

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 1997  
-----

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 33-98490  
-----

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P.  
-----

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 06-1437793  
-----  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

2187 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902  
-----  
(Address of principal executive office) (Zip Code)

(203) 328-7300  
-----  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

-----  
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last  
report)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required  
to be filed by Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant  
was required to file such reports), and (2) had been subject to such filing  
requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No \_\_\_  
---

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of  
common stock, as of July 31, 1997:

Star Gas Partners, L.P. 2,875,000 Common Units  
2,396,078 Subordinated Units

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY

INDEX TO FORM 10-Q

	PAGE
	----
PART I	FINANCIAL INFORMATION:
Item 1 - Financial Statements	
Star Gas Partners, L.P. and the Star Gas Group (Predecessor)	
-----	
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 1996 and June 30, 1997	3
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended June 30, 1996 and for the three months ended June 30, 1997	4
Consolidated Statements of Operations from October 1, 1995 through December 20, 1995 (Predecessor), from December 20, 1995 through June 30, 1996 and for the nine months ended June 30, 1997	5
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows from October 1, 1995 through December 20, 1995 (Predecessor), from December 20, 1995 through June 30, 1996 and for the nine months ended June 30, 1997	6
Consolidated Statement of Partners' Capital for the nine months ended June 30, 1997	7
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	8 - 10
Item 2 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations	11 - 14
PART II	OTHER INFORMATION:
Item 6 - Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K	15
Signature	16

	SEPTEMBER 30, 1996	JUNE 30, 1997 (unaudited)
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,106	\$ 7,255
Receivables, net of allowance of \$291 and \$485, respectively	7,226	6,495
Inventories	8,494	3,339
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,016	1,543
	-----	-----
Total current assets	17,842	18,632
	-----	-----
Property and equipment, net	97,733	96,385
Intangibles and other assets, net	41,338	38,750
	-----	-----
Total assets	\$156,913	\$153,767
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL		
Current liabilities:		
Bank credit facility borrowings	\$ 2,350	\$ -
Accounts payable	1,991	2,288
Accrued interest	285	2,013
Other accrued expenses	2,812	3,203
Customer credit balances	2,858	1,444
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	10,296	8,948
	-----	-----
Long-term debt	85,000	85,000
Other long-term liabilities	219	221
Partners' capital:		
Common unitholders	52,821	51,859
Subordinated unitholder	8,410	7,607
General partner	167	132
	-----	-----
Total partners' capital	61,398	59,598
	-----	-----
Total liabilities and partners' capital	\$156,913	\$153,767
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

3

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(in thousands, except per unit amounts)  
(unaudited)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED	
	JUNE 30, 1996	JUNE 30, 1997
	-----	-----
Sales	\$18,416	\$20,078
Cost of sales	8,483	9,632
	-----	-----
Gross profit	9,933	10,446

Delivery and branch expenses	7,768	8,702
Depreciation and amortization	2,546	2,653
General and administrative expenses	2,005	1,491
Net gain (loss) on sales of assets	(29)	(67)
	-----	-----
Operating loss	(2,415)	(2,467)
Interest expense, net	1,614	1,671
	-----	-----
Loss before income taxes	(4,029)	(4,138)
Income tax expense	17	5
	-----	-----
Net loss	\$ (4,046)	\$ (4,143)
	=====	=====
General Partner's interest in net loss	\$ (81)	\$ (83)
	-----	-----
Limited Partners' interest in net loss	\$ (3,965)	\$ (4,060)
	=====	=====
Net loss per Limited Partner unit	\$ (0.75)	\$ (0.77)
	=====	=====
Weighted average number of Limited Partner units outstanding	5,271	5,271
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

4

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(in thousands, except per unit amounts)  
(unaudited)

	OCTOBER 1, 1995 THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 1995 (Predecessor)	DECEMBER 20, 1995 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1996	NINE MONTHS ENDED ----- JUNE 30, 1996 (combined)      JUNE 30, 1997	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sales	\$28,159	\$71,971	\$100,130	\$117,396
Cost of sales	12,808	36,061	48,869	63,578
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gross profit	15,351	35,910	51,261	53,818
Delivery and branch expenses	7,729	18,759	26,488	28,054
Depreciation and amortization	2,177	5,285	7,462	7,869
General and administrative expenses	1,349	3,543	4,892	5,384
Net gain (loss) on sales of assets	(113)	(52)	(165)	(129)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating income	3,983	8,271	12,254	12,382
Interest expense, net	1,922	3,569	5,491	5,290
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes	2,061	4,702	6,763	7,092
Income tax expense	60	33	93	18
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 2,001	\$ 4,669	\$ 6,670	\$ 7,074
	=====	=====	=====	=====
General Partner's interest in net income		\$ 93		\$ 142
		-----		-----
Limited Partners' interest in				

net income	\$ 4,576	\$ 6,932
	=====	=====
Net income per Limited Partner unit	\$0.87	\$1.32
	=====	=====
Weighted average number of Limited Partner units outstanding	5,271	5,271
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

