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- Q1 2007 AltaGas Income Trust Earnings Conference Call

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#### CORPORATE PARTICIPANTS

Marshal Thompson AltaGas Income Trust - Chairman, Senior VP External Relations and Corporate Risk

David Cornhill AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Rick Alexander AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

David Wright AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP

#### CONFERENCE CALL PARTICIPANTS

**Robert Catellier** Clarus Securities - Analyst

Matthew Akman CIBC World Markets - Analyst

Fai Lee RBC Capital Markets - Analyst

Nima Bealow Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

Chris Bolton BMO Capital Markets - Analyst

#### **PRESENTATION**

#### Operator

Please be advised that this conference call is being recorded. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the AltaGas Income Trust 2007 first quarter conference call and webcast. I would now like to turn the meeting over to Marshal Thompson, Senior Vice President External Relations and Corporate risk. Please go ahead Mr. Thompson.

Marshal Thompson - AltaGas Income Trust - Chairman, Senior VP External Relations and Corporate Risk

Thank you Melissa. Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to AltaGas' first quarter conference call. David Cornhill, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, will begin with a few remarks on the results for the quarter. He will then discuss AltaGas' plans for growth. Richard Alexander, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, will then discuss our operating and financial results as well as give our outlook for the rest of the year. We'll conclude with a question-and-answer session.

I understand we have experienced a -- a technical delay in getting our news release across the wire and my apologies.

Before I begin, I will remind you that certain information presented today may constitute forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the trusts' current expectations, estimate, projections and assumptions. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to certain risks which could cause actual performance and financial results in the future to vary materially from those contemplated in the forward-looking statements. For additional information on these risks, please sea the trusts' annual information form under the heading "Risk factors." I will now turn the call over to David Cornhill.

#### **David Cornhill** - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Thank you, Marshall and, good afternoon. Today we announced net income for the first quarter of \$24.6 million or \$0.43 per unit compared to \$28.6 million or \$0.52 per unit in the first quarter of 2006. As we stated in our year-end conference call, and at the annual meeting, 2007 started slowly. Our power, extraction and transmission businesses had a strong first quarter. The first quarters' results are slightly stronger than expected and ahead of budget. Our base business, are strong and we expect to show improved earnings in the FG & P segment, Field Gathering and Processing segment, as the year progresses. We expect that 2007 -- all segments will meet or exceed 2006 operating results.



In addition to our strong base business, we have recently announced several near-term opportunities that will include investing approximately \$225 million over the next 24 months. These projects and opportunities include, a new pipeline to transport 90 million cubic feet a day of natural gas from the Noel region of British Columbia, to a 90 million a day sour gas expansion of our (Inaudible) per paid facilities in northwest Alberta. This project is anticipated to cost approximately \$90 million. Also -- also includes an addition of 14 megawatts of gas-fired peeking capacities -- southern Alberta. The six units are expected to cost -- to cost \$8 million, including installation. We are -- they are expected to be placed on two of our existing field gathering processing sites Parkland and Bantree. They will be operated and dispatched in conjunction with our 25MW gas-fired capacity. We also expect to make an additional investment of approximately \$25 million in Ontario natural gas storage and pipeline in the structure assets in the short term.

Finally, we have the Fair Mountain wind park in northeast BC, which is underpinned by a 25 year contract with BC hydro. We are close to securing our turbines and are talking to potential investors. The wind park is expected to cost about \$200 million. All these projects are expected to be in service by mid-2009. They are expected to be financed by internal resources without the need to go to the equity markets.

What I have just described is about 20% growth in our asset base over the next two years. We fully expect to have additional projects as we continue to pursue growth opportunities. Our balance sheet is strong and we have great access to capital markets should we need it. Our growth is split equality between gas and power infrastructure, in keeping with our strategy to grow both our gas and power businesses equally over the mid to long term. We believe that AltaGas is ideally positioned to grow our business and long term unit holder value. As a result of recent announcements, how we will grow is now more visible. We have a strong base business today with significant opportunities to build -- build all parts of our integrated gas and power businesses. We have the energy to grow and we are in the business for the long haul. I will now pass the discussion over to Rick Alexander.

#### Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Thank you, David and good afternoon, everyone. I would like to first highlight the key operating and financial results discussed in our first quarter news release, which you can find on our web site. I will then talk about our outlook for the various segments for the remainder of 2007.

As David said, the first quarter began slowly as we had anticipated. Our first quarter net income was \$24.6 million, or \$0.43 per unit. This is down from our net income of \$28.6 million or \$0.52 a unit reported in the first quarter last year. The weighted average number of units outstanding increased by 1.9 million units year over year to 56.7 million, mainly due to our drift.

Field gathering and processing segment experienced lower throughput and utilization in the first quarter of 2007. This was due to the slow down producer well tie-in activity that began in the last half of 2006 and to natural declines. Well tie-ins were down 40% to 89 from 148 in the first quarter of 2006. While our new and expanded facilities contributed to hight throughput the increases were more than offset by the declines at out existing facilities. Average throughput in the quarter was 552 million cubic feet per day, down 18 million cubic feet per day from levels in the first quarter of 2006. Average utilization declined to 54% from 57% in the first quarter of 2006, however, both these measures were consistent with the fourth quarter. In the shallower south district, the new Princess facility, added 11 million cubic feet per day of throughput, compared to the first quarter of 2006. This partially offset the impact of natural decline, resulting in district throughputs that was 4 million cubic feet per day lower than in first quarter last year.

In the north district, volumes process decreased 14 million cubic feet per day. The new Clear Prairie and Clear Hill gas plants and the expansion at Prairie River, increased throughput by 13 million cubic feet per day in the quarter. These increases were more than offset by natural declines and lower producer activity. In particular, the [wavoska] winter only access drilling area, saw volume declines of 12 million cubic feet per day as fewer wells were drilled than in the same quarter last year. While the north district has recently experienced higher declines than the south, we believe that it is still an area with potential opportunities to increase throughput from expecter -- expected higher producer activity. Our recently announced plans to built a new pipeline to transport natural gas from the Noel region for British Columbia, to a 90 million cubic feet per day sour gas expansion of a (Inaudible) facility, than north-west Alberta's support is outlook for the area. Once in service in April 2008, this project is expected to increase FG & P throughput, up more than 10%.



Operating income in the field gathering and processing segment was \$4.2 million in the quarter, compared to \$6.9 million in the first quarter of 2006. Operating income increased by \$1 million as a result of new facilities and another \$1.2 million due to higher rates and other revenues. These increases were the direct result of AltaGas' strategy to manage the risk of volume declines. However, the increases in operating income in the quarter were more than offset by the lower throughput I just discussed, a lower contribution from minimum volume [tractural] provisions, which tend to show up in our results in an uneven fashion, and adjustments related to prior period activity. We also had additional amortization expense related to maintenance capital.

Moving to the extraction and the transmission segment, operating income was \$8.5 million in the first quarter, up slightly from \$8.3 million last year. The increase was mainly due to higher volumes processed as a result of the recent Edmonton extraction plants, enhanced FA recovery project. Higher utilization of one Empress plant and an increased ownership interest in the other Empress plant. Overall, extraction volumes were up 3,200 barrels a day or 17% quarter over quarter. Operating income was reduced by \$200,000 revenue deferral related to the south field pipeline system, as well as increased costs due to the additional production capability and variable costs associated with increased extraction plant utilization.

Crack spreads were almost \$12 in the quarter, compared to \$13 per barrel in the same period of 2006. Just under 8% of our volumes were exposed to crack spread in the quarter and added \$1.9 million to net revenue. In comparison, the first quarter of 2006, the 6% of volumes exposed to crack spreads added \$1.4 million to net revenue.

