

StealthGas Inc.
Form 8-A12B
December 24, 2014

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

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

STEALTHGAS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Marshall Islands	N/A
(State of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
331 Kifissias Avenue Erithrea 14561 Athens, Greece	
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)	

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class to be so registered	Name of each exchange on which each class is to be registered
Preferred Stock Purchase Rights	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

If this Form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), please check the following.

If this Form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), please check the following.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: Not Applicable

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None.

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

On December 23, 2014, the Board of Directors (the Board) of StealthGas Inc., a Marshall Islands corporation (StealthGas or the Company), authorized and declared a dividend distribution of one right (a Right) for each outstanding share of the common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Common Shares), of the Company to stockholders of record at the close of business on January 8, 2015 (the Record Date). Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-thousandth of a share of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the Preferred Shares), of the Company at an exercise price of \$15.00 per one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share, subject to adjustment (the Exercise Price). The complete terms of the Rights are set forth in a Rights Agreement (the Rights Agreement), dated as of December 23, 2014, between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as rights agent (the Rights Agent).

The Rights Agreement is intended to protect the Company and its stockholders from efforts to obtain control of the Company that the Board determines are not in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and to enable all stockholders to realize the long-term value of their investment in the Company.

Generally, the Rights Agreement works by imposing a significant penalty upon any person or group (including a group of persons that are acting in concert with each other) that acquires 10% or more of the Common Shares without the approval of the Board. As a result, the overall effect of the Rights Agreement and the issuance of the Rights may be to render more difficult or discourage a merger, tender or exchange offer or other business combination involving the Company that is not approved by the Board. The Rights Agreement is not intended to interfere with any merger, tender or exchange offer or other business combination approved by the Board. Nor does the Rights Agreement prevent the Board from considering any offer that it considers to be in the best interest of its stockholders.

The following is a summary of the terms of the Rights Agreement. The summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Rights Agreement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 4.1 and incorporated herein by reference. In addition, a copy of the Statement of Designation is attached as Exhibit 3.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Distribution and Transfer of Rights; Rights Certificates

The Board has declared a dividend of one Right for each outstanding Common Share. Prior to the Distribution Date referred to below:

the Rights will be evidenced by and trade with the certificates for the Common Shares (or, with respect to any uncertificated Common Shares registered in book entry form, by notation in book entry), and no separate rights certificates will be distributed;

new certificates for Common Shares issued after the Record Date will contain a legend incorporating the Rights Agreement by reference (for uncertificated Common Shares registered in book-entry form, this legend will be contained in a notation in book-entry);

the surrender for transfer of any certificates for Common Shares (or the surrender for transfer of any uncertificated Common Shares registered in book-entry form) will also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with such Common Shares; and

the Rights will accompany any new Common Shares that are issued after the Record Date.

Distribution Date

Subject to certain exceptions specified in the Rights Agreement, the Rights will separate from the Common Shares and become exercisable following (i) the 10th business day (or such later date as may be determined by the Board) after the public announcement that a person or a group of related persons has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the Common Shares, or (ii) the 10th business day (or such later date as may be determined by the Board) after a person or a group of related persons announce or commence a tender or exchange offer that would result in ownership of 10% or more of the Common Shares by a person or a group of related persons. The person or group of related persons in the preceding sentence is referred to in the Rights Agreement as the Acquiring Person.

For purposes of the Rights Agreement, beneficial ownership is defined to include the ownership of derivative securities.

The date on which the Rights separate from the Common Shares and become exercisable is referred to as the Distribution Date.

After the Distribution Date, the Company will mail Rights certificates to the Company's stockholders as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and the Rights will become transferable apart from the Common Shares. Thereafter, such Rights certificates alone will represent the Rights.

Exempt Persons

The Rights Agreement provides that an Acquiring Person does not include the Company, any subsidiary of the Company, any employee benefit plan of the Company or any subsidiary of the Company, or any entity organized to hold Common Shares pursuant to any employee benefit plan of the Company or for the purpose of funding any such plan. In addition, certain inadvertent acquisitions will not trigger the occurrence of the Distribution Date. The Rights Agreement also provides that any person that would otherwise be deemed an Acquiring Person as of the adoption of the Rights Agreement will be exempted but only for so long as neither it nor any of its Related Persons (as defined in the Rights Agreement) acquire or are deemed to acquire, without the prior approval of the Board, beneficial ownership of any additional Common Shares following the adoption of the Rights Agreement.