5

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(in thousands)  
(unaudited)

	OCTOBER 1, 1995 THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 1995 (Predecessor)	DECEMBER 20, 1995 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1996	OCTOBER 1, 1995 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1996 (combined)	NINE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1997
	-----	-----	-----	-----
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Net income	\$ 2,001	\$ 4,669	\$ 6,670	\$ 7,074
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation and amortization	2,177	5,285	7,462	7,869
Provision for losses on accounts receivable	101	245	346	382
Loss on sales of assets	113	52	165	129
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Decrease (increase) in receivables	(2,779)	2,878	99	349
Decrease in inventories	1,430	1,733	3,163	5,155
Decrease (increase) in other assets	(455)	400	(55)	(355)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	10	(873)	(863)	297
Increase (decrease) in other current liabilities	(1,713)	1,206	(507)	705
Increase (decrease) in other long-term liabilities	(12)	(56)	(68)	2
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash provided by operating activities	873	15,539	16,412	21,607
	-----	-----	-----	-----
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Capital expenditures	(1,617)	(2,315)	(3,932)	(4,454)
Purchase of Company	-	(1,527)	(1,527)	-
Proceeds from sales of fixed assets	566	130	696	314
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,051)	(3,712)	(4,763)	(4,140)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Credit facility borrowings	-	-	-	5,000
Credit facility repayments	-	-	-	(7,350)
Acquisition facility borrowings	-	-	-	3,350
Acquisition facility repayments	-	-	-	(3,350)
Repayments of debt	(35,783)	(53,780)	(89,563)	-
Cash dividends paid	(21,309)	-	(21,309)	-
Distributions	-	(3,348)	(3,348)	(8,874)
Loan to Petro	(12,000)	-	(12,000)	-
Proceeds from issuance of First Mortgage Notes	85,000	-	85,000	-
Proceeds from issuance of Common Units, net	-	55,931	55,931	-
Repayment of preferred stock to Petro	(8,625)	-	(8,625)	-
Increase in deferred charges	(1,313)	(814)	(2,127)	(94)
Cash retained by general partner	(6,000)	-	(6,000)	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash used in financing activities	(30)	(2,011)	(2,041)	(11,318)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(208)	9,816	9,608	6,149
Cash at beginning of period	727	519	727	1,106
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cash at end of period	\$ 519	\$ 10,335	\$ 10,335	\$ 7,255
	=====	=====	=====	=====

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW

INFORMATION:

Cash paid during the period for:

Income taxes	\$ 78	\$ 4	\$ 82	\$ 7
Interest	\$ 19	\$ 1,652	\$ 1,671	\$ 3,417

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

6

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PARTNERS' CAPITAL  
NINE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1997  
(in thousands, except per unit data)  
(unaudited)

	NUMBER OF UNITS				GENERAL PARTNER	TOTAL PARTNERS' CAPITAL
	COMMON	SUBORDINATED	COMMON	SUBORDINATED		
Balance September 30, 1996	2,875	2,396	\$52,821	\$ 8,410	\$ 167	\$61,398
Minimum Quarterly Distribution (\$1.65 per unit)			(4,743)	(3,954)	(177)	(8,874)
Net income	-	-	3,781	3,151	142	7,074
Balance June 30, 1997	2,875	2,396	\$51,859	\$ 7,607	\$ 132	\$59,598

