Not-So-Smart Money Buys Natural Gas, Too

Summary and Recommendation

Continuing strong acquisition activity attests to the strategic appeal of natural gas as dayto-day pricing improves with colder weather. Yet we were dismayed to see our Strong Buy **Burlington Resources (BR)** bid for natural gas producer, Canadian Hunter, not because of the quality of the purchase, but because BR shareholders would be better off if the company repurchased its own stock instead. The deal enhances the appeal of recommended **PanCanadian Energy (PCX)** at the same time the company's chief executive officer resigns unexpectedly. Meanwhile, Strong Buy **Marathon Oil (MRO)** embarks on a string of high impact exploratory wells coinciding with an expected emancipation from its steel yoke on October 25. Recommended **San Juan Basin Royalty Trust (SJT)** offers a higher annual distribution as our estimates turn up. Recommended **Energy Partners (EPL)** hopes to have results from a high potential well as it embarks on a series of presentations to investors. For those recommendations and more, as well as possible alternatives, the stats are in the valuation tables (see Table L-1, L-2, S-1 and S-2).

Canadian Natural Gas Deals Attest to Sea Change

Add BR/Canadian Hunter to the similar deals this year involving our covered companies including **Calpine**/Encal, **Anadarko**/Berkley, **Conoco**/Gulf Canada, and **Devon**/Anderson. At C\$52 per share, BR is paying an unlevered multiple of Next Twelve Months cash flow (EV/Ebitda) of 7 times. In a broader context, the multiple is less than 9 times enjoyed by Mega Cap Energy companies. Yet it is higher than 6 times for the median Mid Cap Natural Gas and Oil stock.

We believe it is smart to buy Canadian natural gas. The valuation of the clean fuel commodity after the economic recession we are in now will be higher than in the past in our opinion.

Does a smart buy make the buyers smart? Not necessarily. Devon is a smart buyer because it's management has a long record of building shareholder value. Burlington is a not-so-smart buyer because its management has a poor record. Our hope for that company is that an even larger buyer, like **Royal Dutch**, acquires the assets.

We also are gratified with enlightened political conditions in Canada. Years ago acquisitions of Canadian companies would not have been permitted. While the perceived negative of losing some control over local assets may still be there, the acquisitions have an overall stimulating effect on the Canadian natural gas business.

The most attractive investments in an acquisition boom may be the potential targets. Our Canadian recommendation falls in that category.

PanCanadian Energy Value Intact Despite Executive Turmoil

A surprise announcement on Sunday morning, October 14, 2001, tells of the resignation of CEO David Tuer for personal reasons. He will be replaced by David O'Brien, a predecessor and driving force in PanCanadian and recently in the reorganization of former 85% owner, Canadian Pacific. We respect both leaders and are curious along with most investors as to the explanation behind the unexpected development.

While PCX stock has done well we believe it has potential to appreciate further. We would be especially alert to any stock price weakness as investors react to the executive change or to the earnings scheduled to be released imminently. The stock's low unlevered cash flow multiple of 6.2 times is less than 7 times that BR is paying for a peer company and it is lower than 9 times for the largest energy companies.

Our case for PCX rests on its large contiguous land base with low operating costs, low royalty and low transportation costs. On top of that the company has unusual exploration potential offshore Nova Scotia and offshore Old Scotia (Scotland) where further drilling is underway. Finally, the reorganization of historical 85% owner, Canadian Pacific, is complete. As a result PCX is the newest \$7 billion exploration company trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Marathon Goes Free on October 25 and Embarks on Exploration

Recent transformations of PanCanadian Petroleum to PanCanadian Energy and of Chevron and Texaco to **ChevronTexaco** seem to have been well received. Next, expecting a supporting vote of shareholders, USX - Marathon Group will become Marathon Oil Corporation on October 25. The tracking stock with potential liability for steel company debts becomes the unencumbered stock of a new entity completely separated from unrelated open-ended obligations.

At the same time the outlook for the new company takes on a bit of excitement. A revived exploration effort under new leadership exposes the stock to three high impact exploratory wells currently drilling and four more to be started before yearend. The three prospects drilling include two in the deep Gulf of Mexico, Timber Wolf and Deep Ozona, and one offshore Nova Scotia, Southampton. The next four are two in the deep Gulf of Mexico, Paris Carver and Redwood; one offshore Angola, Block 31; and the next test offshore Nova Scotia, Annapolis.

