

GULFPORT ENERGY CORP  
Form 8-K  
March 19, 2015

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

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)**  
**of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): March 13, 2015**

**GULFPORT ENERGY CORPORATION**  
**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State or other jurisdiction**  
**of incorporation)**

**000-19514**  
**(Commission**  
**File Number)**

**73-1521290**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification Number)**

**14313 North May Avenue**

**Suite 100**

**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**(405) 848-8807**

**73134**  
**(Zip code)**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

**Not Applicable**

**(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the Registrant under any of the following provisions:

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act

**Item 1.01. Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement.**  
***Employment Agreement with the Chief Financial Officer***

On March 13, 2015, we entered into an employment agreement with Aaron Gaydosik, our Chief Financial Officer. The employment agreement provides for a three-year term commencing as of August 11, 2014, which will be extended for successive one-year periods unless we or the executive elects to not extend the term. Mr. Gaydosik's initial annual base salary was \$300,000, increasing to \$309,000 effective January 1, 2015, which can be increased from time to time by the compensation committee, but not decreased. Subject to the achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors or the compensation committee for each fiscal year, Mr. Gaydosik is eligible to receive a target annual bonus of 75%, and a maximum target bonus of up to 200%, of his annual base salary, provided he remains employed by us on the payment date. Mr. Gaydosik is also entitled to participate in any life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees.

Under his employment agreement, Mr. Gaydosik is eligible to participate in our 2013 Restated Stock Incentive Plan or such other equity incentive plan or plans then in existence for the benefit of employees, and may in the discretion of the compensation committee receive an equity award, with a target level of 300% of his base salary, in accordance with the terms of such plan or plans. The timing and amount of such equity awards, any target performance goals and the vesting terms of such awards will be determined by the compensation committee in its sole discretion. If Mr. Gaydosik's employment terminates prior to any scheduled vesting date then, except if he is involuntarily terminated without cause (as defined below) or as expressly provided in any existing or future equity award, he will forfeit all rights and interests in and to such unvested equity awards. If Mr. Gaydosik is terminated for cause, he will forfeit all rights and interests in and to all outstanding equity awards, whether vested or unvested.

Mr. Gaydosik has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, his agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Mr. Gaydosik's affiliation with us and for a period of 12 months thereafter. Mr. Gaydosik's continued employment with us is terminable by either party. We may terminate Mr. Gaydosik's employment at any time, with or without advance notice. Mr. Gaydosik may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason. However, if (i) we terminate Mr. Gaydosik's employment without cause, or (ii) Mr. Gaydosik resigns for good reason (as defined below), then Mr. Gaydosik will be entitled to severance pay in an amount equal to 12 months' base salary plus target bonus; provided, in each case, that the executive continues to comply with the restrictive covenants described above and the executive executes a full general release in our favor, except that the restriction on competition will not apply in the event the executive resigns for good reason within 12 months following our change of control. In the event Mr. Gaydosik's employment is terminated for cause (as defined below), our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses effective as of the termination date.

If Mr. Gaydosik's employment with us or our successor is terminated on or before the second anniversary of the date of occurrence of a change of control (as defined below) either (a) by us or our successor other than for cause or (b) by Mr. Gaydosik for good reason, then, in addition to the benefits described above, (i) all equity awards that have been granted to Mr. Gaydosik that would have vested at any time after the date of Mr. Gaydosik's termination solely as a result of Mr. Gaydosik's continued service to the Company will immediately vest on the date of termination, and (ii) Mr. Gaydosik will be entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to his base salary and annual bonus during the two year period after his termination and the continuation of COBRA coverage for 18 months.

***Employment Agreement with the Chief Operating Officer***

On March 13, 2015, we entered into an employment agreement with Ross Kirtley, our Chief Operating Officer. The employment agreement provides for a two-year term commencing as of April 22, 2014, which will be extended for successive one-year periods unless we or the executive elects to not extend the term. Mr. Kirtley's initial annual base salary was \$325,000, increasing to \$338,000 effective January 1, 2015, which can be increased from time to time by the compensation committee, but not decreased. Subject to the achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors or the compensation committee for each fiscal year, Mr. Kirtley is eligible to receive a target annual bonus of 75%, and a maximum target bonus of up to 200%, of his annual base salary, provided he remains employed by us on the payment date. Mr. Kirtley is also entitled to participate in any life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees.

