

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(TO PROSPECTUS DATED OCTOBER 24, 1995)

\$150,000,000

LOGO
(R)

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

\$75,000,000 7 1/2% DEBENTURES DUE 2006

\$75,000,000 8% DEBENTURES DUE 2026

The 7 1/2% Debentures Due 2006 (the "7 1/2% Debentures") mature on August 1, 2006 and the 8% Debentures Due 2026 (the "8% Debentures" and, together with the 7 1/2% Debentures, the "Debentures") mature on August 1, 2026. Interest on the Debentures is payable semi-annually on February 1 and August 1 of each year, beginning February 1, 1997. The Debentures are not redeemable prior to maturity.

Each series of Debentures will be represented by a Global Debenture registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee for The Depository Trust Company (the "Depository"). Beneficial interests in the Global Debentures will be shown on records maintained by, transfers thereof will be effected only through, and payment of principal of and interest on Debentures will be made only through, the Depository, and with respect to the beneficial owners' interests, by the Depository's participants. Except as described herein, Debentures in definitive form will not be issued. See "Description of Debentures -- Global Debentures." Settlement for the Debentures will be in immediately available funds.

THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION NOR HAS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT OR THE PROSPECTUS. ANY

REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

	PRICE TO PUBLIC(1)	UNDERWRITING DISCOUNT(2)	PROCEEDS TO THE COMPANY(1)(3)
Per 7 1/2% Debenture.....	99.176%	.65%	98.526%
Total.....	\$74,382,000	\$487,500	\$73,894,500
Per 8% Debenture.....	99.682%	.875%	98.807%
Total.....	\$74,761,500	\$656,250	\$74,105,250

(1) Plus accrued interest from August 1, 1996.

(2) The Company has agreed to indemnify the Underwriters against certain liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. See "Underwriting."

(3) Before deducting expenses payable by the Company estimated at \$200,000.

The Debentures are being offered by the Underwriters, subject to prior sale, when, as and if delivered to and accepted by it, subject to approval of certain legal matters by counsel for the Underwriters and certain other conditions. The Underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify

such offer and reject orders in whole or in part. It is expected that delivery of the Debentures will be made through the facilities of the Depository on or about August 5, 1996, against payment therefor in immediately available funds.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO. PAINWEBBER INCORPORATED

The date of this Prospectus Supplement is July 31, 1996.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS OFFERING, THE UNDERWRITERS MAY OVER-ALLOT OR EFFECT TRANSACTIONS WHICH STABILIZE OR MAINTAIN THE MARKET PRICE OF THE SECURITIES OFFERED HEREBY AT A LEVEL ABOVE THAT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE PREVAIL IN THE OPEN MARKET. SUCH STABILIZING, IF COMMENTED, MAY BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME.

THE COMPANY

Southwest Gas Corporation (the "Company") is the largest distributor of natural gas in Arizona, distributing and transporting natural gas in most of southern, central, and northwestern Arizona including the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas. The Company is also the largest distributor and transporter of natural gas in Nevada, and serves the Las Vegas metropolitan area and northern Nevada. In addition, the Company distributes and transports natural gas in portions of California, including the Lake Tahoe area in northern California and high desert and mountain areas of San Bernardino County in southern California.

During the twelve months ended March 31, 1996, the contribution to total natural gas operating margin from each of the Company's major geographic operations areas was as follows: Arizona -- 57 percent, Nevada -- 32 percent and California -- 11 percent. During the same period, the Company earned 59 percent of operating margin from residential customers, 24 percent from commercial customers, and 17 percent from industrial and other customers. These patterns are consistent with prior years and are expected to continue.

At December 31, 1995, approximately 605,000 (or 59 percent) of the Company's natural gas customers were in Arizona, 317,000 (or 31 percent) were in Nevada and 107,000 (or 10 percent) were in California. A federal Census Bureau report for the year ended July 1, 1994 showed that Nevada and Arizona ranked first and second, respectively, in terms of percentage population growth. Customer growth in the Company's three-state territory was 35,000 in 1993, 48,000 in 1994 and 49,000 in 1995. Customer growth over the past three years averaged five percent annually. Based on commitments from builders, the Company expects customer growth to approximate five percent during 1996.

For the twelve months ended March 31, 1996, the Company's natural gas construction expenditures totaled \$171 million, an 18 percent increase over the \$145 million of construction expenditures incurred during the same period a year ago. The increase is primarily attributed to the investment in new transmission and distribution plant in Arizona, Nevada and California to meet the demand from the Company's growing customer base. During the three-year period ended March 31, 1996, the Company's total investment in gas plant in service has increased from \$1.3 billion to \$1.6 billion, or at an annual growth rate of eight percent. The Company currently estimates that annual construction expenditures for the three-year period ending December 31, 1998 will be approximately \$470 million. See "Capital Expenditures and Financing Programs."

The Company is authorized to charge its distribution system customers rates determined by the Arizona Corporation Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission and the Public Service Commission of Nevada (the "PSCN") in general rate cases, which rates are derived using rate base, cost of service and cost of capital experienced in an adjusted historical test year in Arizona and Nevada, and in a projected future test year in California. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates the northern Nevada transmission system and the liquefied natural gas storage facilities of Paiute Pipeline Company ("Paiute"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, as well as the rates Paiute charges for transportation of gas directly to certain end-users and to various local distribution companies.

In December 1995, the Company filed general rate cases for its two Nevada jurisdictions with the PSCN. In April 1996, the PSCN approved a settlement of the general rate cases that provided the Company with a \$10.6 million general rate increase in southern Nevada and a \$3.2 million increase in northern Nevada. The settlement achieved a number of rate design and tariff restructuring changes resulting in rates that are more cost-based. Over 86 percent of annual margin in Nevada will now be recoverable from core customer classes, those most responsible for the increased costs of operations. The settlement also adjusts rate design by equalizing margins earned from sales and transportation customers, resulting in consistent margin regardless of

the type of service elected by a customer. The settlement also specifies a moratorium on future general rate increase requests until April 1999. The new rates became effective July 1, 1996.

The Company plans to file for additional rate relief in its Arizona jurisdictions no later than the fourth quarter of 1996, with new rates expected to be in effect approximately twelve months after filing. Its current rate settlement for its California jurisdictions, effective January 1995, will remain in effect through 1998. The Company's rate schedules in all of its distribution service areas contain purchased gas adjustment clauses which permit the Company to adjust its rates periodically as the cost of purchased gas changes.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In January 1996, the Company entered into an agreement to sell all of the outstanding common stock of its wholly owned subsidiary PriMerit Bank ("PriMerit" or the "Bank") to Norwest Corporation. In April 1996, Norwest elected to structure the acquisition as a purchase of substantially all of the assets and liabilities of the Bank, rather than a stock purchase, pursuant to an option in the original agreement.

On July 19, 1996, the Company completed the sale of PriMerit. In accordance with the agreement, Norwest paid the Company \$191 million in cash for substantially all of the assets and liabilities of PriMerit, other than certain assets and liabilities relating to taxes and real estate development activities formerly conducted by the Bank and certain recorded intangibles. Net proceeds of approximately \$163 million, after payment of income taxes and other costs associated with the sale, will be used to reduce outstanding long-term debt (see "Capitalization").

On November 13, 1995, the Company and Northern Pipeline Construction Co. ("NPL") entered into a definitive agreement calling for the acquisition of 100 percent of the outstanding stock of NPL for \$24 million in common stock of the Company. On April 29, 1996, the Company completed the acquisition of NPL. In connection therewith, 1,439,280 new shares of the Company's common stock were issued to the NPL stockholders.

NPL, headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, provides gas distribution companies (including the Company) with installation, replacement and maintenance services for underground natural gas distribution systems. The principal focus of business operations centers around main and service line replacement and new business installation of mains and services. NPL operates in numerous locations throughout the United States.

On July 16, 1996, the Company's stockholders approved an amendment to the Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company to increase the authorized shares of the Company's common stock from 30,000,000 shares to 45,000,000 shares.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for (a) the continuing operations of the Company and (b) the continuing operations of the Company adjusted for interest allocated to the discontinued operations of PriMerit.

	FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1996	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
		1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Ratios of earnings to fixed charges(1):						
Continuing operations.....	1.07(2)	1.06(2)	1.69	1.47	2.21	1.70
Adjusted for interest allocated to discontinued operations.....	1.06(2)	1.05(2)	1.61	1.40	2.03	1.61

(1) For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are defined as the sum of pretax income from continuing operations plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of all interest expense including capitalized interest, one-third of rent expense (which approximates the interest component of such expense) and amortized debt costs.

(2) These ratios were impacted by record warm weather during the 1995 and first quarter 1996 heating seasons. See Note (1) to "Selected Financial Information."

SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following selected financial information for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 1995 is derived from the Company's 1995 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The selected financial information for the twelve-month period ended March 31, 1996 is derived from the Company's first quarter 1996 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The Company's consolidated financial statements in the 1995 Annual Report on Form 10-K have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants. The selected financial information set forth below should be read in conjunction with the detailed information, consolidated financial statements and related notes and applicable management's discussion and analysis included in the 1995 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the Company's first quarter 1996 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated herein by reference.

	TWELVE MONTHS	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		
	ENDED MARCH 31, 1996	1995	1994	1993
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)				
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT DATA:				
Operating revenues.....	\$ 548,333	\$ 563,502	\$ 599,553	\$539,105
Operating expenses.....	488,211	505,090	510,863	461,423
Operating income.....	\$ 60,122	\$ 58,412	\$ 88,690	\$ 77,682
Income from continuing operations.....	\$ 3,064(1)	\$ 2,654(1)	\$ 23,524	\$ 13,751(2)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax(3).....	(17,732)	(17,536)	2,777	1,655
Net income (loss).....	\$ (14,668)	\$ (14,882)	\$ 26,301	\$ 15,406
Net income (loss) applicable to common stock.....	\$ (14,880)	\$ (15,189)	\$ 25,791	\$ 14,665
Earnings (loss) per share				
Continuing operations.....	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.10	\$ 1.09	\$ 0.63
Discontinued operations.....	(0.74)	(0.76)	0.13	0.08
Earnings (loss) per share.....	\$ (0.62)	\$ (0.66)	\$ 1.22	\$ 0.71
Dividends paid per common share.....	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.74
Weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding (000's).....	24,025	23,167	21,078	20,729
NATURAL GAS SEGMENT DATA:				
Operating margin.....	\$ 341,314(1)	\$ 336,046(1)	\$ 349,631	\$326,815
Construction expenditures.....	171,029	166,183	141,390	113,903
Net gas utility property (end of period).....	1,159,416	1,137,750	1,035,916	954,488
Number of customers (end of period).....	1,042,000	1,029,000	980,000	932,000

- (1) Record warm weather during the first and fourth quarters of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996 significantly impacted operating margin. The Company estimates that, on a weather-normalized basis, before income taxes, 1995 operating margin would have been approximately \$28 million greater, and operating margin for the twelve months ended March 31, 1996 would have been approximately \$29 million greater than actually reported.
- (2) In 1993, the Company wrote off \$15.9 million in gross plant related to its central and southern Arizona pipe replacement programs. The impact of this disallowance, net of accumulated depreciation, tax benefits and other related items, was a non-cash reduction to consolidated net income of \$9.3 million, or \$0.44 per share.
- (3) In January 1996, the Company entered into an agreement to sell all of the outstanding common stock of the Bank to Norwest Corporation, and as such, the Bank is reported as discontinued operations. The amounts shown as discontinued operations consist of income (loss) from the Bank's stand-alone income statements adjusted for corporate carrying costs allocated to the Bank and loss on disposal of the discontinued segment.