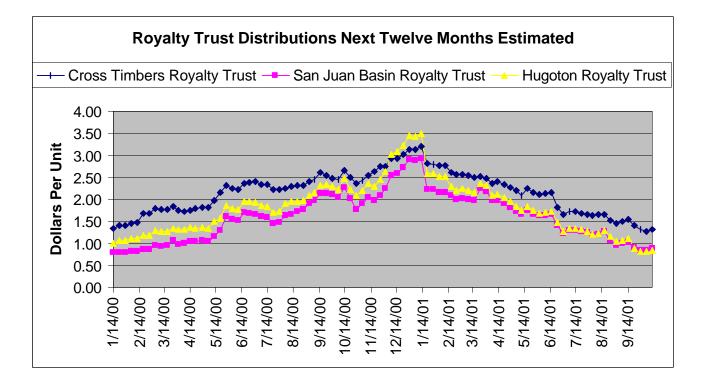
Analyses are prepared from original sources and data believed to be reliable, but no representation is made as to their accuracy or completeness. Independent energy analysis by Kurt Wulff doing business as McDep Associates is accessible at <u>http://www.mcdep.com</u>. Owning shares in energy stocks, neither Mr. Wulff nor his spouse act contrary to a buy or sell rating. Mr. Wulff is not paid by covered companies. 2

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Any good exploration news ought to be helpful to an undervalued stock. Nor should dry holes hurt too much as there appears to be little anticipation of success in Marathon's stock that trades at an unlevered cash flow multiple of less than 5.0 times.

Distribution Estimate Turns Up for San Juan Basin Royalty Trust

The short-term news in natural gas may also have turned more favorable. For the first time in a month natural gas spot prices and futures were strong enough to trigger a higher number in our weekly calculation of cash distributions for royalty trusts in the Next Twelve Months (see Chart). A whiff of lower temperatures hinting at the cold weather ahead seems to have helped the price trend.



The wide swing in estimates over the past two years reflects the markets, not our judgment. Our judgment now is that current expectations are low. Yet ample inventories will keep prices from appreciating as strongly this winter as they did last winter. If the weather is unusually warm or the economy weaker than expected, there may be downside price risk temporarily.

There also are subtle differences in the performance of estimates for each of the three royalty trusts. SJT has gained a little on **Hugoton Royalty Trust (HGT)** as a result of higher than expected production volume. The distribution estimates for **Cross Timbers Royalty Trust (CRT)** show less volatility because payments are tied to a fixed percentage of revenue from natural gas production rather than to a fixed percentage of

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profits. A higher McDep Ratio currently for CRT than for SJT or HGT may reflect investor's recognition of more downside protection in CRT.

Energy Partners Limited Near Total Depth on Important Exploratory Well

Nearing the end of its first year as a publicly traded entity, EPL gradually has been shifting to more of an exploration emphasis. It has scored three successes while the Mantle prospect was a dry hole. Now the X 8-A prospect, identified in a springtime presentation on the company's website, is about to be successful or not. Potential net reserves may be 20 million barrels equivalent, more than half the company's proven reserves. The well has taken longer than expected while there has been no disclosure of results so far.

Should the X 8-A prospect be dry, it would represent the absence of a catalyst for stock price, but a normal cost of doing business. The company has additional promising prospects to drill.

An investor presentation in New Orleans in late September was cancelled when air travel was curtailed. Next EPL will be part of an Oil Exploration Conference at the New York Society of Security Analysts on October 23. Formerly located on the 44th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center, the NYSSA will hold the conference uptown.

The stock is cheap and the financial risk relatively low. A positive surprise could have a powerful impact from current levels.

Kurt H. Wulff, CFA

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Table L-1

Mega Cap and Large Cap Energy Companies Rank by McDep Ratio: Market Cap and Debt to Present Value