Under his employment agreement, Mr. Kirtley is eligible to participate in our 2013 Restated Stock Incentive Plan or such other equity incentive plan or plans then in existence for the benefit of employees, and may in the discretion of the compensation committee receive an equity award, with a target level of 300% of his base salary, in accordance with the terms of such plan or plans. The timing and amount of such equity awards, any target performance goals and the vesting terms of such awards will be determined by the compensation committee in its sole discretion. If Mr. Kirtley's employment terminates prior to any scheduled vesting date then, except as expressly provided in any existing or future equity award, he will forfeit all rights and interests in and to such unvested equity awards. If Mr. Kirtley is terminated for cause, he will forfeit all rights and interests in and to all outstanding equity awards, whether vested or unvested.

Mr. Kirtley has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, his agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Mr. Kirtley's affiliation with us and for a period of 12 months thereafter. Mr. Kirtley's continued employment with us is terminable by either party. We may terminate Mr. Kirtley's employment at any time, with or without advance notice. Mr. Kirtley may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason. However, if (i) we terminate Mr. Kirtley's employment without cause, or (ii) Mr. Kirtley resigns for good reason (as defined below), then Mr. Kirtley will be entitled to severance pay in an amount equal to 12 months' base salary plus target bonus; provided, in each case, that the executive continues to comply with the restrictive covenants described above and the executive executes a full general release in our favor, except that the restriction on competition will not apply in the event the executive resigns for good reason within 12 months following our change of control. In the event Mr. Kirtley's employment is terminated for cause (as defined below), our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses effective as of the termination date.

If Mr. Kirtley's employment with us or our successor is terminated on or before the second anniversary of the date of occurrence of a change of control (as defined below) either (a) by us or our successor other than for cause or (b) by Mr. Kirtley for good reason, then, in addition to the benefits described above, (i) all equity awards that have been granted to Mr. Kirtley that would have vested at any time after the date of Mr. Kirtley's termination solely as a result of Mr. Kirtley's continued service to the Company will immediately vest on the date of termination, and (ii) Mr. Kirtley will be entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to his base salary and annual bonus during the two year period after his termination and the continuation of COBRA coverage for 18 months.

***Certain Defined Terms in Employment Agreements***

Under the employment agreements with Messrs. Gaydosik and Kirtley:

A change of control will be deemed to have occurred upon the occurrence of any of the following: (a) any consolidation or merger of us into or with another person or entity pursuant to which our shares of common stock

would be converted into cash, securities or other property, other than any consolidation or merger in which the persons who were our stockholders immediately prior to the consummation of such consolidation or merger are the beneficial owners, immediately following the consummation of such consolidation or merger, of more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of the person or entity surviving or resulting from such consolidation or

merger; (b) any sale, lease or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of our assets; or (c) the approval by our stockholders of any plan or proposal for our liquidation or dissolution.

Cause is generally defined as such named executive officer's (a) gross misconduct in performing his duties, (b) material breach of his employment agreement or the Company's Code of Conduct, (c) conviction of, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a criminal act that constitutes a felony or any crime of moral turpitude, or (d) failure to comply with directives of our board of directors.

Good Reason means without the executive's consent (i) a material diminution in the duties, authority or responsibilities of the executive or a material breach of his employment agreement by us, or (ii) requiring the executive to relocate his principal place of employment to a location that is more than 35 miles from the location of our principal office in the Oklahoma City area as of the effective date of his employment agreement, provided that we fail to cure such material diminution, breach or relocation within 30 days of receipt of a written notice from the executive of such event, provided, however, that such notice must be provided by the executive within 90 days following the occurrence of such event.

The preceding summaries of the employment agreements with Messrs. Gaydosik and Kirtley are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of such agreements, copies of which are attached as Exhibits 10.1 and 10.2, respectively, to this Current Report on Form 8-K and are incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

The information set forth in Item 1.01 above regarding compensatory arrangements with our Chief Financial Officer and our Chief Operating Officer under the terms of their respective employment agreements is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) *Exhibits*

<b>Number</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>
10.1+	Employment Agreement, effective as of August 11, 2014, by and between Gulfport Energy Corporation and Aaron Gaydosik.
10.2+	Employment Agreement, effective as of April 22, 2014, by and between Gulfport Energy Corporation and Ross Kirtley.

+ Management contract, compensatory plan or arrangement.

