

Midstream/MLP Energy

Year Ahead 2024: Prefer large-caps, FCF inflection stories as commodities weaken

Price Objective Change

Leaning defensive w/ large cap, FCF inflection stocks

We expect '24 to be a weak year for NGL/natural gas prices. And as such, we prefer well capitalized, large-cap stocks with stable earnings growth through operating leverage/high FCF (ET), contractual growth (EPD and WMB), and FCF inflection stories (OKE and TRGP). These stocks have defensive characteristics like internal hedges along the NGL chains (ET, EPD and TRGP) or contracted systems (WMB take or pay gas pipelines and OKE's acquired refined products system). And with high FCF yields and growing distributions, these should outperform in a decreasing interest rate environment. We update our POs for PAGP and TRGP in this report (see page 5).

OKE our top C-Corp pick and ET our top MLP pick

We upgraded OKE to Buy in Dec with a PO of \$83. We still believe OKE's transition to a more stable FCF story is underappreciated. We expect OKE to deliver 5% dividend growth and \$5n of FCFaD through '27, hitting its targeted leverage ratio of <3.5x in '24 (2 years early). Later in January, we expect OKE to announce its '24 dividend increase. We believe a share repurchase authorization could be announced with the dividend increase, which most investors aren't expecting. ET has operating leverage with the most expansive asset footprint in midstream and still trades at a group low 6.8x '25 EBITDA and 14% FCF yield. We see continued wellhead to water Permian growth and Haynesville gas opportunities.

Expect continued POP weakness from NGL/gas prices

We update our differentiated POP (percent-of-proceeds) indicator following the fall-off in crude/NGL/gas prices. We indicated in Sept. that heavy NGLs were oversupplied in the U.S. and Asian demand was weakening. Since then, crude prices have fallen ~\$10/bbl and '24 propane/WTI is testing historical lows at 40%. Concurrently, lower gas prices provide less downside support for ethane prices, which are back in balance after a 2H23 deficit. So now POPs are lower y/y and fee floors will be tested with G&P contracts. Hence, why we prefer integrated NGL names: EPD, ET, OKE & TRGP that have internal hedges.

A full Permian NGL takeaway primer for '25+

We see a battle for Permian NGL takeaway as >1 MMbpd of new pipe capacity comes online in '25 oversupplying the market, as EPD/ET/OKE/TRGP all bid for in-kind volumes and expiring contracts, lowering rates. We describe the nuances of closed-loop systems, in-kind rights, and "fake in-kind" rights with the characteristics and producers on each system. Ultimately, TRGP is the best situated with ~70% of volumes on its pipelines sourced by midstream controlled G&P volumes with ET and EPD lower at ~55%. We think OKE converts one of its WestTex pipes to refined products service over time.

ET continues to take market share in the Haynesville

ET is challenging right of ways for competitor gathering lines that move gas to the LNG corridor. But the only pipe that is needed in late '24 is the already built Gulf Run pipe supplying gas to Golden Pass LNG under contract. And we believe Gulf Run will also supply the CP2 LNG facility, which we believe is sanctioned next. Lastly, ET owns most available East & Northbound egress. WMB's recent gas storage acquisition in LA is timely given the lack of new storage relative to new LNG.

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Exhibit 1: BofA POs

NGL/gas volume growth benefiting intg'd names

Ticker	Rating	PO
C-Corp		
ETRN	Underperform	\$9
KMI	Neutral	\$19
KNTK	Buy	\$39
KGS	Buy	\$29
OKE	Buy	\$83
PAGP	Neutral	\$17
TRGP	Buy	\$104
WMB	Buy	\$41
MLP		
EPD	Buy	\$31
ET	Buy	\$18
MPLX	Underperform	\$36
PAA	Neutral	\$17
WES	Underperform	\$27

Source: BofA Global Research

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NGL: Natural gas liquids

ET: Energy Transfer LP

EPD: Enterprise Products Partners

WMB: Williams Companies Inc.

OKE: Oneok Inc.

TRGP: Targa Resources Corp.

G&P: Gathering & processing

WestTex: West Texas NGL

LNG: Liquefied natural gas

CP2: Calcasieu Pass 2

LA: Louisiana

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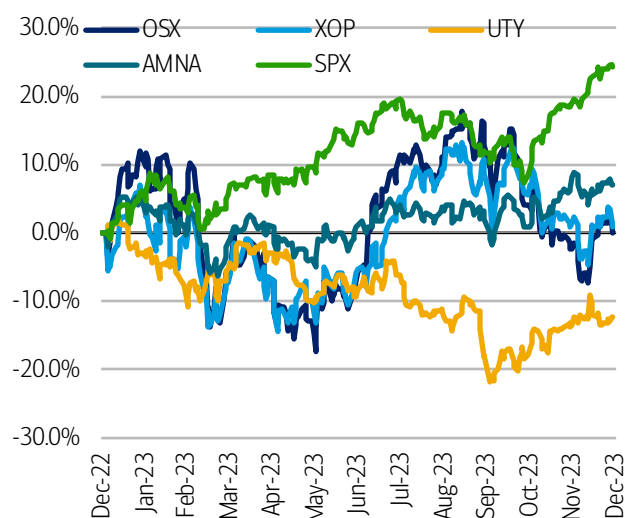
'24 Midstream Equity Outlook

Prefer large cap FCF stories and/or contractual growth

'23 saw energy underperform the broader markets, as commodity markets retreated off '22 highs. Pockets of high energy prices, during the middle part of '23, caused the XOP and OSX to outperform midstream (AMNA) until 4Q, when commodity prices began to fall. So, in 4Q, the AMNA began to outperform broader energy, given its more stable earnings and strong yields, in a falling interest rate environment. Midstream trades as a hybrid between energy (more so) and utilities. And in a weak energy environment, we prefer well-capitalized, large-cap stocks with stable earnings growth through operating leverage/high FCF (ET), contractual growth (EPD and WMB), and FCF inflection stories (OKE and TRGP). These stocks have defensive characteristics like internal hedges along the NGL chains (ET, EPD and TRGP) or contracted systems (WMB take or pay gas pipelines and OKE's refined products system).

Exhibit 2: '23 stock performance of energy subsectors vs. S&P 500

Energy has generally outperformed the S&P 500, with AMNA holding strong among commodity price volatility

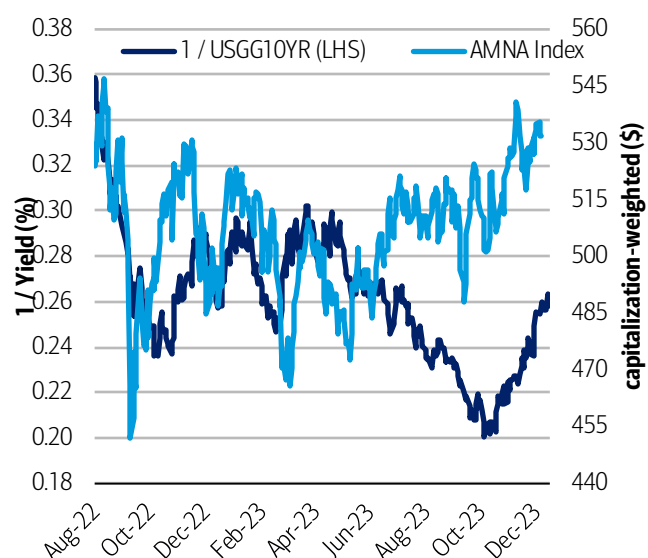


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 3: AMNA vs. 10-year Treasury

Yield characteristics impact stock prices esp. in weak energy market



Source: Bloomberg

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Top Picks

Our top C-Corp pick is Oneok (OKE) and our top MLP pick is Energy Transfer (ET).

We upgraded **OKE** to a Buy with an \$83 PO with a detailed report ([ONEOK Inc: Tulsa cash king: Upgrading OKE to Buy and \\$83 PO as deal synergies trend up 04 December 2023](#)) in early December. Key takeaways:

- We expect OKE to realize \$600mm+ of commercial synergies over the next 4 years with minimal capex, creating massive operating leverage. OKE should lower costs and expand MMP's butane blending business through pipeline system integration and last mile tracking. Batching will create market-based opportunities.
- OKE becomes a FCF inflection story. We see OKE delevering to 3.4x by YE24, 2 years ahead of schedule, establishing a 5% dividend growth rate, and generating \$5bn of FCFaD through '27. We see OKE trading at >9% '25 FCF yield, highest among the large cap C-Corps.
- The Magellan system provides a defensive hedge in a weak commodity environment. The butane blending operation provides an internal hedge against weak LPG prices.



Key Catalyst: We expect OKE to announce a 5% dividend increase at the end of January and likely a share repurchase, at the same time.

ET continues to generate best-in-class FCF while growing earnings through its operating leverage. Despite ET having the most expansive midstream footprint in our coverage group, it trades at a group low 6.8x '25 EBITDA multiple and 14% FCF yield.

- ET sees the full benefit of projects in '24 put into service in mid '23, especially Permian NGL infrastructure. It will expand its Nederland NGL export facility in '25. The Lone Star NGL pipeline still has ~2 years before needing to expand. And it can compete for volumes, even with the NGL pipe overbuild. Demonstrating ET's geographical diversity, NGL rates on legacy ENBL Mid-Con acreage fall, as new 3rd party incentivized transportation rates are put in place and ET can put the volumes on its fractionators.
- The Haynesville position is best-in-class and the Gulf Run system is a first mover, moving gas south to the Golden Pass facility in '24/'25. We believe that the next LNG facility sanctioned is Venture Global CP2, and Gulf Run will likely source that facility from the Haynesville ([Midstream/MLP Energy: Too much LNG demand..not enough Permian gas and pipes 30 October 2023](#)). Finally, ET owns the majority of east and northbound available egress in the basin.
- 9% distribution yield + 3%-5% annual growth and opportunistic unit repurchases.
- Our '24/'25 EBITDA estimates increase to \$14.6bn/\$15.1bn. The decline in '24 Permian POPs moderates our '24 expectation.

Other top picks

WMB remains a '25+ contracted growth story. Following its DJ/Cureton and Gulf Coast storage acquisitions, our '25 updated EBITDA estimate is still ~\$140mm above consensus expectations. And we believe that the Street is failing to capture the value of '27+ Transco expansions associated with utility demand from the Mountain Valley pipeline coming online (we capture in our DCF analysis). Last quarter, WMB increased the scope of its Southeast Supply Enhancement project to 1.43 Bcf/d from 423 MMcf/d in its previous update. And because Transco has almost no latent capacity at and around the 165 interconnect, we see up to 0.5-0.6 Bcf/d of additional utility contracts announced.

- **Key Catalyst:** WMB will host an analyst day on Feb 13-14th providing a 2-year outlook. We believe that will help investors understand the '25+ contracted EBITDA opportunity. And capex will moderate in '25 given the surge of new projects coming online in '24. We do not expect WMB to make a corporate acquisition near term, now that leverage will trend up to 3.9x in '24 following its 2 acquisitions.

TRGP becomes a FCF inflection story. Heavy capex needs in '23/'24 (we expect '23/'24 capex should be near \$2.2bn) but an inflection in '25 when we see capex under \$1.5bn. And following that, we expect an average capex spend of \$1.5bn going forward. With that, we see TRGP's FCF yield increasing from breakeven to ~9% in '25. Hence, why TRGP is increasing its dividend 50% in '24.

- **Key Catalyst:** TRGP will provide a '25 capex outlook and a longer-term average. The longer-term average we expect to be ~\$1.5bn, which includes 2 processing plants each year (1 in the Midland and 1 in the Delaware) and half of the spend for a fractionator. Note we revised our FY24 EBITDA estimate down to \$3,773mm, which is 2.5% below consensus, as we moderate inlet Permian growth volumes for 4Q23 and FY24 (high single digits).

Due to lower estimates, partially offset by lower long-term capex, we lower our PO to \$104 from \$105.

EPD owns the largest NGL downstream network in midstream with the most LPG/ethane export capacity and NGL storage. As such, it has internal hedges from lower commodity prices, as the arb for exports opens and more storage is utilized. And our '24/'25 EBITDA estimates are above consensus.

Note we increase our PAGP PO to \$17, in-line with PAA.

Many of our estimates are unchanged, so our EBITDA estimates for '23/'24/'25 only are changing by 0.2%/1.4%/2.1%, on average. Estimate changes are included for EPD, ET, TRGP, KGS, and PAGP, and WMB. The largest change was KGS (2%/16%/28% change) in which we incorporated its [CSI acquisition](#). So, our KGS EBITDA estimates now sit at \$443mm/\$548mm/\$661mm for '23/'24/'25. Overall, our estimate changes put us 0.3%/0.8%/1.8% above consensus in '23/'24/'25 on average. The consensus gaps are attributed largely to OKE, where we are 3.7%/6.3%/6.9% above consensus in '23/'24/'25, and KGS where we are 1.4%/13.7%/23.8% above consensus in '23/'24/'25. The incorporation of the CSI acquisition put our KGS estimates largely above consensus in '24 and '25. While most of our POs are unchanged, we do have two PO changes, which include PAGP that goes from \$16 to \$17 (6.3% change) on slightly higher estimates and TRGP which goes from \$105 to \$104 (1% change) on slightly lower estimates, after adjusting down our projected inlet volumes.

Updated POs and Estimates

Exhibit 4: BofA updated POs and estimates

We are above consensus in '23 / '24 / '25 by 0.3% / 0.8% / 1.8%

Ticker	Price	PO	Rating	2023E				2024E				2025E			
				EBITDA (\$mm)				EBITDA (\$mm)				EBITDA (\$mm)			
				BofAe	Cons.	Guidance	BofA v. Cons.	BofAe	Cons.	BofA v. Cons.		BofAe	Cons.	BofA v. Cons.	
C-Corp															
KMI	\$17.95	\$19	Neutral	\$7,654	\$7,630	\$8,000	0.3%	\$8,067	\$8,067	0.0%		\$8,203	\$8,220	-0.2%	
ETRN	\$10.35	\$9	Underperform	\$1,057	\$1,040	\$1,020-\$1,040	1.7%	\$1,364	\$1,350	1.1%		\$1,526	\$1,446	5.6%	
KGS	\$20.29	\$29	Buy	\$443	\$437	\$430-\$440	1.4%	\$548	\$482	13.7%		\$661	\$534	23.8%	
KNTK	\$32.49	\$39	Buy	\$835	\$843	\$820-\$860	-0.9%	\$926	\$955	-3.0%		\$983	\$1,011	-2.7%	
OKE	\$70.87	\$83	Buy	\$5,342	\$5,152	\$4,675-\$4,800	3.7%	\$6,290	\$5,916	6.3%		\$6,628	\$6,198	6.9%	
PAGP	\$16.15	\$17	Neutral	\$2,638	\$2,641	NA	-0.1%	\$2,678	\$2,749	-2.6%		\$2,630	\$2,756	-4.6%	
TRGP	\$86.25	\$104	Buy	\$3,501	\$3,537	\$3,500-\$3,700	-1.0%	\$3,773	\$3,867	-2.4%		\$4,162	\$4,254	-2.2%	
WMB	\$35.82	\$41	Buy	\$6,725	\$6,747	\$6,600-\$6,800	-0.3%	\$6,954	\$6,940	0.2%		\$7,571	\$7,435	1.8%	
MLPs															
EPD	\$26.78	\$31	Buy	\$9,303	\$9,279	NA	0.3%	\$9,747	\$9,673	0.8%		\$10,097	\$10,015	0.8%	
ET	\$13.87	\$18	Buy	\$13,585	\$13,631	\$13,500-\$13,600	-0.3%	\$14,548	\$14,661	-0.8%		\$15,147	\$15,079	0.5%	
MPLX	\$36.85	\$36	Underperform	\$6,176	\$6,200	NA	-0.4%	\$6,182	\$6,360	-2.8%		\$6,374	\$6,442	-1.1%	
PAA	\$15.31	\$17	Neutral	\$2,638	\$2,637	\$2,600-\$2,650	0.0%	\$2,678	\$2,676	0.1%		\$2,630	\$2,697	-2.5%	
WES	\$28.48	\$27	Underperform	\$2,050	\$2,048	\$1,950-\$2,050	0.1%	\$2,272	\$2,290	-0.8%		\$2,309	\$2,364	-2.3%	

Source: Visible Alpha, Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 5: EV/EBITDA multiples

