

EQUITY RESIDENTIAL
Form S-3ASR
November 18, 2011
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2011

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

EQUITY RESIDENTIAL

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 400

13-3675988
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

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Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 474-1300

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

David J. Neithercut

President and Chief Executive Officer

Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 400

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 474-1300

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Gregory W. Hayes

DLA Piper LLP (US)

203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1900

Chicago, Illinois 60601

Telephone: (312) 312-368-4000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Shares of Beneficial Interest, \$0.01 par value	4,850,000	\$(1)	\$(1)	\$0(1)

- (1) As discussed below, pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, this Registration Statement only includes unsold securities that have been previously registered. Accordingly, there is no registration fee due in connection with this Registration Statement.

Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, the securities registered pursuant to this Registration Statement consist of 4,850,000 unsold common shares previously registered on the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-156153), which we refer to as the Prior Registration Statement. In connection with the registration of such unsold common shares on the Prior Registration Statement, the Registrant paid a registration fee of \$5,524, which will continue to be applied to such unsold securities. Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6), the offering of the unsold securities registered under the Prior Registration Statement will be deemed terminated as of the date of effectiveness of this Registration Statement.

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PROSPECTUS

EQUITY RESIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION REINVESTMENT AND SHARE PURCHASE PLAN

4,850,000 Common Shares

The Distribution Reinvestment and Share Purchase Plan (the Plan) of Equity Residential (the Company) provides holders of record and beneficial owners of common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, of the Company (the Common Shares), and preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, and depositary shares representing interests therein (collectively, the Preferred Shares), with a simple and convenient method of investing cash distributions in additional Common Shares. Common Shares may also be purchased on a monthly basis with optional cash payments made by participants in the Plan and interested new investors, not currently shareholders of the Company, at the market price of the Common Shares less a discount ranging between 0% and 5% (the Discount) (as determined in accordance with the Plan). Common Shares purchased under the Plan may, at the option of the Company, be directly issued by the Company or purchased by the Company's transfer agent in the open market using participants' funds.

Enrollment in the Plan is entirely voluntary and participants in the Plan may terminate their participation at any time. A broker, bank or other nominee may reinvest distributions and make optional cash payments on behalf of beneficial owners. Those holders of Common Shares who do not participate in the Plan will receive cash distributions, as declared, in the usual manner.

A participant in the Plan may obtain additional Common Shares by:

reinvesting distributions relating to all or part of the Common Shares and/or Preferred Shares held by the participant.

making optional cash payments of not less than \$250 and up to \$5,000 per month whether or not distributions on Common Shares and/or Preferred Shares held by the participant are being reinvested.

making optional cash payments in excess of \$5,000 per month with the permission of the Company whether or not distributions on Common Shares and/or Preferred Shares held by the participant are being reinvested.

Optional cash payments in excess of \$5,000 may be made only pursuant to an accepted request for waiver (Request for Waiver). It is expected that a portion of the Common Shares available for issuance under the Plan will be issued pursuant to such waivers. Each month, at least three business days prior to the record date relating to optional cash payments for such month, the Company will establish the threshold price, if any, applicable to optional cash payments that exceed \$5,000. The price to be paid for Common Shares purchased under the Plan in excess of \$5,000 pursuant to the optional cash payment feature of the Plan will be the applicable market price less the Discount.

There is no pre-established maximum limit applicable to optional cash payments that may be made pursuant to accepted Requests for Waiver. Optional cash payments that do not exceed \$5,000 and the reinvestment of distributions in additional Common Shares will not be subject to the threshold price, if any. Participants in the Plan may request that any or all of their shares held in Plan accounts be sold by the Plan Administrator.

To the extent that Common Shares issued hereunder are authorized but previously unissued shares rather than shares acquired in the open market, the Plan will raise additional capital for the Company. The Company intends to issue such shares from time to time and, therefore, the Plan is expected to raise capital for the Company. Each month a portion of the Common Shares available for issuance under the Plan may be purchased by participants (including brokers or dealers) who, in connection with any resales of such Common Shares, may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). These sales will be effected through the Company's ability to waive limits applicable to the amounts which participants may invest pursuant to the Plan's optional cash payment feature.

This Prospectus relates to 4,850,000 Common Shares offered hereby and registered for sale under the Plan. The Common Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EQR. Our principal executive offices are located at Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60606 and our telephone number is (312) 474-1300.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before buying our securities, you should read and consider the risk factors included in our periodic reports, in the prospectus supplements or any free writing prospectus relating to any specific offering, and in other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. See [Where You Can Find More Information About Us](#) and [Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements](#).

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is November 18, 2011.

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We have not authorized any person to give any information or to make any representations in connection with this offering other than those contained or incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been so authorized. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date hereof, that the information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date, or that any information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act. By using a shelf registration statement, we may, at any time and from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus or in any applicable prospectus supplement in one or more offerings. The exhibits to the registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading Where You Can Find More Information About Us.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information About Us in this prospectus.