**SIGNATURE**

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

GULFPORT ENERGY CORPORATION

Date: March 19, 2015

By: /s/ MICHAEL G. MOORE

Michael G. Moore

Chief Executive Officer and President

**Exhibit Index**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>
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10.2+	Employment Agreement, effective as of April 22, 2014, by and between Gulfport Energy Corporation and Ross Kirtley.

+ Management contract, compensatory plan or arrangement.  
 examples of Amounts Payable at Maturity

The following hypothetical examples illustrate how the payments on the notes at maturity set forth in the table above are calculated.

**Example 1: The Final Level is greater than the Initial Level, resulting in an Underlying Return of 30.00%.**

Because the Final Level is greater than the Initial Level and the product of the Underlying Return of 30.00% and the Upside Leverage Factor is greater than the Maximum Return, the investor receives the Maximum Return on the notes. Accordingly, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of \$1,175.80 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{the lesser of (i) Underlying Return} \times \text{Upside Leverage Factor and (ii) Maximum Return})$$

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 17.58\%) = \$1,175.80$$

**Example 2: The Final Level is greater than the Initial Level, resulting in an Underlying Return of 2.50%.**

Because the Final Level is greater than the Initial Level and the product of the Underlying Return of 2.50% and the Upside Leverage Factor is less than the Maximum Return, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of \$1,075.00 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{the lesser of (i) Underlying Return} \times \text{Upside Leverage Factor and (ii) Maximum Return})$$

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 2.50\% \times 3.00) = \$1,075.00$$



**Example 3: The Final Level is equal to the Initial Level, resulting in an Underlying Return of 0.00%.** Because the Final Level is equal to the Initial Level, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of \$1,000.00 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes.

**Example 4: The Final Level is less than the Initial Level, resulting in an Underlying Return of -40.00%.** Because the Final Level is less than the Initial Level, the Underlying Return is negative and the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of \$600.00 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, calculated as follows:

$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Underlying Return})$

$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times -40.00\%) = \$600.00$

### Selected Purchase Considerations

**CAPPED APPRECIATION POTENTIAL** — The notes provide the opportunity to enhance returns by multiplying a positive Underlying Return by the Upside Leverage Factor of 3.00, subject to the Maximum Return on the notes of 17.58%, resulting in a maximum Payment at Maturity of \$1,175.80 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes. **Any payment on the notes is subject to our ability to satisfy our obligations as they become due.**

**FULL DOWNSIDE EXPOSURE** — If the Final Level is less than the Initial Level, for each \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, you will lose 1.00% of the Face Amount for every 1.00% by which the Final Level is less than the Initial Level. In this circumstance, you will lose some or all of your investment in the notes.

**RETURN LINKED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE S&P 500® INDEX** — The return on the notes, which may be positive, zero or negative, is linked to the performance of the S&P 500® Index as described herein. The S&P 500® Index is intended to provide a performance benchmark for the U.S. equity markets. The calculation of the level of the S&P 500® Index is based on the relative value of the aggregate market value of the shares of 500 companies as of a particular time as compared to the aggregate average market value of the shares of 500 similar companies during the base period of the years 1941 through 1943. *This is only a summary of the S&P 500® Index. For more information on the S&P 500® Index, including information concerning its composition, calculation methodology and adjustment policy, please see the section entitled “The S&P Dow Jones Indices — The S&P 500 Index” in the accompanying underlying supplement No. 1 dated August 17, 2015.*

**TAX CONSEQUENCES** — In the opinion of our special tax counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, which is based on prevailing market conditions, it is more likely than not that the notes will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as prepaid financial contracts that are not debt. Generally, if this treatment is respected, (i) you should not recognize taxable income or loss prior to the maturity or other taxable disposition of your notes and (ii) the gain or loss on your notes should be capital gain or loss and should be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held the notes for more than one year. The Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) or a court might not agree with this treatment,

however, in which case the timing and character of income or loss on your notes could be materially and adversely affected.

In 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of “prepaid forward contracts” and similar instruments. The notice focuses in particular on whether beneficial owners of these instruments should be required to accrue income over the term of their investment. It also asks for comments on a number of related topics, including the character of income or loss with respect to these instruments; the relevance of factors such as the nature of the underlying property to which the instruments are linked; the degree, if any, to which income (including any mandated accruals) realized by non-U.S. persons should be subject to withholding tax; and whether these instruments are or should be subject to the “constructive ownership” regime, which very generally can operate to recharacterize certain long-term capital gain as ordinary income and impose a notional interest charge. While the notice requests comments on appropriate transition rules and effective dates, any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the notes, possibly with retroactive effect.