C-Corps are trading at a premium to MLPs

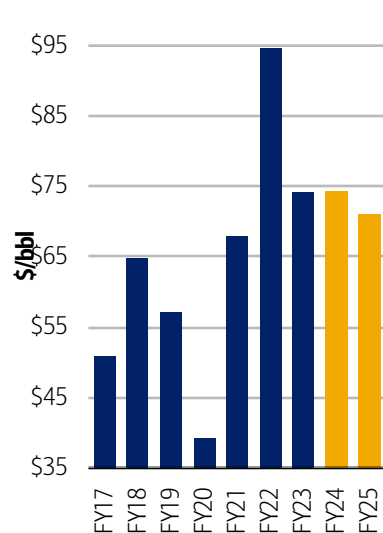
Company Name	BofA Comparable EV/EBITDA Multiples				Cons EV/EBITDA Multiples				BofA FCF Yield (Levered)				Cons FCF Yield (Levered)			
	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
C-Corp																
Kinder Morgan	10.0x	9.9x	9.4x	9.2x	10.1x	9.8x	9.3x	9.1x	7.9%	7.5%	8.5%	8.6%	7.4%	7.1%	8.1%	8.6%
Equitrans Midstream	10.9x	11.0x	8.5x	7.6x	11.0x	11.2x	8.6x	8.0x	8.6%	-4.3%	7.2%	16.2%	7.9%	-4.8%	7.5%	17.1%
Kinetik Holdings Inc	9.9x	9.8x	8.8x	8.3x	10.0x	9.7x	8.6x	8.1x	7.3%	-0.1%	13.4%	14.6%	N/A	1.0%	12.3%	11.0%
Kodiak Gas Services	NA	7.6x	7.0x	6.4x	NA	7.6x	6.9x	6.2x	NA	3.6%	4.9%	5.5%	NA	4.6%	6.8%	4.2%
ONEOK	17.9x	12.1x	10.3x	9.8x	18.0x	12.6x	11.0x	10.5x	4.0%	5.2%	6.7%	9.3%	2.4%	5.6%	6.4%	8.2%
Targa Resources	10.9x	8.8x	8.1x	7.4x	11.0x	9.0x	8.2x	7.5x	3.7%	-0.8%	4.7%	8.7%	-5.8%	2.5%	3.1%	8.2%
The Williams Companies	10.9x	10.2x	9.7x	8.9x	10.5x	9.9x	9.6x	9.0x	5.3%	5.6%	6.5%	8.1%	5.9%	5.9%	7.0%	8.3%
Average	11.8x	9.9x	8.8x	8.2x	11.8x	10.0x	8.9x	8.3x	6.1%	2.4%	7.4%	10.2%	3.6%	3.2%	7.3%	9.4%
MLPs																
Enterprise Products Partners	9.6x	9.7x	9.3x	8.9x	9.6x	9.5x	9.1x	8.8x	10.3%	6.6%	6.5%	10.2%	7.7%	7.5%	8.0%	9.9%
Energy Transfer	7.9x	7.5x	7.0x	6.8x	7.1x	6.7x	6.2x	6.1x	9.5%	13.6%	12.9%	13.9%	14.7%	12.1%	15.6%	16.3%
MPLX LP	9.9x	9.3x	9.2x	9.0x	9.9x	9.2x	9.0x	8.9x	10.2%	10.8%	11.4%	11.5%	9.5%	11.6%	11.5%	11.8%
Plains All American Pipeline	8.2x	7.7x	7.6x	7.7x	8.6x	8.0x	7.9x	7.8x	16.0%	12.6%	14.7%	14.3%	14.3%	12.1%	15.4%	13.8%
Western Midstream Partners	8.8x	9.1x	8.2x	8.1x	8.7x	9.1x	8.1x	7.9x	11.2%	8.3%	9.4%	13.4%	10.8%	8.6%	11.1%	13.9%
Average	8.9x	8.6x	8.3x	8.1x	8.8x	8.5x	8.1x	7.9x	11.4%	10.4%	11.0%	12.6%	11.4%	10.4%	12.3%	13.1%

Source: Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

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'24 Commodity Outlook: Crude, Natural Gas, and especially NGLs**Exhibit 6: WTI Cushing avg. annual prices**

'23 oil price retreats from highs reached in '22

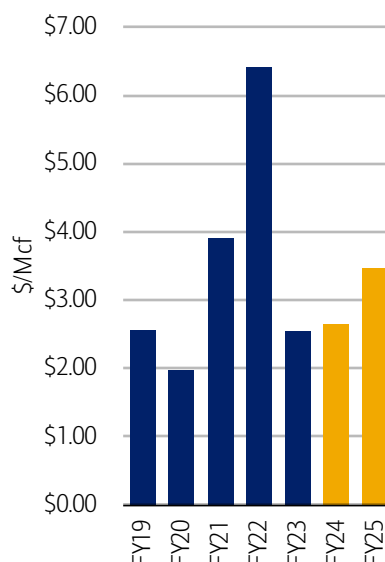


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 7: Henry Hub avg. annual prices

Elevated production pressures prices in '24

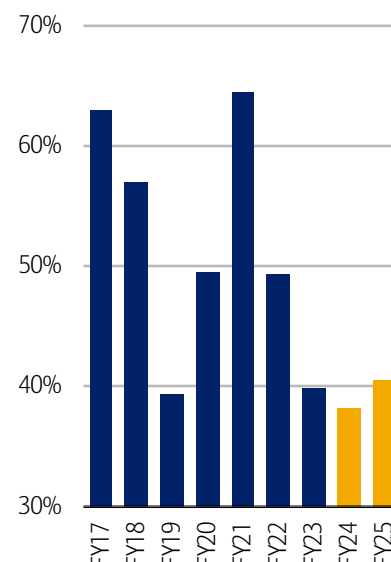


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 8: Propane-WTI ratio

Oversupply in global market



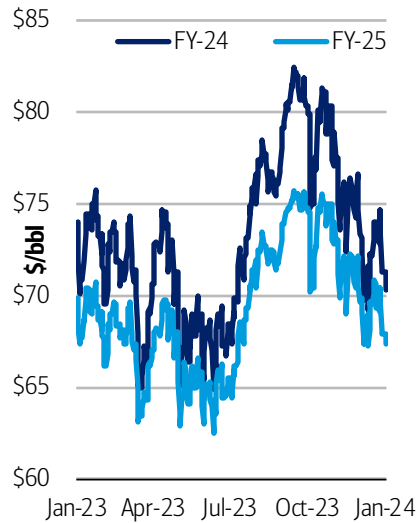
Source: Bloomberg

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Crude – '24 WTI prices now sits at \$73/bbl. Concerns over global demand and rising U.S. production caused the '24 strip to fall from its highs of \$82/bbl in mid-September. We expect OPEC+ to cut production at its next meeting and there are several geopolitical events that could provide support to crude pricing. That said, when OPEC+ has plenty of spare production on the sidelines and prices are still weak, it is indicative of a weaker market environment. Rig efficiencies in the Permian will allow growth to exit '23 with growth of ~400 Mbpd despite 2 quarters of flat volumes due to heat issues and a declining rig count. And we expect the Permian to grow ~300 Mbpd in '24, despite the rig count falling ~50 units from April highs.

Exhibit 9: Forward crude prices

WTI off >\$80 highs

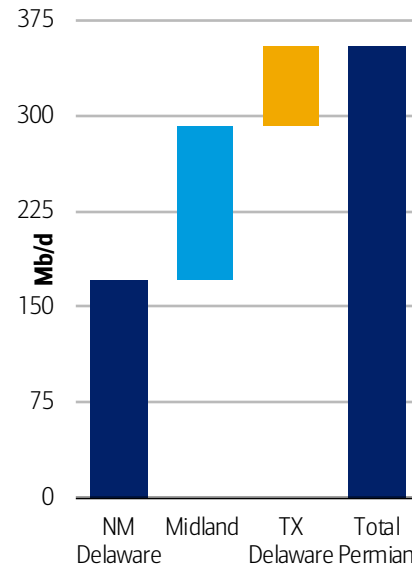


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 10: Permian '24 exit growth

Driven by 4Q growth

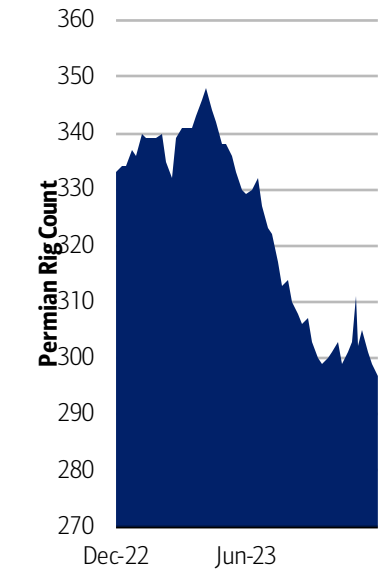


Source: S&P Capital Markets

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Exhibit 11: Permian rig count

Down 50 from '23 highs



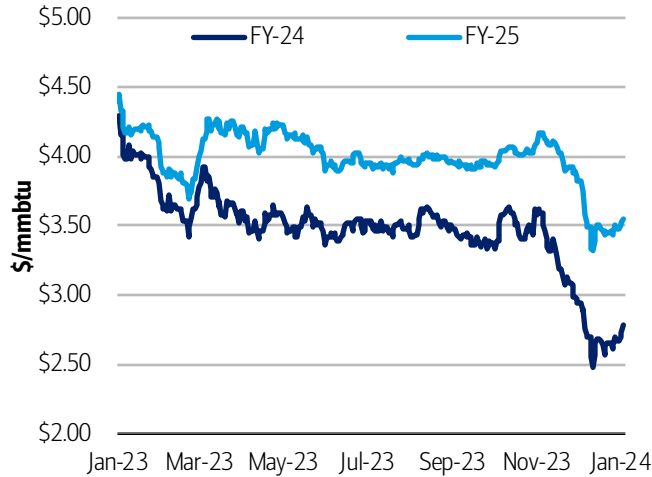
Source: Rystad

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Natural Gas – At our conference [Global Energy Conference](#) in November, a key topic was a sudden supply-push across the L48. Data providers noted a near 3 Bcf/d increase in gas production from 102 Bcf/d in October to 105 Bcf/d in November (Exhibit 12) driven by growth across the Permian, Northeast, and Mid-Con. While a 3 Bcf/d increase is suspect, we believe at least half of that growth (1.5 Bcf/d) is real, especially since the Permian turned-in-line a disproportionate amount of wells in the 4th quarter, given the heat-related infrastructure constraints. That supply-push combined with a mild winter to date has oversupplied the gas market. And Golden Pass likely comes online in '25 (see LNG section), pushing the gas demand-pull into '25, as Plaquemines is the only LNG facility to come online in '24.

Exhibit 12: Forward natural gas prices

'24 forward prices plunged after Nov. production surged

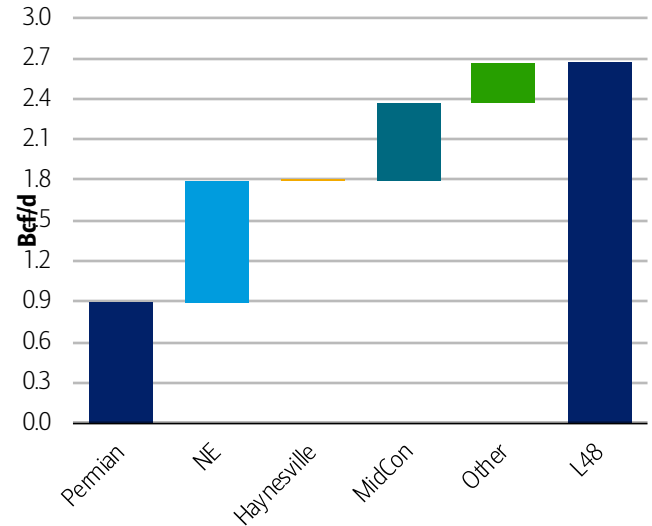


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 13: M/m surge production

Data notes a 3 Bcf/d surge (1.5 Bcf/d BofA risked) m/m in Nov.



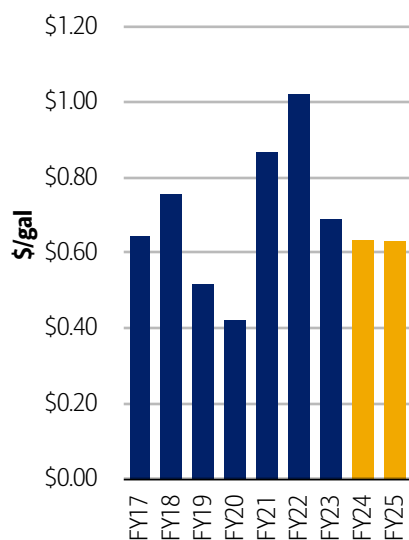
Source: S&P Capital Markets

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NGLs – NGL prices are expected to be in-line with '23. But this was not the case a mere quarter ago. Forward '24 NGL prices are 15% lower than mid-September highs underperforming WTI crude prices that are 10% lower, during the same period. Ethane is down 25% during the same period given the 30% decrease in gas prices. And propane is down 20%, underperforming WTI, as Asian demand for U.S. propane has decreased, lowering Mont Belvieu pricing and keeping the arb open and volumes flowing overseas. The OPEC+ supply cuts have helped already weak U.S. pricing, as Middle East exports (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and most recently Iran) are being replaced by U.S. exports. And later in the year, we expect LPG volumes to approach dock capacity, causing a further decoupling vs. WTI, as domestic consumption of LPGs is maxed out causing stranded barrels in the U.S.

Exhibit 14: MB NGL avg. annual prices

'24 NGL forward prices aligned with '23 prices

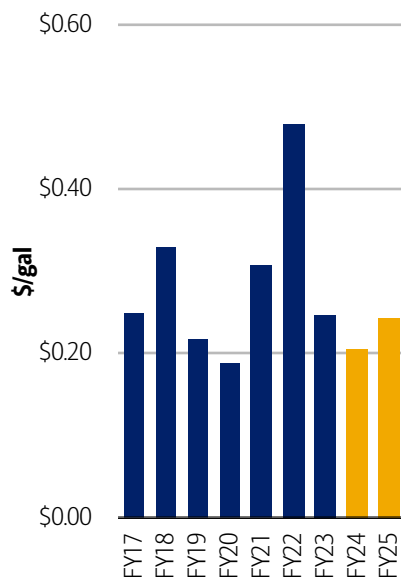


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 15: Ethane avg. annual prices

'24 forward prices do not incentivize recovery

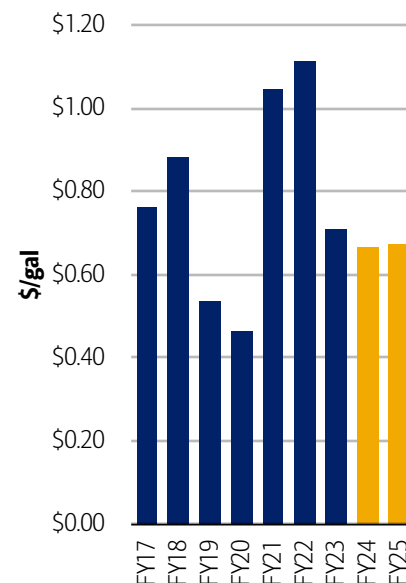


Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 16: Propane avg. annual prices

Prices sink as inventories reach 5-year highs



Source: Bloomberg

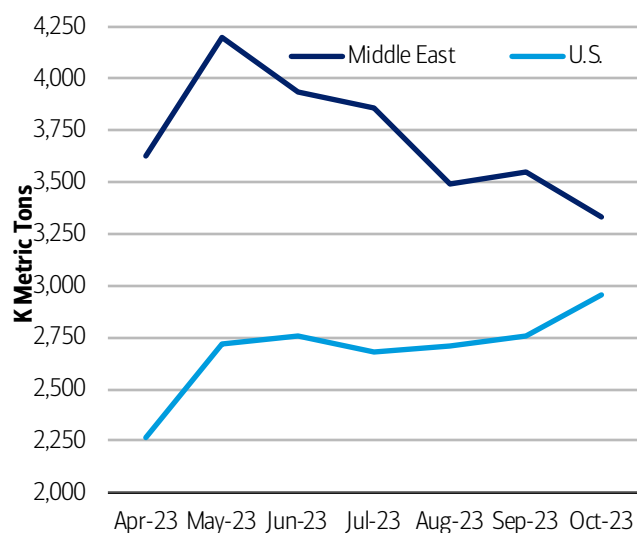
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Demand for purity products has struggled to keep up with the pace of NGL production in the U.S. As such, ~40% of NGLs produced are exported. Asia accounts for the most imports from the U.S. at ~50%. NGL content in the gas stream, as measured by gallons per thousand cubic feet of sold gas (GPM), has been increasing over the last decade, before plateauing this year in liquids-rich basins including the Anadarko, Bakken, Eagle Ford, and Niobrara. Much of the recent increase can be attributed largely to the Permian.

Meanwhile, export capacity has just stepped up 35k b/d due to an expansion at Targa's Galena Park terminal, but more substantive capacity growth is expected in '25, when EPD adds 120k b/d of ethane export capacity at its Neches River NGL terminal and ET adds 250k b/d of capacity at its Nederland terminal (Exhibit 33). In the interim, NGL export capacity utilization will continue to rise and could contribute to wider spreads between U.S. NGL prices and comparable international benchmarks.