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In this prospectus, the Company, we, us and our refer to Equity Residential, a Maryland real estate investment trust, and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, including ERP Operating Limited Partnership, its operating partnership (the Operating Partnership).

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US

This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the related registration statement. We have omitted parts of the registration statement in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement on Form S-3 of which this prospectus forms a part, including its exhibits.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C., 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to you at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov> and at our website at <http://www.equityresidential.com>. The contents of our website are not deemed to be part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede information in prior filings. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus our documents listed below (other than information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 and 7.01 of Form 8-K and any related exhibits):

- a. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 (File No. 001-12252).
- b. Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011 (File No. 001-12252).
- c. Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 3, 2011 (two reports), April 8, 2011, May 23, 2011, June 22, 2011, July 12, 2011, July 14, 2011, July 18, 2011, September 27, 2011 and November 10, 2011 (File No. 001-12252).
- d. Description of our common shares contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A/A dated August 10, 1993.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), after the date of this prospectus will also be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be a part hereof from the date of filing those documents. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including, but not limited to, any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

Equity Residential

Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 400

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Attention: Investor Relations

Telephone number: (888) 879-6356

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference as described under [Where You Can Find More Information About Us](#) contain certain information that we intend to be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act. These forward-looking statements relate to such things as our anticipated future economic performance, our plans and objectives for future operations and projections of revenue and other financial items, which can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as may, will, should, expect, anticipate, estimate or continue or the negative thereof or other variations thereof in comparable terms.

Actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by these forward-looking statements as a result of many factors. The cautionary statements under the caption [Risk Factors](#) contained in our filings with the SEC incorporated by reference, and other similar statements contained in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference herein and therein, identify important factors with respect to forward-looking statements, including certain risks and uncertainties, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial also may adversely affect us. Should any known or unknown risks and uncertainties develop into actual events, those developments could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the results and events contemplated by the forward-looking information contained in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference or deemed incorporated by reference herein will in fact transpire. Potential investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements. All subsequent written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements.

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EQUITY RESIDENTIAL

We are a Maryland real estate investment trust (REIT) formed in March 1993 and are an S&P 500 company focused on the acquisition, development and management of high quality apartment properties in top United States growth markets. We have elected to be taxed as a REIT. Our corporate headquarters are located in Chicago, Illinois and we also operate property management offices in each of our markets.

Our executive offices are located at Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60606 and our telephone number is (312) 474-1300.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES

The summary of the terms of the Common Shares set forth below does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Articles of Restatement of Declaration of Trust of the Company dated December 9, 2004 (Declaration of Trust), as amended and/or restated from time to time, and the Seventh Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, as adopted on December 14, 2010 (Bylaws), as amended and/or restated from time to time, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Our Declaration of Trust provides that we may issue up to 1,100,000,000 shares of beneficial interest, consisting of 1,000,000,000 Common Shares and 100,000,000 Preferred Shares. As of September 30, 2011, 296,620,833 Common Shares and 1,600,000 Preferred Shares were issued and outstanding.

All Common Shares offered hereby will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of any other shares of beneficial interest and to the provisions of our Declaration of Trust regarding excess shares (as defined herein), holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive distributions if, as and when authorized and declared by the Board of Trustees out of assets legally available therefor and to share ratably in the assets of the Company legally available for distribution to its shareholders in the event of its liquidation, dissolution or winding-up after payment of, or adequate provision for, all known debts and liabilities of the Company. The Company currently pays regular quarterly distributions.

Subject to the provisions of our Declaration of Trust regarding excess shares, each outstanding Common Share entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of Trustees, and, except as otherwise required by law or except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares of beneficial interest, the holders of such Common Shares will possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of Trustees, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares can elect all of the Trustees then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares of beneficial interest, if any, will not be able to elect any Trustees.

Holders of Common Shares have no conversion, sinking fund, redemption or preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of the Company. Subject to the provisions of our Declaration of Trust regarding excess shares, Common Shares have equal distribution, liquidation and other rights, and have no preference, exchange or, except as expressly required by the Maryland REIT law, appraisal rights.

Pursuant to the Maryland REIT law, a REIT generally cannot dissolve, amend its declaration of trust or merge, unless approved by the affirmative vote or written consent of shareholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter unless a lesser percentage (but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter) is set forth in the REIT's declaration of trust. Our Declaration of Trust provides that a merger, and amendments to the Declaration of Trust in connection with a merger, may be approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of the shares then outstanding and entitled to vote thereon. A declaration of trust may permit the trustees by a two-thirds vote to amend the declaration of trust from time to time to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code), or the Maryland REIT law without the affirmative vote or written consent of the shareholders. Our Declaration of Trust permits such action by the Board of Trustees.

