Energy Trusts and Partnerships

Presentation by Kurt H. Wulff To

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Summary and Recommendation

- High Greed Partnerships Not a Good Deal
- Canadian Royalty Trusts fill a niche if restrained on debt and fees
- U.S. Natural Gas Royalty Trusts efficient for investor, but remain small

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Outline

- History
- Valuation
- Debt
- Fees
- Deception
- Opportunities

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Royalty Trusts (U.S.)

- Distribute all cash flow
- Fund development from cash flow
- Avoid corporate tax
- Income tax depends on amount distributed
- Cost depletion
- Non-Conventional Fuel Tax Credits

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Master Limited Partnerships

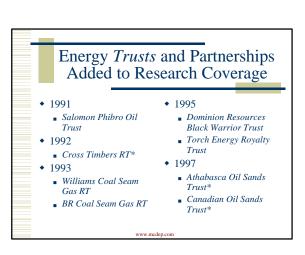
- General Partner has near unlimited discretion over distribution, operations and finance
- Avoid corporate tax
- Income tax depends on operations
- Cost depletion

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Energy Trusts and Partnerships Added to Research Coverage

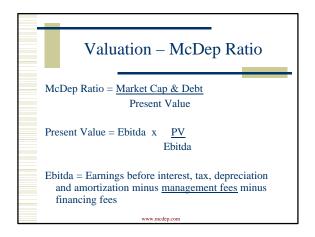
• 2002

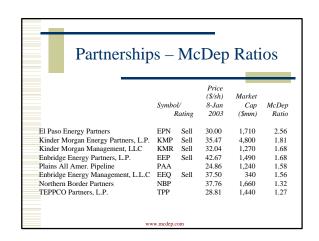
• Alliance Resource Partners

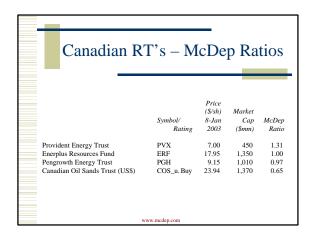
• Enerplus Resources Fund

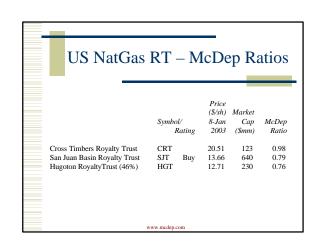
• Pengrowth Energy Trust

• Provident Energy Trust



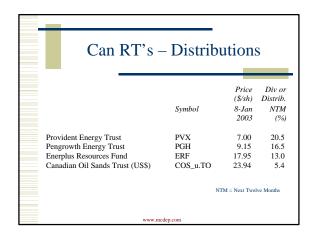


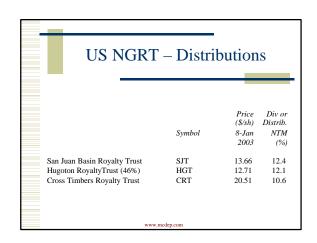


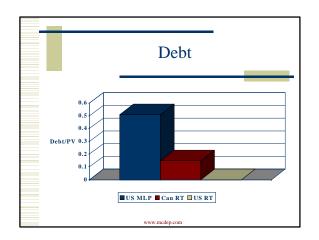














High Fe	e A	Ach	iev	ers	
	Pyramid Levels (\$/unit) 15% 25% 50%		Current Distrib. (\$/unit)		
Kinder Morgan (KMP,KMR)	0.15	0.18	0.23	0.61	40%
El Paso Energy Partners (EPN)	0.33	0.38	0.43	0.68	29%
TEPPCO Partners, L.P. (TPP)	0.28	0.33	0.45	0.60	26%
Enbridge Energy Part. (EEP,EEQ)	0.59	0.70	0.99	0.90	10%
Northern Border Partners (NBP)	0.61	0.72	0.94	0.80	7%
Plains All Amer. Pipeline (PAA)	0.45	0.50	0.68	0.54	6%
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Accounting Tricks

- "Incentive" distribution rights not on balance sheet
- Every deal an unreported loss for limited partners
- Computerized research overstates
- Human research overlooks
- Frequent acquisitions present opportunities to disguise trends
- Fee-based income can be manipulated
- Debt buried off balance sheet

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Debt Pyramids

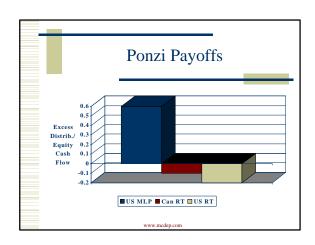
- Partnerships off balance sheets of sponsors
- Debt/Ebitda
 - Kinder Morgan Inc. reported: 5.8x
 - Kinder Morgan Energy Partners reported: 4.0x
 - KM Inc. proportionally consolidated: 7.3x
- Ratings conditioned on more equity

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Buy Long, Borrow Short

- Buy at, say, 8 times Ebitda
- Cash generated at 12.5% first year
- Finance with debt at, say, 7-10%
- Swap for low interest rates at, say, 3%
- Issue equity
- Raise distribution, mostly for GP
- Repeat

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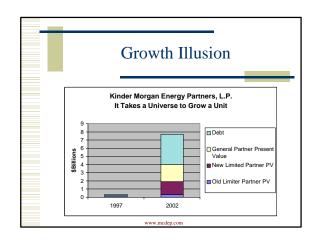


Ponzi Mechanics

- 1. Perpetrator collects money from investors on promise of high returns.
- Returns a portion of money as "profit" while convincing investors to keep their principal invested.
- 3. Recruits new investors whose money is used to pay earlier investors.

Source: Walsh, "You Can't Cheat an Honest Man"

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Pyramid Investment Scheme Requires Exponential Growth

- One investor pays \$5,000 and recruits two more investors
- Two investors pay \$5,000 each and recruit four more investors
- Four investors pay \$5,000 each and recruit eight more investors
- Eight investors pay \$5,000 each; Perp pays first investor \$40,000, keeps \$35,000
- Need 15 investors for one to get paid

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Incentive Fallacy

- Incentive compensation a reward to General Partner for increasing distribution?
- Who benefits? Old unitholders and GP.
- Who pays? New unitholders.
- Coal partnerships abandon pretense that incentive "earned"

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Tax Analogy for GP Compensation

- High marginal rate 50%
- Applies to income and principal
- No indexing for inflation

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Diminishing Returns

- Institutional PIK shares top out
 - Discount appears (KMR/KMP, EEQ/EEP)
 - Offering cancelled (EPN)
- Retail market saturated with high greed
- Debt ratings on or over the edge of junk
- Large partnership reduces take (EPD)
- Dividend taxation may be reduced

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Opportunities

- Investors
 - Buy selectively
 - Sell highest greed partnerships
- Issuers
 - Market low debt, low fees
 - Restructure high debt, high fees
 - Minimize deception

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Can RT Pros and Cons

- Valuation more reasonable
- Debt more reasonable
- Less aggressive management fees
- High financing cost
- Moving targets for investment analysis because of frequency of deals

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Canadian Oil Sands Trust

- Growing volume
- Extraordinarily long life
- Low management fees
- Low financing fees
- Potential environmental cost

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San Juan Basin Royalty Trust

- Long life
- No management fees
- No financing fees
- Clean fuel environmental advantage
- Limited market cap

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Energy Trusts and Partnerships Conclusion

- Investors have high demand for income
- Market does not appear to discriminate well initially between efficient income opportunities and high debt, high fee promotions
- High greed partnerships not a good deal
- U.S. royalty trusts efficient, but small
- Canadian royalty trusts potentially attractive alternative if debt and fees restrained

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