Exhibit 17: Asia LPG imports

US share of LPG imports converging on Middle East levels

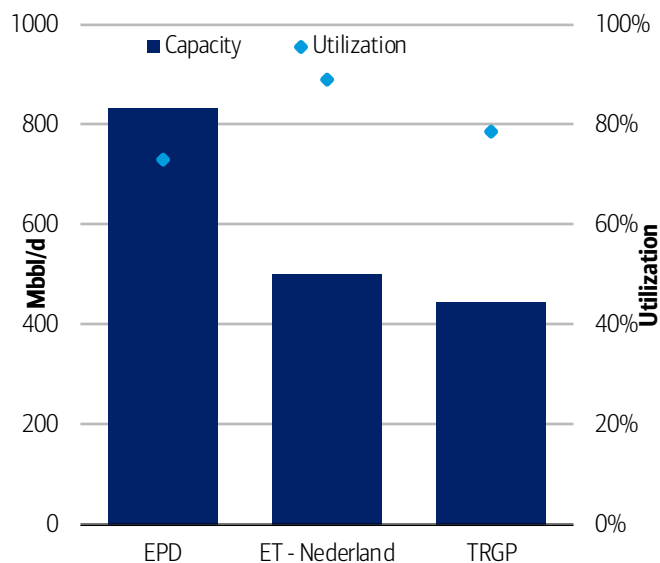


Source: S&P Capital Markets

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Exhibit 18: Selected midstream LPG export capacity & utilization

ET's Nederland terminal nearly full

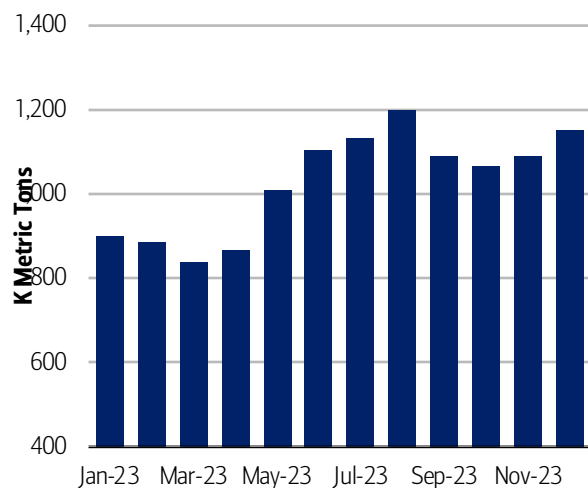


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 19: NGL Demand from Propane Dehydrogenation - China

Growing PDH capacity in China has stimulated growth in exports

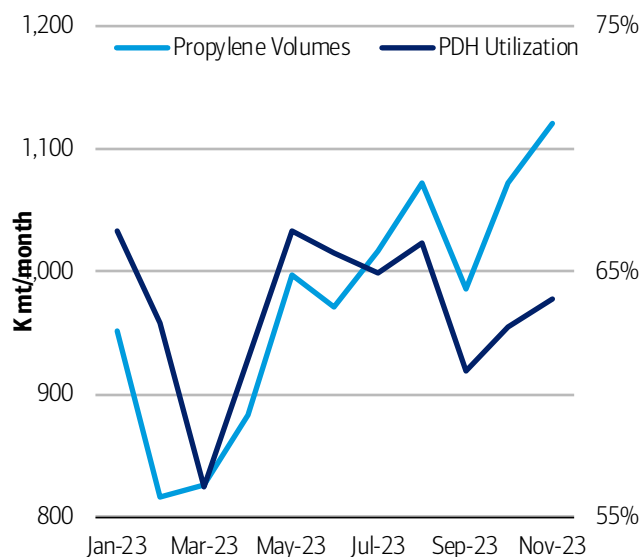


Source: S&P Capital Markets

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Exhibit 20: Propylene production and utilization

Production ramps as operating rates begin to normalize



Source: S&P Capital Markets

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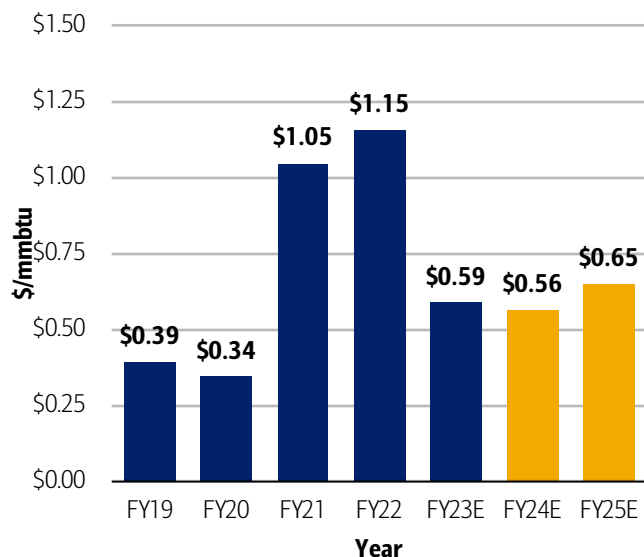
'24 POPs move to y/y sequential declines in 4Q

Given the decline in forward prices for both NGLs and natural gas prices, our POP indicator now shows a 5% y/y sequential decrease in '24 margins across the Delaware, Midland and Bakken, with a larger 10% decrease in the SCOOP/STACK. This is a reversal from when '24 commodity prices hit their peaks in mid-September and we [noted the potential downside heading into '24](#). At that point, '24

Midland/Delaware/Bakken/SCOOP-STACK POPs were up 18%/14%/16%/12% y/y. As we explain in the company specific section, fee floors will again be tested as forward 2Q24 POPs are even lower than 2Q23 POPs when fee floors were triggered.

Exhibit 21: Midland POP, assuming 15% netback

YoY 5% decrease in POP margins forecasted in '24



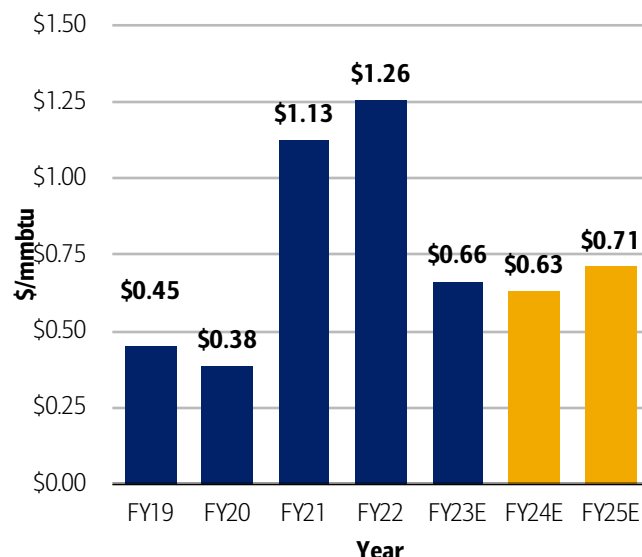
Note: Assumes 5x GPM and 10c/gal T&F rate/Waha gas

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 22: Delaware POP, assuming 15% netback

YoY 5% decrease in POP margins forecasted in '24



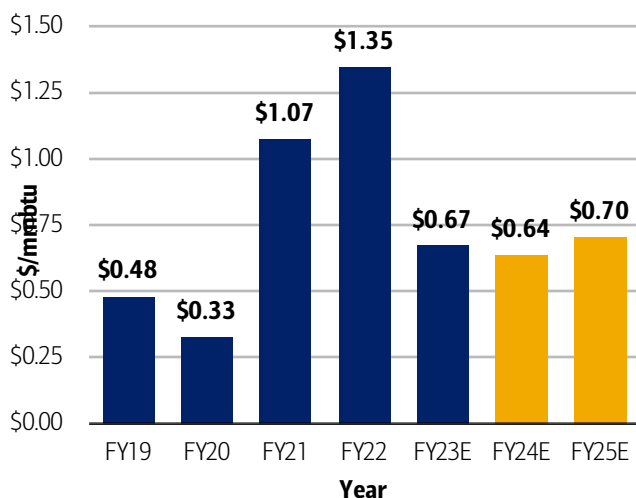
Note: Assumes 6x GPM and 10c/gal T&F rate/Waha gas

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 23: Bakken POP, assuming 15% netback

YoY 5% decrease in POP margins forecasted in '24



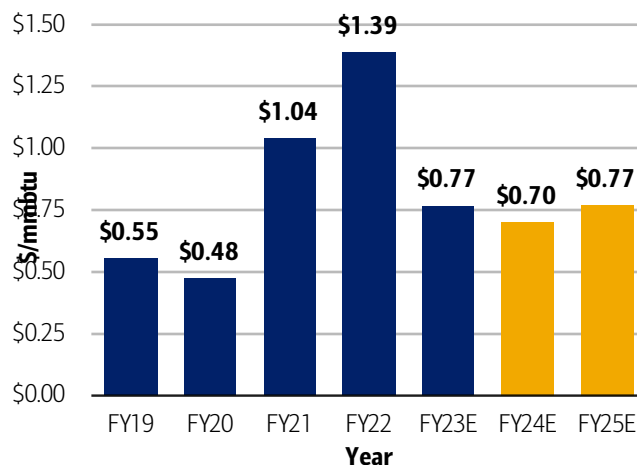
Note: Assumes 8x GPM and 26c/gal T&F rate/Waha gas

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 24: SCOOP/STACK POP, assuming 15% netback

YoY 10% decrease in POP margins forecasted in '24



Note: Assumes 6.5x GPM and 10c/gal T&F rate/ONEOK gas

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Prefer ET, EPD, TRGP as integrations have internal hedges

Integrations own LPG export and storage

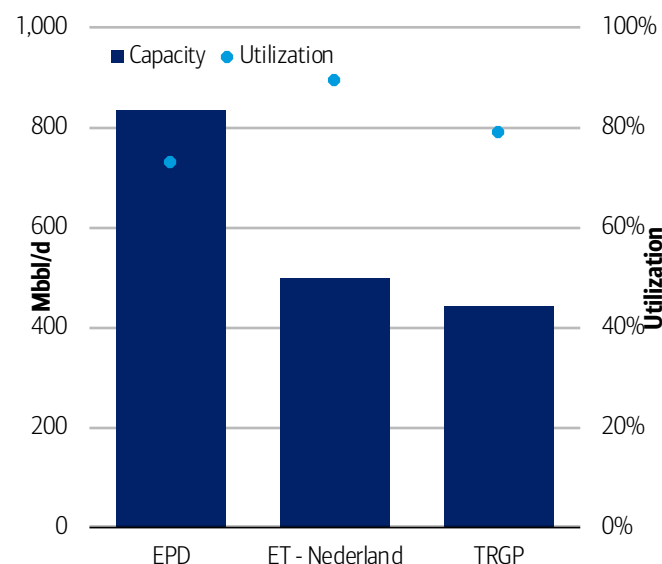
We prefer Permian NGL volume stories and companies that can touch the barrel several times. ET and EPD provide an export outlet for ethane under take-or-pay contracts. And all 3 integrations have storage and propane export docks to clear LPG barrels, even if it is supply-push to several destinations (like pivoting to India vs. China). If international LPG

demand indeed picks up in 4Q23+ and forward curves cooperate, integrators could see a double benefit of higher G&P price and increased export volumes. Accordingly, we believe that:

- Gulf Coast LPG demand is unlikely to materially increase. So, the incremental LPG barrel will be pushed overseas. Incumbents: EPD, ET, and TRGP will move those barrels. And since these facilities are running at high utilization, each of these incumbents have (TRGP) or will expand capacity (ET and EPD in 1H25).
- To the extent that LPG barrels are stranded, EPD then ET and TRGP have storage to hold Y-grade or purity product along the Gulf Coast. Stranded LPG volumes are a real risk if Asian demand continues to stagnate and/or Middle East exports take back market share.

Exhibit 25: LPG export capacity & utilization

ET's Nederland terminal nearing full capacity

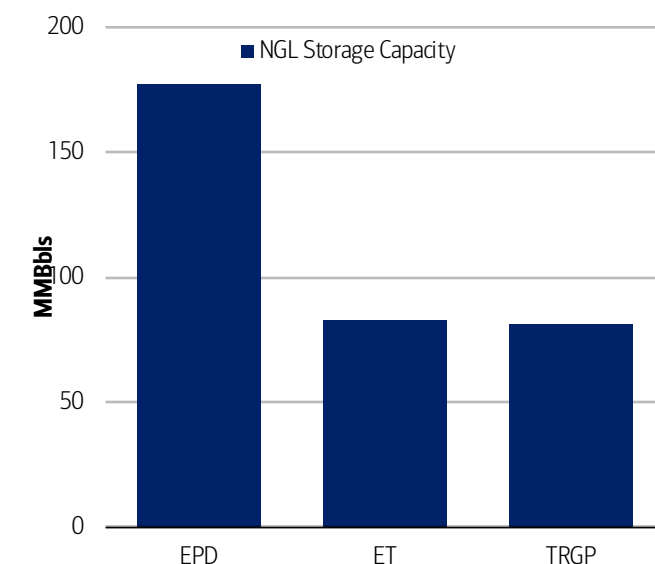


Source: East Daley, Company filings

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Exhibit 26: NGL storage capacity

EPD has 38 underground salt caverns at MB with ~130MMbbl of capacity



Source: Company filings

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ONEOK now has a synthetic export terminal with MMP butane blending

Legacy OKE lacked the last missing piece of an integrated wellhead-to-water system, as it was unable to build an LPG export facility, as incumbent players, especially EPD and ET, can offer brownfield expansions at lower rates to price new players, like OKE, out of the market. We still do not see an obvious, near-term opportunity for OKE to build an LPG export facility. But with OKE self-sourcing MMP's butane blending business, it replicates the benefit of an export facility by creating a demand sink for OKE's equity butane volumes. And since blending margins expand with lower butane prices, this creates an internal hedge (like an export facility) when butane prices decrease.

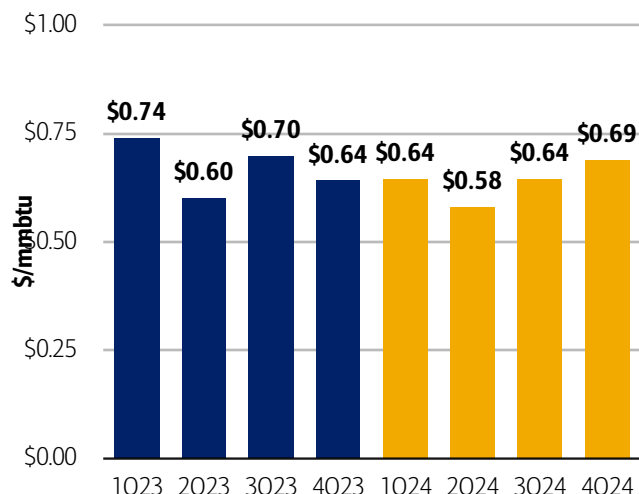
We understand that butane and iso-butane are only 17% of the NGL barrel vs. propane at ~32% of the barrel, so OKE's blending operations do not provide the same degree of internal hedge that an LPG export terminal does but is still meaningful as NGL pricing is pressured.

Company specific hedging and fee floor summaries

- ET and EPD do not materially hedge their POP exposure in the Permian. However, both seemingly hit their fee floors in 2Q and have bounced off the bottom.

Exhibit 27: Delaware quarterly POPs

2Q24/3Q24 will test fee floors again

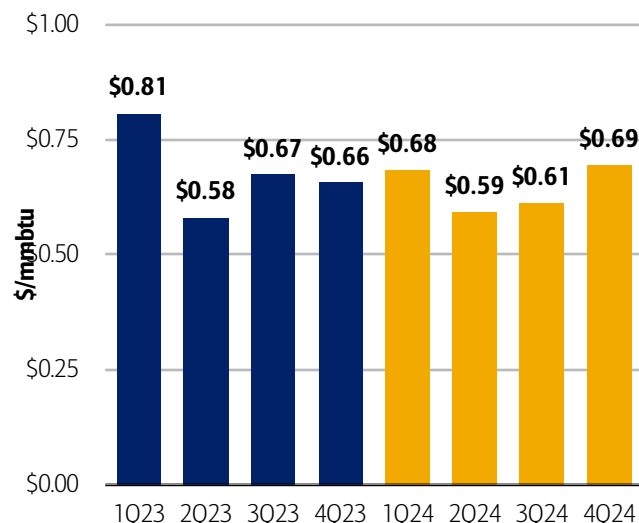


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 28: Bakken quarterly POPs

25% of OKE's G&P has POP exposure



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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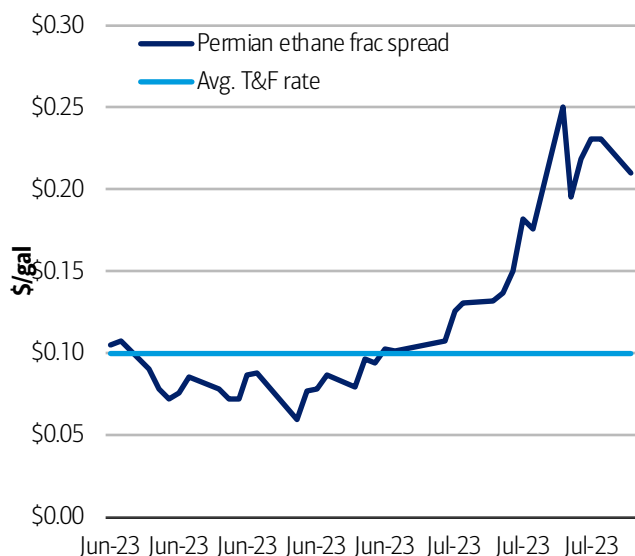
- OKE's disclosure from their latest 10Q shows they are 34% hedged for C3+ NGLs and 41% hedged for natural gas in '24. ~25% of the G&P business has POP exposure. So ~10% of OKE's G&P business is commodity exposed prior to the butane internal hedge. And natural gas is hedged well above market (\$4.50/Mcf), so we expect the impact of weakening POPs to be minimal for the consolidated entity.
- TRGP has a 3-year rolling hedge program and likely locked in some attractive POPs for '24 & '25 on its 1/3rd of G&P volumes that are not fee-based. And when fee floors kick in, prices significantly drop.
- KNTK and WES are the 2 G&Ps without meaningful internal hedges. But both have relatively light POP exposure. KNTK has 9% commodity exposed EBITDA in '24, of which 25% is already hedged. WES has ~7% commodity exposure with POP contracts, mainly in the Rockies and Delaware liquids yields contracts.
- MPLX has noted that, generally, <5% of its business is commodity exposed. In terms of commodity sensitivity, a 5c change in NGL prices will negatively impact its annual EBITDA by \$20mm. Y/Y NGL prices are down 33c/gal so the y/y impact is - \$132mm. Sequentially, NGL prices are down 2c/gal so this will reduce the G&P segment by ~\$8mm.