Withholding under legislation commonly referred to as “FATCA” might (if the notes were recharacterized as debt instruments) apply to amounts treated as interest paid with respect to the notes. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the section of the accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences,” under a recent IRS notice, withholding under FATCA will not apply to payments of gross proceeds (other than any amount treated as interest) of a taxable disposition, including redemption

at maturity, of the notes. You should consult your tax adviser regarding the potential application of FATCA to the notes.

Non-U.S. holders should note that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the section of the accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences,” recently promulgated Treasury regulations imposing a withholding tax on certain “dividend equivalents” under certain “equity linked instruments” will not apply to the notes.

You should review carefully the section of the accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.” The preceding discussion, when read in combination with that section, constitutes the full opinion of our special tax counsel regarding the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the notes.

Under current law, the United Kingdom will not impose withholding tax on payments made with respect to the notes.

For a discussion of certain German tax considerations relating to the notes, you should refer to the section in the accompanying prospectus supplement entitled “Taxation by Germany of Non-Resident Holders.”

**You should consult your tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the notes (including possible alternative treatments and the issues presented by the 2007 notice), as well as tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.**

### **Selected Risk Considerations**

An investment in the notes involves significant risks. Investing in the notes is not equivalent to investing directly in the stocks composing the Underlying. In addition to these selected risk considerations, you should review the “Risk Factors” sections of the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement, prospectus addendum and prospectus.

**· YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES MAY RESULT IN A LOSS** — The notes do not guarantee any return of your investment. The return on the notes at maturity is linked to the performance of the Underlying and will depend on whether, and the extent to which, the Underlying Return is positive, zero or negative. If the Final Level is less than the Initial Level, for each \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, you will lose 1.00% of the Face Amount for every 1.00% by which the Final Level is less than the Initial Level. In this circumstance, you will lose some or all of your investment

in the notes. **Any payment on the notes is subject to our ability to satisfy our obligations as they become due.**

**THE RETURN ON THE NOTES IS LIMITED** — If the Final Level is greater than the Initial Level, for each \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, you will receive at maturity the Face Amount plus an additional amount that will not exceed the product of the Maximum Return of 17.58% and \$1,000 Face Amount of notes. Consequently, the maximum Payment at Maturity is \$1,175.80 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes, regardless of the increase in the level of the Underlying, which may be significant.

**THE NOTES DO NOT PAY ANY COUPONS** — Unlike ordinary debt securities, the notes do not pay any coupons and do not guarantee any return of your investment at maturity.

**THE NOTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE CREDIT OF DEUTSCHE BANK AG** — The notes are senior unsecured obligations of Deutsche Bank AG and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. Any payment(s) to be made on the notes depends on the ability of Deutsche Bank AG to satisfy its obligations as they become due. An actual or anticipated downgrade in Deutsche Bank AG's credit rating or increase in the credit spreads charged by the market for taking Deutsche Bank AG's credit risk will likely have an adverse effect on the value of the notes. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of Deutsche Bank AG will affect the value of the notes and in the event Deutsche Bank AG were to default on its obligations or become subject to a Resolution Measure, you might not receive any amount(s) owed to you under the terms of the notes and you could lose your entire investment.

**THE NOTES MAY BE WRITTEN DOWN, BE CONVERTED INTO ORDINARY SHARES OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF OWNERSHIP OR BECOME SUBJECT TO OTHER RESOLUTION MEASURES. YOU MAY LOSE SOME OR ALL OF YOUR INVESTMENT IF ANY SUCH MEASURE BECOMES APPLICABLE TO US** — On May 15, 2014, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms. The

Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive required each member state of the European Union to adopt and publish by December 31, 2014 the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive. To implement the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive, Germany adopted the Resolution Act, which became effective on January 1, 2015. The Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive and the Resolution Act provided national resolution authorities with a set of resolution powers to intervene in the event that a bank is failing or likely to fail and certain other conditions are met. From January 1, 2016, the power to initiate resolution measures applicable to significant banking groups (such as Deutsche Bank Group) in the European Banking Union has been transferred to a single European resolution authority which works in close cooperation with the European Central Bank, the European Commission and the national resolution authorities under the SRM Regulation. Pursuant to the SRM Regulation, the Resolution Act and other applicable rules and regulations, the notes are subject to the powers exercised by the competent resolution authority to impose a Resolution Measure on us, which may include: writing down, including to zero, any claim for payment on the notes; converting the notes into ordinary shares of (i) the issuer, (ii) any group entity or (iii) any bridge bank or other instruments of ownership of such entities qualifying as common equity tier 1 capital; or applying any other resolution measure including, but not limited to, transferring the notes to another entity, amending, modifying or varying the terms and conditions of the notes or cancelling of the notes. The competent resolution authority may apply Resolution Measures individually or in any combination.