CAPITALIZATION

The capitalization and short-term debt of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries as of March 31, 1996, as adjusted to give effect to the acquisition of NPL in April 1996, the use of proceeds from the disposition of PriMerit in July 1996, and the issuance of the Debentures offered hereby and the application of the net proceeds therefrom, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses, are as follows:

	AS OF MARCH 31, 1996		ADJUSTMENTS			AS OF MARCH 31, 1996	
	ACTUAL	%	(1)	(2)	(3)	ADJUSTED	%
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)							
CAPITALIZATION							
Long-term debt:							
Debentures:							
Series A, 9% due 2011.....	\$ 26,838				\$(26,838)		
Series B, 9% due 2011.....	31,168				(31,168)		
Series C, 8.75% due 2011.....	18,323				(18,323)		
Series D, 9.375% due 2017.....	120,000		\$ (59,000)		(61,000)		
Series E, 10% due 2013.....	23,069		(23,069)				
Series F, 9.75% due 2002.....	100,000					\$ 100,000	
7 1/2% due 2006.....					75,000	75,000	
8% due 2026.....					75,000	75,000	
Total debentures.....	319,398		(82,069)		12,671	250,000	
Less: unamortized discount.....	(6,103)					(6,103)	
Net debentures.....	313,295		(82,069)		12,671	243,897	
Other long-term debt.....	419,371		(37,931)			381,440	
Total long-term debt.....	732,666		(120,000)		12,671	625,337	
Less: current maturities.....	(120,000)		120,000				
	612,666	58.7%			0	625,337	57.9%
Company-obligated mandatorily redeemable preferred securities of Southwest Gas Capital I.....	60,000	5.8%				60,000	5.6%
Stockholders' equity:							
Common stock and additional paid in capital.....	343,075		\$24,000			367,075	
Retained earnings.....	27,084					27,084	
Total stockholders' equity.....	370,159	35.5%	24,000			394,159	36.5%
Total capitalization.....	\$1,042,825	100.0%	\$24,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,671	\$1,079,496	100.0%

(1) As described in this Prospectus Supplement, on April 29, 1996, the Company acquired NPL for \$24 million of the Company's common stock.

(2) As described in this Prospectus Supplement, on July 19, 1996, the sale of PriMerit to Norwest Corporation was completed. In connection therewith, the Company received \$191 million in cash. Of this amount, approximately \$26 million will be used to pay income taxes and other costs associated with the sale; \$120 million will be used to repay long-term debt (which includes Series E and a portion of the D debentures); and the remaining \$43 million will be used to repay short-term borrowings which have been incurred since March 31, 1996.

(3) Reflects an adjustment for the sale of the Debentures. The net proceeds from the sale of the Debentures are assumed to be used to repay outstanding debentures that are currently callable, and for general corporate purposes.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Net proceeds from the sale of the Debentures will be used to refund outstanding callable debentures (including principal and prepayment premiums for the Series A, B, C, and the remainder of Series D) with the remaining amount to be used for general corporate purposes, including the acquisition of property for the construction, completion, extension or improvement of the Company's pipeline systems and facilities located in and around the communities it serves. The weighted average cost of the debentures to be refunded at March 31, 1996 was 10.65 percent.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND FINANCING PROGRAMS

During the three-year period ended December 31, 1995, the Company's gas segment customer base has grown at an annual average rate of approximately five percent. The Company anticipates a projected average annual customer growth rate of approximately five percent over the next three years.

The Company currently estimates that construction expenditures for its natural gas operations for the three-year period ending December 31, 1998 will be approximately \$470 million. It is currently estimated that cash flow from operating activities (net of dividends) will generate approximately one-half of the gas operations total construction expenditures during the three-year period ending December 31, 1998. A portion of the construction expenditure funding will be provided by \$36 million of funds held in trust, at December 31, 1995, from the issuance of 1993 Clark County, Nevada, Series A and 1993 City of Big Bear, California, Series A industrial development revenue bonds. The remaining requirements are expected to be provided by external financing sources, including a portion of the proceeds from this transaction.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBENTURES

The Debentures will be issued under an Indenture, dated as of July 15, 1996 (the "Original Indenture"), between the Company and Harris Trust and Savings Bank, as Trustee (the "Trustee"), as supplemented and amended by the First Supplemental Indenture dated as of August 1, 1996 (the "First Supplement," and the Original Indenture as so supplemented and amended being referred to as the "Indenture"). The following summaries set forth certain general terms of the Debentures and are subject to the detailed provisions of the Indenture; whenever particular provisions of the Indenture or the First Supplement are referred to, such provisions are incorporated herein by reference as part of the statement made and such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference. Capitalized terms that are used and not otherwise defined herein shall have meanings assigned to them in the Indenture. Additional information regarding the Debentures is set forth in the accompanying Prospectus under the caption "Description of Debt Securities."

GENERAL

The 7 1/2% Debentures and 8% Debentures will each be limited in principal amount to \$75,000,000. The Debentures will bear interest from August 1, 1996, or from the most recent Interest Payment Date to which interest has been paid at the rates of interest set forth on the cover page hereof. Interest will be payable semiannually on February 1 and August 1, commencing February 1, 1997, to the persons in whose name the Debentures are registered at the close of business on the January 15 or July 15 next preceding such interest payment date. For so long as the Debentures are registered in the name of the Depository, or its nominee, the principal and interest due on the Debentures will be payable by the Company or its agent to the Depository for payment to its Participants (as defined herein) for subsequent disbursement to the beneficial owners. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. The Debentures will mature on the dates shown on the cover page hereof. The Debentures are not redeemable prior to maturity. (Sections 307 and 310 of the Indenture and Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the First Supplement.)

The Debentures will not contain risk provisions designed to require the Company to redeem the Debentures, reset the interest rate or take other actions in response to a change in control, highly leveraged transaction, change in credit rating or other similar occurrences involving the Company that may adversely affect the Holders of the Debentures.

UNSECURED OBLIGATIONS

The Debentures will be unsecured general obligations of the Company and will rank on a parity with all other unsubordinated, unsecured indebtedness of the Company. There will be no limitations on the amount of indebtedness which may rank on a parity with the Debentures or on the amount of indebtedness that may be incurred, or capital stock that may be issued, by the Company.

COVENANTS

Restrictions on Liens. The Company will not, at any time during which any Debentures are Outstanding, issue, assume or guarantee any Debt, secured by any Lien upon any property or asset of the Company (whether such property or asset is now owned or hereafter acquired), without in any such case effectively securing, prior to or concurrently with the issuance, assumption or guarantee of any such Debt, the Debentures (together with, if the Company shall so determine, any other indebtedness of or guarantee by the Company ranking equally with the Debentures and then existing or thereafter created) equally and ratably with (or, at the Company's option, prior to) such Debt. The foregoing restrictions do not apply to or prevent the creation of: (i) Liens on any property acquired, constructed or improved by the Company after August 1, 1996 that are created or assumed contemporaneously with, or within 120 days after, such acquisition or completion of the construction or improvement, or within six months thereafter pursuant to a firm commitment for financing arranged with a lender or investor within such 120-day period, to secure or provide for the payment of all or any part of the purchase price of such property or the cost of such construction or improvement incurred after August 1, 1996, or, in addition to Liens referred to in clauses (ii) and (iii), Liens on any property existing at the time of acquisition thereof, provided that the Liens do not apply to any property theretofore owned by the Company other than, in the case of any such construction or improvement, any theretofore unimproved property on which the property so constructed or the improvement is located; (ii) existing Liens on any property or indebtedness of a Corporation that is merged with or into or consolidated with the Company, provided that the Liens do not apply to any property theretofore owned by the Company; (iii) Liens in favor of the United States, any state, or any foreign country or any department, agency or instrumentality or political subdivision of any such jurisdiction to secure partial, progress, advance or other payment pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such Liens, including, without limitation, Liens to secure Debt of the pollution control or industrial revenue bond type; (iv) Liens on current assets of the Company to secure loans to the Company which mature within 12 months from the creation thereof and which are made in the ordinary course of business; (v) Liens on any property (including any natural gas, oil or other mineral property) of the Company to secure all or part of the cost of exploration or drilling for or development of oil or gas reserves or laying a pipeline or to secure Debt incurred to provide funds for any such purpose; (vi) any Lien existing on August 1, 1996; (vii) Liens on moneys or U.S. Government Obligations deposited with the Trustee pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture summarized under "Defeasance" in the accompanying Prospectus; and (viii) Liens for the sole purpose of extending, renewing or replacing, in whole or in part, Liens securing Debt of the type referred to in the foregoing clauses or this clause (viii), provided, however, that the principal amount of Debt so secured at the time of such extension, renewal or replacement may not be increased, and that such extension, renewal or replacement is limited to all or part of the property or indebtedness which secured the Lien so extended, renewed or replaced (plus improvements on such property).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company may issue, assume or guarantee Debt secured by a Lien, which would otherwise be subject to the restrictions described in the first paragraph of this subsection up to an aggregate amount that, together with all other Indebtedness of the Company (other than the Debt secured by Liens described in clauses (i) through (viii) of the first paragraph of this subsection) that would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restrictions and the Value of all Sale and Lease-back Transactions existing at that time (other than any Sale and Lease-back Transaction that, if it had been a Lien, would have been permitted under clause (i) of the first paragraph of this subsection and other than Sale and Lease-back Transactions as to which application of amounts have been made in accordance with clause (ii) of "-- Restrictions on Sale and Lease-back Transactions"), does not at the time exceed 10% of Total Capitalization. (Section 3.1 of the First Supplement)

Restrictions on Sale and Lease-back Transactions. The Company will not, at any time during which any Debentures are Outstanding, enter into any Sale and Lease-back Transaction unless the proceeds from such sale are at least equal to the fair value of the property being sold and leased-back and either: (i) the Company is entitled under the provisions described in the preceding paragraph to incur Debt secured by a Lien on such property without equally and ratably securing the Debentures; or (ii) the Company, within 120 days of the effective date of the Sale and Lease-back Transaction (or in the case of clause (A) below, within six months thereafter pursuant to a firm purchase commitment entered into within such 120-day period), applies, or covenants that it will apply, an amount not less than the fair value of such property to one or more of (A) the optional redemption of Securities issued under the Indenture in accordance with the provisions thereof and the terms of such Securities to be so redeemed or the purchase and retirement of Securities as provided pursuant to the Indenture, (B) the payment or other retirement of Funded Debt which is senior to or on parity with the Debentures (other than Funded Debt owned by the Company) or (C) the purchase of other property at not more than its fair value (other than the property of the company involved in such sale). (Section 3.2 of the First Supplement)

Certain Definitions. The terms set forth below are defined in the Indenture as follows:

"CAPITALIZED LEASE" means any lease of any property of the Company (whether real, personal or mixed) by the Company as lessee that would, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, be required to be accounted for as a capital lease on the balance sheet of the Company.

"CORPORATION" means a corporation, association, company, joint-stock company or business trust.

"DEBT" means debt issued, assumed or guaranteed by the Company for money borrowed.

"FUNDED DEBT" means all Indebtedness of the Company that by its terms or by the terms of any instrument or agreement relating thereto matures more than one year from, or is directly or indirectly renewable or extendable at the option of the Company to a date more than one year from the date of creation thereof (including an option of the Company under a revolving credit or similar agreement obligating the lender or lenders to extend credit over a period of one year or more), but excluding any payments due under the terms thereof within 12 months of any date of determination (including any deposit or payment required to be made under any repayment provision, sinking fund, purchase fund or similar provision).

"INDEBTEDNESS" means, as applied to any Person, Capitalized Leases, bonds, notes, debentures and other securities representing obligations for borrowed money created or assumed by such Person. All indebtedness guaranteed as to payment of principal in any manner by such Person or in effect guaranteed by such Person through a contingent agreement to purchase such indebtedness, and all indebtedness secured by a Lien upon property owned by such Person and upon which such Person customarily pays interest, even though such Person has not assumed or become liable for the payment of such indebtedness, shall for all purposes thereof be deemed to be "Indebtedness" of such Person.

"LIEN" means any lien, mortgage, pledge, security interest, charge or other encumbrance of any kind.

"PERSON" means any individual, Corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

"SALE AND LEASE-BACK TRANSACTION" means any arrangement with any Person providing for the lease to the Company of any property of the Company (except for temporary leases for a term, including any renewal thereof, of not more than three years), which property has been or is to be sold or transferred by the Company to such Person.

"TOTAL CAPITALIZATION" means, as at any time, the aggregate of (i) all amounts outstanding on such date classified as shareholders' equity of the Company on such date, (ii) all amounts outstanding on such date classified as preferred or preference stock of the Company on such date and (iii) all amounts of Funded Debt of the Company outstanding on such date determined on an unconsolidated basis.

"U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS" means securities which are (i) direct

obligations of the United States of America for the payment of which its full faith and credit is pledged, or (ii) obligations of a

Person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States of America the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States of America, which, in either case, are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof, and shall also include a depository receipt issued by a bank or trust company as custodian with respect to any such U.S. Government Obligations or a specific payment of interest on or principal of any such U.S. Government Obligations held by such custodian for the account of the holder of a depository receipt, provided that (except as required by law) such custodian is not authorized to make any deduction from the amount payable to the holder of such depository receipt, in respect of the U.S. Government Obligations, or from any amount received by the custodian, in respect of the U.S. Government Obligations or the specific payment of interest on or principal of the U.S. Government Obligations evidenced by such depository receipt.