Ethane recovery/rejection trends

In 3Q23, we saw an unexpected shortage of ethane causing prices to average ~30c/gal. Due to the extreme West Texas heat initially seen in late May and through June, processors unexpectedly moved from ethane recovery to rejection given the surge in local natural gas demand and the issue of Permian natural gas egress constraints. And due to ethane rejection in June, downstream players (crackers and especially ethane export players) were caught short and needed to procure ethane. This kept ethane prices elevated through 4Q, incentivizing ethane recovery in the Permian and the Bakken.

Exhibit 29: Permian ethane frac spread

Elevated ethane prices through 4Q incentivized recovery

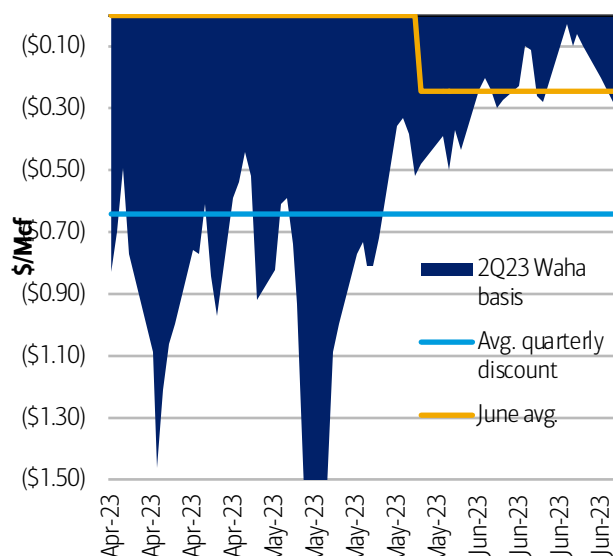


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 30: Waha basis vs. avg. quarterly discount / June basis

A pronounced contraction in 2Q23 from in-basin demand/EPNG Line 2000



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

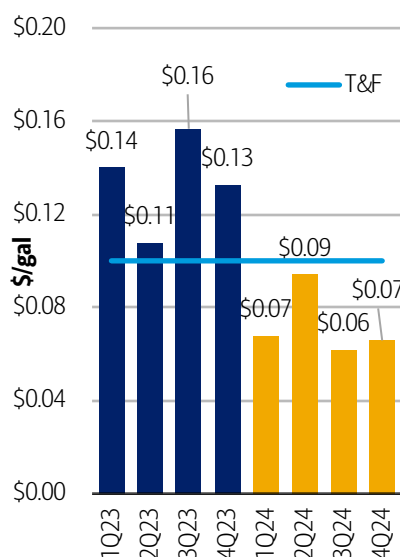
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But inventory is normalized and we expect more rejection in '24

Ethane prices have normalized, as higher prices through 4Q23 incentivized recovery, and restored the supply/demand balance. '24 forward Mont Belvieu ethane prices average 20c/gal, which is not even high enough to incentivize Permian recovery with '24 Henry Hub/Waha gas prices trading at \$2.65/\$1.86 Mcf at 10c/gal T&F charge. We only see non-incentivized Permian recovery in 2Q24 before Matterhorn Express (2.5 Bcf/d) comes online, adding Permian gas takeaway. The Bakken saw significant incentivized ethane recovery in 2H23, especially 3Q, and will probably see minimal opportunities in '24. This is a slight negative for OKE, which benefited from increased NGL pipe utilization from the Bakken down to Belvieu.

Exhibit 31: MB-Waha frac spread

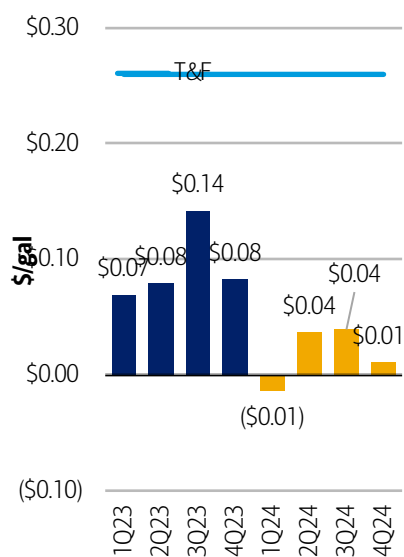
Narrowing basis in 1Q24 below T&F rates encourages ethane rejection



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg
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Exhibit 32: Bakken Ventura frac spread

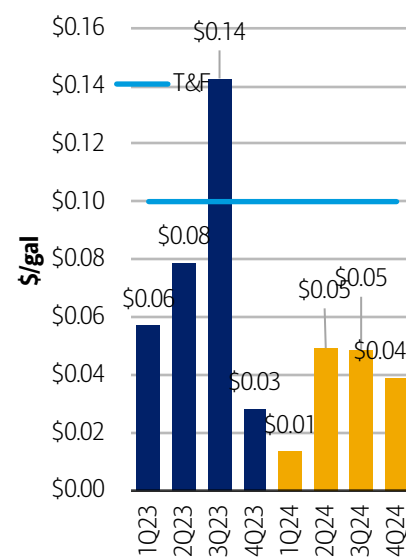
Basis narrowing in 4Q23 with fewer opps for ethane recovery in '24



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg
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Exhibit 33: Mid-Con frac spread

Basis narrowing in 4Q23 with fewer opps for ethane recovery in '24



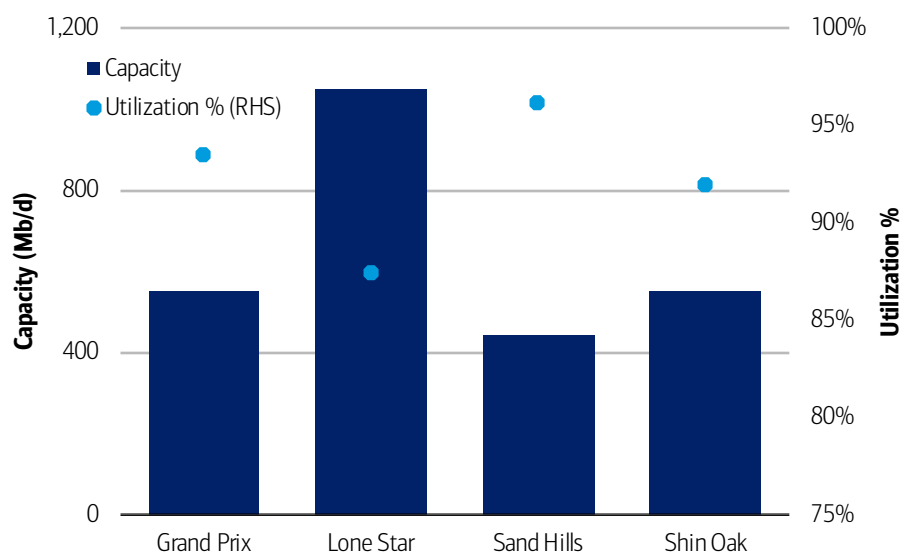
Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg
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...which is fine for near-full NGL pipes but negative for gas macro

As we explain in our Permian NGL takeaway section, EPD's 600 Mbpd Bahia pipeline and OKE's West Texas NGL expansion, both coming online in 1H25, will over-pipe the Permian market. But, in the meantime, the market is relatively tight with utilization of major Permian NGL pipes already near full utilization, apart from OKE's West Texas NGL pipeline.

Exhibit 34: Permian NGL capacity and utilization

TRGP redirects volumes from Sand Hills to Grand Prix after contract roll off



Source: East Daley, Company filings

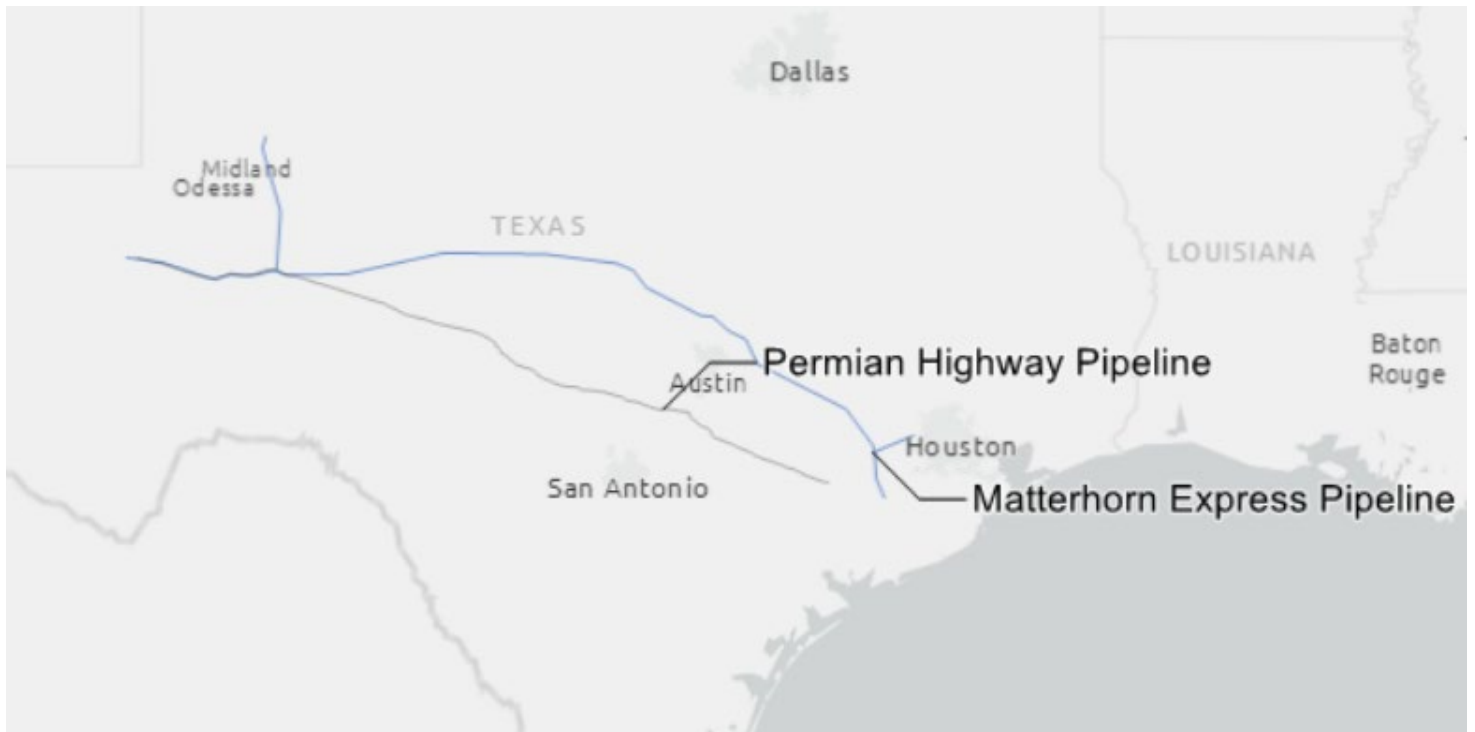
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Meanwhile, more gas will be recovered and moved to Houston (via the Permian Highway expansion -570 MMcf/d and newbuild Matterhorn Express pipeline -2.5 Bcf/d). And because a lack of connectivity between Houston and the Louisiana Gulf Coast keeps gas trapped in the Houston area, we expect Ship Channel basis to trend down in '24.



Exhibit 35: Permian gas takeaway options

PHP expansion (570 MMcf/d) and Matterhorn (2.5 Bcf/d) move gas to Houston



Source: S&P Capital Markets

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The Permian NGL Overbuild: A Detailed Primer w/ Stock Implications

Ever since EPD announced it would be moving forward with its 600 Mbpd greenfield NGL pipeline, we feel the biggest theme in midstream has been the Permian NGL pipe overbuild occurring in '25+. And the competitive dynamics will be fluid as contracts roll and NGL pipeline master agreements are unique and complex. In this section we:

- Outline the new pipes and expansions contributing to the NGL pipe “overbuild” beginning in '25+.
- Provide a detailed primer on the difference between producer rights to dictate NGL takeaway with 3 categories: closed-loop G&P system, producer in-kind rights, and producer fake in-kind rights, where physical limitations limit a producer’s ability to move barrels on the pipeline of their choice.
- Basin by basin differences: The Midland has primarily closed-loop G&P controlled volumes whereas the Delaware has larger producers with in-kind rights controlling pipeline rights.
- Customer by customer analysis (in-kind vs. G&P-controlled) by company system.

Stock conclusions: top picks = TRGP, EPD, ET & OKE

Overall, we believe TRGP is the best positioned with ~70% of G&P volumes going through the Grand Prix/Daytona system, driven by its closed-loop Midland system. As it focuses more on free cash flow generation, it can selectively bid for T&F volumes. But its Delaware footprint (especially with Lucid) has larger, in-kind customers. And EPD’s T&F contracts roll off at Lucid’s Red Hills complex in '26+.

EPD’s Navitas acquisition in early '22 was timely as it provided the company a closed-loop G&P system, like TRGP. We expect Navitas’ legacy T&F contracts on OKE’s West Texas to roll-off in ~'25 and onto the EPD system. We believe ~50% of EPD’s G&P volumes flow on its NGL pipe system. And Bahia will be 70% sourced by system growth, so EPD will be bidding aggressively for new volumes with a new outsized pipe.

ET has the lowest amount of G&P volumes flowing on its ~1 MMBpd Lone Star system. But it does have significant in-kind contracts with large upstream producers, like XOM, and G&Ps like KNTK. Those contracts are up for re-negotiation in the latter part of the decade. Like EPD, it will need to be competitive on price to keep Lone Star ~full. But unlike EPD, ET has latent capacity on Lone Star so even if it lowers pricing, its return on capital will remain high and it will continue to generate FCF.

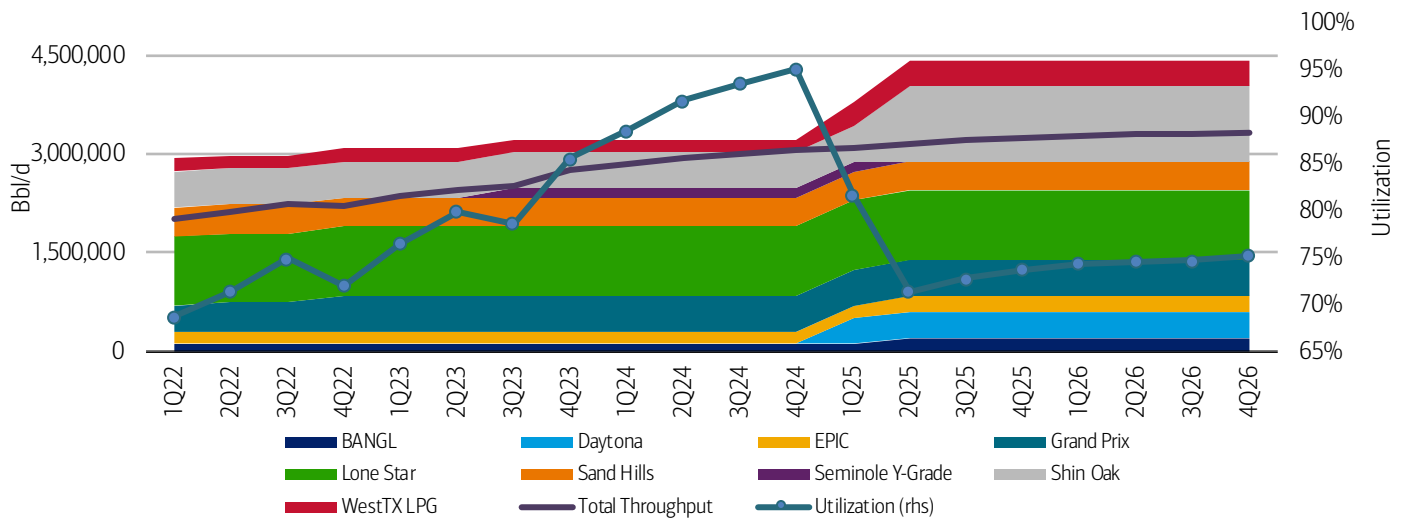
Lastly, we believe OKE will convert its older West Texas NGL line to refined product services over time, as it will lack the ability to fill the pipeline without a G&P to source the >700 Mbpd system.



New takeaway and build rationale

Exhibit 36: Permian NGL egress, throughput and utilization

TRGP, EPD, MPLX and OKE are all increasing NGL pipe capacity in '25



Source: East Daley, Rystad, BofA Global Research

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In addition to EPD building Bahia (600 Mbpd), OKE is expanding West Texas ~300 Mbpd, TRGP is twinning Grand Prix with the 400 Mbpd Daytona pipeline in 4Q24 and MPLX is expanding BANG 75 Mbpd by 1H25. As such, utilization drops from 95% in 4Q24 to 71% by 2Q25 before trending back up. T&F rates will be pressured through the end of the decade.