Our power generation segments started off 2007 with another strong quarter. Our average price received on the sale of power, which includes hedge and spot sales for both Sundance and the Gas-fired peaking plant, was more than \$66 per megawatt hour. Up \$5 from the same quarter last year. In comparison, the average Alberta pool price was just under \$64 per megawatt hour -- hour, up almost \$7 from the first quarter of 2006. At \$22.1 million, first quarter 2007 operating income and power generation segment, was only \$700,000 lower than in the first quarter of 2006. Even though the Genesee PPA expired at March 2006. Higher hedge and spot prices and earnings from peaking facilities, added an incremental \$3.4 million to operating income. This offset much of the lost \$4.1 million in operating income contributed by the Genesee contract in Q1 '06.

I should note that on March 15th, AltaGas began operating and servicing its Gas-fired peaking plants, in addition to dispatching them. By the end of the year, we will be operating 39 megawatts of Gas-fired peaking capacity in southern Alberta.

Moving to the energy services segment, first quarter operating income was \$500,000, down slightly from \$600,000 in Q1, 2006. We had a higher contribution from our back-to-back buys and sells of gas, in addition to increased transportation revenue from expanding gas services activities. We also had growth in earnings from our expansion into the Ontario electricity market, and national brand strategy. These positive developments and energy services were impacted from lower contributions from the non-core oil and gas production business and by lower revenue as a result of nonrecurring earnings in the first quarter 2006, on some energy managing contracts. Both the number of energy management services contracts and average gas volumes marketed, were up compared to the first quarter of 2006. Please keep in mind, however, that the wholesale volumes include volumes transacted on behalf of the other operating segments and volumes sold in gas exchange transactions. In addition to volumes that are marketed directly, as a result increased volumes do not necessarily impact energy services segments results proportionally. While this operating segment is our smallest, it is an important element in increasing the value of our assets. In the first quarter of 2007, the energy services segment arranged for gas supply to the extraction facility, that increased net revenue in the extraction and transmission segment by \$0.50 million dollars, up from \$200,000 in the first quarter of 2006. This is an example of the integration of our businesses.

The corporate segment had an operating loss of \$6.3 million in the first quarter compared to the loss of \$3.6 million in the same period of 2006. The increased costs of the segment was primarily due to compensation costs that were up \$1.5 million. \$600,000 of lower costs allocated to the operating segments, \$500,000 in higher general corporate overhead, as well as a \$500,000 positive adjustment relating to our investment in Taylor that took place in the first quarter of 2006. \$600,000 of the \$1.5 million increase in compensation costs, related to the first quarter of 2006 that were recorded in the fourth quarter that year. Higher corporate loss -- the higher corporate loss was partially offset by a one-time gain of \$400,000 from unwinding interest rate swaps, as result of \$100 million medium term notes issued in January.

Effective January 1, 2007, AltaGas adopted new accounting standards that require the fair value of all financial instruments to be reflected on the financial statements. This standard was applied prospectively and we have therefore not restated prior periods. As a result of these new standards, our financial statements now include a consolidated statement of comprehensive income and accumulated other comprehensive income. You



will also see additional line items specific to risk management on all of our financial statements. Given AltaGas' corporate approach to risk management, we are showing the income statement impacts in the corporate segment. When the impacts of financial instruments are realized, it will be included in the appropriate operating segment, as has always been the case. The impact of the new standards on first quarter results was not material.

Now that I have discussed the results in each of the segments, I will move to a discussion of the consolidated numbers. Amortization expense for the first quarter was \$12.2 million, compared to \$11.1 million in the first quarter of 2006. The \$1.1 million increase was primarily due to new and expanded facilities in maintenance capital in the FG & P business. Our average debt balance was \$18 million lower and combined with a slightly higher interest rate, resulted in interest expense of \$3 million in the first quarter of 2007, compared to \$3.3 million in the same quarter of 2006. Income tax expense was \$1.4 million, less than half the \$3.1 million income tax expense in the first quarter last year. The \$1.7 million decrease was due to lower net income before tax and to the large corporations tax reported in the first quarter of 2006 which was later repealed, partially offset by \$600,000 impact from unrealized gains recorded as a result of the new accounting standards for financial instruments. While I'm on the subject of income tax, I wanted to remind you that the second quarter of 2006 included a \$6.6 million non-cash, future income tax benefit, due to the reduction in federal and Alberta corporate income tax rates that took place last year. Keep in mind that this will negatively impact our quarter-over-quarter net income comparison for the second quarter.