"VALUE" means, with respect to a Sale and Lease-back Transaction, as of any particular time, the amount equal to the greater of: (i) the net proceeds from the sale or transfer of the property leased pursuant to such Sale and Lease-back Transaction; and (ii) the fair value, in the opinion of the board of directors of the Company, of such property at the time of entering into such Sale and Lease-back Transaction, in either case divided first by the number of full years of the term of the lease and then multiplied by the number of full years of such term remaining at the time of determination, without regard to any renewal or extension options contained in the lease.

GLOBAL DEBENTURES

This discussion of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") and its book-entry system supplements the discussion of depository arrangements in "Description of Debt Securities -- Book-Entry Debt Securities" in the accompanying Prospectus.

DTC will act as securities depository for the Debentures. The Debentures will be issued in fully-registered form in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee). One Debenture certificate will be issued as a Global Debenture for each series of Debentures, in the aggregate principal amount of each series of Debentures, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in Direct Participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its Direct Participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, Inc., and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks, and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants" and together with Direct Participants, "Participants"). The Rules applicable to DTC and its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Purchases of Debentures under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Debentures on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of Debentures ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but Beneficial Owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Debentures are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in Debentures, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Debentures is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Debentures deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of Debentures with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Debentures; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Debentures are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will consent or vote with respect to Debentures. Under its usual procedures, DTC would mail an Omnibus Proxy to the Company as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Debentures are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments on the Debentures will be made to DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on the payable date. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC or the Company, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal and interest to DTC is the responsibility of the Company, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants shall be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursements of such payments to the Beneficial Owners shall be the responsibility of Participants.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system is based upon information obtained from DTC, and neither the Company, the Underwriters nor the Trustee takes any responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

Neither the Company, the Trustee nor the Underwriters will have any responsibility or obligation to Participants, or the persons for whom they act as nominees, with respect to the accuracy of the records of DTC, its nominee or any Participant with respect to any ownership interest in the Debentures, or payments to, or the providing of notice for, Participants or Beneficial Owners.

If the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository, or has ceased to be qualified to act as such as required by the Indenture or there shall have occurred and be continuing an Event of Default, the Company will issue Debentures in definitive form in exchange for the Global Debentures. In addition, the Company or the Depository may, at any time and in its sole discretion, determine not to have the Debentures represented by the Global Debentures and, in such event, the Company will issue Debentures in definitive form in exchange for the Global Debentures. In either instance, an owner of the beneficial interest in the Global Debentures will be entitled to have Debentures equal in principal amount to such beneficial interest registered in its name and will be entitled to physical delivery of such Debentures in definitive form. Debentures so issued in definitive form will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof and will be issued in registered form only, without coupons. (Sections 302 and 305 of the Indenture).

UNDERWRITING

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement (the "Underwriting Agreement") among the Company and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and PaineWebber Incorporated (the "Underwriters"), the Company has agreed to sell to each of the Underwriters, and each of the Underwriters has severally agreed to purchase, the respective principal amounts of Debentures set forth opposite their respective names below. In the Underwriting Agreement, the several Underwriters have agreed, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, to purchase all of the Debentures if any are purchased.

UNDERWRITER	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF 7 1/2% DEBENTURES -----	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF 8% DEBENTURES -----
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated.....	\$37,500,000	\$37,500,000
PaineWebber Incorporated.....	37,500,000	37,500,000
	-----	-----
Total.....	\$75,000,000 =====	\$75,000,000 =====

The Underwriters have advised the Company that they propose to initially offer the Debentures to the public at the offering prices set forth on the cover page of this Prospectus Supplement, and to certain dealers at such prices less a concession not in excess of .4% of the principal amount of the 7 1/2% Debentures and not in excess of .5% of the principal amount of the 8% Debentures. The Underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of .25% of the principal amount of the 7 1/2% Debentures and not in excess of .25% of the principal amount of the 8% Debentures to other dealers. After the initial public offering, the public offering prices, concessions and discounts may be changed.

Each series of Debentures is a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Company has been advised by the Underwriters that they intend to make a market in each series of Debentures, but are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for either series of Debentures.

The Company has agreed to indemnify the Underwriters against, or contribute to payments that the Underwriters may be required to make in respect of, certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Certain of the Underwriters or their affiliates engage in transactions with, and, from time to time, have performed services for, the Company and its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering of the Debentures will be passed upon for the Company by Robert M. Johnson, Esq., the Company's Associate General Counsel, who beneficially owned, either directly or indirectly, as of June 30, 1996, 1,464 shares of the Company's Common Stock, and by O'Melveny & Myers LLP and for the Underwriters by Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this Prospectus Supplement have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1995, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said report.

PROSPECTUS

\$270,400,000

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION
 SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES AND SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES
 PREFERRED STOCK
 DEPOSITARY SHARES
 COMMON STOCK

SOUTHWEST GAS CAPITAL I
 PREFERRED SECURITIES
 GUARANTEED TO THE EXTENT SET FORTH HEREIN BY SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

Southwest Gas Corporation (the "Company") may offer from time to time, in one or more series, its unsecured debt securities (the "Debt Securities"), consisting of either unsecured Debt Securities which, if issued, will rank on a parity with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of the Company (the "Senior Debt Securities") or unsecured Debt Securities which, if issued, will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to certain other indebtedness of the Company on terms to be determined at the time of the offering (the "Subordinated Debt Securities"), shares of its Preferred Stock, \$50 par value (the "Preferred Stock") and shares of its Common Stock, \$1 par value (the "Common Stock"). Southwest Gas Capital I, a statutory business trust formed under the laws of the State of Delaware (the "Trust"), may offer, from time to time, preferred securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust (the "Preferred Securities"). The Debt Securities, the Preferred Stock, the Common Stock and the Preferred Securities are collectively referred to herein as the "Securities." Securities will have a maximum aggregate offering price of \$270,400,000 and will be offered on terms to be determined at the time of offering.

The payment of periodic cash distributions ("distributions") with respect to the Preferred Securities out of moneys held by the Trust and payments on liquidation, redemption or otherwise with respect to the Preferred Securities, will be guaranteed by the Company to the extent described herein (the "Guarantee"). See "Description of the Guarantee". The Company's obligations under the Guarantee are subordinate and junior in right of payment to all other liabilities of the Company and rank pari passu with the most senior preferred stock, if any, issued from time to time by the Company. Subordinated Debt Securities may be issued and sold by the Company to the Trust, or a trustee of the Trust, in connection with the investment of the proceeds from the offering of Preferred Securities and Common Securities (as defined herein) of the Trust. The Subordinated Debt Securities purchased by the Trust may be subsequently distributed pro rata to holders of Preferred Securities and Common Securities in connection with the dissolution of the Trust upon the occurrence of certain events as described in an accompanying Prospectus Supplement (as defined below).

In the case of Debt Securities, the specific title, the aggregate principal amount, the purchase price, the maturity, the rate (or method of calculation) and time of payment of interest, if any, the right of the Company, if any, to defer payment of interest on the Debt Securities and the maximum length of such deferral period, any redemption or sinking fund provisions, any conversion provisions, any subordination terms, any covenants and any other specific term of the Debt Securities will be set forth in an accompanying supplement to this Prospectus (each, a "Prospectus Supplement"). In the case of Preferred Stock, the specific number of shares, designation, liquidation preference per share, issuance price, dividend rate (or method of calculation), dividend payment dates, any redemption or sinking fund provisions, any conversion rights and other specific terms of the series of Preferred Stock will be set forth in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement. In addition, the Prospectus Supplement will describe whether interests in the Preferred Stock will be represented by depositary shares (the "Depositary Shares") evidenced by depositary receipts ("Depositary Receipts"). In the case of Common Stock, the specific number of shares and issuance price per share will be set forth in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement. In the case of Preferred Securities, the designation, number of securities, liquidation preference per security, purchase price, distribution rate (or method of calculation thereof), dates on which distributions shall be payable and dates from which distributions shall accrue, any voting rights, terms for any conversion or exchange into other securities, any redemption, exchange or sinking fund provisions, any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions related to the Preferred Securities and the terms upon which the proceeds of the sale of the Preferred Securities shall be used to purchase Subordinated Debt Securities of the Company will be set forth in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement. The Prospectus Supplement will also disclose whether the Securities will be listed on a national securities exchange and if they are not to be listed, the possible effects thereof on their marketability. If so specified in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, Securities may be issued, in whole or in part, in book-entry form.

Securities may be sold directly, through agents from time to time, through

underwriters and/or dealers or through a combination of such methods. If any agent of the Company or any underwriter is involved in the sale of the Securities, the name of such agent or underwriter and any applicable commission or discount will be set forth in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement. See "Plan of Distribution."

This Prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of Securities unless accompanied by a Prospectus Supplement.

THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION NOR HAS THE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this Prospectus is October 24, 1995

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and, in accordance therewith, files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). Such reports, proxy statements and other information can be inspected and copied at Room 1024 of the offices of the Commission, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, and should be available for inspection and copying at the regional offices of the Commission located at Seven World Trade Center 13th Floor, New York, New York 10048 and Suite 1400, Northwestern Atrium Center, 500 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661. Copies of such material can be obtained from the principal offices of the Commission at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549 at prescribed rates. Reports, proxy materials and other information concerning the Company may also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005 and at the offices of the Pacific Stock Exchange, 301 Pine Street, San Francisco, California 94104.

No separate financial statements of the Trust have been included herein. The Company does not consider that such financial statements would be material to holders of the Preferred Securities because (i) all of the voting securities of the Trust will be owned directly or indirectly, by the Company, a reporting company under the Exchange Act, (ii) the Trust has no independent operations but exists for the sole purpose of issuing securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust and investing the proceeds thereof in Subordinated Debt Securities issued by the Company, and (iii) the obligations of the Trust under the Trust Securities (as defined herein) will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Company to the extent that the Company has made a payment of interest or principal on the Subordinated Debt Securities. See "Particular Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities Issued in Connection with Preferred Securities" and "Description of the Guarantee." The financial information for the Trust will be included in the consolidated financial statements of the Company.

This Prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the Registration Statement and exhibits thereto which the Company and the Trust have filed with the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, and reference is hereby made to such Registration Statement, including the exhibits thereto.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

There are incorporated herein by reference the following documents of the Company filed with the Commission: (1) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1994; (2) Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 1995 and June 30, 1995, (3) Current Reports on Form 8-K dated April 17, 1995 and May 3, 1995; and (4) all documents filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the Securities.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein, in a Prospectus Supplement or in any subsequently filed document which is incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statements. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Prospectus.

The information relating to the Company contained in this Prospectus summarizes, is based upon, or refers to, information and financial statements contained in one or more of the documents incorporated by reference herein; accordingly, such information contained herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to such incorporated documents and should be read in conjunction therewith.

The Company will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial holder, to whom a copy of this Prospectus is delivered, upon the written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all the foregoing documents incorporated by reference herein, including exhibits specifically incorporated by reference in such documents but excluding all other exhibits to such documents. Requests should be directed to George C. Biehl, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Southwest Gas Corporation,

5241 Spring Mountain Road, P.O. Box 98510, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8510, telephone number (702) 876-7237.

THE COMPANY

The Company, a California corporation, is comprised of two operating segments: natural gas operations and financial services. The financial services segment consists of PriMerit Bank, a Federal Savings Bank (the "Bank"), a wholly owned subsidiary, which operates principally in the thrift industry.

The natural gas operations segment is engaged in the business of purchasing, transporting, and distributing natural gas in portions of Arizona, Nevada and California. Its several service areas are geographically as well as economically diverse. The Company is the largest distributor in Arizona, distributing and transporting gas in most of southern, central and northwestern Arizona. The Company is also the largest distributor and transporter of natural gas in Nevada. The Company also distributes and transports gas in portions of California, including the Lake Tahoe area and the high desert and mountain areas in San Bernardino County.

The Company is subject to regulation by the Arizona Corporation Commission, the Public Service Commission of Nevada (the "PSCN") and the California Public Utilities Commission (the "CPUC"). The CPUC regulates the issuance of all securities by the Company, with the exception of short-term borrowings. Certain of the Company's accounting practices, transmission facilities and rates are subject to regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Bank is a federally chartered stock savings bank conducting business through branch offices in Nevada. The Bank's deposit accounts are insured to the maximum extent permitted by law by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") through the Savings Association Insurance Fund. The Bank is regulated by the Office of Thrift Supervision (the "OTS") and the FDIC and is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

The Bank's principal business is to attract deposits from the general public and to make loans secured by real estate and other collateral that enable borrowers to purchase, refinance, construct or improve such property. Revenues are derived from interest on real estate loans and debt securities and, to a lesser extent, from interest on nonmortgage loans, gains on sales of loans and debt securities, and fees received in connection with loans and deposits. The Bank's major expense is the interest it pays on savings deposits and borrowings.

