

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP
Form 10-Q
May 11, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended: March 31, 2012

or

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

For the transition period from: _____ to _____

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE 001-16653 73-1238709
(State or Other Jurisdiction (Commission (I.R.S. Employer
of Incorporation or Organization) File Number) Identification No.)
6506 S. LEWIS AVE., SUITE 112, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74136-1020
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(918) 488-8068
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

4444 E. 66TH STREET, LOWER ANNEX, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74136-4207

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

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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.

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 Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

**APPLICABLE ONLY TO REGISTRANTS INVOLVED IN BANKRUPTCY
PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PRECEDING FIVE YEARS:**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court. Yes ☐ No ☒

APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS

The number of shares outstanding of the issuer's common stock, as of May 11, 2012, was 85,564,235.

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

BALANCE SHEETS

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,073	\$ 4,978
Accounts receivable	2,146	7,195
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,100	1,100
Total current assets	9,319	13,273
Property and equipment less accumulated depreciation and depletion	255,215	255,215
Other assets	65,637	58,442
Total assets	\$ 330,171	\$ 326,930
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 49,082	\$ 11,487
Advance from shareholder	33,603	0
Note payable - related party	100,000	100,000
Total current liabilities	182,685	111,487
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock - \$.001 par value	85,564	85,564
authorized 100,000,000 shares,		
issued and outstanding 85,564,235 shares		
Additional paid in capital	14,148,932	14,136,432
Accumulated deficit	(14,087,010)	(14,006,553)
Total stockholders' equity	147,486	215,443
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 330,171	\$ 326,930

See accompanying notes to unaudited financial statements

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(UNAUDITED)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
Revenue:		
Petroleum sales	\$ 0	\$ 0
Cost and expenses:		
Production and operating	12,161	(11,279)
General and administrative	67,296	80,732
Operating income/loss	(79,457)	(69,453)
Other income and (expense):		
Interest income	0	7
Interest expense	(1,000)	(250)
Total other income (expense)	(1,000)	(243)
Net income (loss)	\$(80,457)	\$(69,696)
Net income (loss) per common share, basic & diluted	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.00)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding basic and diluted	85,564,235	83,121,145

See accompanying notes to unaudited financial statements

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOW

(UNAUDITED)

Three Months Ended
March 31, 2012 March 31, 2011

Cash flows from operating activities:

Net loss	\$ (80,457)	\$ (69,696)
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Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:

Value of services contributed by employee	12,500	12,500
Stock incentive plan expense	0	11,295

Change in operating assets and liabilities:

Accounts receivable and other assets	(2,146)	(16,049)
Prepaid expenses	0	3,118
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	37,595	(67,996)
Net cash used in operating activities	(32,508)	(126,828)

Net cash provided by investing	0	0
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Cash flows from financing activities:

Proceeds from shareholder advance and related party note payable	33,603	100,000
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Net increase (decrease) in cash	1,095	(26,828)
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Cash - Beginning of period	4,978	68,689
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Cash - End of period	\$6,073	\$41,861
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Supplemental Disclosure for Non Cash Items:

Common Stock issued for accounts payable	\$0	\$29,990
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See accompanying notes to unaudited financial statements

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2012

(UNAUDITED)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The accompanying unaudited financial statements of Empire Petroleum Corporation ("Empire" or the "Company") have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and the instructions to Form 10-Q. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by United States generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation of the Company's financial position, the results of operations, and the cash flows for the interim period are included. All adjustments are of a normal, recurring nature. Operating results for the interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012.

The information contained in this Form 10-Q should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and related notes for the year ended December 31, 2011 which are contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on March 21, 2012.

The Company has incurred significant losses in recent years. The continuation of the Company as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the Company to attain future profitable operations and/or additional debt or equity financing until profitable operations are achieved. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of United States generally accepted accounting principles applicable to a company with continuing operations, which assume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its obligations in the normal course of operations. Management believes the going concern assumption to be

appropriate for these financial statements. If the going concern assumption were not appropriate for these financial statements, then adjustments might be necessary to adjust the carrying value of assets and liabilities and reported expenses.

The Company continues to explore and develop its oil and gas interests. The ultimate recoverability of the Company's investment in its oil and gas interests is dependent upon the existence and discovery of economically recoverable oil and gas reserves, confirmation of the Company's interest in the oil and gas interests, the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to further develop the interests, and the ability of the Company to attain future profitable production.