Invested capital in the quarter totaled almost \$7 million, compared to \$18.5 million in the first quarter of 2006. Growth capital spent in the quarter was \$4.5 million, most of which was spent in the field gathering and processing and extraction and transmission segments. The invested capital tables in our news release gives you a detailed view of where we spent our capital. With respect to our balance sheet, total debt onMarch 31, was \$255 million, \$10 million lower than at the end of 2006. Our total debt-to-cap ratio was 32.3%, down from 33.4% at year end. That is still well below our target of 40% to 45%.

In regards to cash flow, funds from operation in 2006 were down 7% to \$38 million. The change was mainly due to lower net income this quarter. Distributions declared in the first quarter were \$0.51 per unit, or \$29 million. This resulted in a payout ratio of 76%, up from 65% of funds from operation in the first quarter of last year. We were in line with our target payout ratio, which is 70% to 80%, funds from operation.

I will now move on to our outlook for 2007. We continue to focus on the profitability of the field gathering and processing business in order to offset softness in throughput and improve the return on investment. We are adding new facilities, implementing rate increases, increasing flow through operating costs to producers and insuring that new plants are backstopped by paper pay it commitments. We expect FG & P segment results to improve over the remainder of the year. In the first quarter, we saw some strengthening in the natural gas prices in North American markets and reduced inflationary pressure on drilling and operating results. Given this trend, producer drilling activity is expected to increase, resulting in higher FG & P throughput and operating income. We also expect to see increased opportunities to expand, construct, and acquire processing facilities as producers focus capital investment on drilling. AltaGas expects to spend \$50 million in FG & P this year, over and above the Noel (Inaudible) to pay project we now (Inaudible). Our outlook for the extraction and the transmission segment is for the base extraction business to do better than last year. This is due to the additional volumes from the heat enhanced FA and recovery project and the increased interest in one of the Empress plants. This growth will be somewhat offset by frack spreads that had declined from the historically high levels seen in 2006. Frack spreads for the remainder of the year are expected to be similar to the level we saw in the first quarter. Note that in the second quarter last year, the average frack spreads were \$22 per barrel. We have two turn-arounds planned at our extraction facilities for later this year. The first is taking place this month at one of the empress facilities and the second will be at Eden in September. The turnarounds are expected to cost a total of less than \$500,000 and to have minimal impact on operating income.

Results from the transmission business are also expected to increase this year, mainly as a result of the 18 million cubic feet per day awry in gas transmission pipeline which is an extension of the cold lake system. The project started generating revenue on May 1. In transmission, we expect to defer approximately \$400,000 of revenue related to the south field pipeline system in 2007. This is down from \$800,000 in 2006. There will be no cash impact in 2007 related to the deferral. Operating income in the power generation segment is expected to be higher for 2007 than in 2006. This is due to the fact that we have had hedged approximately two-thirds of our Sundance PPA output at approximately \$66 per megawatt hour, which is around \$6 per megawatt hour higher than last year's hedge price. Even the swap prices aren't -- up slightly lower than 2006, we believe operating income will increase this year. We expect to continue to see strong power prices in Alberta as a result of continued economic and power demand. And the lack of any significant new capacity editions plants for the medium term. Current forward-market power prices are approximately \$85 per megawatt hour for the remainder of 2007 and approximately \$80 for 2008. This is positive for growth in our power generation. We also



anticipate the additional 14.4 megawatts of Gas-fired peaking capacity will be up and running by the end of the year which should immediately be accretive to earnings and cash flow. Although the impact of 2007 will likely be small.