The executive offices of the Company are located at 5241 Spring Mountain Road, P.O. Box 98510, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8510, telephone number (702) 876-7237.

THE TRUST

The Trust is a statutory business trust formed under Delaware law pursuant to (i) a declaration of trust (a "Declaration") executed by the Company, as sponsor for the Trust (the "Sponsor"), and Trustees (as defined herein) of the Trust and (ii) the filing of a certificate of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on August 17, 1995. The Trust exists for the exclusive purposes of (i) issuing the Preferred Securities and common securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust (the "Common Securities" and, together with the Preferred Securities, the "Trust Securities"), (ii) investing the gross proceeds from the sale of the Trust Securities in the Subordinated Debt Securities and (iii) engaging in only those other activities necessary or incidental thereto. All of the Common Securities will be directly or indirectly owned by the Company. The Common Securities will rank pari passu, and payments will be made thereon pro rata, with the Preferred Securities, except that, upon an event of default under the Declaration, the rights of the holders of the Common Securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the Preferred Securities. The Company will directly or indirectly acquire Common Securities in an aggregate liquidation amount equal to 3% of the total capital of the Trust. The Trust has a term of approximately 55 years but may terminate earlier, as provided in the Declaration.

The Trust's business and affairs will be conducted by the trustees (the "Trustees") appointed by the Company as the direct holder of all the Common Securities. The holder of the Common Securities will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the Trustees of the Trust; provided that the number of Trustees may not be reduced to less than three. The duties and obligations of the Trustees will be governed by the Declaration. A majority of the Trustees of the Trust will be persons who are employees or officers of or who are affiliated with the Company (the "Regular Trustees"). One Trustee of the Trust will be a financial institution that is not affiliated with the Company, has a specified minimum amount of aggregate capital, surplus, and undivided profits of not less than \$50,000,000 and will have a principal place of business or reside in the State of Delaware (the "Delaware Trustee"). The Delaware Trustee will not be a trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act"), and will not perform the functions of a trustee under such Act. Another financial institution that is not affiliated with the Company and has a specified minimum amount of aggregate capital and surplus and undivided profits of not less than \$50,000,000 shall act as property trustee and as indenture trustee and trustee under the Guarantee, in each case, for the purposes of the Trust Indenture Act (the "Property Trustee"). The Company will pay all debts and obligations of the Trust (other than with respect to the Trust Securities) and all fees and expenses related to the Trust and the offering of the Trust Securities, the payment of which will be guaranteed by the Company.

The Delaware Trustee for the Trust will be Wilmington Trust Company, 1100 N. Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19890. The Property Trustee, indenture trustee and trustee under the Guarantee will be Harris Trust and Savings Bank, 430 Park Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10022. The address for the Trust is c/o Southwest Gas Corporation, the sponsor of the Trust, at the Company's corporate headquarters located at 5241 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, telephone (702) 876-7237.

Harris Trust and Savings Bank and its affiliates may from time to time maintain lines of credit, act as trustee for senior debt and otherwise have customary banking relationships with the Company. Neither the Declaration nor the Indenture for the Subordinated Debt Securities precludes Harris Trust and Savings Bank or any of its affiliates from enforcing its rights or the rights of any holders of senior debt for which it acts as trustee as creditors of the Company unless there is an event of default under the Declaration or the Indenture for the Subordinated Debt Securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The Trust will use all proceeds received from the sale of the Preferred Securities to purchase Subordinated Debt Securities from the Company. Except as otherwise provided in the Prospectus Supplement, the Company intends to use the proceeds of the sale of the Subordinated Debt Securities to the Trust and the net proceeds from the sale of other Securities offered hereby to retire indebtedness and for general corporate purposes, including the acquisition of property for the construction, completion, extension or improvement of the Company's pipeline systems and facilities located in and around the communities it serves.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for (a) the natural gas operations segment of the Company and (b) the consolidated gas and financial services operations of the Company (i) without deposit interest included as a fixed charge and (ii) with deposit interest included as a fixed charge.

	FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1995	FOR THE YEARS ENDED				
		DECEMBER 31,				
		1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
Ratios of earnings to fixed charges(1):						
Company (natural gas operations segment).....	1.27	1.48	1.25	1.86	1.48	1.84
Consolidated						
Without deposit interest.....	1.36	1.55	1.32	1.42	(2)	1.45
With deposit interest.....	1.23	1.36	1.18	1.20	(2)	1.24

(1) For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are defined as the sum of pretax income plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of all interest expense including capitalized interest, one-third of rent expense (which approximates the interest component of such expense) and amortized debt costs.

(2) For the year ended December 31, 1991, consolidated earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges, excluding and including deposit interest, by \$13.5 million. This was primarily due to the recording of additional valuation reserves during 1991 by the Bank.

The following table sets forth the ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred and preference stock dividends for (a) the natural gas segment of the Company and (b) the consolidated gas and financial services operations of the Company (i) without deposit interest included as a fixed charge and (ii) with deposit interest included as a fixed charge.

	FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1995	FOR THE YEARS ENDED				
		DECEMBER 31,				
		1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
Ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred and preference stock dividends(1)						
Company (natural gas operations segment).....	1.26	1.46	1.23	1.81	1.42	1.75
Consolidated						
Without deposit interest.....	1.35	1.54	1.30	1.39	(2)	1.43
With deposit interest.....	1.22	1.35	1.17	1.18	(2)	1.22

(1) See Note 1 above. Preferred and preference stock dividends have been adjusted to represent the pretax earnings necessary to cover such dividend requirements.

(2) For the year ended December 31, 1991, consolidated earnings were insufficient to cover combined fixed charges and preferred and preference stock dividends by \$14.8 million. This was primarily due to the recording of additional valuation reserves during 1991 by the Bank.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

Debt Securities may be issued from time to time in series, either as Senior Debt Securities or Subordinated Debt Securities, each under an indenture (each, an "Indenture") between the Company and a bank or trust company selected to act

as trustee as specified in the Prospectus Supplement relating thereto (the "Trustee"). Each Indenture will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part. As used under this caption, unless the context otherwise requires, Offered Debt Securities shall mean the Debt Securities offered by this Prospectus and the accompanying Prospectus Supplement. The statements under this caption are brief summaries of certain provisions contained

in the Indenture, do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable Indentures, including the definition therein of certain terms, a copy of each of which is included or incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings assigned to them in the applicable Indenture. The following sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the Debt Securities. Additional terms of Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with the Preferred Securities are set forth under the caption "Particular Terms of Subordinated Debt Securities Issued in Connection with Preferred Securities." Further terms of the Offered Debt Securities will be set forth in the Prospectus Supplement.

GENERAL

Each Indenture provides for the issuance of Debt Securities in series, and does not limit the principal amount of Debt Securities which may be issued thereunder.

The applicable Prospectus Supplement or Prospectus Supplements will describe the following terms of the series of Offered Debt Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered: (a) the title of the Offered Debt Securities; (b) whether any of the Offered Debt Securities are to be issuable in bearer form or permanent global form and, if so, the terms and conditions, if any, upon which interests in such Offered Debt Securities in such bearer form or global form may be exchanged, in whole or in part, for the Offered Debt Securities represented thereby; (c) the person to whom any interest on any Offered Debt Security of the series shall be payable if other than the person in whose name the Offered Debt Security is registered on the Regular Record Date; (d) the date or dates on which the Offered Debt Securities will mature; (e) the rate or rates at which the Offered Debt Securities will bear interest, if any; (f) the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, the Interest Payment Dates on which any such interest on the Offered Debt Securities will be payable and the Regular Record Date for any interest payable on any Interest Payment Date; (g) each office or agency where the principal of, premium (if any) and interest on the Offered Debt Securities will be payable; (h) the period or periods within which, the events upon the occurrence of which, and the price or prices at which, the Offered Debt Securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory provisions, be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, by the Company and any terms and conditions relevant thereto; (i) the obligation of the Company, if any, to redeem or repurchase the Offered Debt Securities at the option of the Holders; (j) the denominations in which any Offered Debt Securities will be issuable, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof with respect to Debt Securities, other than Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with Preferred Securities, or denominations of \$25 and any integral multiple thereof with respect to Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with Preferred Securities; (k) the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, of payment of principal of and any premium and interest on the Offered Debt Securities, if other than U. S. Dollars; (l) any index or formula used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and any premium and interest on the Offered Debt Securities; (m) if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the Offered Debt Securities of the series which will be payable upon declaration of the acceleration of the Maturity thereof; (n) any provisions relating to the conversion or exchange of the Offered Debt Securities into Common Stock, Preferred Stock or into Debt Securities of another series; (o) any Events of Default with respect to the Offered Debt Securities, if not otherwise set forth under "Events of Default"; (p) any material covenants with respect to the Offered Debt Securities; and (q) any other terms of the Offered Debt Securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable Indenture. The applicable Prospectus Supplement will also describe the following terms of the series of Subordinated Debt Securities offered hereby in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered: (a) the rights, if any, to defer payments of interest on the Subordinated Debt Securities by extending the interest payment period, and the duration of such extensions, and (b) the subordination terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities of such series.

Debt Securities may be issued at a discount from their principal amount. Federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to any such Original Issue Discount Securities will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

Debt Securities may be issued in bearer form, with or without coupons. Federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to bearer securities will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

CONVERSION RIGHTS

The terms, if any, on which Debt Securities of a series may be exchanged for or converted into shares of Common Stock, Preferred Stock or Debt Securities of another series will be set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating thereto.

EXCHANGE, REGISTRATION, TRANSFER AND PAYMENT

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the Debt Securities will be payable, and the exchange of and the transfer of Debt Securities will be registerable, at the office or agency of the Company maintained for such purpose in New York, New York and at any other office or agency maintained for such purpose. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, Debt Securities, other than Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with Preferred Securities, will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 or integral multiples thereof. Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with Preferred Securities will be issued in denominations of \$25 or integral multiples thereof. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of the Debt Securities, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection therewith.

All moneys paid by the Company to a Paying Agent for the payment of principal of and any premium or interest on any Debt Security which remain unclaimed for two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable may be repaid to the Company and thereafter the Holder of such Debt Security may look only to the Company for payment thereof.

BOOK-ENTRY DEBT SECURITIES

The Debt Securities of a series may be issued in the form of one or more Global Securities that will be deposited with a Debt Depositary or its nominee identified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. In such a case, one or more Global Securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of Outstanding Debt Securities of the series to be represented by such Global Security or Securities. Each Global Security will be deposited with such Debt Depositary or nominee or a custodian therefor and will bear a legend regarding the restrictions on exchanges and registration of transfer thereof referred to below and any such other matters as may be provided for pursuant to the applicable Indenture.

Notwithstanding any provision of the applicable Indenture or any Debt Security described herein, no Global Security may be transferred to, or registered or exchanged for Debt Securities registered in the name of, any Person other than the Debt Depositary for such Global Security or any nominee of such Debt Depositary, and no such transfer may be registered, unless (a) the Debt Depositary has notified the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as Debt Depositary for such Global Security or has ceased to be qualified to act as such as required by the Indenture, (b) the Company executes and delivers to the Trustee a Company Order that such Global Security shall be so transferable, registrable and exchangeable, and such transfers shall be registrable, or (c) there shall exist such circumstances, if any, as may be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. All Debt Securities issued in exchange for a Global Security or any portion thereof will be registered in such names as the Debt Depositary may direct.

The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any portion of a series of Debt Securities to be represented by a Global Security will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. The Company expects that the following provisions will apply to depositary arrangements.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, Debt Securities which are to be represented by a Global Security to be deposited with or on behalf of a Debt Depositary will be represented by a Global Security registered in the name of such Debt Depositary or its nominee. Upon the issuance of such Global Security, and the deposit of such Global Security with or on behalf of the Debt Depositary for such

Global Security, the Debt Depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the Debt Securities represented by such Global Security to the accounts of institutions that have accounts with such Debt Depository or its nominee ("participants"). The accounts to be credited will be designated by the underwriters or agents of such Debt Securities or by the Company, if such Debt Securities are offered and sold directly by the Company. Ownership of beneficial interests in such Global Security will be limited to participants or Persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests by participants in such Global Security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by the Debt Depository or its nominee for such Global Security. Ownership of beneficial interests in such Global Security by Persons that hold through participants will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership interest within such participant will be effected only through, records maintained by such participant. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in certificated form. The foregoing limitations and such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in such Global Securities.