As of March 31, 2012, the Company had \$6,073 of cash on hand. In order to sustain the Company's operations on a long-term basis, the Company continues to look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings.

Compensation of Officers and Employees

The Company's only executive officer serves without pay or other compensation. The fair value of these services is estimated by management and is recognized as a capital contribution. For the three months ended March 31, 2012, the Company recorded \$12,500 as a capital contribution by its executive officer.

Fair Value Measurements

The Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") fair value measurement standards define fair value, establish a consistent framework for measuring fair value and establish a fair value hierarchy based on the observability of inputs used to measure fair value. The Company's primary marketable asset is cash, and it owns no marketable securities.

2. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

GABBS VALLEY PROSPECT

As of March 31, 2012, the Company's leasehold acreage in the Gabbs Valley Prospect consisted of 34,186 gross acres and the Company's ownership in such leasehold acreage is 50%.

As of December 31, 2005, there had been no wells drilled on the Gabbs Valley Prospect. However, in November 2005, the Company received the results of a 19-mile 2-D swath seismograph survey conducted on the prospect and, based on the results of the survey, the Company and its partners determined that a test well should be drilled on the prospect.

The Company drilled its first test well on this prospect in 2006. After reaching 5,195 feet in connection with drilling this well (the Empire Cobble Cuesta 1-12), the Company and its partners elected to suspend operations on the well, and released the drilling rig and associated equipment. Company personnel and consultants then evaluated the drilling and logging data and after the study was completed, Empire and its partners decided to conduct a thorough testing program on the well. The Company re-entered the well on April 17, 2007 and conducted a series of drill stem tests and recovered only drilling mud. It was then determined after considerable study that the formation is likely very sensitive to mud and water used in drilling which may have caused clays in the formation to swell preventing any oil that might be present to flow into the well bore.

In 2008, the Company and its partners engaged W. L. Gore and Associates to carry out an Amplified Geochemical Imaging Survey which covered approximately sixteen square miles. The survey was concentrated along the apex of the large Cobble Cuesta structure which included the areas around the Empire Cobble Cuesta 1-12 exploratory test and the other test well drilled in the immediate area. Both of these tests encountered oil shows and the geochemical survey indicated potential hydrocarbons beyond the two well bores. Thereafter, a new Federal drilling unit was formed and approved by the Bureau of Land Management. This unit was known as the Paradise Drilling Unit.

In July 2010, the Company entered into a farm-in agreement with its joint lease holders holding a 41% working interest in the 40,073 acre Paradise Unit. On July 19, 2010, the Company commenced drilling a test well in the Paradise Unit on the Gabbs Valley Prospect in Nevada. The Company drilled the Paradise Unit 2-12 test well to a depth of 4,250 feet before drilling problems caused the Company to cease drilling. The Company tested the well between 3,700 feet and 3,782 feet where oil shows were found. The Company recovered small amounts of oil containing paraffin, which may have been restricting the oil flow. However, swab tests failed to increase the oil flow and the Company has suspended operations on the well and assigned the lease and the 1-12 and 2-12 wells to the other leasehold owners from which the

Company had taken a farmout. The new owners are performing further testing on the 2-12 well and assumed liabilities associated with the lease and both the 1-12 and 2-12 wells. The Company has utilized the results to date of the testing and other factors to determine its next action with respect to the Gabbs Valley leasehold. The Company is now looking for an industry partner to take a farmout on approximately 25,000 acres with the obligation to drill a Triassic test well or to a depth of 7,000 feet, whichever first occurs.

SOUTH OKIE PROSPECT

In 2009, the Company purchased 2,630 net acres of oil and gas leases known as the South Okie Prospect in Natrona County, Wyoming. The Tensleep Sand at depths from 3,300 feet to 4,500 feet is the primary target. As of December 31, 2009, the Company acquired 11 miles of seismic data and studies of this data were completed in early January

2010. An additional geological study was also completed in early January 2010. Subject to securing additional financing and/or engaging an industry partner, the Company plans to drill or cause to be drilled another test well.

3. NOTE PAYABLE - RELATED PARTY

On February 1, 2011, The Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust, under the terms of a convertible note, advanced \$100,000 to the Company. The note has a term of one (1) year and accrues interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum. No principal or interest has been paid on the note. At March 31, 2012, \$4,250 of interest had accrued. The principal and interest owed under the note may be converted by the holder into common stock at the conversion price of \$0.10 per share. The maturity date of the note has been extended to August 1, 2012. In January 2012, The Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust advanced an additional \$33,603 to the Company.

