

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
Form 10-Q  
May 07, 2015

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-Q

Quarterly Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2015

Transition Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission File No. 001-35343

Chesapeake Granite Wash Trust

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

45-6355635

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

The Bank of New York Mellon

Trust Company, N.A., Trustee

Global Corporate Trust

919 Congress Avenue

Austin, Texas

78701

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(512) 236-6555

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 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) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller  
reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

As of May 6, 2015, 35,062,500 Common Units and 11,687,500 Subordinated Units representing beneficial interests in Chesapeake Granite Wash Trust were outstanding.

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
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All references to “we,” “us,” “our,” or the “Trust” refer to Chesapeake Granite Wash Trust. The royalty interests conveyed on November 16, 2011 by Chesapeake from its interests in certain properties in the Colony Granite Wash formation in Oklahoma and held by the Trust are referred to as the “Royalty Interests.” References to “Chesapeake” refer to Chesapeake Energy Corporation and, where the context requires, its subsidiaries.

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#### DISCLOSURES REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (“Quarterly Report”) includes “forward-looking statements” about the Trust and Chesapeake and other matters discussed herein that are subject to risks and uncertainties that are intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this document, including, without limitation, statements under “Trustee’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in Item 2 of Part I and elsewhere herein regarding the proved oil, natural gas and NGL reserves associated with the properties underlying the Royalty Interests, the Trust’s or Chesapeake’s future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected costs and plans and objectives for future operations, information regarding target distributions, statements pertaining to future development activities and costs, statements regarding the number of development wells to be completed in future periods and information regarding production and reserve growth, are forward-looking statements. Actual outcomes and results may differ materially from those projected. Our forward-looking statements are generally accompanied by words such as “estimate,” “project,” “predict,” “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “potential,” “could,” “may,” “foresee,” “plan,” “goal,” “assume,” “target,” “should,” “intend” to convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes. These statements are based on certain assumptions made by the Trust, and by Chesapeake in light of its experience and perception of historical trends, current conditions and expected future developments, as well as other factors we believe are appropriate under the circumstances. However, whether actual results and developments will conform with such expectations and predictions is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including the risk factors discussed in Item 1A of Part I of the Trust’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, and those set forth from time to time in the Trust’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which could affect the future results of the energy industry in general, and the Trust and Chesapeake in particular, and could cause those results to differ materially from those expressed in such forward-looking statements. The actual results or developments anticipated may not be realized or, even if substantially realized, they may not have the expected consequences to or effects on Chesapeake’s business and the Trust. Such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements. The Trustee relies on Chesapeake for information regarding the Royalty Interests, the Underlying Properties and Chesapeake itself. The Trust undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, except as required by applicable law.

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## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. Financial Statements

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND TRUST CORPUS  
(Unaudited)

	March 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
	(\$ in thousands)	
ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,209	\$ 1,107
Short-term derivative asset	20,906	17,144
Investment in royalty interests	487,793	487,793
Less: accumulated amortization and impairment	(317,895)	) (250,918 )
Net investment in royalty interests	169,898	236,875
Long-term derivative asset	—	1,478
Total assets	\$ 192,013	\$ 256,604
TRUST CORPUS:		
Trust Corpus; 35,062,500 common units and 11,687,500 subordinated units authorized and outstanding	\$ 192,013	\$ 256,604

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
 STATEMENTS OF DISTRIBUTABLE INCOME  
 (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2015	2014
	(\$ in thousands, except per unit data)	
REVENUES:		
Royalty income	\$15,828	\$26,322
(INCOME) EXPENSES:		
Production taxes	335	513
Trust administrative expenses	379	317
Derivative settlement (gain) loss	(649)	) 2,265
Total expenses	65	3,095
Distributable income available to unitholders	\$15,763	\$23,227
Distributable income per common unit (35,062,500 units)	\$0.4496	\$0.6624
Distributable income per subordinated unit (11,687,500 units)	\$—	\$—

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
 STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN TRUST CORPUS  
 (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2015	2014
	(\$ in thousands)	
TRUST CORPUS: Beginning of period	\$256,604	\$310,217
Cash reserve surplus (deficit)	102	(17 )
Amortization of investment in royalty interests	(8,652 )	(11,855 )
Impairment of investment in royalty interests	(58,325 )	(7,692 )
Change in derivative asset and liability	2,284	(403 )
Distributable income	15,763	23,227
Distributions paid to unitholders	(15,763 )	(23,227 )
TRUST CORPUS: End of period	\$192,013	\$290,250

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

1. Organization of the Trust

Chesapeake Granite Wash Trust (the "Trust") is a statutory trust formed in June 2011 under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act pursuant to an initial trust agreement by and among Chesapeake Energy Corporation ("Chesapeake"), as Trustor, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee (the "Trustee"), and The Corporation Trust Company, as Delaware Trustee (the "Delaware Trustee").

The Trust was created to own royalty interests (the "Royalty Interests") for the benefit of Trust unitholders pursuant to a trust agreement dated as of June 29, 2011 and subsequently amended and restated as of November 16, 2011 by and among Chesapeake, Chesapeake Exploration, L.L.C., a wholly owned subsidiary of Chesapeake, the Trustee and the Delaware Trustee (the "Trust Agreement"). The Royalty Interests are derived from Chesapeake's interests in specified oil and natural gas properties located within an area of mutual interest (the "AMI") in the Colony Granite Wash play in Washita County in the Anadarko Basin of western Oklahoma (the "Underlying Properties"). Chesapeake conveyed the Royalty Interests to the Trust from (a) Chesapeake's interests in 69 existing horizontal wells (the "Producing Wells"), and (b) Chesapeake's interests in 118 horizontal development wells (the "Development Wells") that have since been, or that are to be, drilled on properties held by Chesapeake within the AMI. Pursuant to a development agreement with the Trust, Chesapeake is obligated to drill, cause to be drilled or participate as a non-operator in the drilling of the 118 Development Wells by June 30, 2016. Additionally, based on Chesapeake's assessment of the ability of a Development Well to produce in paying quantities, Chesapeake is obligated to either complete and tie into production or plug and abandon each Development Well. Chesapeake has retained an interest in each of the Producing Wells and Development Wells and currently operates 96% of the Producing Wells and the completed Development Wells and expects to operate all of the remaining Development Wells. As of March 31, 2015, Chesapeake had drilled and completed 95 wells within the AMI (approximately 105.2 of the 118 Development Wells as calculated under the development agreement). As of May 4, 2015, Chesapeake had drilled two additional wells within the AMI that were awaiting completion.

The business and affairs of the Trust are managed by the Trustee. The Trust Agreement limits the Trust's business activities generally to owning the Royalty Interests and any activity reasonably related to such ownership, including activities required or permitted by the terms of the conveyances related to the Royalty Interests and derivative contracts between the Trust and its counterparty. The royalty interests in the Producing Wells entitle the Trust to receive 90% of the proceeds (exclusive of any production or development costs but after deducting certain post-production expenses and any applicable taxes) from the sales of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) production attributable to Chesapeake's net revenue interest in the Producing Wells. The royalty interests in the Development Wells entitle the Trust to receive 50% of the proceeds (exclusive of any production or development costs but after deducting certain post-production expenses and any applicable taxes) from the sales of oil, natural gas and NGL production attributable to Chesapeake's net revenue interest in the Development Wells.

Through an initial public offering in November 2011, the Trust sold to the public 23,000,000 common units, representing beneficial interests in the Trust, for cash proceeds of approximately \$409.7 million, net of offering costs. The Trust delivered the net proceeds of the initial public offering, along with 12,062,500 common units and 11,687,500 subordinated units, to certain wholly owned subsidiaries of Chesapeake in exchange for the conveyance of the Royalty Interests to the Trust. Upon completion of these transactions, there were 46,750,000 Trust units issued and outstanding, consisting of 35,062,500 common units and 11,687,500 subordinated units. The common units and subordinated units have identical rights and privileges, except with respect to their voting rights and rights to receive distributions as described below.