Exhibit 37: Permian NGL takeaway

600 Mbpd Bahia NGL pipeline adds optionality to repurpose other pipelines

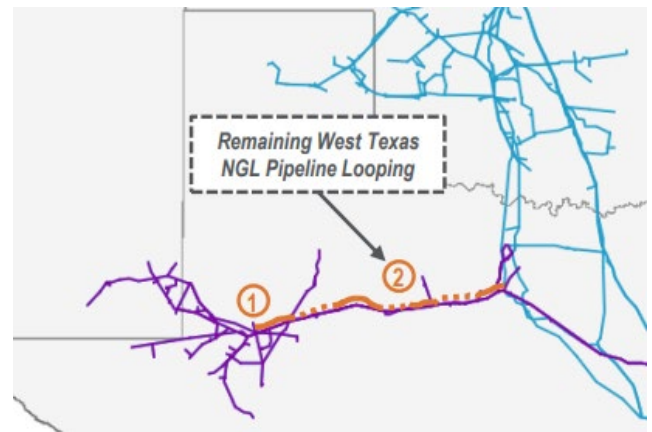


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 38: OKE West Texas NGL system

Loop of OKE's West Texas NGL connects to its Arbuckle II pipeline



Source: Company filings

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Why did EPD choose to build a new NGL pipeline?

At its analyst day in May '23, EPD's fundamentals team laid out a Permian NGL egress forecast through 2030. EPD's general assumptions have not changed since its analyst day, which showed the basin had adequate takeaway through 2027. EPD needed a bridge through the end of '24, as the Chaparral conversion put more barrels on Shin Oak, and volumes are projected to approach Shin Oak's capacity of 550 Mbpd in 2H24. But seemingly, after a partial 2-year Seminole conversion, a 275 Mbpd Shin Oak loop could move EPD's equity volumes through the end of the decade. But EPD intends to source

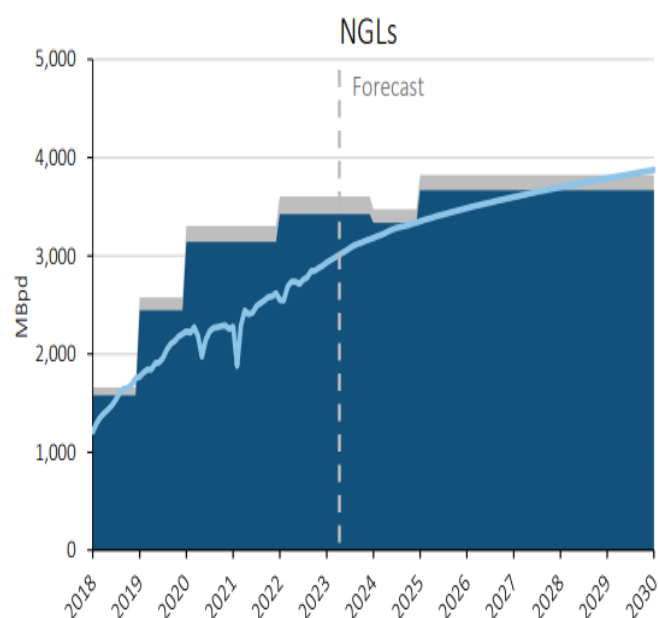
the pipe with 70% of its equity volumes then bid for take-in-kind 3rd party barrels to source downstream opportunities. Bahia will "over-pipe" the basin, near term, but EPD intends to take market share given the value of its downstream network, and sourcing barrels is critical to realizing those downstream opportunities.

We discuss in detail that NGL takeaway is not like residue gas takeaway, where residue gas is pooled at a hub and overall egress matches basin production. As we discuss later in detail, integrated operators, like TRGP, EPD and ET create closed-loop wellhead-to-water systems, when possible, to control the NGL barrel, as many times possible. EPD bought the Navitas gathering system in the Midland basin to source its downstream system. Many of those barrels are coming off contract with OKE's West Texas in the near-term, helping EPD to source more equity volumes.

But, as shown in Exhibit 45, EPD's Shin Oak pipeline volume growth has lagged TRGP's Grand Prix and ET's Lone Star pipeline volume growth since '20. So now EPD will bid aggressively for T&F contracts, with competitive pricing, for stand-alone G&P systems with near-term contract roll-offs. And of course, some larger producers have in-kind rights that allow them to direct their volumes to the NGL pipeline of their choice. The end goal is for EPD to source their leading Gulf Coast downstream network closer to the wellhead, even if it lowers market T&F rates.

Exhibit 39: Permian takeaway balances

EPD forecasts tightening of capacity in 2H24

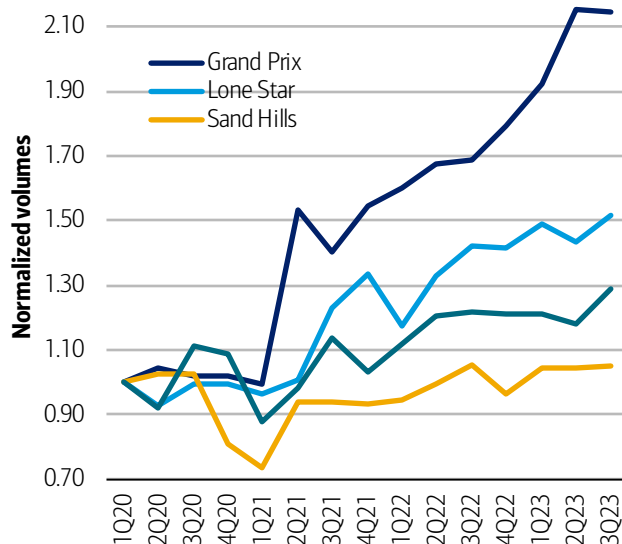


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 40: Indexed Permian NGL Pipeline Volumes

Grand Prix moves TRGP's Permian G&P volumes and Lone Star's large system moves both Permian and Eagle Ford barrels



Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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We think OKE converts its legacy NGL pipeline to refined product service

OKE is twinning a pipe on its West Texas NGL Permian pipeline from Midland to the Arbuckle II NGL pipeline in North Texas. Arbuckle II has latent capacity and can move West Texas barrels to OKE's frac complex at Mont Belvieu. OKE will spend \$520mm, primarily in '24, to loop the system so the total Permian system will have 740 Mbd of total capacity by 1Q25.

However, we believe OKE has different intentions than EPD. Its latest contract dedication from a 3rd party G&P justifies the capital spend. And the more OKE spends in '24 for capital accretive projects, the greater the cash tax savings created by the

recently completed Magellan acquisition. OKE can continue to bid for 3rd party and in-kind volumes without a dedicated G&P system, but we believe only 250-350 Mbpd of the system is being utilized right now. So, the chances of OKE filling the full 740 Mbpd are minimal. We believe OKE will either:

- Convert the older West Texas line to refined product service. Demand in the Midland-Odessa, Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexican markets continue to remain strong. Recall, legacy MMP is completing its refined product pipe expansion to El Paso. We think a refined product pipeline conversion is most likely. Especially if blending and batching opportunities exist, as well.
- Acquire G&P to source OKE's downstream NGL network. OKE historically has opposed acquiring a Permian G&P system in the past, given weak margins from significant competition. But with more opportunities to invest capital, following the merger close, we believe management could reconsider. That said, we still believe this is still not OKE's preferred option.

Although we believe OKE will eventually convert part of the loop to refined product services, we believe OKE will methodically evaluate its options, continuing to try to win 3rd party contracts, so the expansion will add capacity to the Permian in '25+.

A Primer: Closed-loop, In-Kind and Fake In-Kind Volumes

Closed-loop systems

If the G&P company goes to the wellhead and ties in the low pressure gathering (high capital), they typically have a master agreement that includes gathering, processing, transportation, and fractionation. And when these contracts are due for renewal, they are, typically, sticky, with the midstream company having more bargaining power, as no one producer wants to replicate a system back to the wellhead. These systems that move from the wellhead, all the way to the fractionator, are what we label closed-loop systems.

In-kind rights

Most producers are part of closed-loop systems. But larger producers with material volumes typically build their own wellhead gathering. These larger producers build their own low-pressure gathering systems to the wellhead and move their rich gas to a central delivery point (CDP), where they can price shop processors, given linking CDPs to a processing system, via a high pressure NGL line, is not capital intensive. The producers then take "in-kind" rights on their volumes, choosing to direct volumes on the NGL pipelines of their choice.

We believe the major producers in the Permian exercising in-kind rights are:

- COP
- CVX
- DVN
- CTRA
- EOG
- OXY
- XOM

Note, each operator has acreage across the Permian. And in some cases, they will ask the midstream provider to build to the wellhead for them. Or they dedicate their wellhead volumes to a pure-play G&P like OXY does for WES, and control T&F. Lastly, we assume legacy Pioneer volumes stay on TRGP's closed-loop system, given their midstream partnership.

Fake In-Kind rights

Transportation and fractionation contracts are anything but homogenous, with each contract having nuances. And oftentimes, in-kind rights have limitations, due to physical

constraints. So choices to shop T&F rates are more limited, than on paper. For example, many Midland processing plants have split connects, allowing for several NGL pipes to access the volumes. But most Midland producers lack in-kind rights, so the split connects lack meaningful value until the G&P has a T&F contract roll-off.

Moreover, in the Delaware, in-kind rights are limited to the pipe connects within the plant. For example, the New Mexico Delaware has the highest percentage of in-kind producers in the Permian basin, with most processing volumes flowing onto TRGP's Lucid system. Most of the Lucid volumes have historically been processed on the massive Red Hills system and are under contract to move through EPD pipes through '26-'29. So, volumes processed at Red Hills are dedicated to EPD until the latter part of the decade before TRGP can bid on the T&F volumes on the processing complex they acquired.

But Red Hills is a massive processing complex (1.2 Bcf/d), so producers are understandably concerned about flow assurance, if any issues arise at the complex. So TRGP is moving some incremental New Mexico plants to new Delaware plants that interconnect exclusively into Grand Prix. Producers are willing to limit their T&F options, in order to guarantee flow assurance and diversify where their rich gas is processed. So midstream players are constantly searching for ways to provide value to upstream customers to keep in-kind volumes on their system.

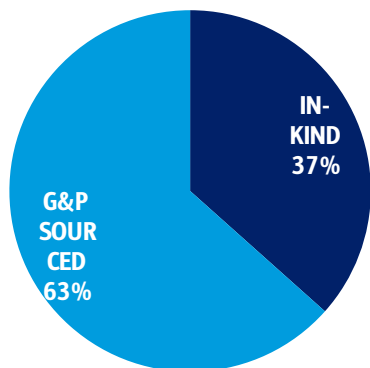
Lastly, in most cases, we question if rival midstream companies will allow 3rd party interconnects to be built into their plants. At best, a financial settlement between midstream parties would be the most practical solution.

Basin broad observations and conclusions

Overall, we believe 2/3 of Permian rich gas volumes are controlled by the midstream processor. But there is a material dichotomy between the Midland and Delaware basins.

Exhibit 41: Permian NGL control

~2/3 of Permian NGLs are controlled by G&Ps

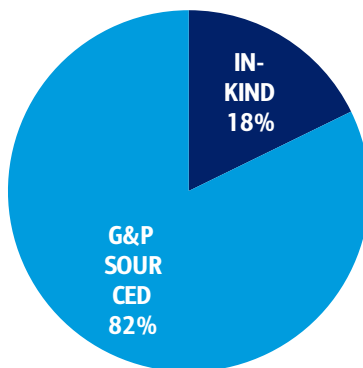


Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 42: Midland NGL control

~4/5 of Midland NGLs are controlled by G&Ps

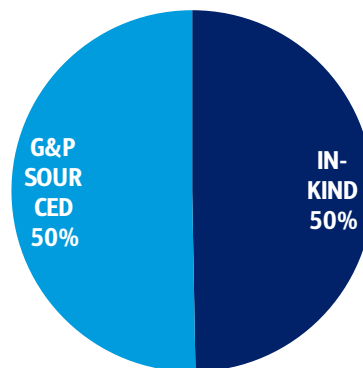


Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 43: Delaware NGL Control

NGL control is split in the Delaware



Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

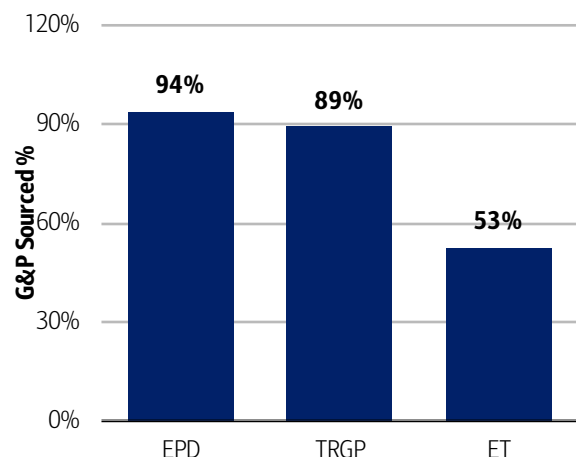
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Midland basin – TRGP and EPD own primarily closed-loop systems

We believe ~80% of Midland basin volumes are controlled by the processor. TRGP's Midland and EPD's Navitas closed-loop systems account for most of these midstream-directed volumes. ET processes (and moves) XOM's volumes, for now, in the Midland accounting for the higher in-kind rights on its Midland system.

Exhibit 44: Midland G&P sourced NGL volumes by company

EPD's Navitas system accounts for most closed-loop volumes

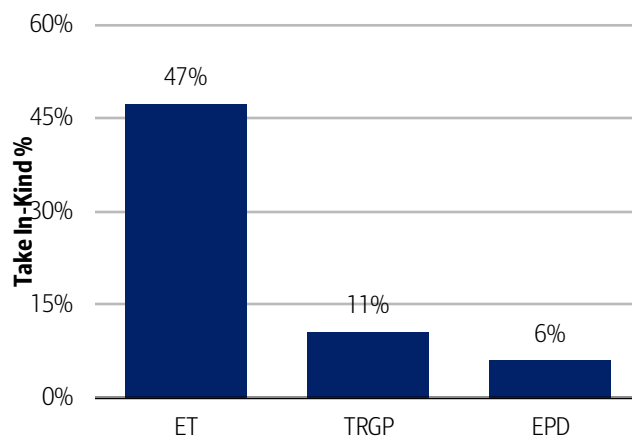


Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 45: Midland take in-kind volumes by company

ET has the most in-kind volumes



Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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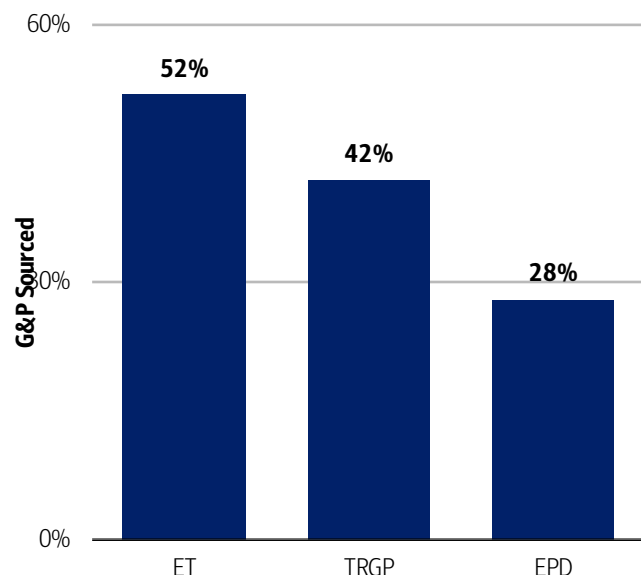
Delaware basin – In-kind rights more common across all systems

EOG, DVN, OXY, XOM, COP and CVX comprise 8 of the 9 top producers in the Delaware basin. And they control which pipelines their NGL barrels flow on given that they build their own low pressure gathering system.

- EPD's Delaware system has a high percentage of in-kind rights in the Delaware, as the top 6 producers on its system are OXY, CVX, EOG, XOM, and COP, which account for ~65% of system volumes. BP, DVN and CTRA are also on the system.
- Next, TRGP has a majority of its Delaware volumes coming from in-kind producers. We believe ~65% of Lucid New Mexico volumes currently come from in-kind producers. Lea and Eddy County have the best quality rock in the Lower 48, and the integrations and large independents are growing volumes, a positive sign. The volumes on the existing 1.2 Bcf/d Red Hills system are dedicated to EPD, so TRGP will have an opportunity to bid on these volumes when the contracts roll in '26-'29. But TRGP can bid with discipline, as both Grand Prix and Daytona are both needed and will run full.
- While ET has the highest percentage of in-kind volumes in the Midland, we believe it has the least in the Delaware. But as XOM ramps up volumes in the Delaware, this percentage will increase. We believe ET has mostly XOM NGL volumes on Lone Star, a positive. But the risk is that XOM volumes are bid away by opportunistic players when contracts roll in '26+, like EPD and OKE, who are willing to offer lower T&F rates to increase market share.

Exhibit 46: Delaware G&P sourced NGL volumes by company

ET has a higher proportion of G&P sourced volumes in the Delaware

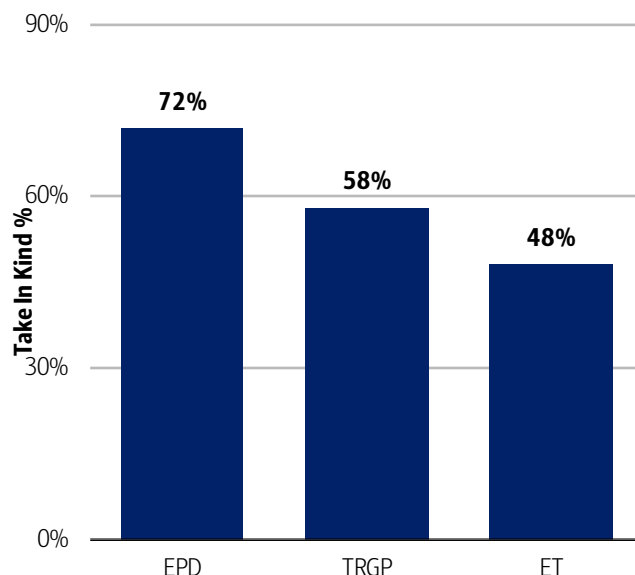


Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 47: Delaware take in-kind NGL volumes by company

As OXY NGL volumes ramp, ET expected to retain more in-kind volumes



Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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Who is the best situated Permian NGL pipe name?