	Price				Net				
	G I I/		(\$/sh)	CI.	Market	Present	Debt/		
	Symbol/		12-Oct	Shares	Cap	Value	Present	McDep	
Mana Car	Ra	iting	2001	(mm)	(\$mm)	(\$/sh)	Value	Ratio	
Mega Cap	VOM		40.00	6.062	205.000	20 60	0.04	1.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	XOM	2	42.29	6,963	295,000	38.60	0.04	1.09	
Royal Dutch/Shell	RD	2	54.10	3,544	192,000	50.80	0.06	1.06	
ChevronTexaco Corporation	CVX		91.00	1,063	96,800	89.40	0.17	1.01	
BP plc	BP		51.40	3,744	192,000	51.50	0.15	1.00	
TotalFinaElf S.A.	TOT		72.51	1,406	102,000	86.80	0.14	0.86	
Total or Median					878,000		0.14	1.01	
Power			25.01	001	21.000	10.00	0.54	1 50	
Enron Corp.	ENE		35.81	891	31,900	10.20	0.76	1.59	
Dynegy Inc.	DYN		43.65	338	14,800	20.60	0.56	1.50	
Calpine Corporation	CPN	4	27.47	318	8,700	18.90	0.54	1.21	
Duke Energy Corporation	DUK		38.70	779	30,100	26.40	0.55	1.21	
Mirant Corporation	MIR		27.54	353	9,700	18.60	0.65	1.17	
Williams Companies	WMB		30.25	485	14,700	23.30	0.62	1.11	
El Paso Corporation	EPG		51.50	532	27,400	48.60	0.47	1.03	
American Electric Power Co. Inc.		2	44.08	322	14,200	46.40	0.61	0.98	
Southern Company	SO		24.55	683	16,800	27.40	0.42	0.94	
Dominion Resources	D		59.87	247	14,800	79.40	0.45	0.86	
AES Corporation	AES		15.03	538	8,100	24.80	0.63	0.85	
Exelon Corporation	EXC	2	44.95	324	14,600	87.40	0.39	0.71	
Total or Median					206,000		0.56	1.07	
Natural Gas and Oil									
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	OXY		26.15	372	9,700	32.20	0.46	0.90	
Burlington Resources, Inc	BR	1	36.84	211	7,800	47.80	0.20	0.82	
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	APC		55.24	268	14,800	73.70	0.21	0.80	
Phillips Petroleum Company	Р		57.50	383	22,000	82.70	0.28	0.78	
ENI S.p.A.	E		66.20	789	52,200	99.20	0.15	0.72	
Conoco Inc.	COC		27.50	636	17,500	54.80	0.26	0.63	
Total or Median					124,000		0.24	0.79	
Service									
Baker Hughes Inc.	BHI		32.44	338	11,000	24.50	0.13	1.29	
Schlumberger Ltd.	SLB		47.29	581	27,500	44.00	0.12	1.07	
Halliburton Company	HAL		25.34	430	10,900	27.20	0.13	0.94	

Buy/Sell rating after symbol: 1 - Strong Buy, 2 - Buy, 4 - Sell

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

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Table L-2

Mega Cap and Large Cap Energy Companies Rank by EV/Ebitda: Enterprise Value to Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Deprec.

		Price		Dividend or			
		(\$/sh)	EV/	EV/	Dis	stribution	PV/
		12-Oct	Sales	Ebitda	P/E	NTM	Ebitda
	Symbol	2001	2001E	NTM	NTM	(%)	NTM
Mega Cap							
Exxon Mobil Corporation	XOM	42.29	1.4	9.8	20	2.2	9.0
Royal Dutch/Shell	RD 2	54.10	1.1	9.5	21	2.6	9.0
ChevronTexaco Corporation	CVX	91.00	1.2	9.1	21	2.9	9.0
BP plc	BP	51.40	1.2	9.0	20	2.6	9.0
TotalFinaElf S.A.	TOT	72.51	1.4	7.7	15	2.5	9.0
Median			1.2	9.1	20	2.6	9.0
Power							
Enron Corp.	ENE	35.81	0.3	14.4	18	1.4	9.0
Dynegy Inc.	DYN	43.65	0.4	13.5	21	0.7	9.0
Calpine Corporation	CPN 4	27.47	2.2	10.9	15	-	9.0
Duke Energy Corporation	DUK	38.70	0.9	10.9	15	2.8	9.0
Mirant Corporation	MIR	27.54	0.6	10.5	13	-	9.0
Williams Companies	WMB	30.25	3.2	10.0	13	2.0	9.0
El Paso Corporation	EPG	51.50	0.9	9.3	14	1.7	9.0
American Electric Power Co. Inc.		44.08	0.7	8.8	12	5.4	9.0
Southern Company	SO	24.55	2.8	8.5	15	5.5	9.0
Dominion Resources	D	59.87	3.4	7.8	14	4.3	9.0
AES Corporation	AES	15.03	2.7	7.7	7	-	9.0
Exelon Corporation	EXC 2	44.95	2.2	6.4	10	3.8	9.0
Median		1.6	9.7	14	1.8	9.0	
Natural Gas and Oil							
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	OXY	26.15	1.5	8.1	14	3.8	9.0
Burlington Resources, Inc	BR 1	36.84	4.3	7.4	49	1.5	9.0
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	APC	55.24	2.7	7.2	18	0.4	9.0
Phillips Petroleum Company	Р	57.50	0.8	7.0	14	2.5	9.0
ENI S.p.A.	E	66.20	1.6	6.5	13	2.7	9.0
Conoco Inc.	COC	27.50	0.8	5.7	12	2.8	9.0
Median		1.5	7.1	14	2.6	9.0	
Service							
Baker Hughes Inc.	BHI	32.44	2.1	10.3	23	1.4	9.0
Schlumberger Ltd.	SLB	47.29	2.5	8.5	23	1.6	9.0
Halliburton Company	HAL	25.34	0.9	7.5	17	2.0	9.0