So long as the Debt Depository for a Global Security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of such Global Security, such Depository or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or Holder of the Debt Securities represented by such Global Security for all purposes under the applicable Indenture. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, owners of beneficial interests in such Global Security will not be entitled to have Debt Securities of the series represented by such Global Security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of Debt Securities of such series in certified form and will not be considered the Holders thereof for any purposes under the applicable Indenture. Accordingly, each Person owning a beneficial interest in such Global Security must rely on the procedures of the Debt Depository and, if such Person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such Person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a Holder under the applicable Indenture. The Company understands that under existing industry practices, if the Company requests any action of Holders or an owner of a beneficial interest in such Global Security desires to give any notice or take any action a Holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable Indenture, the Debt Depository would authorize the participants to give such notice or take such action, and participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participants to give such notice or take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary in the applicable Indenture, the rights of the beneficial owners of the Debt Securities to receive payment of the principal and premium, if any, of and interest on such Debt Securities, on or after the respective due dates expressed in such Debt Securities, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after such respective dates, shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of the beneficial owners.

Principal of and any premium and interest on a Global Security will be payable in the manner described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

CONSOLIDATION, MERGER AND SALE OF ASSETS

The Company, without the consent of any Holders of Outstanding Debt Securities, may consolidate with or merge into, or transfer or lease its assets substantially as an entirety to, any Person, and any other Person may consolidate with or merge into, or transfer or lease its assets substantially as an entirety to, the Company, provided (a) that the Person (if other than the Company) formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or which acquires or leases the assets of the Company substantially as an entirety is a Person organized and existing under the laws of any United States jurisdiction and assumes the Company's obligations on the Debt Securities and under the Indentures, (b) that after giving effect to such transaction no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, shall have happened and be continuing, and (c) that certain other conditions are met.

COVENANTS OF THE COMPANY

The applicable Prospectus Supplement will describe any material covenants in respect of a series of Offered Debt Securities. Other than the covenants of the Company included in the Indentures as described

above or as described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, there are no covenants or provisions in the Offered Debt Securities or the Indentures that limit or restrict the Company's business or operations, the pledging of the Company's assets or the incurrence of indebtedness by the Company or that may afford Holders protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction or leveraged buyout involving the Company.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the following are Events of Default under the Indentures with respect to Debt Securities of any series: (a) failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, on any Debt Security of that series when due; provided, however, that a valid extension of the maturity of Subordinated Debt Securities shall not constitute a default for this purpose; (b) failure to pay any interest on any Debt Security of that series when due, continued for 30 days; provided, however, that a valid extension of the interest payment provided by the Company for the Subordinated Debt Securities shall not constitute a default in the payment of interest for this purpose, and provided further that, if Subordinated Debt Securities are issued to the Trust or a Trustee of the Trust in connection with the issuance of Trust Securities by the Trust, such 30-day period will be replaced by a ten day period; (c) failure to make any sinking fund payment, when due, in respect of any Debt Security of that series; (d) failure to perform any other covenant of the Company in the Indenture (other than a covenant included in the Indenture solely for the benefit of a series of Debt Securities other than that series), continued for 60 days after written notice by the Trustee or Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series as provided in the Indenture; (e) a default under any evidence of indebtedness for money borrowed by the Company (including a default with respect to Debt Securities of any other series) in an individual principal amount outstanding of at least \$15,000,000 or under any instrument under which there may be issued or by which there may be secured or evidenced any indebtedness for money borrowed by the Company (including the Indentures) in an individual principal amount outstanding of at least \$15,000,000, whether such indebtedness exists as of the date of the applicable Indenture or is thereafter created, which default shall constitute a failure to pay any portion of the principal of such indebtedness when due and payable after the expiration of any applicable grace period with respect thereto or which default results in the acceleration of such indebtedness without such indebtedness having been discharged, or such acceleration having been rescinded or annulled, within 10 Business Days after written notice to the Company by the Trustee or by the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of such series as provided in the Indenture; (f) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company; (g) the voluntary or involuntary dissolution of the Trust pursuant to which (or of a Trustee of the Trust to which) Subordinated Debt Securities were issued in connection with the issuance of Trust Securities by the Trust, except in connection with the distribution of Subordinated Debt Securities to the holders of Trust Securities in liquidation of the Trust, the redemption of all of the Trust Securities, or certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations, each as permitted by the Declaration; and (h) any other Event of Default provided with respect to Debt Securities of that series. If an Event of Default with respect to Outstanding Debt Securities of any series shall occur and be continuing, either the Trustee or the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series by notice as provided in the applicable Indenture may declare the principal amount (or, if the Debt Securities of that series are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of all Debt Securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. However, at any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to Debt Securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree based on such acceleration has been obtained, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration. For information as to waiver of defaults, see "Modification and Waiver" below.

Each Indenture provides that, subject to the duty of the Trustee during an Event of Default to act with the required standard of care, the Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to certain provisions, including those requiring security

or indemnification of the Trustee, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee, with respect to the Debt Securities of that series.

The Company will be required to furnish to the Trustee under each Indenture annually a statement as to the performance by the Company of its obligations under the Indenture and as to any default in such performance.

MODIFICATION AND WAIVER

Modifications and amendments of the Indenture may be made by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of each series affected thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Debt Security affected thereby; (a) change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of, or interest on, any Debt Security; (b) reduce the principal amount of, the rate of interest on, or the premium, if any, payable upon the redemption of, any Debt Security; (c) reduce the amount of principal of an Original Issue Discount Security payable upon acceleration of the Maturity thereof; (d) change the currency of payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on any Debt Security; (e) impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any Debt Security on or after the Stated Maturity or Redemption Date thereof; or (f) reduce the percentage in principal amount of Outstanding Debt Securities of any series, the consent of the Holders of which is required for modification or amendment of the applicable Indenture or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the applicable Indenture or for waiver of certain defaults.

The Holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series may on behalf of the Holders of all Debt Securities of that series waive, insofar as that series is concerned, compliance by the Company with certain covenants of the Indenture. The applicable Prospectus Supplement will describe the terms of any such covenants. The Holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series may, on behalf of the Holders of all Debt Securities of that series, waive any past default under the applicable Indenture with respect to that series, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, any Debt Security of that series or in respect of a provision which under such Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Debt Security of that series affected.

DEFEASANCE

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to the Debt Securities of a series, other than Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with Preferred Securities, the Company, at its option, (i) will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the Debt Securities of such series (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of Debt Securities of such series, to replace destroyed, stolen, lost or mutilated Debt Securities of such series, and to maintain Paying Agents and hold moneys for payment in trust) or (ii) need not comply with certain covenants specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to the Debt Securities of that series, and the occurrence of an event described in clause (d) under "Events of Default" above with respect to any defeased covenant and clauses (e) and (g) of the "Events of Default" above shall no longer be an Event of Default if, in either case, the Company deposits with the Trustee, in trust, money or U.S. Government Obligations that through the payment of interest thereon and principal thereof in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay all the principal of (and premium, if any) and any interest on the Debt Securities of such series on the dates such payments are due (which may include one or more redemption dates designated by the Company) in accordance with the terms of such Debt Securities. Such a trust may only be established if, among other things, (a) no Event of Default or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default under the applicable Indenture shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit, (b) no Event of Default described under clause (f) under "Events of Default" above or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default described under such clause (f) shall have occurred and be continuing at any time during the period ending on the 91st day following such date of deposit, and (c) the Company shall have delivered an Opinion of Counsel

to the effect that the Holders of the Debt Securities will not recognize gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit or defeasance and will be subject to Federal income tax in the same manner as if such defeasance had not occurred. In the event the Company omits to comply with its remaining obligations under the applicable Indenture after a defeasance of the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of any series as described under clause (ii) above and the Debt Securities of such series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any undefeased Event of Default, the amount of money and U.S. Government Obligations on deposit with the Trustee may be insufficient to pay amounts due on the Debt Securities of such series at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, the Company will remain liable in respect of such payments.

GOVERNING LAW

Each Indenture and the Debt Securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

REGARDING THE TRUSTEE

Each Indenture contains certain limitations on the right of the Trustee, should it become a creditor of the Company, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize for its own account on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The Trustee will be permitted to engage in certain other transactions; however, if it acquires any conflicting interest and there is a default under the Debt Securities, it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

PARTICULAR TERMS OF SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH PREFERRED SECURITIES

The statements under this caption are brief summaries of certain provisions of the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture applicable to Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with Preferred Securities, do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture.

In the event Subordinated Debt Securities are issued to the Trust or a Trustee of the Trust in connection with the issuance of Trust Securities by the Trust, such Subordinated Debt Securities subsequently may be distributed pro rata to the holders of the Trust Securities in connection with the dissolution of the Trust upon the occurrence of certain events described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement relating to the Trust Securities. Only one series of Subordinated Debt Securities will be issued to the Trust or a Trustee of the Trust in connection with the issuance of Trust Securities by the Trust.

If Subordinated Debt Securities are issued to the Trust or a Trustee of the Trust in connection with the issuance of Trust Securities and (i) there shall have occurred any event that would constitute an Event of Default, (ii) the Company shall be in default with respect to its payment of any obligations under the Guarantee or Common Securities Guarantee, or (iii) the Company shall have given notice of its election to defer payments of interest on such Subordinated Debt Securities by extending the interest payment period as provided in the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture and such period, or any extension thereof, shall be continuing, then (a) the Company shall not declare or pay dividends on, or make a distribution with respect to or redeem, purchase or acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of its capital stock and (b) the Company shall not make any payment of interest, principal or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities issued by the Company which rank pari passu with or junior to such Subordinated Debt Securities; provided, however, that, restriction (a) above does not apply to any stock dividends paid by the Company where the dividend stock is the same stock as that on which the dividend is being paid.

In the event Subordinated Debt Securities are issued to the Trust or a Trustee of the Trust in connection with the issuance of Trust Securities, for so long as the Trust Securities remain outstanding, the Company will covenant (i) to directly or indirectly maintain 100% ownership of the Common Securities; provided, however, that any permitted successor of the Company under the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture may succeed

to the Company's ownership of the Common Securities and (ii) to use its reasonable efforts to cause the Trust (a) to remain a statutory business trust, except in connection with the distribution of Subordinated Debt Securities to the holders of Trust Securities in liquidation of the Trust, the redemption of all of the Trust Securities, or certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations, each as permitted by the Declaration, and (b) to otherwise continue to be classified as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED SECURITIES

The Trust may issue, from time to time, only one series of Preferred Securities having terms described in the Prospectus Supplement relating thereto. The Declaration authorizes the Regular Trustees of the Trust to issue on behalf of the Trust one series of Preferred Securities. The Declaration will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

The Preferred Securities will have such terms, including distribution, redemption, voting and liquidation rights and such other preferred, deferred or other special rights or such restrictions as shall be set forth in the Declaration or made part of the Declaration by the Trust Indenture Act. Reference is made to the applicable Prospectus Supplement relating to the Preferred Securities for specific terms, including (i) the distinctive designation of the Preferred Securities, (ii) the number of Preferred Securities and the date or dates upon which distributions shall be payable (provided, however, that, distributions on the Preferred Securities shall be payable on a quarterly basis to holders of the Preferred Securities as of a record date in each quarter during which the Preferred Securities are outstanding), (iii) whether distributions on Preferred Securities issued by the Trust shall be cumulative, and, in the case of Preferred Securities having such cumulative distribution rights, the date or dates or method of determining the date or dates from which distributions on Preferred Securities shall be cumulative, (iv) the amount or amounts which shall be paid out of the assets of the Trust to the holders of Preferred Securities upon voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the Trust, (v) the obligation, if any, of the Trust to purchase or redeem Preferred Securities and the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which the Preferred Securities shall be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, (vi) the voting rights, if any, of Preferred Securities in addition to those required by law, including the number of votes per Preferred Security and any requirement for the approval by the holders of Preferred Securities, as a condition to specified action or amendments to the Declaration, and (vii) any other relevant rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions on Preferred Securities consistent with the Declaration and applicable law.

All Preferred Securities offered hereby will be guaranteed by the Company to the extent set forth below under "Description of the Guarantee". Certain United States federal income tax considerations applicable to any offering of Preferred Securities will be described in the Prospectus Supplement relating thereto.

In connection with the issuance of Preferred Securities, the Trust will issue Common Securities having such terms including distribution, redemption, voting and liquidation rights or such restrictions as shall be set forth therein. The terms of the Common Securities will be substantially identical to the terms of the Preferred Securities and the Common Securities, will rank *pari passu*, and payments will be made thereon *pro rata* with the Preferred Securities except that, upon an event of default under the Declaration, the rights of the holders of the Common Securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the Preferred Securities. Except in certain limited circumstances, the Common Securities will also carry the right to vote and to appoint, remove or replace any of the Trustees of the Trust. All of the Common Securities will be directly or indirectly owned by the Company.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GUARANTEE

Set forth below is a summary of information concerning the Guarantee that will be executed and delivered by the Company for the benefit of the holders, from time to time, of Preferred Securities. The Bank will have no obligation under the Guarantee. The Guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. Harris Trust and Savings Bank will act as indenture trustee under the Guarantee (the "Guarantee Trustee"). The terms of the Guarantee will be those set forth in the Guarantee and those made part of the Guarantee by the Trust Indenture Act. This summary does not purport to be complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the form of Guarantee, which is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part, and the Trust Indenture Act. The Guarantee will be held by the Guarantee Trustee for the benefit of the holders of the Preferred Securities.