SUMMARY OF PLAN

The Plan provides investors with a convenient and attractive method of investing cash distributions and optional cash payments in additional Common Shares without payment of any brokerage commission or service charge. The price to be paid for Common Shares purchased under the Plan will be a price reflecting 100% of the Market Price (as defined in Question 12) for the reinvestment of cash distributions; and a price reflecting a discount ranging between

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0% and 5% (the Discount) from the Market Price for the investment of optional cash payments to the extent shares are purchased directly from the Company. The Discount is subject to change (but will not vary from the range of between 0% and 5%) from time to time or discontinuance at the Company's discretion after a review of current market conditions, the level of participation in the Plan and the Company's current and projected capital needs. Common Shares purchased under the Plan may, at the option of the Company, be directly issued by the Company or purchased by the Company's transfer agent in the open market using participants' funds.

Subject to the availability of Common Shares registered for issuance under the Plan, there is no minimum or maximum limitation on the amount of distributions a Participant (as defined in Question 1) may reinvest under the Plan. See Question 2.

Participants electing to invest optional cash payments in additional Common Shares are subject to a minimum per month purchase limit of \$250 and a maximum per month purchase limit of \$5,000 (subject to waiver). See Question 17. Optional cash payments in excess of \$5,000 may be made only upon acceptance by the Company of a completed Request for Waiver form from a Participant. See Question 17. Each month, at least three business days prior to each record date (as defined in Question 18), the Company will establish the Discount and Threshold Price, if any (each as defined in Question 17), applicable to optional cash payments that exceed \$5,000. The Discount, which may vary each month, will be established in the Company's sole discretion after a review of current market conditions, the level of participation in the Plan and the Company's current and projected capital needs. With respect to optional cash payments that exceed \$5,000 only, for each Trading Day of the related Pricing Period (each as defined in Question 11) on which the Threshold Price is not satisfied, one-tenth of a Participant's optional cash payment will be returned without interest. Optional cash payments that do not exceed \$5,000 and the reinvestment of distributions in additional Common Shares will not be subject to the Threshold Price, if any. Optional cash payments of less than \$250 and that portion of any optional cash payment which exceeds the maximum monthly purchase limit of \$5,000, unless such limit has been waived, are subject to return to the Participant without interest. Participants may request that any or all shares held in the Plan be sold by the Plan Administrator on behalf of such Participants. See Question 27.

Subject to the availability of Common Shares registered for issuance under the Plan, there is no total maximum number of shares that can be issued pursuant to the reinvestment of distributions and no pre-established maximum limit applies to optional cash payments that may be made pursuant to Requests for Waiver. As of the date hereof, 4,850,000 Common Shares have been registered and are available for sale under the Plan.

The Company expects to grant Requests for Waiver to financial intermediaries, including brokers and dealers, and other Participants in the future. Grants of Requests for Waiver will be made in the sole discretion of the Company based on a variety of factors, which may include: the Company's current and projected capital needs, the alternatives available to the Company to meet those needs, prevailing market prices for Common Shares, general economic and market conditions, expected aberrations in the price or trading volume of the Common Shares, the potential disruption of the price of the Common Shares by a financial intermediary, the number of Common Shares held by the Participant submitting the waiver request, the past actions of a Participant under the Plan, the aggregate amount of optional cash payments for which such waivers have been submitted and the administrative constraints associated with granting such waivers. If such Requests for Waiver are granted, a portion of the Common Shares available for issuance under the Plan will be purchased by Participants (including brokers or dealers) who, in connection with any resales of such Common Shares, may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act. To the extent that Requests for Waiver are granted, it is expected that a greater number of Common Shares will be issued under the optional cash payment feature of the Plan as opposed to the distribution reinvestment feature of the Plan.

Financial intermediaries may purchase a significant portion of the Common Shares issued pursuant to the optional cash payment feature of the Plan. The Company does not have any formal or informal understanding with any such organizations and, therefore, the extent of such financial intermediaries' participation under the Plan cannot be estimated at this time. Participants that are financial intermediaries that acquire Common Shares under the Plan with a view to distribution of such Common Shares or that offer or sell Common Shares for the Company in connection with the Plan may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act.

From time to time, financial intermediaries, including brokers and dealers, may engage in positioning transactions in order to benefit from the discount from the Market Price of the Common Shares acquired through the cash payment feature of the Plan. Such transactions may cause fluctuations in the price or trading volume of the Common Shares. Financial intermediaries which engage in positioning transactions may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act. The Plan is intended for the benefit of investors in the Company and not for individuals or investors who engage in transactions which may cause aberrations in the price or trading volume of the

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Common Shares.

THE PLAN

The Plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Company on May 15, 1997 and amended on July 14, 2003 and December 16, 2008. The following questions and answers explain and constitute the Plan. Shareholders who do not participate in the Plan will receive cash distributions, as declared, and paid in the usual manner.