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

7

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JUNE 30, 1997

1) PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATION AND FORMATION

Star Gas Partners, L.P. ("Star Gas Partners" or the "Partnership") was formed on October 16, 1995, as a Delaware limited partnership. Star Gas Partners and its subsidiary, Star Gas Propane, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, (the "Operating Partnership") were formed to acquire, own and operate substantially all of the propane operations and assets and liabilities of Star Gas Corporation ("Star Gas"), a Delaware corporation (and the general partner of Star Gas Partners and the Operating Partnership) and the propane operations and assets and liabilities of Star Gas' parent corporation, Petroleum Heat and Power Co., Inc., a Minnesota corporation ("Petro"), (collectively hereinafter referred to as the "Star Gas Group" or the "Predecessor Company"). The Operating Partnership is, and the Star Gas Group was, engaged in the marketing and distribution of propane gas and related appliances to retail and wholesale customers in the United States located principally in the Midwest and Northeast. On December 20, 1995, (i) Petro conveyed all of its propane assets and related liabilities to Star Gas and (ii) Star Gas and its subsidiaries conveyed substantially all of their assets (other than \$83.7 million in cash from the proceeds of the First Mortgage Notes and certain non-operating assets) to the Operating Partnership (the "Star Gas Conveyance") in exchange for general and limited partner interests in the Operating Partnership and the assumption by the Operating Partnership of substantially all of the liabilities of Star Gas and its subsidiaries (excluding certain income tax liabilities and certain other long-term obligations of Star Gas that were assumed by Petro), including the First Mortgage Notes and approximately

\$53.8 million in outstanding Star Gas debt due to Petro. The net book value of the assets contributed by Star Gas and its subsidiaries to the Operating Partnership exceeded liabilities assumed by \$11.2 million. Immediately after the Star Gas Conveyance, Star Gas and its subsidiaries conveyed their limited partner interests in the Operating Partnership to Star Gas Partners in exchange for an aggregate of 2.4 million Subordinated Units of limited partner interests in Star Gas Partners.

Of the \$83.7 million in cash retained by the General Partner, \$35.8 million was paid to Petro in satisfaction of additional indebtedness, \$8.6 million was used to redeem preferred stock of the General Partner held by Petro, \$12.0 million was loaned to Petro, and \$6.0 million was retained to be available to fund the General Partner's additional capital contribution obligation. The remaining \$21.3 million was paid to Petro as dividends.

On December 20, 1995, Star Gas Partners completed its initial public offering of 2.6 million Common Units, representing Limited Partner interests, at a price of \$22.00 a unit. The net proceeds received of \$51.0 million, after deducting underwriting discounts, commissions and expenses were contributed to the Operating Partnership and used to repay debt due to Petro, which was assumed by the Operating Partnership in the Star Gas Conveyance.

In January 1996, pursuant to the underwriters' over-allotment, an additional 0.3 million Common Units were issued for approximately \$5.6 million, net of underwriting discounts and expenses.

The General Partner holds a 1.0% general partner interest in Star Gas Partners and a 1.0101% general partner interest in the Operating Partnership. Star Gas Partners and the Operating Partnership have no employees, except for certain employees of its corporate subsidiary Stellar Propane Service Corporation. The General Partner conducts, directs and manages all activities of Star Gas Partners and the Operating Partnership and is reimbursed on a monthly basis for all direct and indirect expenses it incurs on their behalf including the cost of employee wages.

2) BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The unaudited consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair statement of the interim periods presented. All adjustments to the financial statements were of a normal recurring nature.

The propane industry is seasonal in nature because propane is used primarily for heating in residential and commercial buildings. Therefore, the results of operations for the periods ended June 30, 1996 and June 30, 1997 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for a full year.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market and are computed on a first-in, first-out basis. At the dates indicated the components of inventory were as follows:

	September 30, 1996	June 30, 1997
	-----	-----
Propane gas	\$6,625	\$1,399
Appliances and equipment	1,869	1,940
	-----	-----
	\$8,494	\$3,339
	=====	=====

3) NET INCOME PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT

Net income per Limited Partner Unit is computed by dividing net income, after deducting the General Partner's 2.0% interest, by the weighted average number of Common Units and Subordinated Units outstanding.

4) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

In the ordinary course of business, the Partnership is threatened with, or is named in, various lawsuits. The Partnership is not a party to any litigation which individually or in the aggregate could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the company.

5) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Partnership has no employees except for certain employees of its corporate subsidiary, Stellar Propane Service Corporation and is managed and controlled by the General Partner. Pursuant to the Partnership Agreement, the General Partner is entitled to reimbursement for all direct and indirect expenses incurred or payments it makes on behalf of the Partnership, and all other necessary or appropriate expenses allocable to the Partnership or otherwise reasonably incurred by the General Partner in connection with operating the Partnership's business. For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, the Partnership reimbursed the General Partner and Petro \$13.2 million representing salary, payroll tax and other compensation paid to the employees of the General Partner, including \$0.2 million paid to Petro for certain corporate functions such as purchasing, finance and compliance.