The subordinated units are entitled to receive pro rata distributions from the Trust each quarter if and to the extent there is sufficient cash to provide a cash distribution on the common units that is no less than 80% of the target distribution set forth in the Trust Agreement for the corresponding quarter (the "subordination threshold"). If there is not sufficient cash to fund such a distribution on all of the Trust units, the distribution to be made with respect to the subordinated units will be reduced or eliminated for such quarter in order to make a distribution, to the extent possible,

of up to the subordination threshold amount on the common units. In exchange for agreeing to subordinate a portion of its Trust units, and in order to provide additional financial incentive to Chesapeake to satisfy its drilling obligation and perform operations on the Underlying Properties in an efficient and cost-effective manner, Chesapeake is entitled to receive incentive distributions equal to 50% of the amount by which the cash available for distribution on all of the Trust units in any quarter is 20% greater than the target distribution for such quarter (the “incentive threshold”). The

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)  
(Unaudited)

remaining 50% of cash available for distribution in excess of the applicable incentive threshold will be paid to Trust unitholders, including Chesapeake, on a pro rata basis. At the end of the fourth full calendar quarter following Chesapeake's satisfaction of its drilling obligation with respect to the Development Wells, the subordinated units will automatically convert into common units on a one-for-one basis and Chesapeake's right to receive incentive distributions will terminate. After such time, the common units will no longer have the protection of the subordination threshold, and all Trust unitholders will share on a pro rata basis in the Trust's distributions. Chesapeake currently intends to complete its drilling obligation on or before June 30, 2016.

The Trust's quarterly calculated income available for distribution for the three months ended March 31, 2015, consisting of proceeds attributable to production from September 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014, was below the subordination threshold. As a result, all of the quarterly income available for distribution was used to make a common unit distribution of \$0.4496 and no subordinated unit distribution was paid. All of the subordinated units are held by Chesapeake. See Risks and Uncertainties in Note 2 below.

The Trust will dissolve and begin to liquidate on June 30, 2031, or earlier upon certain events (the "Termination Date"), and will soon thereafter wind up its affairs and terminate. At the Termination Date, (a) 50% of the total Royalty Interests conveyed by Chesapeake will revert automatically to Chesapeake and (b) 50% of the total Royalty Interests conveyed by Chesapeake (the "Perpetual Royalties") will be retained by the Trust and thereafter sold. The net proceeds of the sale of the Perpetual Royalties, as well as any remaining Trust cash reserves, will be distributed to the unitholders on a pro rata basis. Chesapeake will have a right of first refusal to purchase the Perpetual Royalties retained by the Trust at the Termination Date.

## 2. Basis of Presentation and Significant Accounting Policies

**Basis of Accounting.** The accompanying Statement of Assets and Trust Corpus as of December 31, 2014 and the unaudited interim financial statements of the Trust as of, or for the three months ended, March 31, 2015 and 2014, have been presented in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and include all adjustments which are, in the opinion of the Trustee, necessary to fairly state our financial position and results of operations for the periods presented. The accompanying unaudited interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the December 31, 2014 audited financial statements and notes of the Trust included in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q and, therefore, do not include all disclosures required for financial statements prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Financial statements of the Trust differ from financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP as the Trust records revenues when received and expenses when paid and may also establish certain cash reserves for contingencies which would not be accrued in financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP. This non-GAAP comprehensive basis of accounting corresponds to the accounting principles permitted for royalty trusts by the SEC as specified by Staff Accounting Bulletin Topic 12:E, Financial Statements of Royalty Trusts.

Most accounting pronouncements apply to entities whose financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP, directing such entities to accrue or defer revenues and expenses in a period other than when such revenues were received or expenses were paid. Because the Trust's financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis as described above, most accounting pronouncements are not applicable to the Trust's financial statements.

**Use of Estimates.** The preparation of financial statements requires the Trust to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and Trust corpus during the reporting period. Significant estimates that impact the Trust's financial statements include estimates of proved oil, natural gas and NGL reserves, which are used to compute the Trust's amortization of the Investment in Royalty Interests (as defined in Investment in Royalty Interests below) and, as necessary, to evaluate potential impairments of Investment in Royalty Interests and determine the fair value of derivatives. Actual results could differ from those estimates.



Risks and Uncertainties. The Trust's revenue and distributions are substantially dependent upon the prevailing and future prices for oil, natural gas and NGL, each of which depends on numerous factors beyond the Trust's control such as economic conditions, regulatory developments and competition from other energy sources. Oil, natural gas and NGL prices historically have been volatile, and may be subject to significant fluctuations in the future. The Trust's

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)  
(Unaudited)

derivative contracts serve to mitigate the effect of this price volatility on a portion of the Trust's anticipated oil and NGL production through September 30, 2015. See Note 3 for discussion of the Trust's derivative contracts. The Trust's income available for distribution throughout 2014 and continuing into 2015 has been adversely affected by several factors. Oil and natural gas prices declined significantly in the second half of 2014 and have remained low. Even with derivatives currently in place to manage downside exposure to oil prices, the Trust's revenues and distributable income available to unitholders have been and will continue to be adversely affected if commodity prices remain at current levels or decline further. In addition to the Trust's exposure to lower prices for oil and natural gas, the Trust experienced reduced production volumes throughout 2013 and 2014 and continuing into 2015 largely due to higher-than-expected pressure depletion within certain areas of the AMI as previously disclosed. For the quarterly production period from September 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014, the Trust paid a common unit distribution below the applicable subordination threshold and no subordinated distribution was paid. On May 7, 2015, the Trust declared a cash distribution of \$0.3899 per common unit, consisting of proceeds attributable to production from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015. All of the quarterly income available for distribution will be used to make the common unit distribution and no subordinated unit distribution will be paid. The distribution will be paid on June 1, 2015 to record unitholders as of May 20, 2015. See Note 6 for information regarding prior distributions paid and Note 7 for information regarding the distribution to be paid on June 1, 2015. Low levels of future production and continued low commodity prices will continue to reduce the Trust's revenues and distributable income available to unitholders and will likely result in continued distributions to common unitholders below the subordination threshold. In addition, the derivative contracts for the Trust will be in effect only through September 30, 2015. There is likely to be greater fluctuation in cash distributions resulting from fluctuations in realized oil and natural gas prices in periods subsequent to the end of the term of the derivative contracts. When a quarterly cash distribution in respect of the common units is lower than the applicable subordination threshold, the common units are not entitled to receive any additional distributions, nor are the common units or the subordinated units entitled to arrearages in any future quarter. As a result of substantially lower oil and natural gas prices discussed above, Chesapeake reduced its operated rig count in the AMI in February 2015 from two rigs to one rig to slow the pace of its drilling program. Chesapeake will continue analyzing the impact of commodity prices and, subject to its drilling obligation, will adjust the current drilling program and operated rig count accordingly. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the Trust recognized approximately \$58.3 million in impairments of the Royalty Interests primarily due to a decrease in oil and natural gas prices. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, the Trust recognized approximately \$7.7 million in impairments of the Royalty Interests primarily due to lower proved reserve quantities resulting from higher-than-expected pressure depletion within certain areas of the AMI. See Investment in Royalty Interests below for further discussion of the impairments. Chesapeake's ability to perform its obligations to the Trust will depend on its future results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, which in turn will depend upon the supply and demand for oil, natural gas and NGL, prevailing economic conditions and financial, business and other factors, many of which are beyond Chesapeake's control. If Chesapeake were to default on its obligation to drill the Development Wells, the Trust would be able to foreclose on a drilling support lien (the "Drilling Support Lien") to the extent of Chesapeake's remaining interests in the undeveloped portions of the AMI, file a lawsuit to collect monetary damages from Chesapeake and pursue other available legal remedies against Chesapeake. However, the Trust is not permitted to obtain specific performance from Chesapeake of its drilling obligation and the maximum amount the Trust can recover under the Drilling Support Lien in a foreclosure or other action was limited to approximately \$28.6 million as of March 31, 2015 and May 4, 2015. The maximum amount that may be recovered under the Drilling Support Lien will decrease as the remaining Development Wells are drilled and completed. Delays and expenses associated with a foreclosure could reduce distributions to the Trust unitholders by reducing the amount of proceeds available for distribution and could result in the loss of acreage due to leasehold expirations. Any

amounts actually recovered in a foreclosure action would be applied to completion of Chesapeake's drilling obligation, would not result in any distribution to the Trust unitholders and would likely be insufficient to fund the drilling and completion of the number of wells needed for the Trust to realize the full value of the Royalty Interests in the Development Wells.

