

MARKWEST

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MarkWest Energy Partners Prices \$150 Million Private Placement of 6.875% Senior Notes Due 2014

DENVER—May 20, 2009—MarkWest Energy Partners, L.P. (NYSE:MWE) and its subsidiary MarkWest Energy Finance Corporation announced today the pricing of \$150 million of 6.875 percent senior unsecured notes due 2014 at an issue price to yield 12.59 percent to maturity. The offering is expected to settle on May 26, 2009, subject to customary closing conditions.

The Partnership intends to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay borrowings under its revolving credit facility and ultimately to fund a portion of its 2009 capital program.

Although the terms of the notes are substantially the same as the terms of the Partnership's outstanding 6.875 percent senior notes due 2014, the notes will be issued under a different indenture and will not be part of the same series.

The securities to be offered have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (the "Securities Act"), or any state securities laws, and unless so registered, the securities may not be offered or sold in the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. The Partnership plans to offer and issue the notes only to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act and to persons outside the United States pursuant to Regulation S.

This press release is being issued pursuant to Rule 135c under the Securities Act, and is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy the notes or any other securities and shall not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy, or a sale of, the notes or any other securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale is unlawful.

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MarkWest Energy Partners, L.P. is a master limited partnership engaged in the gathering, transportation, and processing of natural gas; the transportation, fractionation, marketing, and storage of natural gas liquids; and the gathering and transportation of crude oil. MarkWest has extensive natural gas gathering, processing, and transmission operations in the southwest, Gulf Coast, and northeast regions of the United States, including the Marcellus Shale, and is the largest natural gas processor in the Appalachian region.

This press release includes "forward-looking statements." All statements other than statements of historical facts included or incorporated herein may constitute forward-looking statements. Actual results could vary significantly from those expressed or implied in such statements and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Although we believe that the

expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. The forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that affect our operations, financial performance, and other factors as discussed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Among the factors that could cause results to differ materially are those risks discussed in the periodic reports we file with the SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009, as filed with the SEC. You are urged to carefully review and consider the cautionary statements and other disclosures made in those filings, specifically those under the heading "Risk Factors." We do not undertake any duty to update any forward-looking statement except as required by law.