EV = Enterprise Value = Market Cap and Debt; Ebitda = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciationand amortization; NTM = Next Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2002; P/E = Stock Price toEarnings; PV = Present Value of oil and gas and other businesses

A Weekly Analysis of Energy Stocks Using the McDep Ratio October 15, 2001

Table S-1Mid Cap and Small Cap Energy CompaniesRank by McDep Ratio: Market Cap and Debt to Present Value

	Symbol/ Rating		Price (\$/sh) 12-Oct 2001	Shares (mm)	Market Cap (\$mm)	Net Present Value (\$/sh)	Debt/ Present Value	McDep Ratio
Power								
Consol Energy Inc.	CNX		25.72	79	2,000	35.90	0.51	0.86
Sempra Energy	SRE		24.52	203	5,000	41.70	0.50	0.79
CMS Energy Corporation	CMS		21.39	128	2,700	48.30	0.62	0.79
Constellation Energy Group	CEG		26.68	152	4,100	56.50	0.35	0.66
Total or Median	!				13,800		0.51	0.79
Natural Gas and Oil								
Imperial Oil Limited (30%)	IMO		28.44	119	3,400	29.30	0.11	0.97
Ocean Energy, Inc.	OEI		17.85	178	3,200	20.60	0.29	0.91
PanCanadian Energy	PCX_w	2	27.59	262	7,230	32.10	0.14	0.88
Murphy Oil Corporation	MUR		79.94	46	3,700	94.60	0.16	0.87
Valero Energy Corp.(with UDS)	VLO		37.45	110	4,100	54.50	0.49	0.84
Unocal Corporation	UCL		34.28	257	8,800	44.90	0.31	0.84
Petro-Canada	PCZ		26.82	267	7,200	34.40	0.08	0.80
Norsk Hydro ASA (49%)	NHY		36.30	127	4,600	51.90	0.19	0.76
Devon Energy (incl MND,AXN)	DVN		36.20	165	6,000	64.20	0.39	0.74
PetroChina Company Ltd (10%)	PTR	2	19.00	176	3,300	31.70	0.14	0.66
Marathon Oil Corporation	MRO	1	29.70	310	9,200	55.00	0.22	0.64
Total or Median	!				60,700		0.19	0.84
Small Cap								
Quicksilver Resources Inc.	KWK		13.80	19.3	270	5.50	0.73	1.40
Spinnaker Exploration Company	SKE		42.00	28.4	1,190	38.60	-	1.09
Magnum Hunter Resources, Inc.	MHR		10.10	37.0	370	10.40	0.36	0.98
XTO Energy Inc.	XTO		16.75	123.0	2,060	17.70	0.29	0.96
Southwestern Energy Company	SWN		12.25	25.7	320	13.90	0.48	0.94
Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp.	LD	3	39.05	44.8	1,750	45.10	0.23	0.90
Encore Acquisition Corp. (25%)	EAC		13.60	7.5	102	15.60	0.16	0.89
Penn Virginia Corporation	PVA		31.75	8.8	280	47.70	0.19	0.73
Newfield Exploration Company	NFX		32.48	49.3	1,600	49.50	0.17	0.71
Forest Oil Corporation	FST		27.00	50.2	1,360	42.90	0.21	0.71
Swift Energy Company	SFY		23.61	25.7	610	37.40	0.19	0.70
Stone Energy Company	SGY		35.64	26.5	940	54.60	0.09	0.68
Total or Median	!				10,850		0.20	0.90
Trusts and Partnerships								
TEPPCO Partners, L.P.	TPP		33.30	38	1,270	18.00	0.58	1.36
Dorchester Hugoton, Ltd.	DHULZ		12.00	10.7	129	10.80	-	1.11
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		16.95	6.0	102	16.50	-	1.03
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust	HGT		10.94	40.0	440	14.00	-	0.78
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	2	11.12	46.6	520	14.60	-	0.76
Total or Median	!				2,460		-	1.03
Micro Cap								
Abraxas Petroleum Corporation	ABP		1.71	23.6	40	0.90	0.94	1.06
Purcell Energy, Ltd. (US\$)	PEL.TO		2.18	26.6	58	3.10	0.10	0.72
Energy Partners Ltd.(30%)	EPL	2	7.90	8.1	64	12.20	0.10	0.68

Buy/Sell rating after symbol: 1 - Strong Buy, 2 - Buy, 3 - Neutral

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

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Table S-2

Mid Cap and Small Cap Energy Companies

Rank by EV/Ebitda: Enterprise Value to Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Deprec.