PURPOSE

1. What is the purpose of the Plan?

The primary purpose of the Plan is to provide eligible holders of Common Shares and Preferred Shares of the Company and interested new investors (Participants) with a convenient and simple method of increasing their investment in the Company by investing cash distributions in additional Common Shares without payment of any brokerage commission or service charge, to the extent shares are purchased directly from the Company, and by investing optional cash payments in additional Common Shares without payment of any brokerage commission or service charge. See Question 5 for a description of the holders who are eligible to participate in the Plan. The Plan may also be used by the Company to raise additional capital through the sale each month of a portion of the Common Shares available for issuance under the Plan to current holders and interested new investors (including brokers or dealers) who, in connection with any resales of such shares, may be deemed to be underwriters. These sales will be effected through the Company's ability to waive limitations applicable to the amounts which Participants may invest pursuant to the Plan's optional cash payment feature. Common Shares purchased under the Plan may, at the option of the Company, be directly issued by the Company or purchased by the Company's transfer agent in the open market using Participants' funds.

See Question 17 for information concerning limitations applicable to optional cash payments and certain of the factors considered by the Company in granting waivers. To the extent shares are purchased from the Company under the Plan, it will receive additional funds to purchase additional multifamily properties and for working capital purposes. The Plan is intended for the benefit of investors in the Company and not for individuals or investors who engage in transactions which may cause aberrations in the price or trading volume of Common Shares. From time to time, financial intermediaries may engage in positioning transactions in order to benefit from the discount from the Market Price of the Common Shares acquired through the reinvestment of distributions or optional cash payments under the Plan. Such transactions may cause fluctuations in the price or trading volume of the Common Shares. The Company reserves the right to modify, suspend or terminate participation in the Plan by otherwise eligible holders of Common Shares, Preferred Shares or interested new investors in order to eliminate practices which are, in the sole discretion of the Company, not consistent with the purposes or operation of the Plan or which adversely affect the price of the Common Shares.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPANTS

2. What options are available to enrolled Participants?

Eligible holders of Common Shares and Preferred Shares may elect to have cash distributions paid on all or a portion of their Common Shares or Preferred Shares automatically reinvested in additional Common Shares. Cash distributions are paid on the Common Shares when and as declared by the Company's Board of Trustees. Subject to the availability of Common Shares registered for issuance under the Plan, there is no minimum limitation on the amount of distributions a Participant may reinvest under the distribution reinvestment feature of the Plan.

Each month, Participants may also elect to invest optional cash payments in additional Common Shares, subject to a minimum per month purchase limit of \$250 and a maximum per month purchase limit of \$5,000, subject to waiver. See Question 17 for information concerning limitations applicable to optional cash payments and the availability of waivers with respect to such limitations. Participants may make optional cash payments each month even if distributions on their Common Shares are not being reinvested and whether or not a distribution has been declared.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Plan?

Advantages:

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(a) The Plan provides Participants with the opportunity to reinvest cash distributions paid on all or a portion of their Common Shares or Preferred Shares in additional Common Shares without payment of any fees to the extent

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shares are purchased directly from the Company.

(b) The Plan provides Participants with the opportunity to make monthly investments of optional cash payments, subject to minimum and maximum amounts, for the purchase of additional Common Shares without payment of any fees if such Common Shares are purchased directly from the Company, which purchases may be made at a Discount to the Market Price at the discretion of the Company.

(c) Subject to the availability of Common Shares registered for issuance under the Plan, all cash distributions paid on Participants' Common Shares can be fully invested in additional Common Shares because the Plan permits fractional shares to be credited to Plan accounts. Distributions on such fractional shares, as well as on whole shares, will also be reinvested in additional shares which will be credited to Plan accounts.

(d) The Plan Administrator, at no charge to Participants, provides for the safekeeping of the Common Shares credited to each Plan account.

(e) Periodic statements reflecting all current activity, including share purchases and latest Plan account balance, simplify Participants' record keeping. See Question 22 for information concerning reports to Participants.

Disadvantages:

(a) No interest will be paid by the Company or the Plan Administrator on distributions or optional cash payments held pending reinvestment or investment. See Question 11. In addition, optional cash payments in excess of \$5,000 may be subject to return to the Participant without interest in the event that the Threshold Price, if any, is not met for any Trading Day during the related Pricing Period. See Question 17.

(b) With respect to optional cash payments, the actual number of shares to be issued to a Participant's Plan account will not be determined until after the end of the relevant Pricing Period. Therefore, during the Pricing Period Participants will not know the actual number of shares they have purchased.

(c) With respect to optional cash payments, the Market Price may exceed the price at which Common Shares are trading after the Investment Date.

(d) Because optional cash payments must be received by the Plan Administrator prior to the related Pricing Period, such payments may be exposed to changes in market conditions for a longer period of time than in the case of typical secondary market transactions. In addition, optional cash payments once received by the Plan Administrator will not be returned to Participants unless a written request is directed to the Plan Administrator at least two business days prior to the record date for the Investment Date with respect to which optional cash payments have been delivered by such Participant. See Questions 18 and 20. A business day means any day other than Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday on which the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is closed or a day on which the Plan Administrator is authorized or obligated by law to close.

