Cap Independent Producers								
Range Resources	RRC	В	68.44	159.0	10,880	70.00	0.15	0.98
Peyto Exploration and Development Cor			20.50	133.1	2,730	24.00	0.13	0.90
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	BIREF	В	13.25	131.0	1,740	16.00	0.14	0.86
Berry Petroleum Company	BRY	_	39.28	54.7	2,150	70.00	0.28	0.68
Denbury Resources Inc.	DNR		13.47	404.0	5,440	28.00	0.17	0.57
Cimarex Energy Company	XEC	CB	58.04	86.1	5,000	120.00	0.07	0.52
Whiting Petroleum Corporation	WLL	CB	38.07	119.0	4,530	90.00	0.13	0.50
Total or Median					32,470		0.15	0.68
Top Line Cash Payers								
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		46.75	6.0	280	45.00	-	1.04
Sabine Royalty Trust	SBR		64.62	14.6	940	70.00	-	0.92
Permian Basin RT	PBT		19.60	46.6	910	22.00	-	0.92
Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	DMLP	CB	25.03	30.7	770	30.00	_	0.83
Freehold Royalties Ltd.	FRHLF	СD	16.55	59.1	980	22.00	0.05	0.05
Total or Median			10.55	57.1	3,880	22.00	0.05	0.89
Pottom Line Cook Douong								
Bottom Line Cash Payers Linn Energy, LLC	LINE		37.19	176.0	6,550	34.00	0.34	1.06
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust	HGT		21.91	40.0	880	22.00	- 0.54	1.00
Vanguard Natural Resources, LLC	VNR		26.17	51.1	1,340	22.00	0.32	0.98
Legacy Reserves L.P.	LGCY		27.80	43.6	1,340	30.00	0.32	0.98
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	CB	27.80	45.6	1,210	25.00	0.50	0.93
Mesa RoyaltyTrust	MTR	CD	43.00	46.6	1,100	53.00	-	0.94
Enerplus Corporation	ERF	CB	26.10	1.9	4,690	37.00	0.14	0.81
Total or Median		СБ	20.10	179.0	15,850	57.00	0.14	0.75
								5.70
B=Buy; CB=Contrarian Buy, Stock Price								
McDep Ratio = Market cap and Debt to p Present Value presumes long-term price							~ ~ ~	



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		Tab	le ISC-3	6				
McDep Inco	ome an	d S	mall C	ap Enei	rgy Poi	tfolio		
Value	Multip	les ·	· Rank	by EV/	Ebitda			
			D '			A 1° / 1		
			Price	Revenue	Dist/	Adjstd Resrvs/	PV/	EV
	C1 1/							
	Symbol/		13-Oct 2011	Royalty	Equity	Prod	Ebitda NTM	Ebitda NTM
	ка	ting	2011	(%)	Ebitda	NTM	IN 1 IV1	1111
Small Cap Independent Producers								
Range Resources	RRC	В	68.44		-	14.4	17.4	17.1
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	BIREF	В	13.25		-	20.3	15.2	13.0
Peyto Exploration and Development Corr	PEYUF		20.50		0.35	13.6	11.5	10.1
Berry Petroleum Company	BRY		39.28		-	11.9	10.6	7.2
Denbury Resources Inc.	DNR		13.47		-	13.4	11.4	6.5
Cimarex Energy Company	XEC	CB	58.04		-	6.8	9.2	4.8
Whiting Petroleum Corporation	WLL	CB	38.07		-	8.7	8.4	4.2
Median						13.4	11.4	7.2
Top Line Cash Payers								
Sabine Royalty Trust	SBR		64.62	100	1.00	7.4	17.1	15.8
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		46.75	80	0.97	13.9	15.2	15.8
Permian Basin RT	PBT		19.60	32	0.98	16.5	15.2	13.6
Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	DMLP	CB	25.03	77	0.84	6.6	15.7	13.0
Freehold Royalties Ltd.	FRHLF	0.0	16.55	71	0.93	6.6	12.6	9.6
Median			10.000		0170	7.4	15.2	13.6
Bottom Line Cash Payers								
Linn Energy, LLC	LINE		37.19		1.23	17.1	15.2	16.1
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust	HGT		21.91		0.90	13.9	15.6	15.6
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	CB	23.51		0.78	8.6	15.0	14.2
Mesa RoyaltyTrust	MTR		43.00		0.84	14.5	15.1	12.2
Vanguard Natural Resources, LLC	VNR		26.17		0.95	8.8	11.1	10.9
Legacy Reserves L.P.	LGCY		27.80		0.75	10.2	10.4	9.8
Enerplus Corporation	ERF	CB	26.10		0.60	8.3	10.5	7.8
Median						10.2	15.0	12.2
B=Buy; CB=Contrarian Buy, Stock Price	annarentl	v in d	owntrend	compared	to 200-ds	v average		
EV = Enterprise Value = Market Cap and							n	
and amortization; $NTM = Next Twelve Met$							/11	
Earnings; $PV = Present Value of oil and g$					, <u>D</u> = 5100			
Top Line Cash Payers defined as those ha				ee fifth co	lumn fron	right)		

Top Line Cash Payers defined as those having Revenue Royalty (see fifth column from right).



