

ENERGY PARTNERS LTD
Form 8-K
September 18, 2006

**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): September 14, 2006

ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

001-16179
(Commission file number)

72-1409562
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

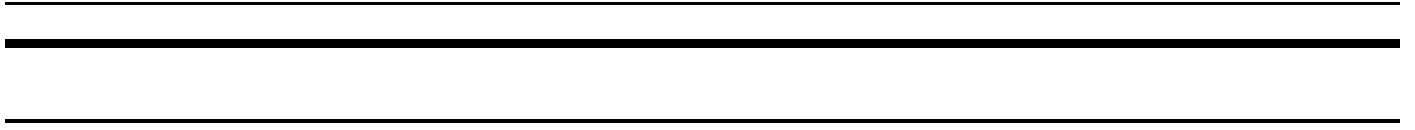
**201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 3400
New Orleans, Louisiana 70170**
(Address of principal executive offices)

(504) 569-1875
(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 filing 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 (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))



Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement

Item 3.03 below is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 3.03 Material Modification to Rights of Security Holders

On September 13, 2006, the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Energy Partners, Ltd., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a “Right”) for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (“Common Stock”). The dividend is payable on September 15, 2006 to the stockholders of record as of the close of business on September 15, 2006. The specific terms of the Rights are contained in the Rights Agreement, dated as of September 14, 2006, between the Company and Mellon Investor Services LLC, as Rights Agent (the “Rights Agreement”).

The Board has adopted this Rights Agreement to protect stockholders from coercive or otherwise unfair takeover tactics. In general terms, the Rights impose a significant penalty upon any person or group which acquires 10% or more of the outstanding Common Stock without the prior approval of the Board. The Company, its subsidiaries, employee benefits plans of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, and any entity holding Common Stock for or pursuant to the terms of any such plans will be excepted.

For those interested in the specific terms of the Rights Agreement, the following summary description is provided. Please note, however, that this description is only a summary, and is not complete, and should be read together with the entire Rights Agreement, which has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to this Registration Statement and is incorporated herein by reference. A copy of the Rights Agreement is available free of charge, on request from any stockholder, from the Company.

The Rights. Our Board authorized the issuance of a Right with respect to each outstanding share of common stock on September 15, 2006. The Rights will initially trade with, and will be inseparable from, the common stock. The Rights are evidenced only by certificates that represent shares of common stock. New Rights will accompany any new shares of common stock we issue after September 15, 2006 until the Distribution Date described below.

Exercise Price. Each Right will allow its holder to purchase from our Company one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (“Preferred Share”) for \$80, once the Rights become exercisable. This portion of a Preferred Share will give the stockholder approximately the same dividend, voting, and liquidation rights as would one share of common stock. Prior to exercise, the Right does not give its holder any dividend, voting, or liquidation rights.

Exercisability. The Rights will not be exercisable until

- 10 days after the public announcement that a person or group has become an “Acquiring Person” by obtaining beneficial ownership of 10% or more of our outstanding common stock, or, if earlier,
- 10 business days (or a later date determined by our Board before any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person) after a person or group begins a tender or exchange offer which, if completed, would result in that person or group becoming an Acquiring Person (except that in the case of the proposed merger with Stone Energy Corporation the Rights are not exercisable and in the case of the pending tender offer by ATS, Inc. the Board has deferred the exercisability of the Rights until ATS, Inc. or any other person becomes an Acquiring Person or the Board decides otherwise).

We refer to the date when the Rights become exercisable as the "Distribution Date." Until that date, the common stock certificates will also evidence the Rights, and any transfer of shares of common stock will constitute a transfer of Rights. After that date, the Rights will separate from the common stock and be evidenced by book-entry credits or by Rights certificates that we will mail to all eligible holders of common stock. Any Rights held by an Acquiring Person are void and may not be exercised.

Consequences of a Person or Group Becoming an Acquiring Person.

- **Flip In.** If a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, all holders of Rights except the Acquiring Person may, for \$80, purchase shares of our common stock with a market value of \$160, based on the market price of the common stock prior to such acquisition.
- **Flip Over.** If our Company is later acquired in a merger or similar transaction after the Rights Distribution Date, all holders of Rights except the Acquiring Person may, for \$80, purchase shares of the surviving or acquiring corporation with a market value of \$160 based on the market price of the acquiring corporation's stock, prior to such merger.

Preferred Share Provisions.

Each one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share, if issued:

- will not be redeemable.
- will entitle holders to quarterly dividend payments of \$.01 per share, or an amount equal to the dividend paid on one share of common stock, whichever is greater.
- will entitle holders upon liquidation either to receive \$1 per share or an amount equal to the payment made on one share of common stock, whichever is greater.
- will have the same voting power as one share of common stock.
- if shares of our common stock are exchanged via merger, consolidation, or a similar transaction, will entitle holders to a per share payment equal to the payment made on one share of common stock.

The value of one one-hundredth interest in a Preferred Share should approximate the value of one share of common stock.

Expiration. The Rights will expire on March 14, 2007, unless amended.

Redemption. Our Board may redeem the Rights for \$.01 per Right at any time before any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person. If our Board redeems any Rights, it must redeem all of the Rights. Once the Rights are redeemed, the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the redemption price of \$.01 per Right. The redemption price will be adjusted if we have a stock split or stock dividends of our common stock.

Exchange. After a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, but before an Acquiring Person owns 50% or more of our outstanding common stock, our Board may extinguish the Rights by exchanging one share of common stock or an equivalent security for each Right, other than Rights held by the Acquiring Person.

Anti-Dilution Provisions. Our Board may adjust the purchase price of the Preferred Shares, 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, a reclassification of the Preferred Shares or common stock. No adjustments to the Exercise Price of less than 1% will be made.

Amendments. The terms of the Rights Agreement may be amended by our Board without the consent of the holders of the Rights. After a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, our Board may not amend the agreement in a way that adversely affects holders of the Rights.

The Rights Agreement, specifying the terms of the Rights, is filed as an exhibit hereto and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibit. The following is filed as an exhibit herewith:

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| 4.1 | Energy Partners, Ltd. and Mellon Investor Services LLC Rights Agreement, dated September 14, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Form 8-A filed September 14, 2006). |

SIGNATURES

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

Dated: September 15, 2006

ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.

By: /s/ John H. Peper
John H. Peper
Executive Vice President, General
Counsel and Corporate Secretary