(e) Resales of Common Shares credited to a Participant's account under the Plan will involve a nominal fee per transaction paid to the Plan Administrator (if such resale is made by the Plan Administrator at the request of a Participant), a per share processing fee and any applicable share transfer taxes on the resales. See Questions 21 and 27.

(f) Prospective investors in Common Shares should carefully consider the matters described under Risk Factors in filings with the SEC incorporated by reference, and other similar statements contained in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference herein and therein prior to making an investment in the Common Shares.

ADMINISTRATION

4. Who administers the Plan?

Computershare Trust Company, N.A., which we refer to as the Plan Administrator, administers the Plan. As agent for the Participants, the Plan Administrator keeps records, sends statements of account to Participants and performs other duties relating to the Plan. See Question 22 for information concerning reports to Participants. We pay all costs of administering the Plan. Our common shares purchased under the Plan are issued in the name of the Plan Administrator or its nominee, as agent for the Participants. As record holder of the shares held in Participants' accounts under the Plan, the Plan Administrator will receive distributions on all shares held by it on the applicable record date, will credit such distributions to the Participants' accounts on the basis of whole and fractional shares held in these accounts, and will reinvest certain distributions

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in Common Shares as directed by each Participant. The Plan

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Administrator makes all purchases of Common Shares under the Plan.

The Plan Administrator also acts as distribution disbursing agent, transfer agent and registrar for the Company's Common Shares. The Plan Administrator may be reached at the following address and telephone number to obtain information about the Plan:

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Attention: Equity Residential's Distribution Reinvestment and Share Purchase Plan

P.O. Box 43078

Providence, RI 02940-3078

1-800-733-5001

Participants should include their account number(s) and include a reference to Equity Residential in any correspondence.

You can obtain information about your account over the Internet through Investor Centre on the Plan Administrator's web site, www.computershare.com/investor. The information on or linked to the Plan Administrator's web site is not a part of and is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement.

In the event that the Plan Administrator resigns or otherwise ceases to act as plan administrator, the Company will appoint a new plan administrator to administer the Plan.

PARTICIPATION

For purposes of this section, responses will generally be based upon the method by which the holder holds his or her Common Shares or Preferred Shares. Generally, holders are either Record Owners or Beneficial Owners. A Record Owner is a holder who owns Common Shares or Preferred Shares in his or her own name. A Beneficial Owner is a holder who beneficially owns Common Shares or Preferred Shares that are registered in a name other than his or her own name (for example, the shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee). A Record Owner may participate directly in the Plan, whereas a Beneficial Owner will have to either become a Record Owner by having one or more shares transferred into his or her own name or coordinate his or her participation in the Plan through the broker, bank or other nominee in whose name the Beneficial Owner's shares are held. If a Beneficial Owner who desires to become a Participant encounters any difficulties in coordinating his or her participation in the Plan with his or her broker, bank or other nominee, he or she should call the Company's Investor Relations Department at (888) 879-6356.

5. Who is eligible to participate?

All Record Owners or Beneficial Owners of at least one Common Share or Preferred Share are eligible to participate in the Plan. A Record Owner may participate directly in the Plan. A Beneficial Owner must either become a Record Owner by having one or more shares transferred into his or her own name or arrange with the broker, bank or other nominee who is the record holder to participate on his or her behalf. In addition, interested new investors may participate in the optional cash payment feature of the Plan. See Question 6.

To facilitate participation by Beneficial Owners, the Company has made arrangements with the Plan Administrator to reinvest distributions, on a per distribution basis, and accept optional cash payments under the Plan by record holders such as brokers, banks and other nominees, on behalf of beneficial owners. See Question 6.

The Company may terminate, by written notice, at any time any Participant's individual participation in the Plan if such participation would be in violation of the restrictions contained in the Declaration of Trust or Bylaws. Such restrictions prohibit any person or group of persons from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, ownership of a number of shares of beneficial interest of any class or series of shares of beneficial interest of the Company in excess of 5.0% of the number or value of the outstanding shares of such class or series. The meanings ascribed to the terms group and ownership may cause a person who individually owns less than 5.0% of the shares outstanding to be deemed to be holding shares in excess of the foregoing limitation. The Declaration of Trust provides that in the event a person acquires shares of beneficial interest in excess of the foregoing limitation, the excess shares shall be transferred to a trustee for the benefit of a charitable beneficiary designated by the Company pursuant to the Declaration of Trust. Under the Declaration of Trust, certain transfers or attempted transfers that would jeopardize the

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qualification of the Company as a REIT for tax purposes may be void to the fullest extent permitted by law.