In April 2012, the Company executed another convertible note in favor of The Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust for the January 2012 advance of \$33,603 and an additional \$100,000 of proceeds. The note is due in April 2013 and accrues interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum. The principal and interest owed under the note may be converted by the holder into common stock at the conversion price of \$0.05 per share. (See Note 5)

4. EQUITY

On February 28, 2011, Kevin R. Seth, the newest member of the Company's Board of Directors, was issued options to purchase 150,000 shares of the Company's common stock under the 2006 Stock Incentive Plan at a strike price of \$0.10

per share. The options immediately vested and expire after ten years. The Company recorded an expense of \$11,295 for the options. Fair values were estimated at the date of grant of the options, using the Black-Scholes Option Valuation Model with the following weighted average assumptions: risk free interest rate of 3.42%, volatility factor of the expected market price of the Company's common stock of 172%, no dividend yield, and a weighted average expected life of the options of 5 years. For the purpose of determining the expected life of the options, the Company utilizes the Simplified Method as defined in Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 issued by the SEC.

Diluted EPS (Earnings per Share) gives effect to all dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the period. The computation of Diluted EPS does not assume conversion, exercise or contingent exercise of securities that would have an anti-dilutive effect on losses. As a result, if there is a loss from continuing operations, Diluted EPS is computed in the same manner as Basic EPS. At March 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had 1,245,000 options outstanding, that were not included in the calculation of earnings per share for the periods then ended. Such financial instruments may become dilutive and would then need to be included in future calculations of Diluted EPS. At March 31, 2012 and 2011, the outstanding options were considered anti-dilutive since the strike prices were above the market price and since the Company has incurred losses year to date.

On August 24, 2011, Albert E. Whitehead, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, was issued 2,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock for a purchase price of \$.05 per share for a total investment of \$100,000.

5. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On April 16, 2012, The Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust advanced \$100,000 to the Company under the terms of a convertible note from the Company (See Note 3).

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND Item 2. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL TO ALL PERIODS

The Company's primary business is the exploration and development of oil and gas interests. The Company has incurred significant losses from operations, and there is no assurance that it will achieve profitability or obtain the funds necessary to finance its operations. For all periods presented, the Company's effective tax rate is 0%. The Company has generated net operating losses since inception, which would normally reflect a tax benefit in the statement of operations and a deferred asset on the balance sheet. However, because of the current uncertainty as to the Company's ability to achieve profitability, a valuation reserve has been established that offsets the amount of any tax benefit available for each period presented in the statements of operations.

THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2012, COMPARED TO THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2011.

Production and operating expenses increased \$23,440 to \$12,161 for the three months ended March 31, 2012, from \$(11,279) for the same period in 2011. The increase was due to the lease rentals paid for Gabbs Valley leases in 2012 while 2011 included refunds of certain drilling costs which had been expensed in 2010.

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General and administrative expenses decreased by \$13,436 to \$67,296 for the three months ended March 31, 2012, from \$80,732 for the same period in 2011. The decrease was primarily due to the stock options issued in 2011.

Other income decreased by \$7 to \$0 for the three months ended March 31, 2012, from \$7 for the same period in 2011.

There was no depreciation expense attributable to the three months ended March 31, 2012 or March 31, 2011 because the depreciable assets were fully depreciated.

For the reasons discussed above, net loss increased \$(10,761) from \$(69,696) for the three months ended March 31, 2011, to \$(80,457) for the three months ended March 31, 2012.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) periodically issues new accounting standards in a continuing effort to improve standards of financial accounting and reporting. The Company has reviewed the recently issued pronouncements and no new accounting standards have been adopted since the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 was filed with the SEC.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

GENERAL

As of March 31, 2012, the Company had \$6,073 of cash on hand. The Company believes that its cash on hand will allow it to finance its operations for the next month. In order to sustain the Company's operations on a long-term basis, the Company intends to continue to look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings. The Company plans to undertake further exploration of the Gabbs Valley and South Okie Prospects in 2012. The Company will likely look to industry partners to drill the next wells on these prospects.