The German law on the mechanism for the resolution of banks of November 2, 2015 (*Abwicklungsmechanismengesetz*, or the “**Resolution Mechanism Act**”) provides that, among the unsecured unsubordinated obligations of the issuer, those obligations that are excluded from the statutory definition of “debt instruments” under the Resolution Mechanism Act would be satisfied first in a German insolvency proceeding with respect to the issuer. This prioritization would also be given effect in a resolution proceeding with respect to the issuer, so that obligations excluded from the statutory definition of “debt instruments” would be written down or converted into common equity tier 1 instruments only after eligible liabilities that are debt instruments have been written down or so converted. Among those unsecured unsubordinated obligations that fall outside the statutory definition of “debt instruments” and would be satisfied first under the Resolution Mechanism Act are senior unsecured debt instruments whose terms provide that (i) the repayment or the amount of the repayment depends on the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event which is uncertain at the point in time when the senior unsecured debt instruments are issued or is settled in a way other than by monetary payment or (ii) the payment of interest or the amount of the interest payments depends on the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event which is uncertain at the point in time when the senior unsecured debt instruments are issued unless the payment of interest or the amount of the interest payments solely depends on a fixed or floating reference interest rate and is settled by monetary payment. This order of priorities would apply to resolution and German insolvency proceedings commenced on or after January 1, 2017 with retroactive effect for outstanding debt instruments of the issuer. In a resolution or German insolvency proceeding with respect to the issuer, the competent regulatory authority or court would determine which of our senior debt securities issued under the prospectus have the terms described in clauses (i) or (ii) above, referred to herein as the “**Structured Debt Securities**,” and which do not, referred to herein as the “**Non-Structured Debt Securities**.” We expect the notes offered herein to be classified as Structured Debt Securities, but the competent regulatory authority or court may classify the notes differently. In a resolution or German insolvency proceeding with respect to the issuer, the Structured Debt Securities are expected to be among the unsecured unsubordinated obligations that would be satisfied before the Non-Structured Debt Securities as described above. **Nevertheless, you may lose some or all of your investment in the notes if a Resolution Measure becomes applicable to us.** Imposition of a Resolution Measure would likely occur if we become, or are deemed by the competent supervisory authority to have become, “non-viable” (as defined under the then applicable law) and are unable to continue our regulated banking activities without a Resolution Measure becoming applicable to us. The Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive and the Resolution Act are intended to eliminate the need for public support of troubled banks, and you should be aware that public support, if any, would only potentially be used by the competent supervisory authority as a last resort after

having assessed and exploited, to the maximum extent practicable, the resolution tools, including the bail-in tool.

By acquiring the notes, you would have no claim or other right against us arising out of any Resolution Measure, and we would have no obligation to make payments under the notes following the imposition of a Resolution Measure. In particular, the imposition of any Resolution Measure will not constitute a default or an event of default under the notes, under the Indenture or for the purpose of, but only to the fullest extent permitted by, the Trust Indenture Act. Furthermore, because the notes are subject to any Resolution Measure,

secondary market trading in the notes may not follow the trading behavior associated with similar types of securities issued by other financial institutions which may be or have been subject to a Resolution Measure.