6. How does an eligible shareholder or interested new investor participate?

Record Owners may join the Plan by completing and signing the enrollment form included with the Plan (the

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Enrollment Form) and returning it to the Plan Administrator. A non-postage-paid return envelope is provided for this purpose. Enrollment Forms may be obtained at any time by written request to Computershare Trust Company, N.A., Attention: Equity Residential's Distribution Reinvestment and Share Purchase Plan, P.O. Box 43078, Providence, RI 02940-3078 or by telephoning the Plan Administrator at 1-800-733-5001.

Beneficial Owners who wish to join the Plan must instruct their broker, bank or other nominee to complete and sign the Enrollment Form included with the Plan. The broker, bank or other nominee will forward the completed Enrollment Form to its securities depository and the securities depository will provide the Plan Administrator with the information necessary to allow the Beneficial Owner to participate in the Plan. See Question 8 for a discussion of the Broker and Nominee form (the B&N Form), which is required to be used for optional cash payments of a Beneficial Owner whose broker, bank or other nominee holds the Beneficial Owner's shares in the name of a major securities depository. See also Question 16.

If a Record Owner or the broker, bank or other nominee on behalf of a Beneficial Owner submits a properly executed Enrollment Form without electing an investment option, such Enrollment Form will be deemed to indicate the intention of such Record Owner or Beneficial Owner, as the case may be, to apply all cash distributions and optional cash payments, if applicable, toward the purchase of additional Common Shares. See Question 7 for investment options.

Interested new investors may join the Plan by requesting a copy of the Plan from the Plan Administrator by telephoning the Plan Administrator at 1-800-733-5001. Upon receipt of the Plan, interested new investors must complete and sign the Enrollment Form included with the Plan and return it to the Plan Administrator. A non-postage-paid return envelope will be provided for this purpose.

Both Record Owners and interested new investors may join the Plan by going to the Plan Administrator's web site, www.computershare.com/investor, and following the instructions provided.

At any time, Participants may also authorize a one-time online bank account debit. This can be performed by going to the Plan Administrator's web site, www.computershare.com/investor, and authorizing the Plan Administrator to debit your U.S. bank account (\$50 minimum/\$5,000 maximum for Record Owners and \$250 minimum/\$5,000 maximum for new investors). Please refer to the online confirmation for your account debit date and investment date.

When enrolling in the Plan, interested new investors may:

- 1) enclose a check for at least \$250 but not more than \$5,000 unless accompanied by an approved Request for Waiver from the Company (drawn against a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. dollars) for the initial investment, or
- 2) authorize automatic monthly deductions as a way to make the initial investment in place of submitting a check with their Enrollment Form. Interested investors should note, however, that automatic deductions would continue indefinitely, beyond the initial investment, until the Plan Administrator is notified to terminate such deductions. Interested investors may also go to the Plan Administrator's web site, www.computershare.com/investor, and authorize automatic monthly deductions.

7. What does the Enrollment Form provide?

The Enrollment Form appoints the Plan Administrator as agent for the Participant and directs the Company to pay to the Plan Administrator each Participant's cash distributions on all or a specified number of Common Shares or Preferred Shares owned by the Participant on the applicable record date (Participating Shares), as well as on all whole and fractional Common Shares credited to a Participant's Plan account (Plan Shares). The Enrollment Form directs the Plan Administrator to purchase on the Investment Date (as defined in Question 11) additional Common Shares with such distributions and optional cash payments, if any, made by the Participant. See Question 8 for a discussion of the B&N Form which is required to be used for optional cash payments of a Beneficial Owner whose broker, bank or other nominee holds the Beneficial Owner's shares in the name of a major securities depository. Distributions will continue to be reinvested on the number of Participating Shares and on all Plan Shares until the Participant specifies otherwise by contacting the Plan Administrator, withdraws from the Plan (see Questions 26 and 27), or the Plan is terminated. See Question 6 for additional information about the Enrollment Form.

The Enrollment Form provides for the purchase of additional Common Shares through the following investment options:

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(1) If the Full Distribution Reinvestment option is elected, the Plan Administrator will apply all cash distributions

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on all Common Shares or Preferred Shares then or subsequently registered in the Participant's name, and all cash distributions on all Plan Shares, together with any optional cash payments, toward the purchase of additional Common Shares.

(2) If the Partial Distribution Reinvestment option is elected, the Plan Administrator will apply the cash distributions on a specified number of the Participant's Common Shares or Preferred Shares to purchase additional Common Shares. The Plan Administrator will pay the Participant cash distributions on the remaining Common Shares or Preferred Shares, when and if declared by the Board of Trustees. The Participant may also invest by making optional cash payments of at least \$250 per payment up to a maximum of \$5,000 per month.

(3) If the All Cash option is elected, the Plan Administrator will pay the Participant cash distributions on all of the Participant's Common Shares and Preferred Shares. The Participant may invest in additional Common Shares by making optional cash payments of at least \$250 per payment up to a maximum of \$5,000 per month.