6) RETENTION OF MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED

On March 3, 1997, the Partnership announced that it has concluded its review of strategic alternatives. Based on the results of this study, the Partnership's financial performance and industry prospects, the Partnership has decided to pursue the opportunities it sees to grow the business rather than seek a sale.

7) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On July 11, 1997, the Partnership announced that it will pay a cash distribution of \$0.55 per Limited Partner Unit for the three months ended June 30, 1997. The distribution is payable on August 14, 1997 to unitholders of record as of August 1, 1997.

8) GENERAL PARTNER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following presents the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 1997 together with the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations of the General Partner, Star Gas Corporation and Subsidiary, for the nine months ended June 30, 1997.

STAR GAS CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
(in thousands)  
(unaudited)

	JUNE 30, 1997 -----
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash	\$ 1,595
Interest receivable	336
	-----
Total current assets	1,931
Note receivable from Petro	12,000
Investment in Partnership	7,739
	-----
Total assets	\$21,670 =====

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY

Current liabilities:

Accrued expenses	\$ 37
	-----
Shareholder's equity	21,633
	-----
Total liabilities and shareholder's equity	\$21,670
	=====

STAR GAS CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
(in thousands)  
(unaudited)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1997
	-----
Revenues:	
Reimbursement of employee expenses from Operating Partnership	\$13,028
Expenses:	
Cost of employee services provided to Operating Partnership	13,028
	-----
Operating income	-
Interest income	1,107
	-----
Income before equity interest in Partnership	1,107
Share of income of Partnership	3,293
	-----
Net income	\$ 4,400
	=====

10

STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS  
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

NINE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1997

-----  
COMPARED TO NINE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1996  
-----

OVERVIEW

The following discussion reflects the results of operations and operating data of Star Gas Partners, L.P. for the nine months ended June 30, 1997 and is compared to the combined results of the Star Gas Group, the Predecessor Company, from October 1, 1995 to December 20, 1995 and Star Gas Partners, L.P. from December 20, 1995 to June 30, 1996. The operating results of the Star Gas Group and Star Gas Partners, L.P. were combined for the nine months ended June 30, 1996 to facilitate an analysis of the fundamental operating data.

In analyzing the historical financial results of the Star Gas Group and the financial results of the Partnership, the following matters should be considered:

Propane's primary use is for residential and commercial heating. As a result, weather conditions have a significant impact on financial performance. Accordingly, in analyzing changes in financial performance, the weather conditions in which the Partnership/Star Gas Group operated in any given period should be considered.

In addition, gross profit margins vary according to the customer mix. For example, sales to residential customers generate higher gross profit margins than sales to other customer groups, such as agricultural customers. Accordingly, a change in customer mix can affect gross profit without necessarily impacting total sales.

Lastly, the propane industry is seasonal in nature with peak activity occurring during the winter months, during the Partnership's first and second fiscal quarter. Due to the seasonality of the business, results of operations for the periods presented are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for a full year.

#### VOLUME

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, retail propane volume declined 1.7 million gallons, or 2.0%, to 80.8 million gallons, as compared to 82.5 million gallons for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. The decline was primarily attributable to the effect on volume of warmer temperatures experienced during the second fiscal quarter compared to the prior year's second fiscal quarter and to customer conservation efforts attributable to significantly higher propane selling prices. The Partnership was able to mitigate the effects of the warmer temperatures on retail propane volume through both internal account growth and two acquisitions completed since March 15, 1996. Also favorably impacting the year-to-year comparison was an increase in sales to agricultural customers, resulting from a return to more normal propane demand for grain drying.

#### SALES

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, sales increased \$17.3 million, or 17.2%, to \$117.4 million, as compared to \$100.1 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. The increase was due to higher selling prices in response to a significant increase in propane supply costs experienced during the nine months ended June 30, 1997.

#### COST OF SALES

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, cost of sales increased \$14.7 million, or 30.1%, to \$63.6 million, as compared to \$48.9 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. The increase was due to higher per gallon propane supply costs.

11

#### GROSS PROFIT

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, gross profit increased \$2.6 million, or 5.0%, to \$53.8 million, as compared to \$51.3 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. The increase in gross profit resulted from higher per gallon margins across all market segments which was partially offset by the impact of slightly lower retail propane volume.