GENERAL

Pursuant to the Guarantee, the Company will irrevocably and unconditionally agree, to the extent set forth herein, to pay in full to the holders of the Preferred Securities, the Guarantee Payments (as defined herein) (except to the extent paid by the Trust), as and when due, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim which the Trust may have or assert. The following payments with respect to Preferred Securities (the "Guarantee Payments"), to the extent not paid by the Trust will be subject to the Guarantee (without duplication): (i) any accrued and unpaid distributions that are required to be paid on the Preferred Securities, to the extent the Company has made a payment of interest or principal on the Subordinated Debt Securities, (ii) the redemption price, including all accrued and unpaid distributions thereon, including interest thereon to the date of redemption (the "Redemption Price"), to the extent the Company has made a payment of interest or principal on the Subordinated Debt Securities with respect to any Preferred Securities called for redemption by the Trust and (iii) upon a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the Trust (other than in connection with the distribution of Subordinated Debt Securities to the holders of Preferred Securities or the redemption of all the Preferred Securities upon the redemption or maturity of the Subordinated Debt Securities) the lesser of (a) the aggregate of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the Preferred Securities to the date of payment to the extent the Trust has funds available therefor or (b) the amount of assets of the Trust remaining available for distribution to holders of the Preferred Securities in liquidation of the Trust. The Company's obligation to make a Guarantee Payment may be satisfied by direct payment of the required amounts by the Company to the holders of Preferred Securities or by causing the Trust to pay such amounts to such holders.

The Guarantee will be a full and unconditional guarantee on a subordinated basis with respect to the Preferred Securities from the time of issuance, but will not apply to any payment of distributions, except to the extent the Trust shall have funds available therefor as a result of payments of interest or principal on the Subordinated Debt Securities by the Company. If the Company does not make interest payments on the Subordinated Debt Securities purchased by the Trust, the Trust will not pay distributions on the Preferred Securities and will not have funds available therefor. See "Particular Terms of Subordinated Debt Securities Issued in Connection with Preferred Securities."

The obligations of the Company under the Declaration, the Guarantee, the Indenture with respect to the Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with the Preferred Securities and the Subordinated Debt Securities issued in connection with the Preferred Securities collectively provide a full and unconditional guarantee on a subordinated basis by the Company of payments due on the Preferred Securities to the extent the Trust has funds available therefor as a result of payments of interest or principal on the Subordinated Debt Securities by the Company.

The Company has also agreed to irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the obligations of the Trust with respect to the Common Securities (the "Common Securities Guarantee") to the same extent as the Guarantee, except that, upon an event of default under the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture, holders of Preferred Securities under the Guarantee will have priority over holders of Common Securities under the

Common Securities Guarantee with respect to distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption or otherwise.

CERTAIN COVENANTS OF THE COMPANY

In the Guarantee, the Company will covenant that, so long as any Preferred Securities issued by the Trust remain outstanding, if there shall have occurred any event that would constitute an event of default under the Guarantee or the Declaration, then (a) the Company shall not declare or pay any dividend on, or make any distribution with respect to, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of its capital stock and (b) shall not make any payment of interest, principal or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities issued by the Company which rank pari passu with or junior to such Subordinated Debt Securities. However, the Guarantee will except from the foregoing any stock dividends paid by the Company, where the dividend stock is the same stock as that on which the dividend is being paid.

MODIFICATIONS OF THE GUARANTEE; ASSIGNMENT

Except with respect to any changes that do not adversely affect the rights of holders of Preferred Securities (in which case no vote will be required), the Guarantee may be amended only with the prior approval of the holders of not less than 66 2/3% in liquidation amount of the Preferred Securities then outstanding. The manner of obtaining any such approval of holders of the Preferred Securities will be set forth in an accompanying Prospectus Supplement. All guarantees and agreements contained in the Guarantee shall bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of the Company and shall inure to the benefit of the holders of the Preferred Securities then outstanding.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

An event of default under the Guarantee will occur upon the failure of the Company to make any of the payments required by the Guarantee or to perform its other obligations thereunder. The holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the Preferred Securities have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Guarantee Trustee in respect of the Guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the Guarantee Trustee under the Guarantee.

If the Guarantee Trustee fails to enforce the Guarantee, any holder of Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Company to enforce the Guarantee Trustee's rights under the Guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Trust, the Guarantee Trustee or any other person or entity.

The Company will be required to provide annually to the Guarantee Trustee a statement as to the performance by the Company of certain of its obligations under the Guarantee and as to any default in such performance.

The Company is required to file annually with the Guarantee Trustee an officer's certificate as to the Company's compliance with all conditions under the Guarantee.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GUARANTEE TRUSTEE

The Guarantee Trustee, prior to the occurrence of a default, undertakes to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in the Guarantee and, after default with respect to the Guarantee, shall exercise the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of its own affairs. Subject to such provision, the Guarantee Trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the Guarantee at the request of any holder of Preferred Securities unless it is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred thereby.

TERMINATION OF THE GUARANTEE

The Guarantee will terminate as to the Preferred Securities upon full payment of the Redemption Price of all Preferred Securities, upon distribution of the Subordinated Debt Securities held by the Trust to the

holders of the Preferred Securities or upon full payment of the amounts payable in accordance with the Declaration upon liquidation of the Trust. The Guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of Preferred Securities must restore payment of any sums paid under the Preferred Securities or the Guarantee.

STATUS OF THE GUARANTEE

The Guarantee will constitute an unsecured obligation of the Company and will rank (i) subordinate and junior in right of payment to all other liabilities of the Company (other than the Common Securities Guarantee or any guarantee now or hereafter entered into by the Company in respect of any preferred or preference stock of any Affiliate of the Company), (ii) pari passu with the most senior preferred or preference stock now or hereafter issued by the Company and with any guarantee now or hereafter entered into by the Company in respect of any preferred or preference stock of any Affiliate of the Company and (iii) senior to the Company's Common Stock. The terms of the Preferred Securities provide that each holder of Preferred Securities by acceptance thereof agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of the Guarantee.

The Guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection (that is, the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against the guarantor to enforce its rights under the Guarantee without instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity).

GOVERNING LAW

The Guarantee will be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The following description of the terms of the Preferred Stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the Preferred Stock to which any Prospectus Supplement may relate. Certain other terms of any series of the Preferred Stock offered by any Prospectus Supplement will be described in such Prospectus Supplement. The description of certain provisions of the Preferred Stock set forth below and in any Prospectus Supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation (the "Articles of Incorporation"), and the certificate of determination (a "Certificate of Determination") relating to each series of the Preferred Stock which will be filed with the Commission and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of the issuance of such series of the Preferred Stock.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK

The authorized capital stock of the Company consists of 30,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$1 par value, 200,000 shares of preferred stock, \$50 par value ("preferred stock of the Company," which term, as used herein, includes the Preferred Stock offered hereby), 500,000 shares of cumulative preferred stock, \$100 par value ("Cumulative Preferred Stock"), and 2,000,000 shares of preference stock, \$20 par value (the "Preference Stock"). As of June 30, 1995 there were outstanding 23,898,709 shares of Common Stock and 40,000 shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock. No shares of preferred stock of the Company or Preference Stock of the Company were outstanding on this date.

The Company is required to redeem 8,000 shares annually through 1999 of the Cumulative Preferred Stock at par value plus accrued dividends. All outstanding shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock are redeemable at the option of the Company at any time upon 30 days' notice at par value plus accrued dividends and a premium equal to the dividend rate in the first year commencing December 1, 1979 and declining ratably each year thereafter to par value. In addition, the Company may redeem up to 8,000 shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock (but not more than 45,000 shares in the aggregate) at par value plus accrued dividends on any mandatory redemption date without payment of a premium. The dividend rate on the Cumulative Preferred Stock is 9.5% and is cumulative.

The Articles of Incorporation provide that in the event of involuntary liquidation, (a) before distributions may be made to holders of any other class of Junior Stock (as hereinafter defined), holders of Cumulative Preferred Stock are entitled to payment in full at par value, together with accrued dividends.

The holders of shares of the Cumulative Preferred Stock are not entitled to notice of any meetings of shareholders or to vote upon the election of directors or upon any question affecting the management or affairs of the Company, except to the extent otherwise provided by law or the Certificate of Determination for the Cumulative Preferred Stock. The Certificate of Determination for the Cumulative Preferred Stock provides that the holders of all shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock, voting as a class, are entitled to elect two directors to the Board of Directors of the Company whenever four quarterly dividends upon any shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock are in arrears or any mandatory redemption payment is one year in arrears, until all dividends in default and mandatory redemption payments have been made. In addition, an affirmative vote of the holders of all shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock outstanding is required for the authorization or creation (or increase in the authorized amount) of any class of stock ranking senior to the Cumulative Preferred Stock. It is, however, permissible to issue up to 200,000 shares of preferred stock of the Company senior to the Cumulative Preferred Stock. The affirmative vote of 66 2/3% of the outstanding shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock is also required in order (a) to amend the Articles of Incorporation in certain respects that would adversely affect the rights of the holders of Cumulative Preferred Stock, (b) to increase the amount of Cumulative Preferred Stock authorized by the Articles of Incorporation or the authorization or creation of any class of stock ranking on a parity with the Cumulative Preferred Stock, (c) for the Company to sell, lease or convey substantially all of the business of the Company, the parting of control thereof or the merger or consolidation of the Company into another corporation in which the Company is not the surviving corporation, or (d) to issue or reissue any shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock ranking on a parity with the Cumulative Preferred Stock unless certain financial tests are met.

ISSUANCE OF PREFERRED STOCK

Under the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Directors of the Company is authorized without further shareholder action to provide for the issuance of up to 200,000 shares of preferred stock of the Company in preference to the holders of Cumulative Preferred Stock, Preference Stock and Common Stock (the Common Stock, Cumulative Preferred Stock and Preference Stock being herein referred to as "Junior Stock"), in one or more series, with such dividend rights, dividend rate, conversion rights, voting rights, rights and time of redemption (including sinking fund provisions), redemption price or prices, liquidation preferences and designation, as shall be stated in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issue of a series of such preferred stock of the Company adopted, at any time or from time to time, by the Board of Directors of the Company. The Board of Directors may also increase or decrease (but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding) the number of shares of any such series subsequent to the issue of that series.

As described under "Description of Depositary Shares," the Company may, at its option, elect to offer Depositary Shares evidenced by depositary receipts (the "Depositary Receipts"), each representing a fraction (to be specified in the Prospectus Supplement relating to the particular series of the Preferred Stock) of a share of the particular series of the Preferred Stock issued and deposited with a depositary, in lieu of offering full shares of such series of the Preferred Stock.

The Preferred Stock shall have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights set forth below unless otherwise provided in a Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular series of the Preferred Stock. Reference is made to the Prospectus Supplement relating to the particular series of the Preferred Stock offered thereby for specific terms, including: (a) the designation of such Preferred Stock and the number of shares offered; (b) the amount of liquidation preference per share; (c) the initial public offering price at which such Preferred Stock will be issued; (d) the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends shall be payable and the dates from which dividends shall commence to cumulate, if any; (e) any redemption or sinking fund provisions; (f) any conversion rights; (g) whether the Company has elected to offer Depositary Shares as described below under "Description of Depositary Shares;" and (h) any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions.

The Preferred Stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive rights. The rights of the holders of each series of the Preferred Stock to receive dividends and distributions of assets will be subordinate to those of the Company's general creditors, but superior to the rights of holders of Junior Stock. See "Description of Common Stock" for a description of certain provisions of State and federal law and the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Company which may affect holders of Preferred Stock.

DIVIDEND RIGHTS

Holders of the Preferred Stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors of the Company, out of funds of the Company legally available therefor, cash dividends on such dates and at such rates as are set forth in, or as are determined by the method described in, the Prospectus Supplement relating to such series of the Preferred Stock. Such rate may be fixed or variable or both. Each such dividend will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on the stock books of the Company (or, if applicable, the records of the Depository (as hereinafter defined) referred to under "Description of Depository Shares") on such record dates, fixed by the Board of Directors of the Company, as specified in the Prospectus Supplement relating to such series of Preferred Stock.