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)  
(Unaudited)

In the event of a bankruptcy of Chesapeake or the wholly owned subsidiaries of Chesapeake that conveyed the Royalty Interests to the Trust, the Trust could lose the value of all of the Royalty Interests if a bankruptcy court were to hold that the Royalty Interests constitute an asset of the bankruptcy estate. Chesapeake could also be unable to provide support to the Trust through loans and performance of its management duties.

**Cash.** Cash equivalents include all highly-liquid instruments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition. The Trustee maintains a minimum cash reserve of \$1.0 million and may at the Trustee's discretion reserve funds for future expected administrative expenses.

**Investment in Royalty Interests.** The Investment in Royalty Interests is amortized as a single cost center on a units-of-production basis over total proved reserves. Such amortization does not reduce distributable income, rather it is charged directly to Trust corpus. Revisions to estimated future units-of-production are treated on a prospective basis beginning on the date such revisions are known. The carrying value of the Trust's Investment in Royalty Interests will not necessarily be indicative of the fair value of such Royalty Interests. The Trust is not burdened by development costs of the Royalty Interests.

On a quarterly basis, the Trust evaluates the carrying value of the Investment in Royalty Interests under the full cost accounting method prescribed by the SEC. This quarterly review is referred to as a ceiling test. Under the ceiling test, the carrying value of the Investment in Royalty Interests may not exceed an amount equal to the sum of the present value (using a 10% discount rate) of the estimated future net revenues from proved reserves. Future net revenues for the quarterly ceiling limit are calculated using the average of commodity prices on the first day of the month over the trailing 12 month period. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the carrying value of the Investment in Royalty Interests exceeded the estimated present value calculation of future net revenues from proved reserves, resulting in approximately \$58.3 million in impairments primarily due to a decrease in oil and natural gas prices. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, there was \$7.7 million in impairments in the carrying value of the Investment in Royalty Interests primarily due to lower proved reserve quantities attributable to higher-than-expected pressure depletion within certain areas of the AMI. This depletion has resulted in lower initial production rates and lower expected ultimate recovery in some Development Wells. The impairments resulted in non-cash charges to Trust corpus and did not affect the Trust's distributable income. Based on the first-day of the month prices over the 11 months ended May 1, 2015, it expects to record another material write-down in the carrying value of the Investment in Royalty Interests in the second quarter of 2015. Further material write-downs in subsequent quarters will occur if the trailing 12-month commodity prices continue to fall as compared to the commodity prices used in prior quarters. See Risks and Uncertainties above for further discussion.

**Derivatives.** To mitigate a portion of the exposure to adverse market changes of oil prices and, to the extent oil production falls below the hedged oil volume, NGL prices, the Trust is party to derivative contracts with its derivative counterparty. See Note 3 for discussion of the derivative contracts currently outstanding.

The Trust records gains or losses from the derivative contracts when proceeds are received or payments are made, respectively. Additionally, changes in the fair value of the derivative contracts are accounted for as an adjustment to Trust corpus and the fair value carried on the Statements of Assets and Trust Corpus. Cash distributions to unitholders will be increased or decreased by settlements of the Trust's derivative contracts.

**Loan Commitment.** Pursuant to the Trust Agreement, if at any time the Trust's cash on hand (including available cash reserves) is not sufficient to pay the Trust's ordinary course expenses as they become due, Chesapeake will loan funds to the Trust necessary to pay such expenses. Such loans will be recorded as a liability on the Statements of Assets and Trust Corpus until repaid. A loan neither increases nor decreases distributions to unitholders; however, no further distributions will be made to unitholders (except in respect of any previously determined quarterly cash distribution amount) until the loan is repaid. There were no loans outstanding as of March 31, 2015 or December 31, 2014.

**Revenues and Expenses.** Neither the Trust nor the Trustee is responsible for, or has any control over, any costs related to the drilling of the Development Wells or any other operating or capital costs of the Underlying Properties. The Trust's revenues with respect to the Royalty Interests in the Underlying Properties are net of existing royalties and

overriding royalties associated with Chesapeake's interests and are determined after deducting certain post-production expenses and any applicable taxes associated with the Royalty Interests. Post-production expenses generally consist of costs incurred to gather, store, compress, transport, process, treat, dehydrate and market the oil, natural gas and

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)  
 (Unaudited)

NGL produced. However, the Trust is not responsible for costs of marketing services provided by affiliates of Chesapeake. Cash distributions to unitholders are reduced by the Trust's general and administrative expenses and derivative settlement losses.

### 3. Derivative Contracts

The Trust's derivative contracts are intended to manage its exposure to adverse changes in oil prices and, to the extent oil production falls below hedged oil volume, NGL prices. On November 16, 2011, Chesapeake novated the derivative contracts described in the table below to the Trust pursuant to which the Trust became party to derivative contracts covering a portion of its expected production from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2015. These derivative contracts consist of fixed-price oil swaps in which the Trust receives a fixed price and pays a floating market price based on New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) settlement prices to the counterparty for the underlying commodity of the derivative. As a party to these contracts, the Trust receives payments directly from its counterparty or is required to pay any amounts owed directly to the counterparty. All swaps are net settled based on the difference between the fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment. Settlements are due on a quarterly basis, including the first two months of the calendar quarter just ended and the last month of the calendar quarter prior to that one. Any payment due to or from such counterparty is required to be made by the 40th day following the end of the calendar quarter in which such payment becomes due.

The Trust's obligations to the counterparty under the derivative contracts are secured by liens on proved reserves attributable to the Trust's interest in the Underlying Properties. The counterparty's obligations under the derivative contracts must be secured by cash or short-term U.S. Treasury instruments to the extent that any mark-to-market amounts owed to the Trust exceed defined thresholds. Mark-to-market amounts exceeded the defined thresholds and collateral had been posted by the counterparty as of March 31, 2015.

As of March 31, 2015, the Trust had the following crude oil derivative contracts:

Production Quarter	Fixed-Price Oil Swaps		
	Volume (mdbl)	Weighted Avg. Price (\$ per bbl)	Fair Value Asset (\$ in thousands)
Q4 2014 <sup>(a)</sup>	59.5	\$88.53	\$2,133
Q1 2015 <sup>(b)</sup>	171.0	\$88.59	6,417
Q2 2015	175.4	\$88.76	6,596
Q3 2015	153.6	\$88.90	5,760
Total	559.5	\$88.72	\$20,906

(a) Includes December 2014 production that was settled in May 2015.

(b) Includes January and February 2015 production that was settled in May 2015.

To the extent expected oil production falls below the hedged oil volume, the derivative contracts also cover expected NGL production. Such estimated production of NGL is hedged with crude oil derivative contracts using a conversion ratio of one barrel of NGL to 49.2% of a barrel of oil. To the extent oil and NGL prices are not correlated, the derivative contracts do not effectively mitigate the price risk of the Trust's NGL production.

### Additional Disclosures Regarding Derivative Contracts

In accordance with accounting guidance for derivatives and hedging, and because a legal right of set-off exists, the Trust has netted the value of its derivative contracts with the counterparty in the accompanying Statements of Assets and Trust Corpus. Short-term derivative assets represent the estimated fair value of derivatives scheduled to settle in cash over the next 12 months based on market prices as of March 31, 2015. The Trust does not apply hedge accounting to any of its derivative contracts, and therefore, any changes in the fair value of the derivative contracts prior to settlement are accounted for as an adjustment to Trust corpus. Results of settled derivative contracts are reflected in distributable income in the period when paid. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the



CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)  
 (Unaudited)

Trust settled derivative contracts that resulted in receipts from the counterparty of \$0.6 million and payments to the counterparty of \$2.3 million, respectively.

