## HUNION ANDREWS KURTH

# **Midstream Energy REITs: A New Structure**

#### **Executive Summary**

- Key advantages of REIT structure:
  - » Issue 1099s, rather than K-1s
  - » Block unrelated business taxable income for taxexempt investors and effectively connected income for foreign investors
  - » If public, eligible for inclusion in stock indices
- Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") are corporations or trusts that, if specific Internal Revenue Code requirements are met, do not pay entity level federal income taxes to the extent their earnings are distributed each year to shareholders.
- New IRS private ruling allows a REIT to own and operate traditional midstream infrastructure assets, including storage assets and pipelines, and derive income from traditional commercial arrangements with customers. If structured correctly, the REIT's income from these assets and arrangements is treated as "rents from real property," an important aspect of qualifying for REIT status under the Internal Revenue Code.
- REITs can be public or private, and both public and private REITS are vehicles through which significant capital can be raised.
- REITs are generally more attractive for investors from a tax perspective than public or private partnerships.
- REITs issue 1099s, rather than K-1s, and block unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") for tax-exempt investors and effectively connected income ("ECI") for foreign investors.
- REITs can be internally or externally managed.
- REITs must meet specific real property related tests but do not have to meet the publicly traded partnership ("PTP") gualifying income test. Thus, assuming the REIT and its assets and operations otherwise meet the REIT tests, any product, such as chemicals or refined products not on the PTP "angels" list, can be stored in the storage tanks or moved through the pipelines the PTP qualifying income test is not relevant to REIT status.
- Contribution of appreciated assets by a sponsor to a newly formed REIT in connection with an issuance of REIT stock for cash (e.g., in an initial public offering) or to an already existing REIT is generally a taxable transaction, but the umbrella partnership REIT ("UPREIT") structure can be used to defer tax on such appreciation.
- · If this structure is pursued, it is recommended that a private ruling be requested from the IRS.



IPOs and Rule 144A equity offerings

### **Representative REIT Equity Offerings**

Issuer	Number of Deals	Aggregated Value	Our Role
AGNC Investment Corp	15	\$11.5 billion	Underwriters' Counsel
Annaly Capital Management, Inc.	8	\$6.5 billion	Issuer's Counsel
National Retail Properties, Inc.	18	\$4.2 billion	Underwriters' Counsel
Rexford Industrial Realty, Inc.	13	\$3.4 billion	Underwriters' Counsel
Pebblebrook Hotel Trust	15	\$2.3 billion	Issuer's Counsel
CubeSmart	10	\$1.6 billion	Underwriters' Counsel
Chimera Investment Corporation	5	\$1.2 billion	Issuer's Counsel
Chatham Lodging Trust	8	\$811 million	Issuer's Counsel
AG Mortgage Investment Trust, Inc.	8	\$703 million	Issuer's Counsel
City Office REIT, Inc.	7	\$542 million	Issuer's Counsel
Postal Realty Trust, Inc.	1	\$77 million	Issuer's Counsel

Capital markets transactions

involving **200**<sup>+</sup> REITs and other

real estate companies

#### **Our Team**





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**REIT M&A transactions we have** 

acted as counsel, aggregating

more than \$70 billion



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