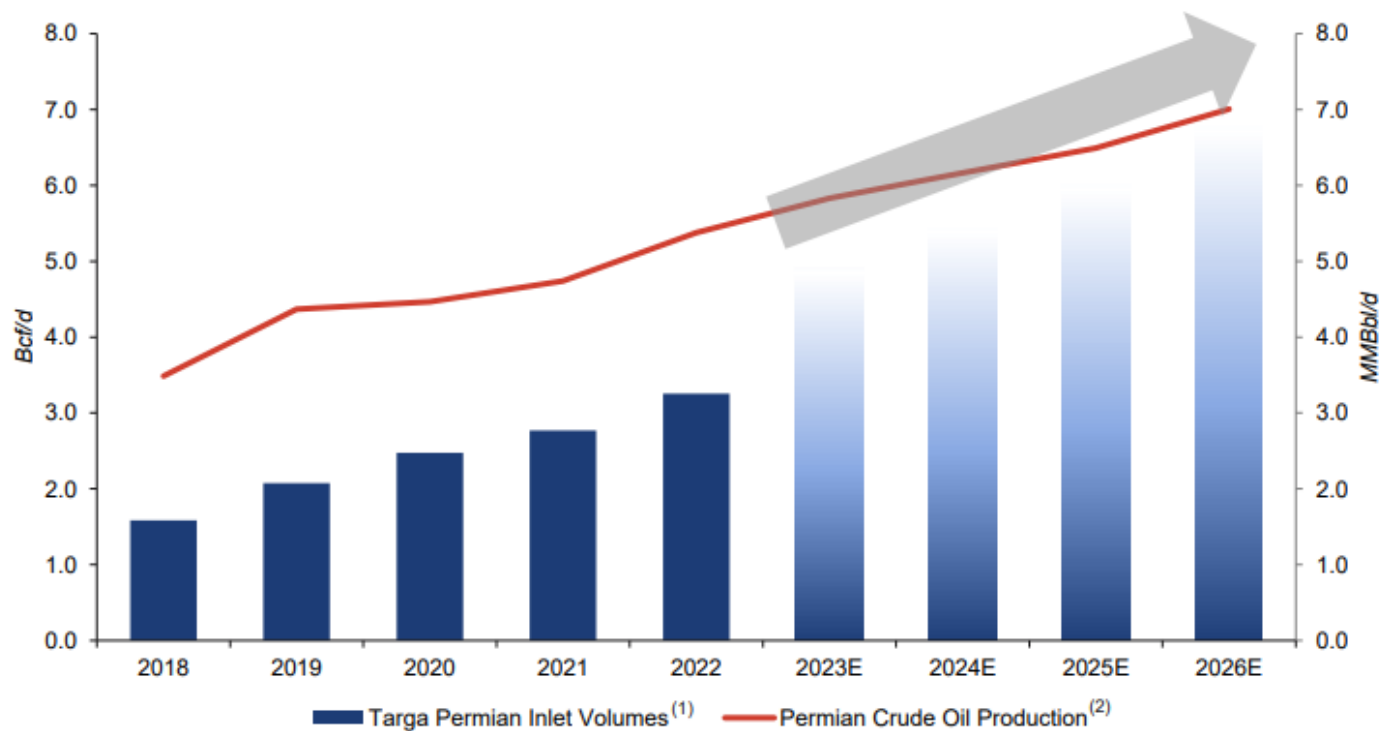
We believe the 3 dominant NGL midstream players are EPD, ET and TRGP, given each has wellhead-to-water infrastructure, G&P sourcing NGL pipes, and large blocky acreage dedications. We don't view OKE and PSX as major players. OKE can opportunistically pick up a dedication from a plant or in-kind customer, but we see strategy relatively immaterial to overall basin egress. PSX (DCP's) Sand Hills pipeline will continue to see contract rolls that will move over to G&P sourced pipelines, especially TRGP's Grand Prix.

So, between the big 3 integrateds, we believe TRGP is the best situated going forward followed by EPD, then ET. But we believe all 3 companies have strengths that will maintain their competitiveness as T&F rates fall in '25+.

- **TRGP** – TRGP has the most G&P sourced barrels on its NGL pipes. The 400 Mbpd Daytona pipeline (ISD: 4Q24) will be well-utilized immediately. TRGP's Midland system has almost no in-kind customers, so TRGP controls the flow of barrels. TRGP's underlying system growth and emphasis to shifting to a free cash flow story in '25+ will allow it to be disciplined with its pricing, not resorting to lowering T&F rates to add volumes. But TRGP acquired Lucid, not just to increase G&P volumes, but to move barrels for in-kind players in the most prolific acreage in Lea and Eddy Counties. A large portion of contracts dedicated to EPD from the Red Hills complex will have contract renewals between '26-'29 for which TRGP will compete. Currently, we believe EPD's G&P to pipeline volume ratio is ~95%.

Exhibit 48: TRGP Permian inlet growth

TRGP has the largest G&P footprint in the Permian

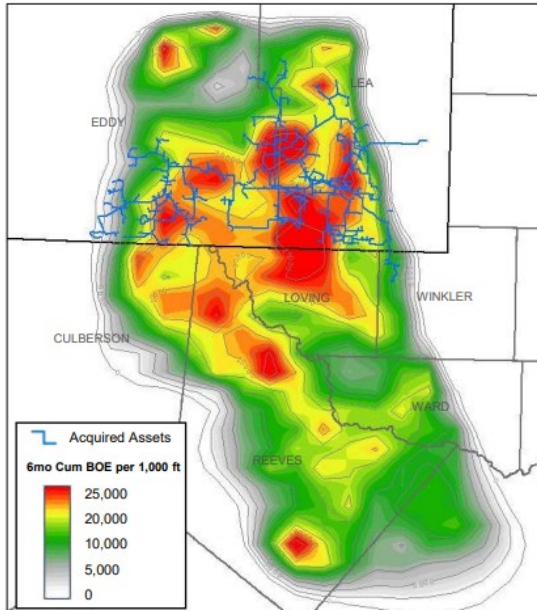


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 49: Lucid New Mexico acreage

Eddy and Lea Counties are most prolific acreage in Permian

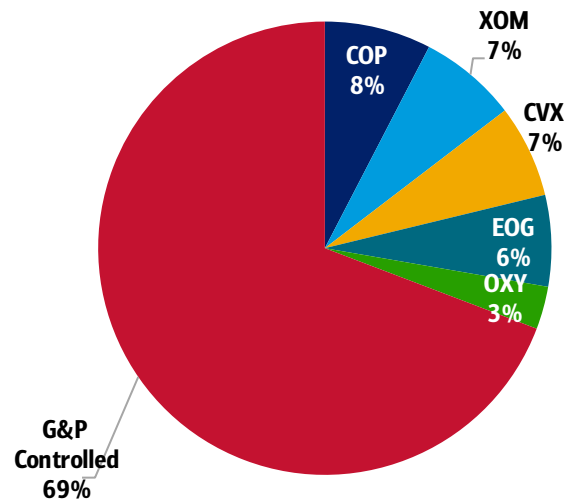


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 50: TRGP Permian customer mix

Almost 70% G&P controlled



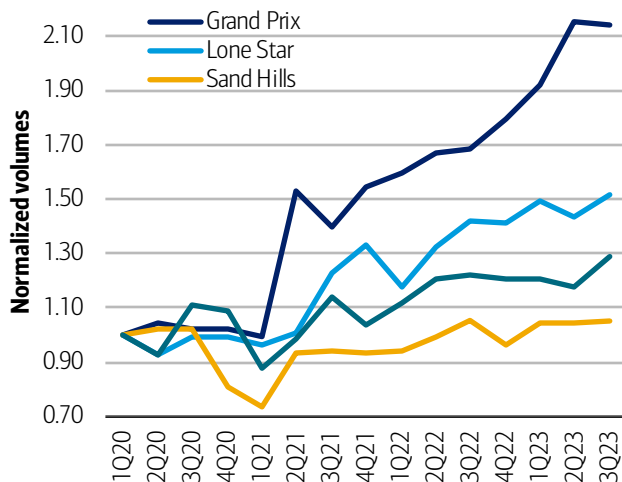
Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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- **EPD**– The Navitas acquisition in '22 creates a closed-end Midland midstream system, like TRGP's Midland system. We expect legacy T&F contracts to roll-off in ~'25, allowing EPD to move the volumes on to its pipelines. This will help catch-up EPD's NGL pipe volume growth vs. TRGP and ET. It will, however, need to compete for 3rd party volumes in the Delaware, with competitive pricing. ~70% of EPD's Delaware G&P volumes are in-kind. Currently, we believe EPD's G&P to pipeline volume ratio is ~50%.

Exhibit 51: Normalized volume growth on key NGL pipes

Shin Oak has lagged but Navitas volumes will narrow gap

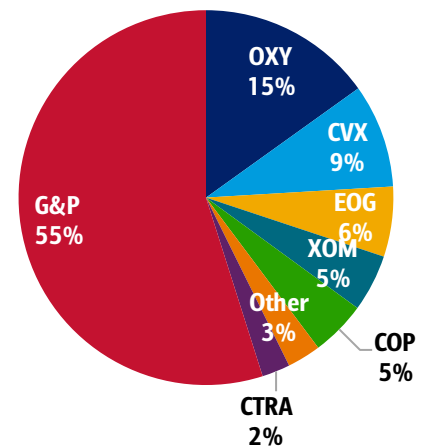


Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 52: EPD G&P Sourced pipeline volumes

~55% is G&P sourced w/ Navitas growing that %



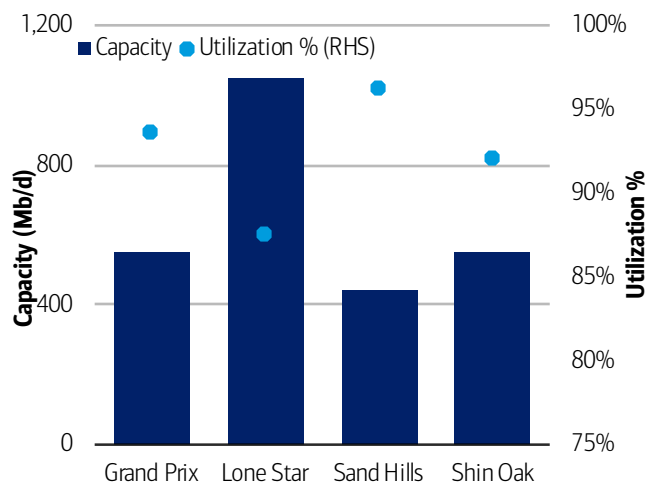
Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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- **ET** – The massive ~1 MMbpd Lone Star pipeline still has latent capacity, and ET likely will not need to expand the pipe for another 1-2 years. Latent capacity on systems is the main reason ET has the highest FCF yield in the midstream space. But ET has the least amount of G&P sourced volumes on its system and has the highest percentage of in-kind volumes among its peers. We believe its largest in-kind customer is XOM, which will be growing its volumes substantially in the Permian. So, ET benefits from this, but as contracts come up for re-negotiation later in the decade, substantial competition will exist (especially from EPD). Contract renewals are key for ET, as its G&P volume to pipeline volume ratio is only ~25%.

Exhibit 53: NGL pipeline capacity and utilization

ET's Lone Star has latent capacity, benefiting FCF yield

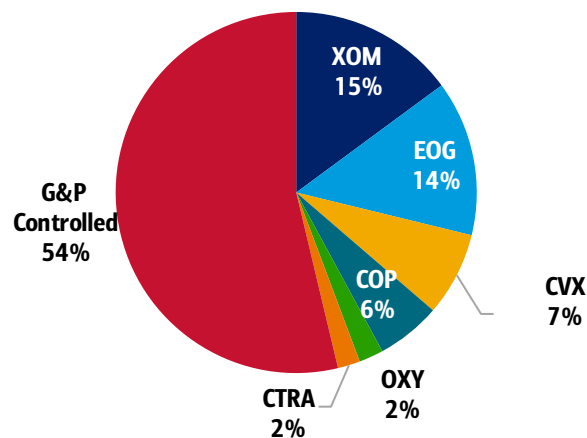


Source: BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 54: ET G&P Sourced pipeline volumes

54% is G&P sourced, but XOM growing volumes



Source: East Daley, BofA Global Research

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The Haynesville Midstream Situation in Detail

We believe production in the Haynesville is set to pick up in '24 into a higher forward curve, but the ~\$1 decrease in '24 forward Henry Hub gas prices likely causes production to remain more stable. Nonetheless, there is still a lack of takeaway to demand centers, where netbacks are comparable to Henry Hub. We believe:

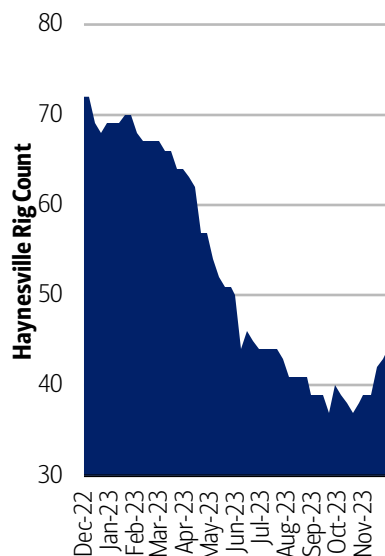
- ET has the best position in the Haynesville. Its system is the most expansive in the basin, owning most of the available egress to the east and north. The Tiger/Line CP – Gulf Run system gives ET a first mover advantage with a FERC-regulated, interstate pipeline to move gas to Golden Pass in late '24, then likely to CP2 later in the decade. Litigation regarding crossings for 3 gathering pipes down to Gillis will likely delay those pipes coming online, giving Gulf Run more commercial opportunities.
- WMB has continued to expand its presence in the Haynesville in a short period of time. The gathering systems will likely take more time to fill given weak gas prices, but we expect WMB to have a solution to ET's litigation by its February analyst day for its LEG pipeline. Lastly, we view WMB's recent Gulf Coast storage acquisition positively, as storage is not keeping up with LNG capacity.
- KMI is carefully evaluating opportunities in the Haynesville. TGP will supply the Plaquemines LNG facility, which comes online in '24. The Kinderhawk gathering system is supported by a stable customer in BP. Lastly, KMI is ready to build FERC-regulated pipes to support Haynesville egress, if the litigation against the 3 southbound gathering lines is delayed or cancelled.

Haynesville activity summary – 4Q was supposed to ramp but px collapsed

The Haynesville is expected to co-supply new Gulf Coast LNG facilities, along with the Permian. Henry Hub prices averaged \$6.41/Mcf in '22 causing the Haynesville year-end rig count to exit at ~70. But '23 Henry Hub prices averaged \$2.54/Mcf causing the Haynesville rig count to plummet to <40 before slightly increasing at year-end. Concurrently, frac fleets spiked towards year-end, as producers prepared to grow volumes into a strong '24 pricing environment. However, '24 forward Henry Hub gas prices fell \$1/Mcf over the last 2 months of the year. Strong 4Q Permian gas production, after 2 quarters of delayed completions, and a possible delay of Golden Pass in '25, pushes outsized LNG demand-pull out another year.

Exhibit 55: Haynesville rig count YTD

Rig counts declined sharply as HH prices fell

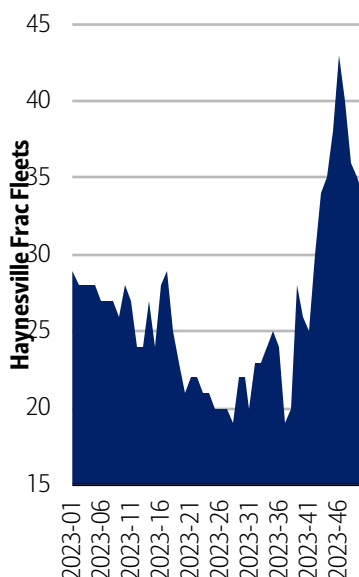


Source: Rystad

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Exhibit 56: Haynesville frac fleets by week

Producers expecting stronger pricing in '24

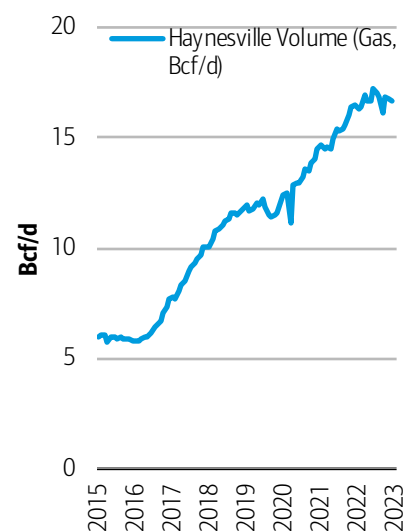


Source: Rystad

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Exhibit 57: Haynesville gas volumes

Gas volumes have plateaued in '23



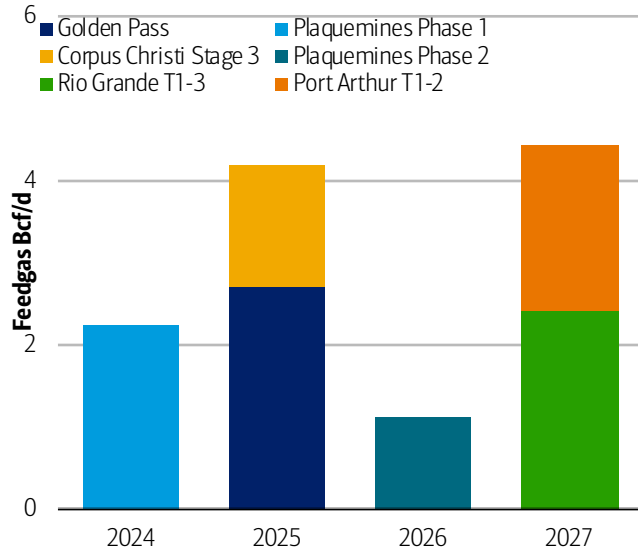
Source: S&P Global

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Plaquemines, located in eastern Louisiana, is the only LNG plant set to come online in '24. TRP's ANR pipeline and phase 2 of KMI's Tennessee Gas Pipeline (Evangeline Pass project) will source the plant. And Golden Pass will come online soon after, using ET's already built Gulf Run pipeline to source ~1 Bcf/d of gas with the rest of the gas likely coming from the TX intrastate system.