The following table presents the fair value and location of each derivative contract classification disclosed in the Statements of Assets and Trust Corpus as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 on a gross basis without regard to same-counterparty netting:

	Statements of Assets and Trust Corpus Location	Fair Value	
		March 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
(\$ in thousands)			
Asset Derivatives:			
Not designated as hedging instrument			
Commodity contracts	Short-term derivative asset	\$20,906	\$17,144
Commodity contracts	Long-term derivative asset	—	1,478
Total derivative instruments		\$20,906	\$18,622

All of the Trust's derivative positions are subject to netting arrangements which provide for offsetting of asset and liability positions, as well as related cash collateral if applicable. Such netting arrangements generally do not have restrictions. Under such netting arrangements, the Trust offsets the fair value of derivative instruments with cash collateral received or paid for those contracts executed with the same counterparty, which reduces the Trust's total assets and Trust corpus. As of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the Trust did not have any cash collateral balances for these derivatives.

The following tables present the netting offsets of derivative assets as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014:

	Derivative Assets	
	Short-term	Long-term
(\$ in thousands)		
As of March 31, 2015		
Commodity Contracts:		
Gross amounts of recognized assets	\$20,906	\$—
Gross amounts offset in the Statement of Assets and Trust Corpus	—	—
Total derivatives as reported	\$20,906	\$—
As of December 31, 2014		
Commodity Contracts:		
Gross amounts of recognized assets	\$17,144	\$1,478
Gross amounts offset in the Statement of Assets and Trust Corpus	—	—
Total derivatives as reported	\$17,144	\$1,478
Fair Value Measurement		

Certain financial instruments are reported at fair value on the Statements of Assets and Trust Corpus. Under fair value measurement accounting guidance, fair value is defined as the amount that would be received from the sale of an asset or paid for the transfer of a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants, i.e., an exit price. To estimate an exit price, a three-level hierarchy is used. The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs, which refer broadly to assumptions market participants would use in pricing an asset or a liability, into three levels. Level 1 inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities and have the highest priority. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the financial asset or liability and have the lowest priority. The Trust uses a market valuation approach based on available inputs and the following methods and assumptions to measure the fair values of its assets and liabilities, which may or may not be observable in the market.





CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
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Fair Value of Derivatives. The fair value of the Trust's derivatives is based on third-party pricing models which utilize inputs that are either readily available in the public market, such as oil forward curves and discount rates, or can be corroborated from active markets or broker quotes. These values are compared to the values given by our counterparty for reasonableness. Since commodity swaps do not include optionality and therefore generally have no unobservable inputs, they are classified as Level 2.

The following table provides fair value measurement information for derivative assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014:

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets (Level 1) (\$ in thousands)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
As of March 31, 2015				
Total derivative assets	\$—	\$20,906	\$—	\$20,906
As of December 31, 2014				
Total derivative assets	\$—	\$18,622	\$—	\$18,622

Fair Value of Other Financial Instruments. The estimated fair value of other financial instruments is made in accordance with accounting guidance for financial instruments. The carrying values of financial instruments comprising cash and cash equivalents approximate fair values due to the short-term maturities of these instruments.

#### 4. Income Taxes

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Trust is not required to pay federal or state income taxes. Accordingly, no provision for federal or state income tax has been made.

Trust unitholders are treated as partners of the Trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Trust Agreement contains tax provisions that generally allocate the Trust's income, deductions and credits among the Trust unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in the Trust. The Trust Agreement also sets forth the tax accounting principles to be applied by the Trust.

#### 5. Related Party Transactions

Trustee Administrative Fee. Under the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust pays an annual administrative fee of \$175,000 to the Trustee, paid in equal quarterly installments. The administrative fee may be adjusted for inflation by no more than 3% in any calendar year beginning in 2015. As of March 31, 2015, no inflation adjustment has been made.

Agreements with Chesapeake. In connection with the initial public offering and the conveyance of the Royalty Interests to the Trust, the Trust entered into an administrative services agreement, a development agreement and a registration rights agreement with Chesapeake.

Pursuant to the administrative services agreement, Chesapeake provides the Trust with certain accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping and information services related to the Royalty Interests and the registration rights agreement. In return for the services provided by Chesapeake under the administrative services agreement, the Trust pays Chesapeake, in equal quarterly installments, an annual fee of \$200,000, which will remain fixed for the life of the Trust. Chesapeake is also entitled to receive reimbursement for its actual out-of-pocket fees, costs and expenses incurred in connection with the provision of any of the services under the agreement.

Additionally, the administrative services agreement established Chesapeake as the Trust's hedge manager, pursuant to which Chesapeake has the authority, on behalf of the Trust, to administer the Trust's derivative contracts. As hedge manager, Chesapeake also has authority to terminate, restructure or otherwise modify all or any portion of



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the derivative contracts to the extent that Chesapeake reasonably determines, acting in good faith, that the volumes hedged under such contracts exceed, or are expected to exceed, the combined estimated production attributable to the Royalty Interests over the periods hedged. However, in fulfilling its role as hedge manager, Chesapeake does not act as a fiduciary for the Trust and has no affirmative duty to modify any of the Trust's derivative contracts, except as required by the derivative contracts and the administrative services agreement. Moreover, the Trust has agreed to indemnify Chesapeake for any actions it takes in this regard.

The administrative services agreement will terminate upon the earliest to occur of (a) the date the Trust shall have dissolved and wound up its business and affairs in accordance with the Trust Agreement, (b) the date that all of the Royalty Interests have been terminated or are no longer held by the Trust, (c) with respect to services to be provided with respect to any Underlying Properties being transferred by Chesapeake, the date that either Chesapeake or the Trustee may designate by delivering 90-days prior written notice, provided that Chesapeake's drilling obligation has been completed and the transferee of such Underlying Properties assumes responsibility to perform the services in place of Chesapeake or (d) a date mutually agreed by Chesapeake and the Trustee.

The development agreement obligates Chesapeake to drill, cause to be drilled or participate as a non-operator in the drilling of the Development Wells on or prior to June 30, 2016. Additionally, based on Chesapeake's assessment of the ability of a Development Well to produce in paying quantities, Chesapeake is obligated to either complete and tie into production or plug and abandon each Development Well. Chesapeake has also agreed not to drill and complete, or permit any other person within its control to drill and complete, any well in the AMI other than the Development Wells until Chesapeake has met its obligation to drill the Development Wells.

In drilling the Development Wells, Chesapeake is required to act diligently and as a reasonably prudent oil and gas operator would act under the same or similar circumstances as if it were acting with respect to its own properties, disregarding the existence of the Royalty Interests as burdens affecting such properties (the "Reasonably Prudent Operator Standard"). Where Chesapeake does not operate the Underlying Properties, Chesapeake is required to use commercially reasonable efforts to exercise its contractual rights to cause the operators of such Underlying Properties to adhere to the Reasonably Prudent Operator Standard. Chesapeake expects that the drilling and completion techniques used for the remaining Development Wells will be generally consistent with those used for the Producing Wells, the existing Development Wells and other Colony Granite Wash producing wells outside of the AMI.