Each Participant may select any one of these three options. If a Participant returns a properly executed Enrollment Form to the Administrator without electing an investment option, the Participant will be enrolled as having selected Full Distribution Reinvestment.

Participants may change their investment options at any time by requesting a new Enrollment Form and returning it to the Plan Administrator at the address set forth in Question 37. See Question 11 for the effective date for any change in investment options.

8. What does the B&N Form provide?

The B&N Form provides the only means by which a broker, bank or other nominee holding shares of a Beneficial Owner in the name of a major securities depository may invest optional cash payments on behalf of such Beneficial Owner. A B&N Form must be delivered to the Plan Administrator each time such broker, bank or other nominee transmits optional cash payments on behalf of a Beneficial Owner. B&N Forms will be furnished at any time upon request of the Company's Investor Relations Department at (888) 879-6356.

Prior to submitting the B&N Form, the broker, bank or other nominee for a Beneficial Owner must submit a completed Enrollment Form on behalf of the Beneficial Owner. See Questions 6 and 7.

THE B&N FORM AND APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR NO LATER THAN THE APPLICABLE RECORD DATE OR THE OPTIONAL CASH PAYMENT WILL NOT BE INVESTED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING INVESTMENT DATE.

9. Is partial participation possible under the Plan?

Yes. Record Owners or the broker, bank or other nominee for Beneficial Owners may designate on the Enrollment Form a number of shares for which distributions are to be reinvested. Distributions will thereafter be reinvested only on the number of shares specified, and the Record Owner or Beneficial Owner, as the case may be, will continue to receive cash distributions on the remainder of the shares. See Question 7.

10. When may an eligible shareholder or interested new investor join the Plan?

A Record Owner, Beneficial Owner or interested new investor may join the Plan at any time. Once in the Plan, a Participant remains in the Plan until he or she withdraws from the Plan, the Company terminates his or her participation in the Plan or the Company terminates the Plan. See Question 27 regarding withdrawal from the Plan.

11. When will distributions be reinvested and/or optional cash payments be invested?

When shares are purchased from the Company, such purchases will be made on the Investment Date in each month. The Investment Date with respect to Common Shares acquired directly from the Company and relating to a distribution reinvestment will be either the distribution payment date relating to the Common Shares, or, if a distribution payment date relating to any series of Preferred Shares is later in the month than such Common Share distribution payment date, such later distribution payment date relating to such Preferred Shares, each as declared by the Board of Trustees, as the case may be (unless such date is not a business day in which case it is the first business day immediately thereafter) or, in the case of open market purchases, no later than ten business days following the distribution payment date. The Investment Date with respect to Common Shares acquired directly from the Company and relating to optional cash payments of \$5,000 or less shall be the last day (or Pricing Period conclusion date) of a Pricing Period (as defined below). The Investment Date with respect to Common Shares acquired directly from the Company and relating to an optional cash payment of greater than \$5,000 made pursuant to a Request for Waiver will

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be on each day on which the NYSE is open for business in a Pricing Period, on which date 1/10 of a Participant's optional cash payment in each month will be invested, or, in the case of open market purchases, no later than 30 days from the corresponding Record Date. With respect to all optional cash payments, regardless of the amount being invested, the period encompassing the ten consecutive Investment Dates in each month constitutes the relevant Pricing Period. See Schedule A attached hereto for a list of the expected Pricing Period commencement dates and conclusion dates (with the Pricing Period conclusion date being the Investment Date for optional cash payments of \$5,000 or less).

When open market purchases are made by the Plan Administrator, such purchases may be made on any securities exchange where the shares are traded, in the over-the-counter market or by negotiated transactions, and may be subject to such terms with respect to price, delivery and other matters as agreed to by the Plan Administrator. Neither the Company nor any Participant shall have any authorization or power to direct the time or price at which shares will be purchased or the selection of the broker or dealer through or from whom purchases are to be made by the Plan Administrator. However, when open market purchases are made by the Plan Administrator, the Plan Administrator shall use its reasonable best efforts to purchase the shares at the lowest possible price.

If the Enrollment Form is received prior to the record date for a distribution payment, the election to reinvest distributions will begin with that distribution payment. If the Enrollment Form is received on or after any such record date, reinvestment of distributions will begin on the distribution payment date following the next record date if the Participant is still a Shareholder of record. Record dates for payment of distributions normally precede payment dates by approximately two weeks.

See Question 17 for information concerning limitations on the minimum and maximum amounts of optional cash payments that may be made each month and Question 18 for information as to when optional cash payments must be received to be invested on each Investment Date.

Shares will be allocated and credited to Participants' accounts as follows: (1) shares purchased from the Company will be allocated and credited as of the appropriate Investment Date; and (2) shares purchased in market transactions will be allocated and credited as of the date on which the Plan Administrator completes the purchases of the aggregate number of shares to be purchased on behalf of all Participants with distributions to be reinvested or optional cash payments, as the case may be, during the month.