Exhibit 58: LNG capacity announced between '24-27

Plaquemines Phase 1 is the only LNG plant scheduled to come online in '24



Source: East Daley

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Exhibit 59: Gulf Coast LNG facilities

Gulf Coast LNG facilities scheduled to come online by '27



Source: S&P Capital Markets

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But who will source the 25'+ LNG buildout and which midstream players win? ET then WMB in the Haynesville

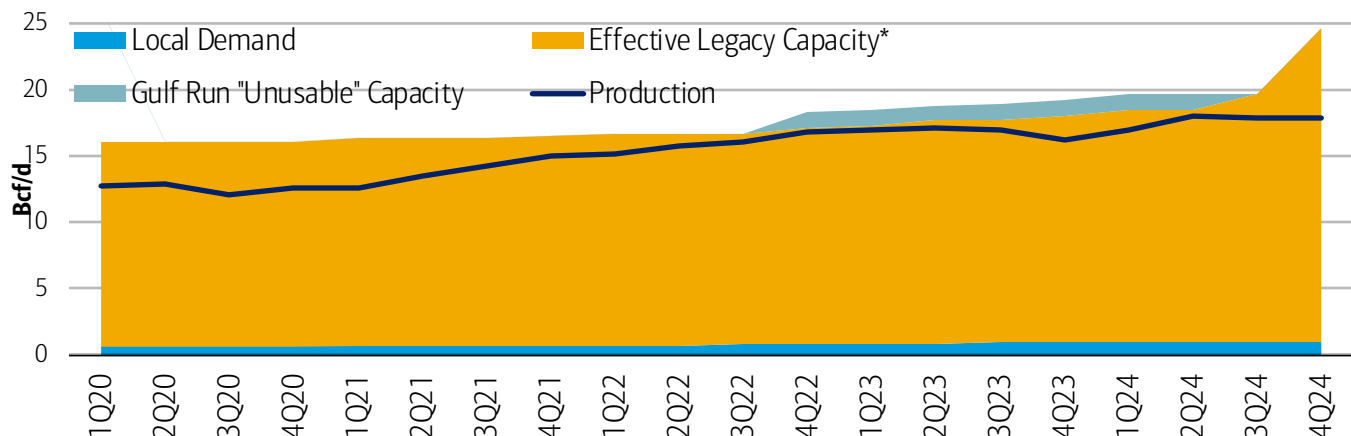
The depth of Haynesville inventory to supply a 20-year LNG contract has been questioned. And we believe the Permian will be the main supplier of long-term LNG gas, with the Haynesville a secondary, more adjacent source or Louisiana Gulf Coast plants. We explain our reasoning for believing the Permian will supply new LNG in the section below. But first, we describe the Haynesville midstream players' market positioning in the basin.

Available Eastbound and Northbound egress controlled by ET

While Haynesville production has eased, egress bottlenecks still exist, as supply lacks a home until the LNG buildout occurs in scale, and new pipes to feed the new facilities will need to be built. Note the increase in takeaway capacity in 4Q24 assumes all 3 litigated pipes (LEAP expansion, LEG and Momentum NG3) come online on time. And these pipes only move the bottleneck from Perryville more to Gillis until LNG demand is real in '25+.

Exhibit 60: Haynesville egress

LNG demand needs to show up for increased production to find a home

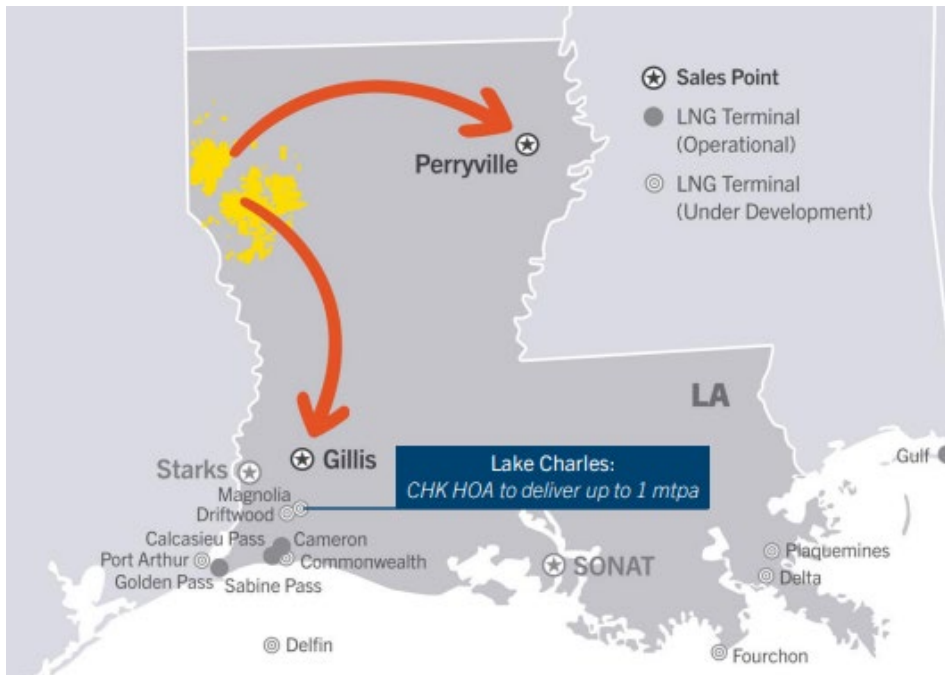


Source: Rystad, BofA Global Research

This is a reason that both Perryville and Gillis trade at a ~30c/Mcf discount to Henry Hub. Lack of demand is an issue until LNG takes volumes in scale.

Exhibit 61: Perryville and Gillis delivery points

Southbound pipes are pointed to Gillis for LNG market



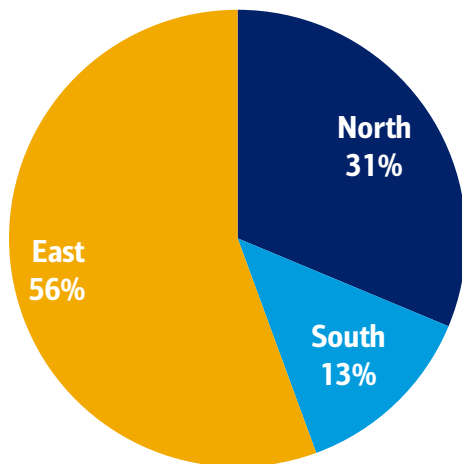
Source: Company filings

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Existing southbound pipes, like CJ Express, Acadian, LEAP, and 500 MMcf/d of Gulf Run are running near full. There is 1.2 Bcf/d of available egress on Gulf South, ET/KMI's Midcontinent Express Pipeline (MEP), and ET's SESH (Southeast Supply Header) system. And 700 MMcf/d of latent capacity exists on ET's primarily demand-pull Mississippi River Transmission (MRT) system, which moves gas up to gas utilities in the St. Louis area.

Exhibit 62: Haynesville egress by direction

Pull from Southeast utilities is primary demand sink

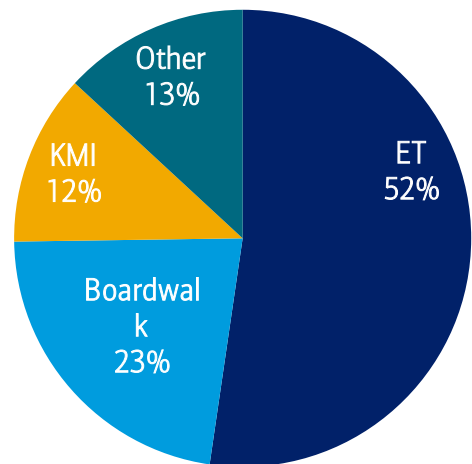


Source: East Daley

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Exhibit 63: Available egress by company

ET controls majority of latent egress



Source: East Daley

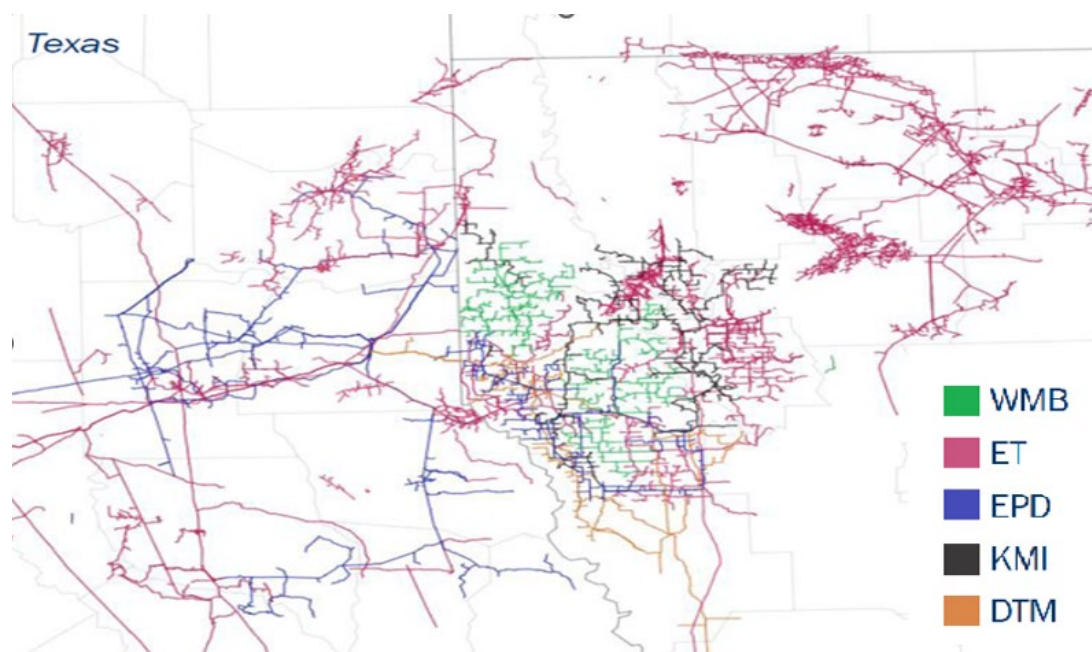
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ET has the most scale / first mover advantage but WMB is making a strong push

Oftentimes, ET's Haynesville position is overlooked given its outsized Permian wellhead-to-water NGL position. But ET, especially after acquiring Enable, now has a controlling position across the basin. WMB has also made a meaningful, centralized push in the basin anchored by the best asset in midstream – Transco. Its recent storage acquisition adds to its wellhead-to-water buildout, as storage is lagging the LNG buildout, creating potential flow assurance problems. Exhibit 56 shows each company's relative footprint in the Haynesville.

Exhibit 64: Haynesville footprint by company

ET spans the entire basin



Source: East Daley
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Exhibit 57 shows ET's footprint in the Haynesville. Note that ET controls the east-west header system across the entire Haynesville with the 200-mile Tiger (2.4 Bcf/d) pipeline and similar sized, parallel EGT system, formerly known as Line CP. The RIGS system moves gas intrastate within Louisiana. And finally, the 1.65 Bcf/d Gulf Run interstate pipeline was put into service in '23, running at ~500 MMcf/d until Golden Pass comes online. We also expect it to deliver gas to CP2 (explained in the next section) and possibly, Lake Charles, if the project is sanctioned.

Exhibit 65: ET's Haynesville infrastructure

ET's Gulf Run will source Golden Pass LNG, and likely CP2



Source: S&P Capital Markets, BofA Global Research

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A legal fight is ensuing as ET argues that gathering pipes lack right-of-ways

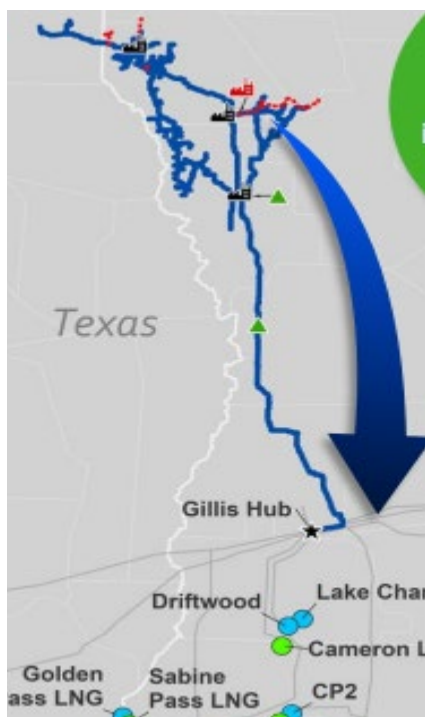
Gulf Run is an interstate FERC approved pipe that ET built, as a first mover, to supply the Golden Pass LNG project. The FERC process is far more cumbersome, but once completed, gives the pipeline operator eminent domain and ability to obtain right of ways and crossings.

But ET argues that 3 sanctioned gathering pipes are crossing its pipes which have exclusive right-of-ways. ET's argument is that these ~150-mile bullet lines from the competitors' gathering facilities to the Gillis Hub are crossing ET's pipes ~40 times each.

Operators like Momentum are arguing that ET is engaging in anti-competitive behavior. ET rebuts that it built Gulf Run under more stringent requirements, as required for an interstate pipe. We expect the LEAP expansion will move forward. WMB will likely announce some re-routing and the length of delay for its LEG project. But we are unsure of Momentum's status. Delays or project cancellations would unlikely cause issues for LNG operators, as these pipes come online earlier than needed, and are moving a bottleneck from Perryville to Gillis until more LNG facilities come online later in the decade. And Gulf Run can be expanded quickly with compression, if producers need an option, benefiting ET.