#### DELIVERY AND BRANCH EXPENSES

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, delivery and branch expenses increased \$1.6 million, or 5.9%, to \$28.1 million, as compared to \$26.5 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. The increase was primarily due to the additional expenses associated with the first fiscal quarter's increase in agricultural volume, higher vehicle operating costs due to an increase in fuel costs, and higher employee benefit expenses.

#### DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, depreciation and amortization expense increased \$0.4 million, or 5.5%, to \$7.9 million, as compared to \$7.5 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996, due to the impact of two acquisitions completed since March 15, 1996 and the amortization of certain deferred charges relating to the Partnership's First Mortgage Notes.

## GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, general and administrative expenses increased \$0.5 million, or 10.1%, to \$5.4 million, as compared to \$4.9 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. This increase was primarily due to \$0.8 million of one-time expenses associated with the exploration of strategic alternatives designed to maximize unitholder value. On March 3, 1997, the Partnership decided to terminate its efforts to seek a merger or possible sale of the Partnership.

## INTEREST EXPENSE, NET

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, net interest expense declined \$0.2 million, or 3.7%, to \$5.3 million, as compared to \$5.5 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. This reduction was primarily due to a decline in the weighted average borrowing rate.

## INCOME TAX EXPENSE

Income tax expense primarily represents certain state income taxes related to the Partnership's wholly owned corporate subsidiary which conducts non-qualifying master limited partnership business.

## NET INCOME

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, net income increased \$0.4 million, or 6.1%, to \$7.1 million, as compared to \$6.7 million, for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. This increase was attributable to a \$2.6 million increase in gross profit that was partially offset by the increase in operating expenses, \$0.8 million of one-time costs associated with the strategic initiative and \$0.4 million of depreciation and amortization.

## EBITDA

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, EBITDA (defined as operating income (loss) plus depreciation and amortization less net gain (loss) on sales of assets) increased \$0.5 million, or 2.5%, to \$20.4 million, as compared to \$19.9 million for the nine months ended June 30, 1996. Excluding the one-time expenses associated with the strategic alternative, EBITDA increased \$1.3 million, or 6.7%, to \$21.2 million due to improved per gallon margins across all market segments and growth in the customer base provided by both internal marketing and acquisition efforts. EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to net income (as an indicator of operating performance) or as an alternative to cash flow (as a measure of liquidity or ability to service debt obligations) but provides additional information for evaluating the Partnership's ability to make the Minimum Quarterly Distribution.

12

## STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

#### THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1997

-----  
COMPARED TO THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1996  
-----

## VOLUME

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, retail propane volume sold was 13.5 million gallons, unchanged from the prior year's comparable quarter. Propane sold to wholesale customers increased 2.6 million to 8.9 million gallons due to a purchase decision by several customers to pre-buy a portion of their fall needs in this quarter.

## SALES

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, sales increased \$1.7 million, or 9.0%, to \$20.1 million, as compared to \$18.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996. The increase was due to higher retail selling prices and the

additional volume sold to wholesale customers.

#### COST OF SALES

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, cost of sales increased \$1.1 million, or 13.5%, to \$9.6 million, as compared to the \$8.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996, due to the increase in wholesale volume.

#### GROSS PROFIT

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, gross profit increased \$0.5 million, or 5.2%, to \$10.4 million, as compared to \$9.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996. This increase in gross profit was due to higher retail per gallon margins across all market segments and the increase in wholesale volume.

#### DELIVERY AND BRANCH EXPENSES

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, delivery and branch expenses increased by \$0.9 million to \$8.7 million, as compared to \$7.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996. The change was mainly due to higher employee benefit expenses, increased insurance expense, and the timing of certain vehicle maintenance expenditures, which occurred later in fiscal 1997 than in fiscal 1996.

#### DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION EXPENSE

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, depreciation and amortization expense increased \$0.1 million, or 4.2%, to \$2.7 million, due to the impact of acquisitions made subsequent to March 15, 1996.

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, general and administrative expenses declined \$0.5 million, or 25.6%, to \$1.5 million, as compared to \$2.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996. The decrease was primarily due to a reduction in expenses associated with reviewing several large acquisition candidates that were pursued during the three months ended June 30, 1996.

13

#### INTEREST EXPENSE, NET

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, net interest expense remained relatively unchanged at \$1.7 million, as compared to \$1.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996.

#### NET LOSS

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, the net loss increased \$0.1 million, or 2.4%, to \$4.1 million, slightly higher than the \$4.0 million net loss for the three months ended June 30, 1996.