Before I move on to the energy services segment outlook, let me take a moment to briefly discuss recent federal and Alberta government greenhouse gas announcement and their anticipated impact on AltaGas. Based on the draft Alberta legislation our 50% interest in the Sundance-B PPA's, is our only facility that exceeds the current threshold of 100 kilotons per year. None of our FG & P or ENT facilities exceed the 100 kiloton threshold. On April 26, the federal government announced its plan to enact similar legislation, although the details are not expected to be available for sometime. It is therefore difficult to estimate the impact of the potential federal legislation on the trust. If enacted, the Alberta regulation is expected to increase operating costs for our share of the Sundance PPAs by approximately \$2.5 million in 2007 or \$5 million per year. To the extent that these costs can be recovered through higher power pool prices, or by the deduction of emissions or the creation or acquisition of offsets, the impact of the increased costs would be mitigated. In the meantime, the owner and operator of the Sundance plant is investigating opportunities to increase plant efficiencies that are more economical than the current proposed cost of \$15 per ton. In energy services, the energy management business is expected to grow based on continued expansion into electricity supply management Ontario and a focused national account strategy and target acceptance. The gas services business is also expected to grow as a result of locking it back-to-back buy and sell gas contracts that are expected to produce fixed margins for terms up to five years. Over the past several years, AltaGas has accumulated a portfolio of oil and gas production assets in connection with larger acquisitions of gathering and processing facilities. We held and produced these assets primarily as a hedge to a long-term natural gas sales contract. As we mentioned in our year-end conference call, late in 2006, we fixed the price of this long-term natural gas commitment with a third party. We continue to consider alternatives for maximizing the values of these non-core assets, which have been experienced in production declines due to minimal capital expenditures over the last -- past few years.

For 2007 as a whole, we expect the operating loss in the corporate segment to be slightly higher than in 2006. Revenues from our equity investments will likely be relatively flat and we expect lower operating and administrative expenses due to lower ongoing costs, to meet CEO, CFO certification requirements. These lower costs will be offset by higher compensation costs and higher amortization costs related to increase investment -- increased investments in technology to support growth of the Trust. It will also be offset by lower costs allocated to the operating segments.

To conclude, I will reiterate that our outlook for 2007 is to meet or exceed 2006 operating results. We have the assets and the people that continue to deliver value to our unit holders. In addition, we are currently pursuing growth opportunities that we expect will add another \$50 million to our asset base in 2007. In addition to the \$225 million in projects we expect to deliver on and in the next 24 months. Our disciplined approach to growth, strong balance sheet and cash flow and access to the capital markets should be needed to position us well for the future. With that, I will now turn the call back to Marshal.

Marshal Thompson - AltaGas Income Trust - Chairman, Senior VP External Relations and Corporate Risk

Thank you, Rick. That completes the formal part of our conference call this afternoon. David and Rick, as well as David Wright, Executive Vice Presidents, are now available to answer your questions. Melissa, I will now turn the call back to you for the question and answer session.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Operator

Thank you. We will now take questions from the telephone lines. (OPERATOR INSTRUCTIONS) The first question is from Robert Catellier, from Clarus Securities, please go ahead.

#### Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

Hi, am I to take your -- your guidance statement today as being an improvement over the guidance statement we had at the -- during the last conference call. It seems to me it's a little bit more bullish to suggest that you are going to meet or exceed operating income from both segments.



David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

It's David. I would say it's consistent. I thought it was pretty consistent with the -- what we talked at the annual meeting and that's what we see at this point.

Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

Okay. Just in the field gathering and processing segment. As you look towards drilling and service costs -- maybe abating somewhat, is that outlook pretty much wide spread or -- or is there regional specific influences there? And if so, are you relatively well positioned to benefit from cost trends?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

We are seeing that. It's Rick Alexander. We are seeing that trend throughout the western basis, which is really the area that we are focused on. So we would expect a benefit in both the north and the south regions of our -- of our business.

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Just a slight addition. What we are seeing is fairly strong activity. Or hearing about fairly strong activity in the southern part, in the plains area right now.

Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

And why is that?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Well, what we are seeing is and hearing is that producers are -- and we have seen this a little bit, and you can see by the way our throughput is developed over the quarter. That producers have shifted their focus somewhat to the shallower, quick tie-in ops so -- operations, so that they can maintain production and cash flow in the short term and away from the higher cost deeper gas.

Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

Okay. With respect to the -- the turnarounds at the extraction plants how much offline time do you anticipate that will involve?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

About a week each -- about two weeks each time.

Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

Two weeks each?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Yes.



#### Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

Okay. And are -- are you going to be accruing for the environmental obligations starting with -- in July 1. Are you going to start accruing against that 2.5 million.

#### **David Cornhill** - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

It will start out on July 1, yes.

#### Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

And what level of confidence do you have that the -- the operator of those generators can -- can find ways to reduce their emissions or otherwise how can the Trust find -- how confident are you the Trust can find ways to mitigate that expense?

#### David Wright - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP

Its David Wright. Naturally, the legislation is still draft. And so we have got to see how it eventually looks, but the environmental costs are a natural cost to producing the power and one would naturally expect to see some inclusion of that in the price, as well in working with the operator, in our case TransAlta, we are very much looking to having improvements in the plant in the near term.

#### Robert Catellier - Clarus Securities - Analyst

Okay. Those are my questions, thanks.

#### Operator

Thank you, the next question is from Matthew Akman with CIBC World Markets, please go ahead.

#### Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

Thanks, questions are on the field gathering and processing business. And maybe Rick or someone if you could expand on the \$50 million of capital you plan on putting too the business this year. What kind of things are you doing and I guess, what kinds of returns on capital can we expect from that?

#### Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

What we're looking at is we're seeing opportunities from -- particularly from producers who would like to see an independent third party spend the capital to add either new facilities or to sell existing facilities. And for both gathering lines and processing plants and that's what we are looking at adding throughout the year. So it will be lumpy as it's incurred but we would expect to get double digit returns, low double digit returns for that.

#### Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

And when -- I guess it sounds like you are banking on some acquisitions then in this number. This isn't the organic, right?



Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

It's a combination.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

And when you say double digit returns, what do you mean? Can you talk in terms of return on capital employed.

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Return on investment.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

So return on equity you are talking -- double digit?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Well, return on capital, cash-on-cash returns and income.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

So cash-on-cash returns, you are talking double digit returns you'd look for?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Yes.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

After tax or pretax? I guess it doesn't matter to you guys right now still.

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Well, it matters. We always look at both pretax and after taxes. As you know, Matthew, we have always looked at investment opportunities as if we were a corporate. So we will look at after tax as well.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

I'm just asking these questions because obviously we have seen a reduction in operating income from this business, despite pretty significant investments. So, you know, I just want to get your views generally on how you see returns from these investments and maybe why we are not seeing them so far.



Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

Well, we are -- we have seen deteriorating returns and, you know, all I can tell you is we have a -- an ever increasing focus on the operating efficiencies within the business and where and how we're charging revenues to producers. And we've got a number of initiatives underway, some of which we've talked about, for example, increasing the flow through costs. We are looking at what costs should be appropriately flowed through, what other fee opportunities are there, as well as cost initiatives to see if we can operate more efficiently. So we have a number of things underway to drive improved return on investment in this segment

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Which includes, as we talked about, additional facilities which would have more attractive returns for going forward.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

And the returns on the \$90 million expansion around Pouce Coupe is that similar kinds of returns as you are looking out on your expansion?

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Yes.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

Okay. How do you get comfort with that number, that CapEx number? That sounds just a little bit -- I mean, there's a fair bit of activity in construction there, it's a long pipeline. How do you get comfort on \$90 million given cost acceleration on all energy infrastructure?

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Its based on engineering reviews and third-party independent pricing and then a significant contingency to that.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

Do you have a lot of those costs tied down in contract or are you guys at risk for that?

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

We have some -- in our contract flexibility around the capital costs. So we have -- we have anticipated flexibility there.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

I'm not sure what that means. You are at risk or you are not?

**David Cornhill** - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

We are not at risk over a reasonable price forecast. The prices go to \$500 million, the projects wouldn't get -- go forward.



Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

Okay. But if it goes over budget by 20 or 30%, is that your risk?