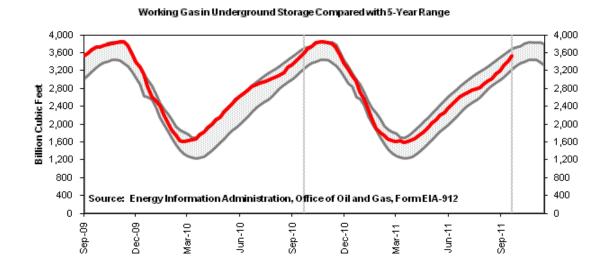
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		Tal	ole ISC-4					
Oil and Oil	Gas Inc	com	e and S	Small C	Cap Stoc	ks		
Rank by E	Interpr	ise V	Value t	o 200 I	Day Ave	rage		
			Price					
			(\$/sh)		Enterpris			
	Symbol/		13-Oct	52Wk	52Wk	50 Day	200 Day	McDep
	Ra	ting	2011	High	Low	Avg.	Avg.	Ratio
Small Cap Independent Producers								
Range Resources	RRC	В	68.44	0.90	1.70	1.10	1.20	0.98
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	BIREF	В	13.25	0.90	1.54	1.05	1.06	0.86
Peyto Exploration and Development C	PEYUF		20.50	0.84	1.31	0.97	0.99	0.87
Berry Petroleum Company	BRY		39.28	0.75	1.15	0.93	0.88	0.68
Denbury Resources Inc.	DNR		13.47	0.61	1.20	0.97	0.77	0.57
Whiting Petroleum Corporation	WLL	CB	38.07	0.58	1.22	0.91	0.72	0.50
Cimarex Energy Company	XEC	CB	58.04	0.53	1.12	0.92	0.67	0.52
Median				0.75	1.22	0.97	0.88	0.68
Top Line Cash Payers								
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		46.75	0.97	1.28	1.05	1.06	1.04
Sabine Royalty Trust	SBR		64.62	0.92	1.36	1.05	1.02	0.92
Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	DMLP	CB	25.03	0.83	1.20	1.04	0.94	0.83
Permian Basin RT	PBT		19.60	0.83	1.09	0.92	0.91	0.89
Freehold Royalties Ltd.	FRHLF		16.55	0.69	1.20	0.94	0.81	0.76
Median				0.83	1.20	1.04	0.94	0.89
Bottom Line Cash Payers								
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust	HGT		21.91	0.89	1.14	1.00	0.99	1.00
Linn Energy, LLC	LINE		37.19	0.93	1.13	1.01	0.98	1.06
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	CB	23.51	0.84	1.15	1.00	0.97	0.94
Legacy Reserves L.P.	LGCY		27.80	0.87	1.17	1.03	0.97	0.95
Mesa RoyaltyTrust	MTR		43.00	0.84	1.10	0.97	0.93	0.81
Vanguard Natural Resources, LLC	VNR		26.17	0.84	1.12	0.98	0.92	0.98
Enerplus Corporation	ERF	CB	26.10	0.82	1.16	0.98	0.89	0.75
Median				0.84	1.14	1.00	0.97	0.95
CB=Contrarian Buy, Stock Price appar	rently in do	owntr	end comp	ared to 20	0-day avera	ge.		



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**Disclaimer:** This analysis was prepared by Kurt Wulff, Manager of McDep LLC. The firm used sources and data believed to be reliable, but makes no representation as to their accuracy or completeness. This analysis is intended for informational purposes and is not a solicitation to buy or sell a security. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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**Research Methodology/Ratings Description:** McDep LLC is an independent research originator focused on oil and gas stocks exclusively. The firm applies the forty years of experience of its analyst to estimate a present value of the oil and gas resources and other businesses of covered companies. That value is compared with a company's stock market capitalization and debt. Stocks with low market cap and debt relative to present value tend to outperform stocks with high market cap and debt relative to present value. Buy recommendations are expected to deliver a total return better than 7% per year above inflation. Hold recommendations assume the attributes of the underlying business are reflected in the current price of the stock. Sell recommendations are expected to deliver a total return less than inflation.