In addition, by your acquisition of the notes, you waive, to the fullest extent permitted by the Trust Indenture Act, any and all claims against the trustee and the relevant agents for, agree not to initiate a suit against the trustee and the relevant agents in respect of, and agree that neither the trustee nor the relevant agents will be liable for, any action that the trustee or the relevant agents take, or abstain from taking, in either case in accordance with the imposition of a Resolution Measure by the competent resolution authority with respect to the notes. **Accordingly, you may have limited or circumscribed rights to challenge any decision of the competent resolution authority to impose any Resolution Measure.**

**THE ISSUER'S ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE NOTES ON THE TRADE DATE WILL BE LESS THAN THE ISSUE PRICE OF THE NOTES** — The Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date (as disclosed on the cover of this pricing supplement) is less than the Issue Price of the notes. The difference between the Issue Price and the Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date is due to the inclusion in the Issue Price of the agent's commissions, if any, and the cost of hedging our obligations under the notes through one or more of our affiliates. Such hedging cost includes our or our affiliates' expected cost of providing such hedge, as well as the profit we or our affiliates expect to realize in consideration for assuming the risks inherent in providing such hedge. The Issuer's estimated value of the notes is determined by reference to an internal funding rate and our pricing models. The internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate we would pay when we issue conventional debt securities on equivalent terms. This difference in funding rate, as well as the agent's commissions, if any, and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the notes, reduces the economic terms of the notes to you and is expected to adversely affect the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market. In addition, our internal pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain assumptions about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. If at any time a third party dealer were to quote a price to purchase your notes or otherwise value your notes, that price or value may differ materially from the estimated value of the notes determined by reference to our internal funding rate and pricing models. This difference is due to, among other things, any difference in funding rates, pricing models or assumptions used by any dealer who may purchase the notes in the secondary market.

**INVESTING IN THE NOTES IS NOT THE SAME AS INVESTING IN THE STOCKS COMPOSING THE UNDERLYING** — The return on the notes may not reflect the return you would have realized if you had directly invested in the stocks composing the Underlying. For instance, you will not receive more than the Maximum Return regardless of any potential increase in the level of the Underlying, which could be significant, even though you will be exposed to any decline in the level of the Underlying at maturity.

**IF THE LEVEL OF THE UNDERLYING CHANGES, THE VALUE OF YOUR NOTES MAY NOT CHANGE IN THE SAME MANNER** — Your notes may trade quite differently from the level of the Underlying. Changes in the level of the Underlying may not result in comparable changes in the value of your notes.

**NO DIVIDEND PAYMENTS OR VOTING RIGHTS** — As a holder of the notes, you will not have any voting rights or rights to receive cash dividends or other distributions or other rights that holders of the stocks composing the Underlying would have.

**The UNDERLYING Reflects the Price Return of the Stocks Composing the UNDERLYING, Not THEIR Total Return INCLUDING ALL DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS** — The Underlying reflects the changes in the market prices of the stocks composing the Underlying. The Underlying is not, however, a “total return” index, which, in addition to reflecting those price returns, would also reflect the reinvestment of all dividends and other distributions paid on the stocks composing the Underlying.

**THE Sponsor OF The UNDERLYING may adjust The UNDERLYING in ways that affect the level of The UNDERLYING, and has NO obligation to consider your interests** — The sponsor of the Underlying (the “**Index Sponsor**”) is responsible for calculating and maintaining the Underlying. The Index Sponsor can add, delete or substitute the Underlying components or make other methodological changes that could change the level of the Underlying. You should realize that the changing of Underlying components may affect the Underlying, as a newly added component may perform significantly better or worse than the component it replaces. Additionally, the Index Sponsor may alter, discontinue or suspend calculation or dissemination of the Underlying. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of, and your return on, the notes. The Index Sponsor has no obligation to consider your interests in calculating or revising the Underlying.



**PAST PERFORMANCE OF THE UNDERLYING IS NO GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE** — The actual performance of the Underlying over the term of the notes may bear little relation to the historical closing levels of the Underlying and/or the hypothetical return examples set forth elsewhere in this pricing supplement. We cannot predict the future performance of the Underlying or whether the performance of the Underlying will result in the return of any of your investment.