Rick Alexander - AltaGas Income Trust - Executive VP, COO & CFO

We have structured something to minimize that risk.

Matthew Akman - CIBC World Markets - Analyst

Okay. Okay. Thanks.

#### Operator

Thank you. The next question is from Fai Lee from RBC Capital Markets.

Fai Lee - RBC Capital Markets - Analyst

Hi, thanks. David, I was just wondering about this \$225 million that you expect to spend and how that relates to, I guess, Bear Mountain in your assumption there for the ownerships. It looks like it's about 60% is what you are assuming, is that correct in terms of the \$225 million, and 60% ownership in the Bear mountain projects?

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Our working assumption is 50.

Fai Lee - RBC Capital Markets - Analyst

50? Okay. And in -- turns out working assumptions do you still need to find some additional investors to get to 50 or is that -- right now is that sort of minimum?

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

We're currently in discussions with investors that would allow us to maintain the 50.

Fai Lee - RBC Capital Markets - Analyst

Okay. All right. Thanks.

#### Operator

Thank you. (OPERATOR INSTRUCTIONS) The next question from Nima Bealow, from Bloom Investment Council. Please go ahead.



#### Nima Bealow - Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

Good afternoon, gentlemen. Quick question, with respect to Alberta power prices. I know you'd mentioned you'd hedged two-thirds of your volumes, so you are well protected but the spot prices seem to be easing a little bit. Do you -- I mean, looking out at the near term, despite the healthy overall demand, do you see spot prices declining at all over 2007?

#### David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

We don't. When you look at the forward curve for 2007, and there is a fairly good forward curve, it would suggest that prices will be in that \$80 to \$85 range for the balance of the year. Obviously there are spots where the prices are lower and right now, the price is lower than that. But it's expected to increase quite dramatically through the latter part of the year.

#### Nima Bealow - Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

So Q1 just represented as some sort of short-term anomaly? In terms of spot prices in the \$60 range.

#### David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

It was just normal cyclical weakness. If you look at the pattern, you'd see that prices tend to be higher in the third and the fourth quarter and softer in the first and second quarter.

#### Nima Bealow - Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

But as you said, looking out at the forward curve, it's healthy, still solid pricing going forward.

#### David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Yes, and we would expect that for the medium term.

#### Nima Bealow - Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

Okay. And the other question I had, you had said some of the initiatives you aer going to undertake, I guess through negotiation, greater recovery from take or pay contracts, but some of that contribution diminished this quarter. Is it because of contracts rolling off or a change in the terms of specific contracts? I just want to get a sense of that, why there is a decline in contribution.

#### David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Well, it was a number of things. We had, as mentioned the lower throughput. We also had some take or pay payments that were made in the first quarter last year, as well as in the fourth quarter last year.

#### Nima Bealow - Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

Yes.



David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

Which are, you know, an uneven process, which we didn't have in the first quarter of this year.

Nima Bealow - Bloom Investment Council - Analyst

Got you. Okay. That's it thanks.

#### Operator

Thank you. The next question is from Chris Bolton from BMO capital markets. Please go ahead.

#### Chris Bolton - BMO Capital Markets - Analyst

Hi, Nima sort of asked you the question, but you mentioned lower throughput, lower contribution from your take or pay contracts and the prior period adjustments in the FG & P segment. I am just wondering which is more significant or if you can give dollar amounts for those two factors.

David Cornhill - AltaGas Income Trust - President and CEO

The more significant were the lower throughput and the take or pay adjust -- differential.

Chris Bolton - BMO Capital Markets - Analyst

That was my only question. Thank you.

#### Operator

Thank you. There are no further questions at this time. I would now like to turn the meeting back over to Mr. Thompson.

Marshal Thompson - AltaGas Income Trust - Chairman, Senior VP External Relations and Corporate Risk

Thank you, Melissa. If anyone has any follow-up questions, please give Stephanie or I a call. Thanks.

#### Operator

Thank you. The conference has now ended. Please disconnect your lines at this time. Thank you for your participation, and have a nice day.



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