Under the development agreement, Chesapeake is credited for drilling one full Development Well if the perforated length of the well is equal to or greater than 3,500 feet and Chesapeake's net revenue interest in the well is equal to 52.0%. For wells with a perforated length that is less than 3,500 feet, and for wells in which Chesapeake has a net revenue interest greater than or less than 52.0%, Chesapeake receives proportionate credit.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Chesapeake has granted to the Trust the Drilling Support Lien covering Chesapeake's retained interest in the AMI (except its interest in the Producing Wells, Development Wells and any other wells not subject to the Royalty Interests) in order to secure the estimated amount of the drilling costs for the Trust's interests in the Development Wells. The maximum amount that may be obtained by the Trust pursuant to the Drilling Support Lien initially could not exceed \$262.7 million. As Chesapeake fulfills its drilling obligation over time, the total amount that may be recovered is proportionately reduced and completed Development Wells are released from the lien. If Chesapeake does not fulfill its drilling obligation by June 30, 2016, the Trust may foreclose on any remaining interest in the AMI that is subject to the Drilling Support Lien. Any amounts actually recovered in a foreclosure action would be applied to the completion of Chesapeake's drilling obligation and would not result in any distribution to the Trust unitholders.

Chesapeake's drilling activity with respect to the Development Wells is consistent with its intent to meet the drilling obligation contemplated by the development agreement. As of March 31, 2015, Chesapeake had drilled and completed 95 wells within the AMI (approximately 105.2 of the 118 Development Wells as calculated under the development agreement), reducing the amount that may be recovered under the Drilling Support Lien to approximately \$28.6

million. As of May 4, 2015, Chesapeake had drilled two additional wells within the AMI that were awaiting completion. See Risks and Uncertainties in Note 2 regarding the operated rig count reduction in February 2015 from two rigs to one rig in connection with the decrease in commodity prices.

The Trust also entered into a registration rights agreement for the benefit of Chesapeake and certain of its affiliates (each, a “holder”). Pursuant to the registration rights agreement, the Trust agreed to register the Trust units held by

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each such holder for resale under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. In connection with the preparation and filing of any registration statement, Chesapeake will bear all costs and expenses incidental to any registration statement, excluding certain internal expenses of the Trust, which will be borne by the Trust, and any underwriting discounts and commissions, which will be borne by the seller of the Trust units.

Loan Commitment. Pursuant to the Trust Agreement, if at any time the Trust's cash on hand (including available cash reserves) is not sufficient to pay the Trust's ordinary course expenses as they become due, Chesapeake will loan funds to the Trust necessary to pay such expenses. Any funds loaned by Chesapeake pursuant to this commitment will be limited to the payment of current accounts payable or other obligations to trade creditors in connection with obtaining goods or services or the payment of other current liabilities arising in the ordinary course of the Trust's business, and may not be used to satisfy Trust indebtedness for borrowed money of the Trust. If Chesapeake loans funds pursuant to this commitment, unless Chesapeake agrees otherwise, no further distributions will be made to unitholders (except in respect of any previously determined quarterly cash distribution amount) until such loan is repaid. There were no loans outstanding as of March 31, 2015 or December 31, 2014.

#### 6. Distributions to Unitholders

The Trust makes quarterly cash distributions of substantially all of its cash receipts, after deducting the Trust's expenses, approximately 60 days following the completion of each quarter through (and including) the quarter ending June 30, 2031.

For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Trust declared and paid the following cash distributions:

Calendar Quarter	Production Period	Distribution Date	Cash Distribution per Common Unit	Cash Distribution per Subordinated Unit
Q1 2015	September 2014 - November 2014	March 2, 2015	\$0.4496	\$—
Q1 2014	September 2013 - November 2013	March 3, 2014	\$0.6624	\$—

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST  
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7. Subsequent Events

On May 7, 2015, the Trust declared a cash distribution of \$0.3899 per common unit, consisting of proceeds attributable to production from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015. The distribution will be paid on June 1, 2015 to record unitholders as of May 20, 2015. The Trust's quarterly income available for distribution was \$0.2925 per unit, which was \$0.3675 below the applicable subordination threshold of \$0.6600. All of the quarterly income available for distribution will be used to make the common unit distribution and no subordinated unit distribution will be paid. Distributable income attributable to production from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015 was calculated as follows (in thousands except for unit and per unit amounts):

REVENUES:	
Royalty income <sup>(a)</sup>	\$8,235
(INCOME) EXPENSES:	
Production taxes	40
Trust administrative expenses <sup>(b)</sup>	723
Derivative settlement gain	(6,201 )
Total income	(5,438 )
Distributable income available to unitholders	\$13,673
Distributable income per common unit (35,062,500 units)	\$0.3899
Distributable income per subordinated unit (11,687,500 units) <sup>(c)</sup>	\$—

(a) Net of certain post-production expenses.

(b) Includes cash reserves withheld.

(c) As the common unit distribution is below the applicable subordination threshold, no distribution was declared for the subordinated units.

## ITEM 2. Trustee's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

### Introduction

The following discussion and analysis is intended to help the reader understand the Trust's financial condition and results of operations. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Trust's unaudited interim financial statements and the accompanying notes relating to the Trust and the Underlying Properties included in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report as well as the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 (the "2014 Form 10-K").

### Overview

The Trust is a statutory trust formed in June 2011 under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act. The business and affairs of the Trust are managed by the Trustee and, as necessary, the Delaware Trustee. The Trust does not conduct any operations or activities other than owning the Royalty Interests and activities related to such ownership. The Trust's purpose is generally to own the Royalty Interests, to distribute to the Trust unitholders cash that the Trust receives in respect of the Royalty Interests and the derivative contracts (described in Note 3 to the financial statements contained in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report) and to perform certain administrative functions in respect of the Royalty Interests and the Trust units. The Trust derives all or substantially all of its income and cash flow from the Royalty Interests and the derivative contracts. The Trust is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

Concurrent with the Trust's initial public offering in November 2011, Chesapeake conveyed the Royalty Interests to the Trust effective July 1, 2011, which included interests in (a) 69 Producing Wells in the Colony Granite Wash play and (b) 118 Development Wells that have since been or that are to be drilled in the Colony Granite Wash play on properties within the AMI. Chesapeake is obligated to drill, cause to be drilled or participate as a non-operator in the drilling of the Development Wells from drill sites in the AMI on or prior to June 30, 2016. Additionally, based on Chesapeake's assessment of the ability of a Development Well to produce in paying quantities, Chesapeake is obligated to either complete and tie into production or plug and abandon each Development Well. As of March 31, 2015, Chesapeake had drilled and completed 95 wells within the AMI (approximately 105.2 of the 118 Development Wells as calculated under the development agreement). As of May 4, 2015, Chesapeake had drilled two additional wells within the AMI that were awaiting completion.

The Trust is not responsible for any costs related to the drilling of the Development Wells or any other operating or capital costs of the Underlying Properties, and Chesapeake is not permitted to drill and complete any well in the Colony Granite Wash formation on acreage included within the AMI for its own account until it has satisfied its drilling obligation to the Trust.

The Royalty Interests entitle the Trust to receive 90% of the proceeds (after deducting certain post-production expenses and any applicable taxes) from the sales of production of oil, natural gas and NGL attributable to Chesapeake's net revenue interest in the Producing Wells and 50% of the proceeds (after deducting certain post-production expenses and any applicable taxes) from the sales of oil, natural gas and NGL production attributable to Chesapeake's net revenue interest in the Development Wells. Post-production expenses generally consist of costs incurred to gather, store, compress, transport, process, treat, dehydrate and market the oil, natural gas and NGL produced. However, the Trust is not responsible for costs of marketing services provided by Chesapeake or its affiliates.

On November 16, 2011, Chesapeake novated to the Trust, and the Trust became party to, derivative contracts covering a portion of the production attributable to the Royalty Interests from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2015.

The Trust's distributable income includes net settlements under these derivative contracts. The fair value of the derivative contracts as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 was a net asset of \$20.9 million and \$18.6 million, respectively.

The Trust is required to make quarterly cash distributions of substantially all of its cash receipts, after deducting the Trust's administrative expenses, on or about 60 days following the completion of each calendar quarter through (and including) the quarter ending June 30, 2031. The distribution made in the first quarter of 2015, consisting of proceeds attributable to production from September 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014, was made on March 2, 2015 to record unitholders as of February 19, 2015. See Liquidity and Capital Resources below and Note 6 to the financial statements contained in Item I Part I of this Quarterly Report for more information regarding the distributions.