#### EBITDA

For the three months ended June 30, 1997, EBITDA (defined as operating income (loss) plus depreciation and amortization less net gain (loss) on sales of assets) increased \$0.1 million, or 58.8%, to \$0.3 million, as compared to \$0.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 1996. EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to net income (as an indicator of operating performance) or as an alternative to cash flow (as a measure of liquidity or ability to service debt obligations) but provides additional information for evaluating the Partnership's ability to make the Minimum Quarterly Distribution.

#### LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

For the nine months ended June 30, 1997, net cash provided by operating activities of \$21.6 million combined with \$0.3 million from the sale of certain fixed assets amounted to \$21.9 million. These funds were utilized in investing activities to fund \$4.5 million of growth and maintenance capital expenditures, in financing activities to repay net credit facility borrowings of \$2.4 million and to pay Partnership distributions of \$8.9 million. As a result of the above activities, cash at June 30, 1997 increased by \$6.2 million to \$7.3 million, as compared to \$1.1 million on hand at the beginning of the period.

Based on its current cash position, bank credit availability and expected net cash flow from operating activities, the Partnership expects to be able to meet all of its above obligations for fiscal 1997, as well as all of its other current obligations as they become due. For the remainder of fiscal 1997, the Partnership anticipates paying interest on the First Mortgage Notes of \$3.4 million and anticipates paying Limited and General Partner distributions of \$3.0 million.

14

PART II: OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K  
-----

(a) Exhibits Included Within:  
-----

(27) Financial Data Schedule

(b) Reports on Form 8-K  
-----

No reports on Form 8-K have been filed during the quarter for which this report is filed.

15

SIGNATURE  
-----

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized:

Star Gas Partners, L.P.

By: Star Gas Corporation  
(General Partner)

Signature -----	Title -----	Date -----
By:/s/ William G. Powers, Jr. ----- William G. Powers, Jr.	President Star Gas Corporation (Principal Executive Officer)	August 1, 1997
By:/s/ Richard F. Ambury ----- Richard F. Ambury	Vice President - Finance  Star Gas Corporation (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	August 1, 1997

16

<ARTICLE> 5

<LEGEND>

THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARY CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AS OF JUNE 30, 1997 AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1996 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1997, AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

</LEGEND>

<CIK> 0001002590

<NAME> STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P.

<MULTIPLIER> 1,000

<PERIOD-TYPE>	9-MOS	
<FISCAL-YEAR-END>		SEP-30-1997
<PERIOD-START>		OCT-01-1996
<PERIOD-END>		JUN-30-1997
<CASH>		7,255
<SECURITIES>		0
<RECEIVABLES>		6,980
<ALLOWANCES>		485
<INVENTORY>		3,339
<CURRENT-ASSETS>		18,632
<PP&E>		114,135
<DEPRECIATION>		17,750
<TOTAL-ASSETS>		153,767
<CURRENT-LIABILITIES>		8,948
<BONDS>		85,000
<PREFERRED-MANDATORY>		0
<PREFERRED>		0
<COMMON>		59,466<F1>
<OTHER-SE>		132<F2>
<TOTAL-LIABILITY-AND-EQUITY>		153,767
<SALES>		113,877
<TOTAL-REVENUES>		117,396
<CGS>		63,578
<TOTAL-COSTS>		33,056
<OTHER-EXPENSES>		7,902
<LOSS-PROVISION>		382
<INTEREST-EXPENSE>		5,386
<INCOME-PRETAX>		7,092
<INCOME-TAX>		18
<INCOME-CONTINUING>		7,074
<DISCONTINUED>		0
<EXTRAORDINARY>		0
<CHANGES>		0
<NET-INCOME>		7,074
<EPS-PRIMARY>		1.32
<EPS-DILUTED>		1.32

<FN>

<F1>COMMON STOCK - IN DECEMBER 1995 STAR GAS PARTNERS, L.P. ISSUED COMMON AND SUBORDINATED UNITS WHICH REPRESENT LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS. THESE UNITS ARE CONSIDERED TO POSSESS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMON STOCK AND ARE BOTH INCLUDED IN THE DETERMINATION OF EPS.

<F2>OTHER SE - REPRESENTS THE GENERAL PARTNER'S INTEREST IN THE PARTNERSHIP AND IS CLASSIFIED HERE SINCE IT DOES NOT POSSESS THE RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS OF EITHER COMMON OR PREFERRED STOCK.

</FN>