Preferred Shares Purchasable Upon Exercise of Rights

After the Distribution Date, each Right will entitle the holder to purchase, for the Exercise Price, one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share having economic and other terms similar to that of one Common Share. This portion of a Preferred Share is intended to give a stockholder approximately the same dividend, voting and liquidation rights as would one Common Share, and should approximate the value of one Common Share.

Flip-In Trigger

If an Acquiring Person obtains beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the Common Shares, then each Right will entitle the holder thereof to purchase, for the Exercise Price, a number of Common Shares (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company) having a then-current market value of twice the Exercise Price. However, the Rights are not exercisable following the occurrence of the foregoing event until such time as the Rights are no longer redeemable by the Company, as further described below.

Following the occurrence of an event set forth in the preceding paragraph, all Rights that are or, under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement, were beneficially owned by an Acquiring Person or certain of its transferees will be null and void.

Flip-Over Trigger

If, after an Acquiring Person obtains 10% or more of the Common Shares, (i) the Company merges into another entity, (ii) an acquiring entity merges into the Company or (iii) the Company sells or transfers more than 50% of its assets, cash flow or earning power, then each Right (except for Rights that have previously been voided as set forth above) will entitle the holder thereof to purchase, for the Exercise Price, a number of shares of common stock of the person engaging in the transaction having a then-current market value of twice the Exercise Price.

Redemption of the Rights

The Rights will be redeemable at the Company's option for \$0.001 per Right (payable in cash, Common Shares or other consideration deemed appropriate by the Board) at any time on or prior to the 10th business day (or such later date as may be determined by the Board) after the public announcement that an Acquiring Person has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the Common Shares. Immediately upon the action of the Board ordering redemption, the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of the Rights will be to receive the \$0.001 redemption price. The redemption price will be adjusted if the Company undertakes a stock dividend or a stock split.

Exchange Provision

At any time after the date on which an Acquiring Person beneficially owns 10% or more of the Common Shares and prior to the acquisition by the Acquiring Person of 50% of the Common Shares, the Board may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by the Acquiring Person or any Related Person, which would have become void), in whole or in part, for Common Shares at an exchange ratio (subject to adjustment) of one Common Share per Right (or, if insufficient shares are available, the Company may issue preferred stock, cash, debt or equity securities, property or a combination thereof in exchange for the Rights).

Expiration of the Rights

The Rights expire at or prior to the earlier of (i) December 22, 2015 or (ii) the redemption or exchange of the Rights as described above.

Amendment of Terms of Rights Agreement and Rights

The terms of the Rights and the Rights Agreement may be amended in any respect without the consent of the holders of the Rights on or prior to the Distribution Date. Thereafter, the terms of the Rights and the Rights Agreement may be amended without the consent of the holders of Rights in order to cure any ambiguities, to shorten or lengthen any time period pursuant to the Rights Agreement or to make changes that do not adversely affect the interests of holders of the Rights.

Rights of Holders

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

Anti-Dilution Provisions

The Board may adjust the Exercise Price, the number of Preferred Shares issuable and the number of outstanding Rights to prevent dilution that may occur from a stock dividend, a stock split or a reclassification of the Preferred Shares or Common Shares.

With certain exceptions, no adjustments to the Exercise Price will be made until the cumulative adjustments amount to at least 1% of the Exercise Price. No fractional Preferred Shares will be issued and, in lieu thereof, an adjustment in cash will be made based on the current market price of the Preferred Shares.

Authority of the Board

When evaluating decisions surrounding the redemption of the Rights or any amendment to the Rights Agreement to delay or prevent the Rights from detaching and becoming exercisable as a result of a particular transaction, pursuant to the Rights Agreement, the Board, or any future Board, would not be subject to restrictions such as those commonly known as dead-hand, slow-hand, no-hand, or similar provisions.

Certain Anti-Takeover Effects

The Rights are not intended to prevent a takeover of the Company and will not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the Board. However, the Rights may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that acquires beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the outstanding Common Shares (which includes for this purpose stock referenced in derivative transactions and securities).

SEC Registration

Since the Rights are not exercisable immediately, registration of the preferred stock issuable upon exercise of the Rights with the Securities and Exchange Commission is not required until the Rights become exercisable.

Item 2. Exhibits.

Pursuant to the Instructions as to Exhibits with respect to Form 8-A, the following exhibits are being filed with the Commission in connection with this Registration Statement.

- 3.1 Statement of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of StealthGas Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Company's Report on Form 6-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 24, 2014).
- 4.1 Rights Agreement, dated as of December 23, 2014, by and between StealthGas Inc. and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Report on Form 6-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 24, 2014).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

STEALTHGAS INC.

By: /s/ Harry Vafias

Name: Harry Vafias

Title: Chief Executive Officer