The amount of Trust revenues and cash distributions to Trust unitholders fluctuates from quarter to quarter depending on several factors, including:

- timing and amount of initial production and sales from the Development Wells;
- oil, natural gas and NGL prices received;
- volumes of oil, natural gas and NGL produced and sold;
- amounts received from, or paid under, derivative contracts;
- certain post-production expenses and any applicable taxes; and
- the Trust's expenses.

**Subordination Threshold.** In order to provide support for cash distributions on the common units, Chesapeake agreed to subordinate 11,687,500 of the Trust units retained following the initial public offering of common units, which constitute 25% of the outstanding Trust units. The subordinated units are entitled to receive pro rata distributions from the Trust each quarter if and to the extent there is sufficient cash to pay a cash distribution on the common units that is no less than 80% of the target distribution set forth in the Trust Agreement for the corresponding quarter. If there is not sufficient cash to fund such a distribution on all of the common units, the distribution to be made with respect to the subordinated units is reduced or eliminated for such quarter in order to make a distribution, to the extent possible, of up to the subordination threshold amount on all the common units, including the common units held by Chesapeake.

**Incentive Threshold.** In exchange for agreeing to subordinate a portion of its Trust units, and in order to provide additional financial incentive to Chesapeake to satisfy its drilling obligation and perform operations on the Underlying Properties in an efficient and cost-effective manner, Chesapeake is entitled to receive incentive distributions equal to 50% of the amount by which the cash available for distribution on all of the Trust units in any quarter is 20% greater than the target distribution for such quarter. The remaining 50% of cash available for distribution in excess of the applicable incentive threshold is paid to the Trust unitholders, including Chesapeake, on a pro rata basis.

At the end of the fourth full calendar quarter following Chesapeake's satisfaction of its drilling obligation with respect to the Development Wells, the subordinated units will automatically convert into common units on a one-for-one basis and Chesapeake's right to receive incentive distributions will terminate. With respect to distributions for quarters following the fourth full quarter after Chesapeake's satisfaction of its Development Well drilling obligation, the common units will no longer have the protection of the subordination threshold, and all Trust unitholders will share on a pro rata basis in the Trust's distributions. The period during which the subordinated units are outstanding is referred to as the subordination period.

The following table sets forth the subordination threshold and the incentive threshold for each calendar quarter through the second quarter of 2017, as established in the Trust Agreement:

Period	Subordination Threshold <sup>(a)</sup> (per unit)	Incentive Threshold <sup>(a)</sup>
2015:		
First Quarter <sup>(b)</sup>	\$0.66	\$0.99
Second Quarter	\$0.68	\$1.02
Third Quarter	\$0.64	\$0.96
Fourth Quarter	\$0.56	\$0.84
2016:		
First Quarter	\$0.51	\$0.76
Second Quarter	\$0.47	\$0.70
Third Quarter	\$0.44	\$0.66
Fourth Quarter	\$0.41	\$0.62
2017:		
First Quarter	\$0.39	\$0.59
Second Quarter	\$0.37	\$0.56

For each quarter, the subordination threshold equals 80% of the target distribution and the incentive threshold (a) equals 120% of the target distribution. The subordination and incentive thresholds terminate after the distribution is made for the fourth full calendar quarter following Chesapeake's completion of its drilling obligation.

A distribution of \$0.3899 per common unit was declared on May 7, 2015 to unitholders of record as of May 20, (b) 2015. The distribution will be paid on June 1, 2015. As the common unit distribution is below the subordination threshold, no distribution was declared for the subordinated units.

#### Results of Trust Operations

The quarterly payments to the Trust with respect to the Royalty Interests are based on the amount of proceeds actually received by Chesapeake during the preceding calendar quarter. Proceeds from production are typically received by Chesapeake one month after production. Due to the timing of the payment of production proceeds, quarterly distributions made by Chesapeake to the Trust generally include royalties attributable to sales of oil, natural gas and NGL for three months, comprised of the first two months of the quarter just ended and the last month of the quarter prior to that one. Chesapeake is required to make the Royalty Interest payments to the Trust within 35 days of the end of each calendar quarter. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, the Trust received payments on the Royalty Interests representing royalties attributable to proceeds from sales of oil, natural gas and NGL for September 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014.

The Trust's income available for distribution throughout 2014 and continuing into 2015 has been adversely affected by several factors. Oil and natural gas prices declined significantly in the second half of 2014 and have remained low. Even with derivatives currently in place to manage downside exposure to oil prices, the Trust's revenues and distributable income available to unitholders have been and will continue to be adversely affected if commodity prices remain at current levels or decline further. In addition to the Trust's exposure to lower prices for oil and natural gas, the Trust experienced reduced production volumes throughout 2013 and 2014 and continuing into 2015 largely due to higher-than-expected pressure depletion within certain areas of the AMI as previously disclosed. For the quarterly production period from September 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014, the Trust paid a common unit distribution below the applicable subordination threshold and no subordinated distribution was paid. Low levels of future production and continued low commodity prices will continue to reduce the Trust's revenues and distributable income available to unitholders and will likely result in continued distributions to common unitholders below the subordination threshold. In addition, the derivative contracts for the Trust will be in effect only through September 30, 2015. There is likely to be greater fluctuation in cash distributions resulting from fluctuations in realized oil and natural gas prices in periods subsequent to the end



of the term of the derivative contracts. When a quarterly cash distribution in respect of the common units is lower than the applicable subordination threshold, the common units are not entitled to receive any additional distributions, nor are the common units or the subordinated units entitled to arrearages in any future quarter.

As a result of substantially lower oil and natural gas prices discussed above, Chesapeake reduced its operated rig count in the AMI in February 2015 from two rigs to one rig to slow the pace of its drilling program. Chesapeake will continue analyzing the impact of commodity prices and, subject to its drilling obligation, will adjust the current drilling program and operated rig count accordingly.

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the Trust recognized approximately \$58.3 million in impairments of the Royalty Interests primarily due to a decrease in oil and natural gas prices. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, the Trust recognized approximately \$7.7 million in impairments of the Royalty Interests primarily due to lower proved reserve quantities resulting from higher-than-expected pressure depletion within certain areas of the AMI. Based on the first-day of the month prices over the 11 months ended May 2015, it expects to have another material write-down in the carrying value of the Investment in Royalty Interests in the second quarter of 2015. Further material write-downs in subsequent quarters will occur if the trailing 12-month commodity prices continue to fall as compared to the commodity prices used in prior quarters. See Investment in Royalty Interests in Note 2 to the financial statements contained in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report for further discussion of the impairments.

Trust Operations for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2015 as compared to March 31, 2014.

Distributable Income. The Trust's distributable income was \$15.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$23.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, a decrease of \$7.4 million. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in the price received for oil and NGL and lower-than-expected initial production rates from Development Wells completed in the production period from September 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014 ("current production quarter") as compared to the production period from September 1, 2013 to November 30, 2013 ("prior production quarter"). See Royalty Income below for information regarding the change in average prices received and the change in sales volumes.

On a per unit basis, cash distributions during the three months ended March 31, 2015 and attributable to the current production quarter were \$0.4496 per common unit and no subordinated unit distribution was paid. Cash distributions during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and attributable to the prior production quarter were \$0.6624 per common unit and no subordinated distribution was paid. Distributable income for each of the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, and their respective production periods described above was calculated as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2015	2014
	(\$ in thousands, except per unit data)	
REVENUES:		
Royalty income <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 15,828	\$ 26,322
(INCOME) EXPENSES:		
Production taxes	335	513
Trust administrative expenses <sup>(b)</sup>	379	317
Derivative settlement (gain) loss	(649	) 2,265
Total expenses	65	3,095
Distributable income available to unitholders	\$ 15,763	\$ 23,227
Distributable income per common unit (35,062,500 units)	\$0.4496	\$0.6624
Distributable income per subordinated unit (11,687,500 units) <sup>(c)</sup>	\$—	\$—

(a) Net of certain post-production expenses.