**ASSUMING NO CHANGES IN MARKET CONDITIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, THE PRICE YOU MAY RECEIVE FOR YOUR NOTES IN SECONDARY MARKET TRANSACTIONS WOULD GENERALLY BE LOWER THAN BOTH THE ISSUE PRICE AND THE ISSUER'S ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE NOTES ON THE TRADE DATE** — While the payment(s) on the notes described in this pricing supplement is based on the full Face Amount of notes, the Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date (as disclosed on the cover of this pricing supplement) is less than the Issue Price of the notes. The Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date does not represent the price at which we or any of our affiliates would be willing to purchase your notes in the secondary market at any time. Assuming no changes in market conditions or our creditworthiness and other relevant factors, the price, if any, at which we or our affiliates would be willing to purchase the notes from you in secondary market transactions, if at all, would generally be lower than both the Issue Price and the Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date. Our purchase price, if any, in secondary market transactions would be based on the estimated value of the notes determined by reference to (i) the then-prevailing internal funding rate (adjusted by a spread) or another appropriate measure of our cost of funds and (ii) our pricing models at that time, less a bid spread determined after taking into account the size of the repurchase, the nature of the assets underlying the notes and then-prevailing market conditions. The price we report to financial reporting services and to distributors of our notes for use on customer account statements would generally be determined on the same basis. However, during the period of approximately six months beginning from the Trade Date, we or our affiliates may, in our sole discretion, increase the purchase price determined as described above by an amount equal to the declining differential between the Issue Price and the Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date, prorated over such period on a straight-line basis, for transactions that are individually and in the aggregate of the expected size for ordinary secondary market repurchases.

In addition to the factors discussed above, the value of the notes and our purchase price in secondary market transactions after the Trade Date, if any, will vary based on many economic and market factors, including our creditworthiness, and cannot be predicted with accuracy. These changes may adversely affect the value of your notes, including the price you may receive in any secondary market transactions. Any sale prior to the Maturity Date could result in a substantial loss to you. The notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. Accordingly, you should be able and willing to hold your notes to maturity.

**THE NOTES WILL NOT BE LISTED AND THERE WILL LIKELY BE LIMITED LIQUIDITY** — The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. There may be little or no secondary market for the notes. We or our affiliates intend to act as market makers for the notes but are not required to do so and may cease such market making activities at any time. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to sell the notes when you wish to do so or at a price advantageous to you. Because we do not expect other dealers to make a secondary market for the notes, the price at which you may be able to sell your notes is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which we or our affiliates are willing to buy the notes. If, at any time, we or our affiliates do not act as market makers, it is likely that there would be little or no secondary market in the notes. If you have to sell your notes prior to maturity, you may not be able to do so or you may have to sell them at a substantial loss, even in cases where the level of the Underlying has increased since the Trade Date.

**MANY ECONOMIC AND MARKET FACTORS WILL AFFECT THE VALUE OF THE NOTES** — While we expect that, generally, the level of the Underlying will affect the value of the notes more than any other single factor, the value of the notes prior to maturity will also be affected by a number of other factors that may either offset or magnify each other, including:

- the expected volatility of the Underlying;
- the time remaining to the maturity of the notes;
- the market prices and dividend rates of the stocks composing the Underlying;
- the composition of the Underlying;

interest rates and yields in the market generally;

geopolitical conditions and economic, financial, political, regulatory or judicial events that affect the Underlying or the markets generally;

supply and demand for the notes; and

our creditworthiness, including actual or anticipated downgrades in our credit ratings.

**TRADING AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS BY US, JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. OR OUR OR ITS AFFILIATES IN THE EQUITY AND EQUITY DERIVATIVE MARKETS MAY IMPAIR THE VALUE OF THE NOTES** — We or our affiliates expect to hedge our exposure from the notes by entering into equity and equity derivative transactions, such as over-the-counter options, futures or exchange-traded instruments. We, JPMorgan Chase & Co. or our or its affiliates may also engage in trading in instruments linked or related to the Underlying on a regular basis as part of our or their general broker-dealer and other businesses, for proprietary accounts, for other accounts under management or to facilitate transactions for customers, including block transactions. Such trading and hedging activities may adversely affect the level of the Underlying and, therefore, make it less likely that you will receive a positive return on your investment in the notes. It is possible that we, JPMorgan Chase & Co. or our or its affiliates could receive substantial returns from these hedging and trading activities while the value of the notes declines. We, JPMorgan Chase & Co. or our or its affiliates may also issue or underwrite other securities or financial or derivative instruments with returns linked or related to the Underlying. To the extent we, JPMorgan Chase & Co. or our or its affiliates serve as issuer, agent or underwriter for such securities or financial or derivative instruments, our, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s or our or its affiliates' interests with respect to such products may be adverse to those of the holders of the notes. Introducing competing products into the marketplace in this manner could adversely affect the level of the Underlying and the value of the notes. Any of the foregoing activities described in this paragraph may reflect trading strategies that differ from, or are in direct opposition to, investors' trading and investment strategies related to the notes.