			Price		Dividend or				
	Symbol/ Rating		(\$/sh)	EV/	EV/	Dis	stribution	PV/	
			12-Oct	Sales	Ebitda	P/E	NTM	Ebitda	
			2001	2001E	NTM	NTM	(%)	NTM	
Design									
Power	CNIV		25 72	2.1	77	0	4.4	0.0	
Consol Energy Inc.	CNX		25.72	2.1	7.7	9	4.4	9.0	
Sempra Energy	SRE		24.52	1.1	7.2	9	4.1	9.0	
CMS Energy Corporation	CMS		21.39	0.8	7.1	8	6.8	9.0	
Constellation Energy Group	CEG		26.68	1.7	5.9	8	1.8	9.0	
Median Natural Gas and Oil				1.4	7.1	8	4.2	9.0	
Imperial Oil Limited (30%)	IMO		28.44	1.1	8.8	19	1.9	9.0	
Murphy Oil Corporation	MUR		79.94	0.9	7.0	25	1.9	8.0	
Unocal Corporation	UCL		34.28	2.5	6.7	26	2.3	8.0	
Ocean Energy, Inc.	OEI		17.85	3.9	6.3	19	0.9	7.0	
PanCanadian Energy	PCX_w	2	27.59	1.2	6.2	12	0.9	7.0	
Valero Energy Corp.(with UDS)	VLO	2	37.45	0.3	5.9	6	0.9	7.0	
Petro-Canada	PCZ		26.82	1.5	5.6	13	1.0	7.0	
Devon Energy (incl MND,AXN)	DVN		36.20	2.8	5.2	17	0.6	7.0	
Marathon Oil Corporation	MRO	1	29.70	0.4	4.5	9	3.1	7.0	
Norsk Hydro ASA (49%)	NHY	1	36.30	0.7	3.8	9	2.9	5.0	
PetroChina Company Ltd (10%)	PTR	2	19.00	1.6	3.3	7	2.) 9.8	5.0	
Median		2	17.00	1.0	5.9	13	1.9	7.0	
Small Cap	,			1.2	5.9	15	1.9	7.0	
Quicksilver Resources Inc.	KWK		13.80	5.7	19.6		-	14.0	
Magnum Hunter Resources, Inc.	MHR		10.10	5.1	9.8		-	10.0	
Spinnaker Exploration Company	SKE		42.00	8.2	9.8	46	-	9.0	
Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp.	LD	3	39.05	6.0	9.0	32	-	10.0	
XTO Energy Inc.	XTO	U	16.75	5.5	8.7	24	0.2	9.0	
Southwestern Energy Company	SWN		12.25	2.7	8.4	172	-	9.0	
Encore Acquisition Corp. (25%)	EAC		13.60	4.6	8.0	24	_	9.0	
Penn Virginia Corporation	PVA		31.75	4.2	5.8	10	2.8	8.0	
Forest Oil Corporation	FST		27.00	2.2	5.7	32		8.0	
Swift Energy Company	SFY		23.61	4.2	5.6	14	_	8.0	
Newfield Exploration Company	NFX		32.48	3.9	5.0	21	-	7.0	
Stone Energy Company	SGY		35.64	3.7	4.8	27	-	7.0	
Median				4.4	8.2	25	-	9.0	
Trusts and Partnerships									
Dorchester Hugoton, Ltd.	DHULZ		12.00	8.0	12.1	16	23.7	10.9	
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		16.95	6.9	12.0	13	7.7	11.7	
TEPPCO Partners, L.P.	TPP		33.30	0.7	12.3	17	6.3	9.0	
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	2	11.12	6.6	8.8	13	7.9	11.5	
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust	HGT		10.94	5.4	8.6	13	7.8	11.0	
Median				6.6	12.0	13	7.8	11.0	
Micro Cap									
Abraxas Petroleum Corporation	ABP		1.71	6.4	11.6		-	11.0	
Energy Partners Ltd.(30%)	EPL	2	7.90	2.1	4.5		-	6.6	
Purcell Energy, Ltd. (US\$)	PEL.TO		2.18	3.1	4.3	12	-	6.0	

EV = Enterprise Value = Market Cap and Debt; Ebitda = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation

and amortization; NTM = Next Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2002; P/E = Stock Price to

Earnings; PV = Present Value of oil and gas and other businesses