Exhibit 66: DTM Blue Union-LEAP system

LEAP expansion is brownfield

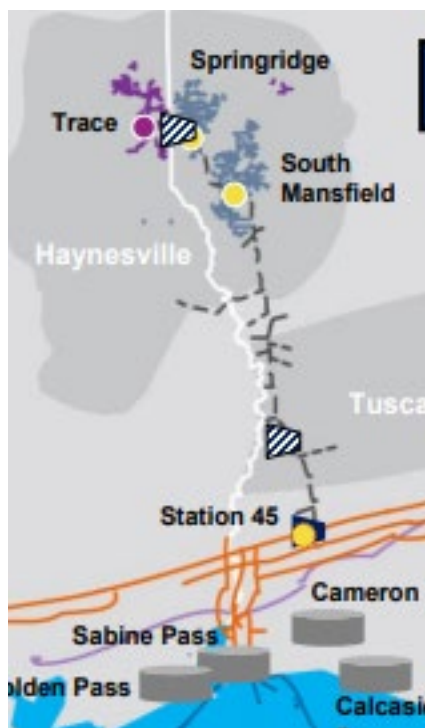


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 67: WMB LEG buildout

Upstream to LNG exposure being built out

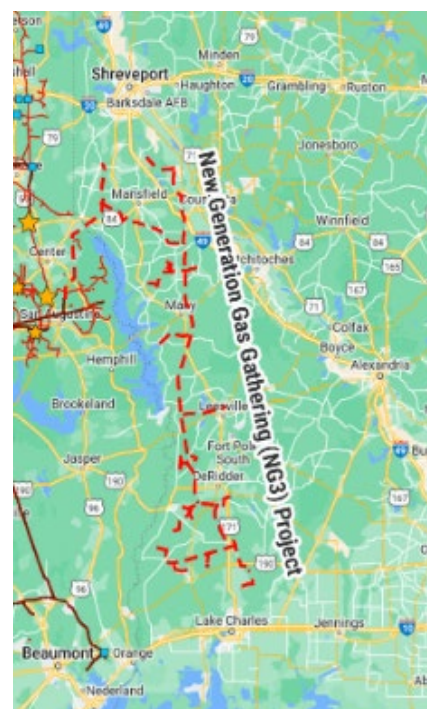


Source: Company filings

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Exhibit 68: Momentum's NG3 project

NG3 moves 1.7 Bcf/d from Haynesville to GC LNG markets



Source: Company filings

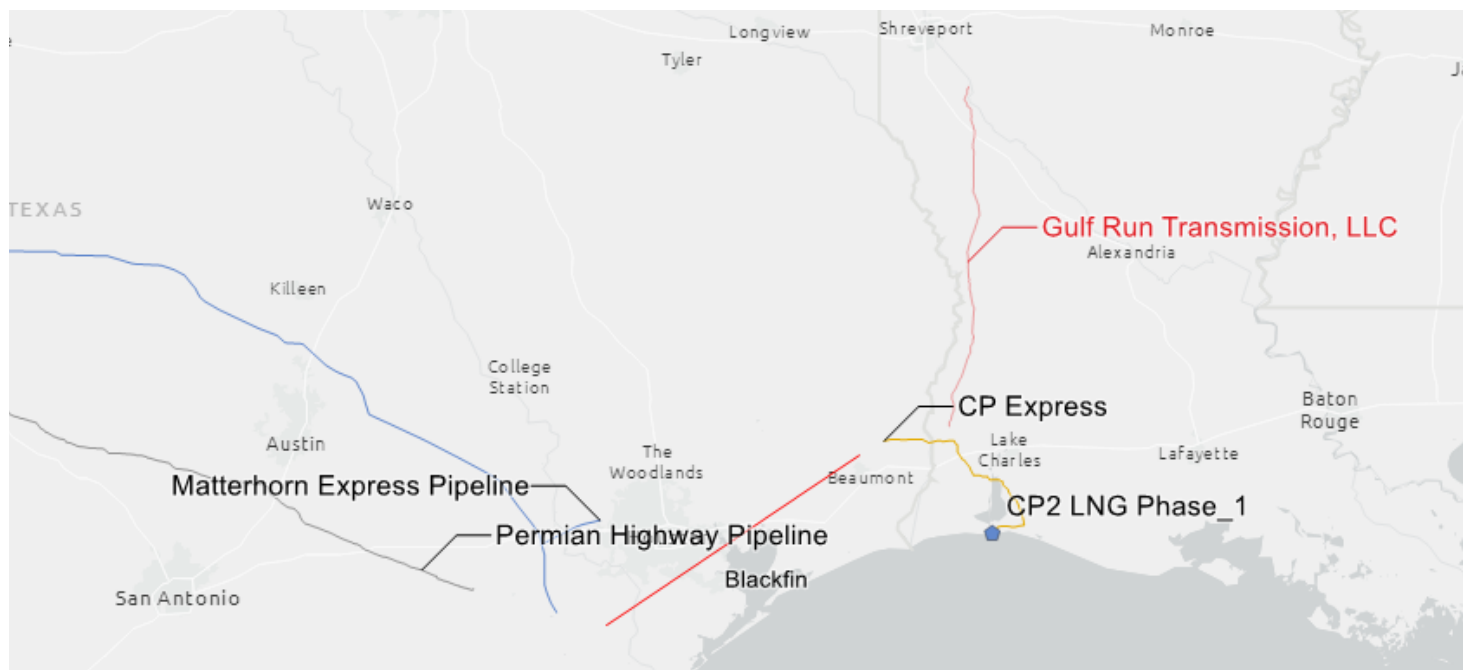
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We believe Gulf Run will co-source CP2 with Permian gas

We believe Calcasieu Pass 2 will be the next U.S. LNG facility to be sanctioned with an ISD of late '27. The brownfield facility only has a total capacity of 2.7 Bcf/d with ~50% contracted. And because of Venture Global's success with CP1, it doesn't need to fully contract the facility, as it can fund more with equity. Both CP2 and its feed-in pipeline, CP Express, have already received positive FERC EIS statements in July, clearing the way for an FID soon, after the final approval. CP Express is a 91-mile, 48-inch pipeline (~3.5 Bcf/d) originates in East TX and moves across the LA border to the facility. And Whitewater's similarly sized 48-inch Blackfin pipeline could connect ~3.1 Bcf/d of Permian gas into CP Express, that is sent to Katy via Matterhorn Express (2.5 Bcf/d, ISD '24) and the Permian Highway expansion (~550 MMcf/d).

Exhibit 69: CP2 LNG pipelines

Permian pipes deliver gas into CP Express via Blackfin



Source: S&P Capital Markets, BofA Global Research

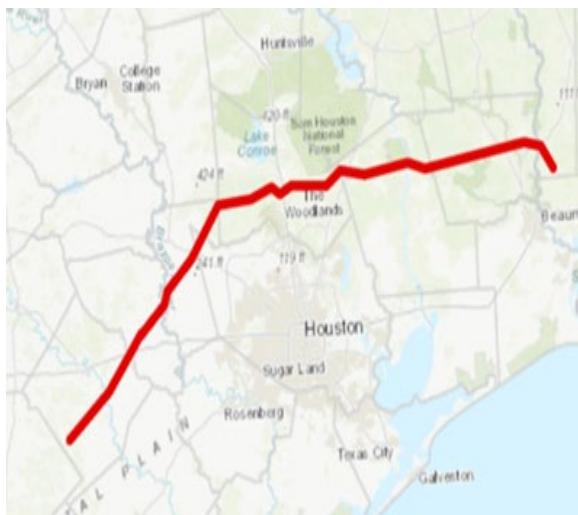
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And Gulf Run will connect into the CP Express Pipeline as the Haynesville source

In CP2's FERC filing, it noted its header pipeline, CP Express, will have a 6-mile 24-inch diameter lateral connecting to Gulf Run. Remember that ~1 Bcf/d of Gulf Run is committed to Golden Pass. 650 MMcf/d of the pipe will be open to the market with connectivity – currently Trunkline capacity is the limiting factor for full flow of Gulf Run. So, 650 MMcf/d is still available for contract capacity, with an available demand sink. And with compression alone, we think the pipe can be expanded up to 2.5 Bcf/d without material regulatory approvals. Even before the legal fight ensued between ET and DTM/Momentum/WMB about right-of-ways on North-South Haynesville pipes, Gulf Run held 1) first mover advantage and 2) status as a FERC-regulated, interstate pipeline, providing it with a lower risk profile than competing north-south gathering pipelines yet to come online. So, either producers could contract (supply-push) to move gas down to CP2 or the LNG facility could contract the pipe capacity (demand-pull).

Exhibit 70: Proposed Blackfin pipeline route

Planned to move Katy gas to TX/LA border

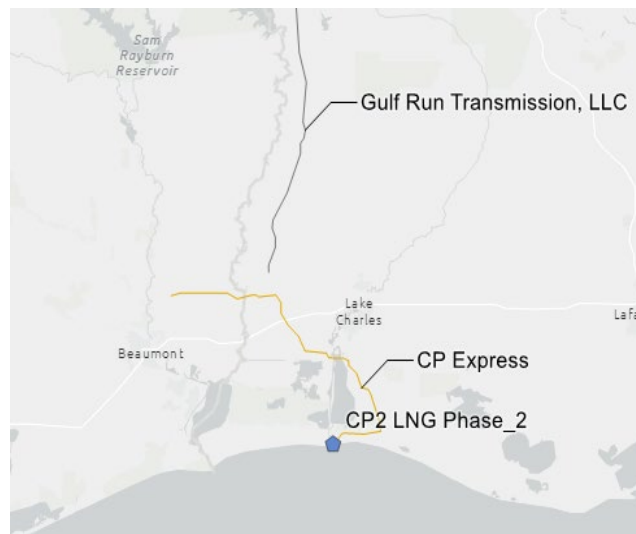


Source: S&P Capital Markets, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 71: Gulf Run pipeline

Gulf Run can move Haynesville supply to CP2



Source: S&P Capital Markets, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 72: Companies mentioned

Companies mentioned in this report

BofA Ticker	Bloomberg ticker	Company name	Price	Rating
ET	ET US	Energy Transfer LP	US\$ 13.87	B-1-7
EPD	EPD US	Enterprise L.P.	US\$ 26.78	B-1-7
ETRN	ETRN US	Equitrans Midstream	US\$ 10.35	C-3-8
KMI	KMI US	Kinder Morgan	US\$ 17.95	B-2-7
KNTK	KNTK US	Kinetik	US\$ 32.49	C-1-7
KGS	KGS US	Kodiak Gas Services	US\$ 20.29	C-1-7
MPLX	MPLX US	MPLX LP	US\$ 36.85	B-3-7
OKE	OKE US	ONEOK Inc	US\$ 70.87	B-1-7
PAA	PAA US	Plains AA	US\$ 15.31	B-2-7
PAGP	PAGP US	Plains GP Holdings	US\$ 16.15	B-2-7
TRGP	TRGP US	Targa Corp.	US\$ 86.25	C-1-7
WES	WES US	Western Midstream	US\$ 28.48	C-3-7
WMB	WMB US	Williams Companies	US\$ 35.82	B-1-7

Source: BofA Global Research

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Price objective basis & risk**Energy Transfer LP (ET)**

Our PO of \$18 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 8.4x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast terminal decline of 1% while using a 7.0% WACC.

Downside risks are: potential shutdown of Dakota Access pipeline for extended period as per court ruling, higher leverage, dilutive M&A transaction and lower sustained commodity prices. The tax treatment of ET depends on its status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes: should ET become subject to taxes, its performance could be materially affected. From a macro perspective, financial risks are rising interest rates and a stricter regulatory environment which would increase operating and maintenance expenses.

Enterprise Products Partners, L.P. (EPD)

Our PO of \$31 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 10.3x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten-year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal decline of 1.0% while using a 7.0% weighted-average cost of capital (WACC).

Downside risks to our price objective are supply chain disruptions, the loss of key customers, and lower sustained commodity prices. Any of these risks could negatively impact volumes at EPD's pipelines and storage facilities and demand for gathering, processing and storage of crude oil, natural gas, NGLs, and petrochemicals.

Equitrans Midstream Corporation (ETRN)

Our PO of \$9.00 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which is 8.6x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal growth rate of 1.0% while using a 9.0% WACC.

We continue to see risks some associated with the MVP JV project and current slate of associated projects. We acknowledge steady gas production in the Northeast and ETRN's entirely fee-based cash flows and advantaged position in the Marcellus/Utica. Upside



risks to our PO: favorable progress on MVP completion withstanding new legal challenges, better than expected volume growth, faster than expected deleveraging, additional growth projects. Downside risks to our PO: further project delays, supply chain disruptions, increased customer credit risks, and slower than expected production ramp, any of which could negatively impact ETRN's natural gas pipelines and gathering systems. From a macro perspective, risks are elevated geopolitical uncertainty, an increasing interest rate environment, the need to access a relatively large amount of external capital to fund growth, and a stricter regulatory environment. ETRN is a C-corp structure and thus any changes to its tax characterization could impact cash flows.

Kinder Morgan Inc (KMI)

Our PO of \$19 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 9.9x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast terminal growth of 1.0% while using a 7.5% WACC.

Upside risks to our estimates are (1) higher commodity prices, (2) better long-term macro environment in the crude oil and refined products businesses, (3) stronger pipeline recontracting prospects and (4) tailwinds associated with energy transition opportunities.

Downside risks to our estimates are (1) US economic weakness, (2) slower oil and gas demand growth, (3) lower oil/gas prices, (4) higher than expected cash tax incidence at KMI and (5) weaker pricing at KMI's CO2 segment.

Kinetik Holdings Inc. (KNTK)

Our PO of \$39 is derived from our Discounted Cash Flow Valuation which implies a 10.4x 2024 EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten-year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition and then forecast a terminal growth rate of 1.0% while using a 9.0% weighted-average cost of capital (WACC).

Upside risks to our price objective are 1) higher commodity prices, 2) increased rich gas production on KNTK's contracted acreage, 3) winning acreage dedications at pace faster than modeled.

Downside risks to our price objective are 1) US economic weakness and/or commodity prices, 2) slower Permian production growth, 3) inability to win new acreage dedications.

Kodiak Gas Services, Inc. (KGS)

Our PO of \$29 is derived from a multiples-based approach to valuation which uses a 7.5x 2025E EV/EBITDA multiple based on peer group comparables.

Upside risks to our price objective are 1) higher commodity prices, 2) increased rich gas production in the Permian, 3) growth in LNG export markets along the Gulf Coast.

Downside risks to our price objective are 1) US economic weakness and/or commodity prices, 2) slower Permian production growth, 3) customer concentration/shift to in-sourcing compression.

MPLX LP (MPLX)

Our PO of \$36 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 9.1x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten-year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal growth rate of 0% while using a 7.5% weighted-average cost of capital (WACC).

Downside risks to our price objective are (1) US economic weakness, (2) slower oil and gas demand growth/lower oil/gas prices, (3) lower utilization at MPC's refineries, (4) slowdown/decline in crude oil/refined products demand and (5) changes to its dividend/payout policy.

ONEOK Inc (OKE)

Our PO of \$83 PO is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 10.9x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten-year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal decline of 0.5% while using a 7.0% WACC.

Upside risks to our estimates and price objective are: (1) stronger and sustained commodity prices, (2) faster oil and NGL demand growth, (3) increased oil producer capital spending, (4) quicker than expected deleveraging, (5) favorable commodity price differentials and (6) lower corporate taxes.

Downside risks to our estimates and price objective are: (1) materially lower commodity prices, (2) lower oil and NGL demand growth and (3) decreased oil producer capital spending in the Bakken which may translate to lower/flat volumes.

Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. (PAA)

Our price objective (PO) of \$17.00 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies an 8.0x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal decline rate of 0% while using a 8.5% weighted-average cost of capital (WACC).

While PAA appears to be well contracted over the medium-term, we acknowledge the overbuild in the Permian may persist. Upside risks to our price objective are a better-than-expected recovery in oil prices and drilling activity, lower-than-expected headwinds to PAA's pipeline transportation tariffs, higher spread/contango opportunities, further reductions to PAA's capex program, better-than-anticipated cost optimizations and further potential asset sales.

Downside risks to our price objective are prolonged period of crude oversupply and longer-term demand destruction, sustained low crude oil prices and lower drilling activity and bigger-than-expected drop in pipeline tariffs.

Plains GP Holdings, L.P. (PAGP)

For PAGP, we use the same valuation as PAA. Our PO of \$17.00 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 8.0x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal decline of 0% while using a 8.5% WACC.

While PAA appears to be well contracted over the medium-term, the overbuild in the Permian may persist. Upside risks to our price objective are a better than expected recovery in oil prices and drilling activity, lower then expected headwinds to PAA's pipeline transportation tariffs, higher spread/contango opportunities, further reductions to PAA's capex program, better than anticipated cost optimizations and potential asset sales.

Downside risks to our price objective are prolonged period of crude oversupply and potential longer term demand destruction, sustained low crude oil prices and lower drilling activity and bigger than expected drop in pipeline tariffs

Targa Resources Corp. (TRGP)

Our PO of \$104 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies an 9.6x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast terminal growth of 1% while using a 8% WACC.

Downside risks are: 1) another downturn in commodity prices and producer activity in TRGP's core basins, 2) slower-than-expected volume ramp on TRGP's assets, 3) sustained weakness in commodity prices leading to deterioration of counterparty credit quality and (4) reduced oil & gas producer capital spending.

The Williams Companies, Inc. (WMB)

Our PO of \$41 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 10.9x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal increase of 1.0% while using a 7.0% WACC.

Downside risks to our estimates and price objective are: (1) pace of deleveraging longer than expected and inability to execute on organic growth projects (2) global economic weakness (3) slower oil and gas demand growth (4) reduced oil & gas producer capital spending (5) changes to regulatory environment (6) increase in corporate tax policies.

Western Midstream Partners, LP (WES)

Our PO of \$27 is derived from our discounted cash flow valuation, which implies a 8.0x 2024E EV/EBITDA multiple. We forecast a ten-year outlook, which we believe is the limit of market recognition, and then forecast a terminal decline of 0% while using a 9.0% WACC.

We believe WES's earnings predictability, higher leverage/capex and limited ability to return capital in '24 are issues with a weak commodity tape going into '24.

Risks to the upside are higher than expected volumes on WES's Delaware, DJ and PRB systems, more earnings certainty, and lower than expected capex needs.

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I, Neel Mitra, CFA, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

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US - Pipelines and MLPs Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Energy Transfer LP	ET	ET US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Enterprise Products Partners, L.P.	EPD	EPD US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Kinetik Holdings Inc.	KNTK	KNTK US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Kodiak Gas Services, Inc.	KGS	KGS US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	ONEOK Inc	OKE	OKE US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Targa Resources Corp.	TRGP	TRGP US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	The Williams Companies, Inc.	WMB	WMB US	Neel Mitra, CFA
NEUTRAL				
	Kinder Morgan Inc	KMI	KMI US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.	PAA	PAA US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Plains GP Holdings, L.P.	PAGP	PAGP US	Neel Mitra, CFA
UNDERPERFORM				
	Equitrans Midstream Corporation	ETRN	ETRN US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	MPLX LP	MPLX	MPLX US	Neel Mitra, CFA
	Western Midstream Partners, LP	WES	WES US	Neel Mitra, CFA
RVW				
	Golar LNG Limited	GLNG	GLNG US	Neel Mitra, CFA

Disclosures

Important Disclosures

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Energy Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships ^{R1}	Count	Percent
Buy	83	61.48%	Buy	64	77.11%
Hold	28	20.74%	Hold	21	75.00%
Sell	24	17.78%	Sell	18	75.00%

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships ^{R1}	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

^{R1} Issuers that were investment banking clients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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Investment rating	Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating)	Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster ^{R2}
Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

^{R2} Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

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