Such dividends may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the Prospectus Supplement relating to such series of Preferred Stock. If the Board of Directors of the Company fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of Preferred Stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on such dividend payment date will be lost, and the Company will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for such period, whether or not dividends on such series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on the shares of each series of Preferred Stock for which dividends are cumulative will accrue from the date on which the Company initially issues shares of such series.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, so long as the shares of any series of the Preferred Stock are outstanding, unless (a) full dividends (including if such Preferred Stock is cumulative, dividends for prior dividend periods) have been paid or declared and set apart for payment on all outstanding shares of the Preferred Stock of such series and all other classes and series of preferred stock of the Company (other than Junior Stock) and (b) the Company is not in default or in arrears with respect to the mandatory or optional redemption or mandatory repurchase or other mandatory retirement of, or with respect to any sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of Preferred Stock of such series or any shares of any other preferred stock of the Company of any class or series (other than Junior Stock), the Company may not declare any dividends on any shares of Common Stock of the Company or any other stock of the Company ranking as to dividends or distributions of assets junior to such series of Preferred Stock, or make any payment on account of, or set apart money for, the purchase, redemption or other retirement of, or for a sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of Junior Stock or make any distribution in respect thereof, whether in cash or property or in obligations or stock of the Company, other than Junior Stock which is neither convertible into, nor exchangeable or exercisable for, any securities of the Company other than Junior Stock.

LIQUIDATION PREFERENCES

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, in the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each series of the Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of the assets of the Company available for distribution to shareholders, before any distribution of assets is made to the holders of Junior Stock, the amount set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating to such series of the Preferred Stock. If, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, the amounts payable with respect to the Preferred Stock of any series and any other shares of preferred stock of the Company (including any other series of the Preferred Stock) ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with such series of the Preferred Stock are not paid in full, the holders of the Preferred Stock of such series and of such other shares of preferred stock of the Company will share ratably in any such distribution of assets of the Company in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After payment to the holders of the Preferred Stock

of each series of the full preferential amounts of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of each such series of the Preferred Stock will be entitled to no further participation in any distribution of assets by the Company.

REDEMPTION

A series of the Preferred Stock may be redeemable, in whole or from time to time in part, at the option of the Company, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, in each case upon terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating to such series. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, shares of the Preferred Stock redeemed by the Company will be restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock of the Company.

In the event that fewer than all of the outstanding shares of a series of the Preferred Stock are to be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by lot or pro rata (subject to rounding to avoid fractional shares) as may be determined by the Company or by any other method as may be determined by the Company in its sole discretion to be equitable. From and after the redemption date (unless default is made by the Company in providing for the payment of the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any) dividends will cease to accumulate on the shares of the Preferred Stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders thereof (except the right to receive the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any) will cease.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, so long as any dividends on shares of any series of the Preferred Stock or any other series of preferred stock of the Company ranking on a parity as to dividends and distribution of assets with such series of the Preferred Stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of the Preferred Stock or such other series of preferred stock of the Company will be redeemed (whether by mandatory or optional redemption) unless all such shares are simultaneously redeemed, and the Company will not purchase or otherwise acquire any such shares; provided, however, that the foregoing will not prevent the purchase or acquisition of such shares pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all such shares outstanding.

CONVERSION RIGHTS

The terms, if any, on which shares of Preferred Stock of any series may be exchanged for or converted (mandatorily or otherwise) into shares of Common Stock or another series of Preferred Stock will be set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating thereto. See "Description of Common Stock."

VOTING RIGHTS

Except as indicated below or in a Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular series of the Preferred Stock, or except as required by applicable law, the holders of the Preferred Stock will not be entitled to vote for any purpose.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, so long as any shares of the Preferred Stock of a series remain outstanding, the consent or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast with respect to the then outstanding shares of such series of the Preferred Stock together with any Other Preferred Stock (as defined below), voting as one class, either expressed in writing or at a meeting called for that purpose, will be necessary (a) to permit, effect or validate the authorization, or any increase in the authorized amount, of any class or series of shares of the Company ranking prior to the Preferred Stock of such series as to dividends, voting or upon distribution of assets and (b) to repeal, amend or otherwise change any of the provisions applicable to the Preferred Stock of such series in any manner which adversely affects the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of such series of the Preferred Stock. In case any series of the Preferred Stock would be so affected by any such action referred to in clause (b) above in a different manner than one or more series of the Other Preferred Stock then outstanding, the holders of shares of the Preferred Stock of such series, together with any series of the Other Preferred Stock which will be similarly affected, will be entitled to vote as a class, and the Company

will not take such action without the consent or affirmative vote, as above provided, of at least a majority of the total number of votes entitled to be cast with respect to each such series of the Preferred Stock and the Other Preferred Stock, then outstanding, in lieu of the consent or affirmative vote hereinabove otherwise required.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, with respect to any matter as to which the Preferred Stock of any series is entitled to vote, holders of the Preferred Stock of such series and any other series of preferred stock of the Company ranking on a parity with such series of the Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions of assets and which by its terms provides for similar voting rights (the "Other Preferred Stock") will be entitled to cast the number of votes set forth in the Prospectus Supplement with respect to that series of Preferred Stock. As a result of the provisions described in the preceding paragraph requiring the holders of shares of a series of the Preferred Stock to vote together as a class with the holders of shares of one or more series of Other Preferred Stock, it is possible that the holders of such shares of Other Preferred Stock could approve action that would adversely affect such series of Preferred Stock, including the creation of a class of capital stock ranking prior to such series of Preferred Stock as to dividends, voting or distributions of assets.

As more fully described below under "Description of Depositary Shares," if the Company elects to issue Depositary Shares, each representing a fraction of a share of a series of the Preferred Stock, each such Depositary Share will, in effect, be entitled to such fraction of a vote per Depositary Share.

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Unless otherwise indicated in a Prospectus Supplement relating thereto, the Company will be the transfer agent, dividend and redemption price disbursement agent and registrar for shares of each series of the Preferred Stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The description set forth below and in any Prospectus Supplement of certain provisions of the Deposit Agreement (as defined below) and of the Depositary Shares and Depositary Receipts does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Deposit Agreement and Depositary Receipts relating to each series of the Preferred Stock which will be filed with the Commission and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of the issuance of such series of the Preferred Stock. The forms of Deposit Agreement and Depositary Receipt are filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part.

GENERAL

The Company may, at its option, elect to offer fractional shares of Preferred Stock rather than full shares of Preferred Stock. In the event such option is exercised, the Company will issue to the public receipts for Depositary Shares, each of which will represent a fraction (to be set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular series of the Preferred Stock) of a share of a particular series of the Preferred Stock as described below.

The shares of any series of the Preferred Stock represented by Depositary Shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement (the "Deposit Agreement") among the Company, a bank or trust company selected by the Company (the "Depositary") and the holders from time to time of the Depositary Receipts. Subject to the terms of the Deposit Agreement, each owner of a Depositary Share will in general be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of Preferred Stock represented by such Depositary Share, to all the rights and preferences of the Preferred Stock represented thereby (including dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights).

The Depositary Shares relating to any series of the Preferred Stock will be evidenced by Depositary Receipts issued pursuant to the related Deposit Agreement. Depositary Receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing such Depositary Shares in accordance with the terms of the offering made by the related Prospectus Supplement.

Upon surrender of Depositary Receipts at the office of the Depositary and upon payment of the charges provided in the Deposit Agreement and subject to the terms thereof, a holder of Depositary Receipts is entitled to have the Depositary deliver to such holder the whole shares of Preferred Stock underlying the Depositary Shares evidenced by the surrendered Depositary Receipts. However, there may be no market for the underlying Preferred Stock and once the underlying Preferred Stock is withdrawn from the Depositary, it may not be redeposited.

DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

The Depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the Preferred Stock to the record holders of Depositary Receipts relating to such Preferred Stock in proportion, insofar as practicable, to the respective numbers of Depositary Shares evidenced by such Depositary Receipts held by such holders on the relevant record date. The Depositary will distribute only such amount, however, as can be distributed without attributing to any holder of Depositary Receipts a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the Depositary for distribution to record holders of Depositary Receipts then outstanding.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the Depositary will distribute such amounts of the securities or property received by it as are, as nearly as practicable, in proportion to the respective numbers of Depositary Shares evidenced by the Depositary Receipts held by such holders on the relevant record date, unless the Depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such distribution, in which case the Depositary may, with the approval of the Company, adopt such method as it deems equitable and practicable for the purpose of effecting such distribution, including the sale of such securities or property.

The Deposit Agreement will also contain provisions relating to the manner in which any subscription or similar rights offered by the Company to holders of the Preferred Stock will be made available to holders of Depositary Receipts.

The amount distributed in all of the foregoing cases will be reduced by any amounts required to be withheld by the Company or the Depositary on account of taxes and governmental charges.

REDEMPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

If a series of the Preferred Stock represented by Depositary Shares is subject to redemption, the Depositary Shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the Depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of such series of the Preferred Stock held by the Depositary. The Depositary will mail notice of redemption not less than 30 and not more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption to the record holders of the Depositary Receipts evidencing the Depositary Shares to be so redeemed at their respective addresses appearing in the Depositary's books. The redemption price per Depositary Share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to such series of the Preferred Stock plus all money and other property, if any, payable with respect to such Depositary Share, including all amounts payable by the Company in respect of any accumulated but unpaid dividends. Whenever the Company redeems shares of Preferred Stock held by the Depositary, the Depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of Depositary Shares representing shares of Preferred Stock so redeemed. If less than all the Depositary Shares are to be redeemed, the Depositary Shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata (subject to rounding to avoid fractions of Depositary Shares) as may be determined by the Depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the Depositary Shares so called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of Depositary Receipts evidencing such Depositary Shares will cease, except the right to receive the moneys payable upon such redemption and any moneys or other property to which such holders were entitled upon such redemption upon surrender to the Depositary of the Depositary Receipts evidencing such Depositary Shares.

VOTING THE PREFERRED STOCK

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting or action to be taken by written consent at or as to which the holders of the Preferred Stock are entitled to vote or consent, the Depositary will mail the information contained in such notice of meeting or action to the record holders of the Depositary Receipts evidencing the Depositary Shares relating to such Preferred Stock. Each record holder of such Depositary Receipts on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the Preferred Stock) will be entitled to instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights or the giving or refusal of consent, as the case may be, pertaining to the number of shares of the Preferred Stock represented by the Depositary Shares evidenced by such holder's Depositary Receipts. The Depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote, or give or withhold consent with respect to, the maximum number of whole shares of the Preferred Stock represented by all Depositary Shares as to which any particular voting or consent instructions are received, and the Company will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the Depositary in order to enable the Depositary to do so. The Depositary will abstain from voting, or giving consents with respect to, shares of the Preferred Stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of Depositary Receipts evidencing Depositary Shares representing such Preferred Stock.

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

The form of Depositary Receipt evidencing the Depositary Shares relating to any series of Preferred Stock and any provision of the related Deposit Agreement may at any time and from time to time be amended by agreement between the Company and the Depositary in any respect which they may deem necessary or desirable. However, any amendment which imposes or increases any fees, taxes or charges upon holders of Depositary Shares or Depositary Receipts relating to any series of Preferred Stock or which materially and adversely alters the existing rights of such holders will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the record holders of Depositary Receipts evidencing at least a majority of such Depositary Shares then outstanding. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no such amendment may impair the right of any holder of Depositary Shares or Depositary Receipts to receive any moneys or other property to which such holder may be entitled under the terms of such Depositary Receipts or the Deposit Agreement at the times and in the manner and amount provided for therein. A Deposit Agreement may be terminated by the Company or the Depositary only after (a) all outstanding Depositary Shares relating thereto have been redeemed and any accumulated and unpaid dividends on the Preferred Stock represented by the Depositary Shares, together with all other moneys and property, if any, to which holders of the related Depositary Receipts are entitled under the terms of such Depositary Receipts or the related Deposit Agreement, have been paid or distributed as provided in the Deposit Agreement or provision therefor has been duly made, (b) there has been a final distribution in respect of the Preferred Stock of the relevant series in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of the related Depositary Receipts, or (c) in the event the Depositary Shares relate to a series of Preferred Stock which is convertible into shares of Common Stock or another series of Preferred Stock, all outstanding Depositary Shares have been converted into shares of Common Stock or another series of Preferred Stock.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Depositary will forward to record holders of Depositary Receipts, at their respective addresses appearing in the Depositary's books, all reports and communications from the Company which are delivered to the Depositary and which the Company is required to furnish to the holders of the Preferred Stock or Depositary Receipts.