(b) Includes cash reserves withheld.

(c) For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the common unit distribution was below the applicable subordination threshold. As a result, no distribution was paid for the subordinated units.

**Royalty Income.** Royalty income to the Trust for the three months ended March 31, 2015, and attributable to the current production quarter, totaled \$15.8 million based upon sales of production attributable to the Royalty Interests of 74 thousand barrels (mbbls) of oil, 1,821 million cubic feet (mmcf) of natural gas and 203 mbbls of NGL. Total production attributable to the Royalty Interests for the current production quarter was 581 thousand barrels of oil equivalent (mboe). Average prices received for production, including the impact of certain post-production expenses and excluding production taxes, during the current production quarter were \$80.71 per barrel (bbl) of oil, \$2.36 per thousand cubic feet (mcf) of natural gas and \$27.24 per bbl of NGL.

Royalty income to the Trust for the three months ended March 31, 2014, and attributable to the prior production quarter, totaled \$26.3 million based upon sales of production attributable to the Royalty Interests of 115 mbbls of oil, 2,488 mmcf of natural gas and 280 mbbls of NGL. Total production attributable to the Royalty Interests for the prior production quarter was 809 mboe. Average prices received for production, including the impact of certain post-production expenses and excluding production taxes, during the prior production quarter were \$96.39 per bbl of oil, \$2.24 per mcf of natural gas and \$34.63 per bbl of NGL.

The decrease in the price received per barrel of oil equivalent (boe) in the current production quarter compared to the prior production quarter resulted in a \$3.1 million decrease in royalty income and decreased sales volumes resulted in a \$7.4 million decrease in royalty income, for a net decrease in royalty income of \$10.5 million.

**Production Taxes.** Production taxes are calculated as a percentage of oil, natural gas and NGL revenues, net of any applicable tax credits. Production taxes for the three months ended March 31, 2015, and attributable to the current production quarter, totaled \$0.3 million, or \$0.58 per boe, as compared to production taxes for the three months ended March 31, 2014, and attributable to the prior production quarter, which totaled \$0.5 million, or \$0.63 per boe.

Production taxes represented approximately 2.1% and 2.0% of royalty income for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.



**Trust Administrative Expenses.** Trust administrative expenses, including additional cash reserves, for the three months ended March 31, 2015 totaled \$0.4 million as compared to \$0.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Trust administrative expenses primarily consist of the administrative fees paid to the Trustees and Chesapeake and costs for accounting and legal services.

**Cash Settlements on Derivatives.** The Trust records gains or losses from the derivative contracts when proceeds are received or payments are made, respectively. Swaps covering the current production quarter were settled, during the three months ended March 31, 2015, with proceeds from royalty income for the current production quarter. Total gains during the three months ended March 31, 2015 were \$0.6 million. Swaps covering the prior production quarter were settled, during the three months ended March 31, 2014, with proceeds from royalty income for the prior production quarter. Total losses during the three months ended March 31, 2014 were \$2.3 million.

**Impairments of Royalty Interests.** During the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Trust recognized approximately \$58.3 million and \$7.7 million in impairments of the Royalty Interests, respectively. The 2015 impairments were primarily the result of a decrease in oil and natural gas prices. The 2014 impairments were the result of downward reserve revisions attributable to production being below expectations, primarily as a result of higher-than-expected pressure depletion within some areas of the AMI. The impairments resulted in a non-cash charge to Trust corpus and did not affect the Trust's distributable income. See Risks and Uncertainties in Note 2 of the notes to our financial statements included in Item I of Part I of this Quarterly Report for further discussion of the impairments.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Trust's principal sources of liquidity and capital are cash flows generated from the Royalty Interests, the loan commitment as described below and, during periods in which oil prices fall below the fixed price received on derivative contracts, cash settlements on derivative contracts. The Trust's primary uses of cash are distributions to Trust unitholders, including, if applicable, incentive distributions to Chesapeake, payments of production taxes, payments of Trust administrative expenses, including any reserves established by the Trustee for future liabilities and repayment of loans, payments for derivative contract settlements and payments of expense reimbursements to Chesapeake for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Trust. Administrative expenses include payments to the Trustee and the Delaware Trustee as well as a quarterly fee of \$50,000 to Chesapeake pursuant to an administrative services agreement. Each quarter, the Trustee determines the amount of funds available for distribution. Available funds are the excess cash, if any, received by the Trust from the sales of oil, natural gas and NGL production attributable to the Royalty Interests during the quarter, over the Trust's expenses for the quarter and any cash reserve for the payment of liabilities of the Trust, subject in all cases to the subordination and incentive provisions described previously.

The Trust is required to make quarterly cash distributions of substantially all of its cash receipts, after deducting the Trust's administrative expenses, on or about 60 days following the completion of each calendar quarter through (and including) the quarter ending June 30, 2031. The 2015 first quarter distribution of \$0.4496 per common unit, consisting of proceeds attributable to production from September 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014, was made on March 2, 2015 to record unitholders as of February 19, 2015.



On May 7, 2015, the Trust declared a cash distribution of \$0.3899 per common unit, consisting of proceeds attributable to production from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015. The distribution will be paid on June 1, 2015 to record unitholders as of May 20, 2015. The Trust's quarterly income available for distribution was \$0.2925 per unit, which was \$0.3675 below the applicable subordination threshold of \$0.6600. All of the quarterly income available for distribution will be used to make the common unit distribution and no subordinated unit distribution will be paid. Distributable income attributable to production from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015 was calculated as follows (in thousands except for unit and per unit amounts):

REVENUES:	
Royalty income <sup>(a)</sup>	\$8,235
(INCOME) EXPENSES:	
Production taxes	40
Trust administrative expenses <sup>(b)</sup>	723
Derivative settlement gain	(6,201 )
Total income	(5,438 )
Distributable income available to unitholders	\$13,673
Distributable income per common unit (35,062,500 units)	\$0.3899
Distributable income per subordinated unit (11,687,500 units) <sup>(c)</sup>	\$—

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(a) Net of certain post-production expenses.

(b) Includes cash reserves withheld.

(c) As the common unit distribution is below the applicable subordination threshold, no distribution was declared for the subordinated units.

The Trustee can authorize the Trust to borrow money to pay Trust expenses that exceed cash held by the Trust. The Trustee may authorize the Trust to borrow from the Trustee as a lender provided the terms of the loan are fair to the Trust unitholders. The Trustee may also deposit funds awaiting distribution in an account with itself, if the interest paid to the Trust at least equals amounts paid by the Trustee on similar deposits, and make other short-term investments with the funds distributed to the Trust. The Trustee may also hold funds awaiting distribution in a non-interest bearing account.

Pursuant to the Trust Agreement, if at any time the Trust's cash on hand (including cash reserves) is not sufficient to pay the Trust's ordinary course expenses as they become due, Chesapeake will loan funds to the Trust necessary to pay such expenses. Any funds loaned by Chesapeake pursuant to this commitment will be limited to the payment of current accounts payable or other obligations to trade creditors in connection with obtaining goods or services or the payment of other current liabilities arising in the ordinary course of the Trust's business, and may not be used to satisfy Trust indebtedness for borrowed money of the Trust. If Chesapeake loans funds pursuant to this commitment, unless Chesapeake agrees otherwise, no further distributions may be made to unitholders (except in respect of any previously determined quarterly cash distribution amount) until such loan is repaid. There were no loans outstanding as of March 31, 2015 or December 31, 2014.