OUTLOOK

As stated elsewhere in this Form 10-Q, on May 1, 2007, after further testing of the Company's 1-12 well in the Gabbs Valley Prospect, the Company decided to partially plug and abandon the well since no hydrocarbons were recovered. However, the Company was encouraged by the data it acquired in connection with the drilling, logging and testing of the well. Such data, additional studies of such data, the assistance of geological and engineering consultants and an Advanced Geochemical Imaging Survey conducted in December 2008 led the Company to determine that further drilling was warranted. It is possible that excessive mud exposure in the hole for over five months seriously impeded the process of recovering hydrocarbons. It was determined that a new test well should be drilled using a different method of drilling.

The Company drilled the Paradise Unit 2-12 well to a depth of 4,250 feet before drilling problems caused the Company to cease drilling. The Company recovered small amounts of oil containing paraffin, which may have been restricting the oil flow. However, swab tests failed to increase the oil flow and the Company suspended operations on the well and assigned the lease and the 1-12 and 2-12 wells to the other leasehold owners from which the Company had taken a farmout. The new owners are performing further testing on the 2-12 well and assumed the liabilities associated with the lease and both the 1-12 and 2-12 wells. The Company will reassess its plans for the Gabbs Valley leasehold, however, additional studies indicate potential drill sites exist on the remaining acreage and the Company plans to attempt to associate with industry partner(s) to drill another test well this year on this prospect with the timing of such test not predictable at this time.

Subject to securing additional financing and/or engaging an industry partner, the Company plans to drill or cause to be drilled a test well on its South Okie Prospect in 2012.

MATERIAL RISKS

The Company has incurred significant losses from operations and there is no assurance that it will achieve profitability or obtain the funds necessary to finance continued operations. For other material risks, see the Company's Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2011, which was filed on March 21, 2012.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including this section, includes certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of federal securities laws. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, that address activities, events or developments that the Company expects, believes or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including future sources of financing and other possible business developments, are forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties and could be affected by a number of different factors, including the Company's failure to secure short and long-term financing necessary to sustain and grow its operations, increased competition, changes in the markets in which the Company participates and the technology utilized by the Company and new legislation regarding environmental matters. These risks and other risks that could affect the Company's business are more fully described in reports it files with the SEC,

including its Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011. Actual results may vary materially from the forward-looking statements.

The Company undertakes no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements in this Form 10-Q.

Item 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation under the supervision of the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e). Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) has concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report are effective. During the period covered by this report, there was no change in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that has materially affected or that is reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 5. Other information

On April 17, 2012, the Company executed that certain Convertible Note Due April 17, 2013, in the principal amount of \$133,603 (the "Convertible Note") and in favor of The Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust (the "Trust"). Albert E. Whitehead, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and member of the Company's board of directors, is the trustee of the Trust. The Convertible Note accrues interest at a rate of 4% per annum. All principal and interest under the Convertible Note is due on April 17, 2013. The Convertible Note may be converted at any time prior to April 17, 2013 into shares of the Company's common stock at a conversion price of \$0.05 per share of common stock. The principal and interest due on the Convertible Note may be accelerated in the event of a default as described therein. The Company executed the Convertible Note as a result of certain advances made by the Trust to the Company (see Note 3 to the Financial Statements for additional information).

The offer and sale of the Convertible Note was not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in reliance upon the exemption from the registration requirements of that act provided by Section 4(2) thereof. Mr. Whitehead is a sophisticated accredited investor with the experience and expertise to evaluate the merits and risks of an investment in the Company's securities and the financial means to bear the risks of such an investment. In addition, as Chief Executive Officer of the Company and a member of the Company's board of directors, Mr. Whitehead has access to all of the material information regarding the Company that such investor would have received if the offer and sale of the securities had been registered.

Item 6. Exhibits

10.1 Convertible Note Due April 17, 2013 (submitted herewith)

Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to Rules 13a - 14 (a) and 15(d) -

31 14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Item 601(1) (31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

101 Financial Statements for XBRL format (submitted herewith).

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

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.

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

May 11, 2012 /s/ Albert E. Whitehead
Albert E. Whitehead
Chairman, Chief Executive
Officer and Principal
Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

NO. DESCRIPTION

10.1 Convertible Note Due April 17, 2013 (submitted herewith)

31 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to Rules 13a - 14 (a) and 15(d) - 14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Item 601(1) (31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

101 Financial Statements for XBRL format (submitted herewith).