The Company will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. The Company will pay charges of the Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the Preferred Stock and the initial issuance of the Depositary Receipts evidencing the Depositary Shares, any redemption of the Preferred Stock and any withdrawals of Preferred Stock by the holders of Depositary Shares. Holders of Depositary Shares will pay other transfer and other taxes and

governmental charges and such other charges as are expressly provided in the Deposit Agreement to be for their accounts.

The Deposit Agreement will contain provisions relating to adjustments in the fraction of a share of Preferred Stock represented by a Depositary Share in the event of a change in par value, split-up, combination or other reclassification of the Preferred Stock or upon any recapitalization, merger or sale of substantially all of the assets of the Company as an entirety.

Neither the Depositary nor any of its agents nor any registrar nor the Company will be (a) liable if it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under the Deposit Agreement, (b) subject to any liability under the Deposit Agreement to holders of Depositary Receipts other than for the relevant party's gross negligence or willful misconduct, or (c) obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any Depositary Receipts, Depositary Shares or the Preferred Stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. They may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by holders of Depositary Receipts or other persons in good faith believed to be competent and on documents reasonably believed to be genuine.

RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF DEPOSITARY

The Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to the Company notice of its election to do so, and the Company may at any time remove the Depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

GENERAL

The holders of the outstanding shares of Common Stock have full voting rights, one vote for each share held of record. Shareholders have cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors, if certain conditions are met. Upon liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the Company (but subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock of the Company, Cumulative Preferred Stock and Preference Stock), the assets legally available for distribution to holders of Common Stock will be distributed ratably among such holders. Holders of Common Stock have no preemptive or other subscription or conversion rights, and no liability for further calls upon shares. The Common Stock is not subject to assessment. Shares of Common Stock may be issued in series with a special initial dividend rate as hereinafter described (any such series, being referred to herein as "Special Common Stock"). No shares of Special Common Stock are outstanding and the Company does not intend to offer such securities in the future.

Subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock of the Company, Cumulative Preferred Stock and Preference Stock, holders of Common Stock are entitled to receive such dividends as may be declared by the Board of Directors of the Company out of funds legally available therefor. Dividends on all series of Common Stock must have the same record and payment dates. No series of Common Stock may have preference over any other series as to the payment of dividends, but the amount of cash dividends paid may vary among series.

Under the terms of the Articles of Incorporation, the initial dividend rate on any Special Common Stock issued by the Company must be established by the Board of Directors of the Company at or before the issuance thereof at an annual rate greater than four times the last quarterly dividend paid on Common Stock which is not Special Common Stock (referred to herein as "Original Common Stock").

The initial dividend rate on each share of Special Common Stock must be reduced if the quarterly dividend on a share of Original Common Stock is reduced and on the same percentage basis. The initial dividend rate on each share of Special Common Stock must also be increased if the dividend on a share of Original Common Stock is increased and on the same percentage basis; provided that at no time may the dividend on a share of Special Common Stock of any series exceed the greater of (a) one-fourth of the initial

annual dividend rate established at the time of issuance of any such share of Special Common Stock, or (b) the dividend rate concurrently being paid on each of the outstanding shares of Original Common Stock. Shares of Special Common Stock of any series will cease to be shares of Special Common Stock (and will thereafter be considered to be shares of Original Common Stock) at any time that the aggregate of all dividends paid during any fiscal year on shares of Special Common Stock of that series fails to exceed the aggregate of all dividends paid by the Company during such year on each share of Original Common Stock.

The Company is the transfer agent and registrar for the Common Stock.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

The Company's Articles of Incorporation contain provisions which require a super-majority vote of the holders of Common Stock in order for certain types of business combinations to be approved. These provisions are applicable to (a) any merger or consolidation of the Company with or into a dominant stockholder (as hereinafter defined) or any entity controlled by a dominant stockholder, (b) any merger of a dominant stockholder with or into the Company or any corporation controlled by or under common control with the Company, (c) any sale, lease, exchange or transfer of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Company to a dominant stockholder or any entity controlled by or under common control with a dominant stockholder, (d) any purchase, lease, exchange, transfer or acquisition by the Company of all or substantially all of the property and assets of a dominant stockholder or any entity controlled by or under common control with a dominant stockholder, (e) any recapitalization of the Company that would have the effect of increasing the voting power of a dominant stockholder, and (f) any agreement, contract or other arrangement providing for any of the foregoing. The term "dominant stockholder" is defined as any person that, together with any affiliate or associate, beneficially owns in the aggregate 10% or more of the outstanding Common Stock of the Company.

The affirmative vote of not fewer than 85% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock must approve a business combination, unless (a) the Board of Directors of the Company has approved the business combination by the affirmative vote of (i) not fewer than 65% of its members if the business combination is approved in advance of the dominant stockholder becoming a dominant stockholder or the acquisition of shares of Common Stock that caused the dominant stockholder to become a dominant stockholder has been approved in advance, or (ii) not fewer than 85% of its members in all other circumstances, or (b) the Board of Directors of the Company by an affirmative vote of not fewer than 85% has determined that the cash or fair value of the properties, securities or other consideration to be received by the holders of Common Stock in the business combination is not less than the highest per share price paid by the dominant stockholder in acquiring any of its holdings of the Common Stock. These provisions may only be amended by an affirmative vote of 65% of the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock, unless there is a dominant stockholder at the time of the vote, in which event a vote of 85% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock is required.

California law permits corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of their directors in any action, including actions brought by the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of a director's fiduciary duty of care. The duty of care requires that, when acting on behalf of the corporation, a director must act in good faith, in a manner such director believes to be in the best interests of the corporation and its shareholders and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. As a result, the available relief to a corporation and its shareholders may be limited to equitable remedies such as injunction or rescission if a company indemnifies its directors to the fullest extent permitted by California law.

Article VIII of the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws limit the liability of directors of the Company to the Company or its shareholders (in their capacity as directors, but not in their capacity as officers) to the fullest extent permitted by California law. Specifically, directors of the Company are not personally liable to the Company or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of a director's fiduciary duty as a director, except (a) on account of profits made in connection with a purchase or sale of securities in violation of Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, (b) if a court of competent jurisdiction determines that indemnification is unlawful, (c) for acts or omissions involving intentional misconduct or knowing and

culpable violations of law, (d) for acts or omissions that the director believed to be contrary to the best interests of the Company or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of the director, (e) for any transaction for which the director derived an improper benefit, (f) for acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's duty to the Company or its shareholders in circumstances in which the director was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing his or her duties, of a risk of serious injury to the Company or its shareholders, (g) for acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director's duties to the corporation or its shareholders, (h) for liabilities arising out of transactions in which the director had a personal interest, (i) for the approval of distributions to the Company's shareholders in violation of California law, or (j) for the approval of the making by the Company of any loan of money or property to a director or officer of the Company or the guarantee of the obligations of any such director or officer in violation of California law. The inclusion of these provisions in the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may have the effect of reducing the likelihood of litigation against directors of the Company, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise have benefited the Company or its shareholders.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW

Arizona regulates certain business combinations by an "interested shareholder" of a public corporation if the public corporation (a) has issued securities under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, (b) has its principal place of business in the State of Arizona, (c) owns or controls assets located within the State of Arizona with a fair market value of at least one million dollars, and (d) has more than 500 employees in the State of Arizona. The Company believes that these provisions are currently applicable to the Company. A person becomes an interested shareholder under the Arizona business combination statute upon the acquisition of 10% or more of the outstanding voting shares of the public corporation. The term "business combination" is broadly defined to include not only acquisitions, but also restructuring transactions and transactions in which the interested shareholder, or its associates or affiliates, receive financial assistance or tax advantages from the public corporation. Business combinations must be approved by a majority of the members of a committee of disinterested directors in advance of the interested person becoming an interested person or the consummation of the business combination must be delayed for three years and the price to be paid must meet certain fair price criteria. The committee must consider the long term interests of the public corporation in connection with approving any such transaction. Additional restrictions are applicable to acquisitions of control of 20% or more of a public corporation's voting stock.

Under California law, if a tender offer or a written proposal for approval of a reorganization of a corporation or a sale of substantially all of its assets is made by an "interested party", an affirmative opinion in writing as to the fairness of the consideration to be received by the shareholders must be delivered to each shareholder. The term "interested party" means a person who is a party to the transaction and who (a) directly or indirectly controls the corporation that is the subject of the tender offer or proposal, (b) is, or is directly or indirectly controlled by, an officer or director of the corporation, or (c) is an entity in which a material financial interest is held by any director or executive officer.

No public utility or any of its affiliates may acquire any of the capital stock of a public utility organized under California law, without CPUC approval, if (a) the acquiror transacts business in California, or (b) the CPUC determines that CPUC approval is otherwise required by the public interest. In addition, a change in control application must be filed with the CPUC in connection with any change in control of a public utility organized under California law. PSCN approval is also required prior to any proposed transfer of 15% or more of the common stock of a public utility doing business in Nevada.

No person may acquire 5% or more of the voting stock of a gas utility (other than by merger), without Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") approval, if such person owns 5% or more of the stock of another public utility or public utility holding company. A registered public utility holding company may not acquire any security of another gas utility without Commission approval, unless the transaction is exempt under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended (the "PUHCA"), or the regulations promulgated thereunder. A person becomes a holding company required to be registered under PUHCA upon acquisition of 10% or more of the voting stock of a gas utility, unless the Commission determines that the person does not control the gas utility. The Commission may condition any such

determination upon the applicant refraining from exercising voting rights, controlling proxies or designating officers or directors. The Commission may not approve the acquisition of securities of a gas utility unless it determines that the acquisition would tend toward the economical and efficient development of an integrated public utility system and would not be detrimental to investor interests. The Commission may also condition its approval of the acquisition of the securities of a gas utility upon a fair offer being made for the other securities of the utility.

In addition to being a gas utility, the Company is also a savings and loan holding company. No person may acquire control of a savings and loan holding company without the prior approval of the OTS, unless the transaction is exempt. A person is conclusively deemed to have obtained control of a savings and loan holding company if it (a) has acquired any combination of voting stock and irrevocable proxies representing more than 25% of any class of voting stock of the savings and loan holding company, or (b) controls in any manner the election of a majority of the directors of the savings and loan holding company or savings and loan association. A person who has acquired more than 10% of any class of voting stock of the savings and loan holding company may also be deemed to have control of the savings and loan holding company if certain control factors are present.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The Company may sell the Securities to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale by them or may sell the Securities to investors directly or through agents. Any such underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of Securities will be named in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. The Company has reserved the right to sell Securities directly to investors on its own behalf in those jurisdictions where and in such manner as it is authorized to do so.

Underwriters may offer and sell Securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. The Company also may, from time to time, authorize dealers, acting as the Company's agents, to offer and sell Securities upon the terms and conditions as are set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. In connection with the sale of Securities, underwriters may receive compensation from the Company in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the Securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell Securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

Any underwriting compensation paid by the Company to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of Securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of Securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the Securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with the Company, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities.

Securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more firms ("remarketing firms"), acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for the Company. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreement, if any, with the Company and its compensation will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the Securities remarketed thereby. Remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements which may be entered into with the Company to indemnification by the Company against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, and may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for the Company in the ordinary course of business.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Offered Securities will be passed upon for the Company by O'Melveny & Myers.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1994, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said report.

 NO DEALER, SALESPERSON OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GIVE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS NOT CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE PROSPECTUS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER MADE BY THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE PROSPECTUS AND, IF GIVEN OR MADE, SUCH INFORMATION OR REPRESENTATIONS MUST NOT BE RELIED UPON AS HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE COMPANY OR THE UNDERWRITERS. NEITHER THE DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE PROSPECTUS NOR ANY SALE MADE HEREUNDER AND THEREUNDER SHALL UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE CREATE AN IMPLICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY SINCE THE DATE HEREOF. THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE PROSPECTUS DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER OR SOLICITATION BY ANYONE IN ANY STATE IN WHICH SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION BY ANYONE IN ANY STATE IN WHICH SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION IS NOT AUTHORIZED OR IN WHICH THE PERSON MAKING SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION IS NOT QUALIFIED TO DO SO OR TO ANYONE TO WHOM IT IS UNLAWFUL TO MAKE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION.

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 \$150,000,000

SOUTHWEST GAS
 CORPORATION

\$75,000,000 7 1/2% DEBENTURES DUE 2006

\$75,000,000 8% DEBENTURES DUE 2026

(R) LOGO

 PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

MERRILL LYNCH & CO.
PAINWEBBER INCORPORATED

JULY 31, 1996