The Trust is not responsible for any costs related to the drilling of the Development Wells and Chesapeake granted to the Trust the Drilling Support Lien in order to secure the estimated amount of the drilling costs for the Trust's interests in the Development Wells. As Chesapeake fulfills its drilling obligation over time, Development Wells that are completed or that are perforated for completion and then plugged and abandoned are released from the Drilling Support Lien and the total dollar amount that may be recovered by the Trust for Chesapeake's failure to fulfill its drilling obligation is proportionately reduced. As of May 4, 2015, the total dollar amount that may be recovered is approximately \$28.6 million.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

The Trust has no off-balance sheet arrangements. The Trust has not guaranteed the debt of any other party, nor does the Trust have any other arrangements or relationships with other entities that could potentially result in unconsolidated debt, losses or contingent obligations other than the derivative contracts disclosed in the section Derivative Contracts in Note 3 in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Refer to Note 2 of the notes to our financial statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report for a discussion of significant accounting policies and estimates that impact the Trust's financial statements. Critical accounting policies and estimates relating to the Trust are contained in Item 7 of the 2014 Form 10-K.

**ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

The discussion in this section provides information about derivative contracts between the Trust and the derivative counterparty effective October 1, 2011. The derivative contracts cover a portion of the expected production attributable to the Royalty Interests from the Producing Wells and the Development Wells through September 30, 2015. The derivative contracts are settled in cash and do not require the actual delivery of oil or NGL at settlement. The contracts are settled based upon NYMEX prices. Under the derivative contracts, the Trust receives payments directly from the counterparty and pays any amounts owed to the counterparty. The Trust does not have the ability to enter into any additional oil, natural gas or NGL derivative contracts, except in limited circumstances involving the restructuring of the existing oil derivatives contracts.

As of March 31, 2015, the Trust had the following crude oil derivative contracts:

Production Quarter	Fixed-Price Oil Swaps		
	Volume (m bbl)	Weighted Avg. Price (\$ per bbl)	Fair Value Asset (\$ in thousands)
Q4 2014 <sup>(a)</sup>	59.5	\$88.53	\$2,133
Q1 2015 <sup>(b)</sup>	171.0	\$88.59	6,417
Q2 2015	175.4	\$88.76	6,596
Q3 2015	153.6	\$88.90	5,760
Total	559.5	\$88.72	\$20,906

(a) Includes December 2014 production that was settled in May 2015.

(b) Includes January and February 2015 production that was settled in May 2015.

To the extent expected oil production falls below the hedged oil volume, the derivative contracts also cover expected NGL production. Such estimated production of NGL is hedged with crude oil derivative contracts using a conversion ratio of one barrel of NGL to 49.2% of a barrel of oil. To the extent oil and NGL prices are not correlated, the derivative contracts do not effectively mitigate the price risk of the Trust's NGL production.

The Trust's obligations to the counterparty under the derivative contracts are secured by liens on proved reserves attributable to the Trust's interest in the Underlying Properties. The fair value of the derivative contracts as of March 31, 2015 was a net asset of \$20.9 million.

**Oil, Natural Gas and NGL Price Risk.** The Trust's primary asset and source of income is the Royalty Interests, which generally entitle the Trust to receive a portion of the net proceeds from the sales of oil, natural gas and NGL from the Underlying Properties. The Trust is significantly exposed to fluctuations in the prices received for oil, natural gas and NGL produced and sold. The derivative contracts described above are designed to mitigate a portion of the variability of the prices received for the Trust's share of production. The use of crude oil derivatives to partially mitigate the price risk of NGL production, to the extent oil production falls below the hedged oil volume, is subject to basis risk to the extent oil and NGL prices are not highly correlated.

Credit Risk. A portion of the Trust's liquidity is concentrated in the derivative contracts described above. The use of oil derivative contracts exposes the Trust to credit risk from the counterparty, which has an investment grade credit rating.

Credit Risk Associated with Chesapeake. Chesapeake's ability to perform its obligations to the Trust will depend on its future results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, which in turn will depend upon the supply and demand for oil, natural gas and NGL, prevailing economic conditions and financial, business and other factors, many of which are beyond Chesapeake's control.

If Chesapeake were to default on its obligation to drill the Development Wells, the Trust would be able to foreclose on the Drilling Support Lien to the extent of Chesapeake's remaining interests in the undeveloped portions of the AMI, file a lawsuit to collect money damages from Chesapeake and pursue other available legal remedies against Chesapeake. However, the Trust is not permitted to obtain specific performance from Chesapeake of its drilling obligation and the maximum amount the Trust can recover in a foreclosure or other action was limited to approximately \$28.6 million as of May 4, 2015 and will decrease as the remaining Development Wells are drilled and completed.

Delays and expenses associated with a foreclosure could reduce distributions to the Trust unitholders by reducing the amount of proceeds available for distribution and could result in the loss of acreage due to leasehold expirations. Any amounts actually recovered in a foreclosure action would be applied to completion of Chesapeake's drilling obligation, would not result in any distribution to the Trust unitholders and would likely be insufficient to drill the number of wells needed for the Trust to realize the full value of the Royalty Interests in the Development Wells.

In the event of a bankruptcy of Chesapeake or the wholly owned subsidiaries of Chesapeake that conveyed the Royalty Interests to the Trust, the Trust could lose the value of all of the Royalty Interests if a bankruptcy court were to hold that the Royalty Interests constitute an asset of the bankruptcy estate. Chesapeake could also be unable to provide support to the Trust through loans and performance of its management duties.

#### ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures. The Trustee maintains disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Trust in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Trust is accumulated and communicated by Chesapeake to The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee of the Trust, and its employees who participate in the preparation of the Trust's periodic reports as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. As of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report, the Trustee carried out an evaluation of the Trustee's disclosure controls and procedures. Sarah C. Newell, as Vice President of the Trustee, has concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures of the Trust are effective.

Due to the nature of the Trust as a passive entity and in light of the contractual arrangements pursuant to which the Trust was created, including the provisions of (i) the Trust Agreement, (ii) the administrative services agreement, (iii) the development agreement and (iv) the conveyances granting the Royalty Interests, the Trustee's disclosure controls and procedures related to the Trust necessarily rely on (a) information provided by Chesapeake, including information relating to results of operations, the status of drilling of the Development Wells, the costs and revenues attributable to the Trust's interests under the conveyance and other operating and historical data, plans for future operating and capital expenditures, reserve information, information relating to projected production, and other information relating to the status and results of operations of the underlying properties and the Royalty Interests, and (b) conclusions and reports regarding reserves by the Trust's independent reserve engineers. Other than reviewing the financial and other information provided to the Trust by Chesapeake, the Trustee has not made an independent or direct verification of this financial or other information.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, there has been no change in the Trustee's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Trustee's internal control over financial reporting related to the Trust. The Trustee notes for purposes of clarification that it has no authority over, and makes no statement concerning, the internal control over financial reporting of Chesapeake.

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1A. Risk Factors**

Additional information about risk factors relating to the Trust are contained in Part I, Item 1A of the 2014 Form 10-K.

**ITEM 6. Exhibits**

The exhibits listed below in the Index of Exhibits (following the signature page) are filed, furnished or incorporated by reference pursuant to the requirements of Item 601 of Regulation S-K.

SIGNATURES

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

Date: May 7, 2015

CHESAPEAKE GRANITE WASH TRUST

By: THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON  
TRUST COMPANY, N.A, Trustee

By: /s/ Sarah C. Newell  
Sarah C. Newell  
Vice President

The registrant, Chesapeake Granite Wash Trust, has no principal executive officer, principal financial officer, board of directors or persons performing similar functions. Accordingly, no additional signatures are available, and none have been provided. In signing the report above, the Trustee does not imply that it has performed any such function or that such function exists pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement under which it serves.

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## INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference				Filed or Furnished Herewith
		Form	SEC File Number	Exhibit	Filing Date	
3.1	Certificate of Trust of Chesapeake Granite Wash Trust.	S-1	333-175395	3.1	7/7/2011	
3.2	Amended and Restated Trust Agreement, dated as of November 16, 2011, by and among Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Chesapeake Exploration, L.L.C., The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, Trustee and The Corporation Trust Company, as Delaware Trustee.	8-K	001-35343	3.1	11/21/2011	
31.1	Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 – Trustee’s Vice President.					X
32.1	Certification pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 – Trustee’s Vice President					X