**WE, JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. OR OUR OR ITS AFFILIATES MAY PUBLISH RESEARCH, EXPRESS OPINIONS OR PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH INVESTING IN OR HOLDING THE NOTES. ANY SUCH RESEARCH, OPINIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LEVEL OF THE UNDERLYING AND THE VALUE OF THE NOTES** — We, JPMorgan Chase & Co. or our or its affiliates may publish research from time to time on financial markets and other matters that could adversely affect the level of the Underlying and the value of the notes or express opinions or provide recommendations that are inconsistent with purchasing or holding the notes. Any research, opinions or recommendations expressed by us, JPMorgan Chase & Co. or our or its affiliates may not be consistent with each other and may be modified from time to time without notice. You should make your own independent investigation of the merits of investing in the notes and the Underlying.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** — We and our affiliates play a variety of roles in connection with the issuance of the notes, including acting as calculation agent, hedging our obligations under the notes and determining the Issuer's estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date and the price, if any, at which we or our affiliates would be willing to purchase the notes from you in secondary market transactions. In performing these roles, our economic interests and those of our affiliates are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the notes. The calculation

agent will determine, among other things, all values, prices and levels required to be determined for the purposes of the notes on any relevant date or time. The calculation agent will also be responsible for determining whether a market disruption event has occurred. Any determination by the calculation agent could adversely affect the return on the notes.

**THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES ARE UNCERTAIN** — There is no direct legal authority regarding the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, and we do not plan to request a ruling from the IRS. Consequently, significant aspects of the tax treatment of the notes are uncertain, and the IRS or a court might not agree with the treatment of the notes as prepaid financial contracts that are not debt. If the IRS were successful in asserting an alternative treatment for the notes, the tax consequences of ownership and disposition of the notes could be materially and adversely affected. In addition, as described above under “Tax Consequences,” in 2007 the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of “prepaid forward contracts” and similar instruments. Any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the notes, possibly with retroactive effect. You should review carefully the section of the

accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences,” and consult your tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the notes (including possible alternative treatments and the issues presented by the 2007 notice), as well as tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

### **Use of Proceeds and Hedging**

Part of the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the notes will be used in connection with hedging our obligations under the notes through one or more of our affiliates. The hedging or trading activities of our affiliates on or prior to the Trade Date or an Averaging Date could adversely affect the level of the Underlying and, as a result, could decrease the amount you may receive on the notes at maturity.

## **Historical Information**

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index based on its daily closing levels from January 29, 2011 through January 29, 2016. The closing level of the Underlying on January 29, 2016 was 1,940.24. We obtained the historical closing levels of the Underlying below from Bloomberg L.P. and we have not participated in the preparation of, or verified, such information.

**The historical closing levels of the Underlying should not be taken as an indication of future performance and no assurance can be given as to the closing level of the Underlying on any of the Averaging Dates. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Underlying will result in the return of any of your initial investment.**

## **Supplemental Plan of Distribution**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and JPMS LLC or one of its affiliates, acting as placement agents for the notes, will receive a fee from the Issuer of \$10.00 per \$1,000 Face Amount of notes. See “Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)” in the accompanying product supplement.

## **Validity of the Notes**

In the opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, as special United States products counsel to the Issuer, when the notes offered by this pricing supplement have been executed and issued by the Issuer and authenticated by the authenticating agent, acting on behalf of the trustee, pursuant to the Indenture, and delivered against payment as contemplated herein, such notes will be valid and binding obligations of the Issuer, enforceable in accordance with their terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors’ rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability (including, without limitation, concepts of good faith, fair dealing and the lack of bad faith) and possible judicial applications giving effect to governmental actions or foreign laws affecting creditors’ rights, provided that such counsel expresses no opinion as to the effect of fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer or similar provision of applicable law on the conclusions expressed above. This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the laws of the State of New York. Insofar as this opinion involves matters governed by German law, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP has relied, without independent investigation, on the opinion of Group Legal Services of Deutsche Bank AG, dated as of January 1, 2016, filed as an exhibit to the opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, and this opinion is subject to the same assumptions, qualifications and limitations with respect to such matters as are contained in such opinion of Group Legal Services of Deutsche Bank AG. In addition, this opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the trustee’s authorization,

execution and delivery of the Indenture and the authentication of the notes by the authenticating agent and the validity, binding nature and enforceability of the Indenture with respect to the trustee, all as stated in the opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP dated as of January 1, 2016, which has been filed by the Issuer on Form 6-K dated January 4, 2016.