NO INTEREST WILL BE PAID ON CASH DISTRIBUTIONS OR OPTIONAL CASH PAYMENTS PENDING INVESTMENT OR REINVESTMENT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PLAN. SINCE NO INTEREST IS PAID ON CASH HELD BY THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR, IT NORMALLY WILL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF A PARTICIPANT TO DEFER OPTIONAL CASH PAYMENTS UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PRICING PERIOD.

PURCHASES AND PRICES OF SHARES

12. What will be the price to Participants of shares purchased under the Plan?

With respect to reinvested distributions, the price per Common Share acquired directly from the Company will be 100% (subject to change) of the average of the high and low sales prices, computed to six decimal places, of the Common Shares on the NYSE on the Investment Date (as defined in Question 11), or if no trading occurs in the Common Shares on the Investment Date, the average of the high and low sales prices for the first trading day immediately preceding the Investment Date for which trades are reported.

The price per Common Share acquired through open market purchases with reinvested distributions will be the weighted average of the actual prices paid, computed to six decimal places, for all of the Common Shares purchased by the Plan Administrator with all Participants' reinvested distributions for the related quarter. Additionally, each Participant will be charged a pro rata portion of any brokerage commissions or other fees or charges paid by the Plan Administrator in connection with such open market purchases. (If a Participant desires to opt out of the distribution reinvestment feature of the Plan when the Common Shares relating to distribution reinvestments will be purchased in the open market, a Participant must notify the Plan Administrator no later than the record date for the related distribution payment date. For information as to the source of the Common Shares to be purchased under the Plan see Question 15.)

With respect to optional cash payments, the price per share of the Common Shares acquired directly from the Company will be 100% of the average of the daily high and low sale prices, computed to six decimal places, of the Common Shares as reported on the NYSE for the Trading Day relating to each Investment Date (as defined in Question 11 above) or, if no trading occurs in the Common Shares on such Trading Day, for the Trading Day immediately

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preceding such Investment Date for which trades are reported, less the applicable Discount, if any. A Trading Day means a day on which trades in the Common Shares are reported on the NYSE.

Each month, at least three business days prior to the applicable Record Date (as defined in Question 18), the Company may establish the Discount from the Market Price applicable to optional cash payments and will notify the Plan Administrator of the same. Such Discount may be between 0% and 5% of the Market Price and may vary each month, but once established will apply uniformly to all optional cash payments made during that month. The Discount will be established in the Company's sole discretion after a review of current market conditions, the level of participation in the Plan, and the Company's current and projected capital needs. The Discount applies only to optional cash payments. Neither the Company nor the Plan Administrator shall be required to provide any written notice to Participants as to the Discount, but current information regarding the Discount applicable to the next Pricing Period may be obtained by contacting the Company at (888) 879-6356. Setting a Discount for an Investment Date shall not affect the setting of a Discount for any subsequent Investment Date. The Discount feature discussed above applies only to the issuance of Common Shares by the Company pursuant to optional cash payments and does not apply to open market purchases made with optional cash payments or the reinvestment of distributions.

The price per Common Share acquired through open market purchases with optional cash payments will be 100% (subject to change) of the weighted average of the actual prices paid, computed to six decimal places, for all of the Common Shares purchased by the Plan Administrator with all Participants' optional cash payments for the related month.

Neither the Company nor any Participant shall have any authorization or power to direct the time or price at which shares will be purchased or the selection of the broker or dealer through or from whom purchases are to be made by the Plan Administrator. However, when open market purchases are made by the Plan Administrator, the Plan Administrator shall use its best efforts to purchase the shares at the lowest possible price.

All references in the Plan to the Market Price when it relates to distribution reinvestments which will be reinvested in Common Shares acquired directly from the Company shall mean the average of the high and low sales prices, computed to six decimal places, of the Common Shares on the NYSE on the Investment Date, or if no trading occurs in the Common Shares on the Investment Date, the average of the high and low sales prices for the first Trading Day immediately preceding the Investment Date for which trades are reported. With respect to distribution reinvestments which will be reinvested in Common Shares purchased in the open market, Market Price shall mean the weighted average of the actual prices paid, net of commissions, computed to six decimal places, for all of the Common Shares purchased by the Plan Administrator with all Participants' reinvested distributions for the related quarter. All references in the Plan to the Market Price for optional cash payments which will be invested in Common Shares acquired directly from the Company shall mean the average of the daily high and low sales prices of the Common Shares as reported on the NYSE on the Trading Day relating to each Investment Date or, if no trading occurs in the Common Shares on such Investment Date, for the first Trading Day immediately preceding such Investment Date for which trades are reported. With respect to optional cash payments which will be invested in Common Shares purchased in the open market, Market Price shall mean the weighted average of the actual prices paid, computed to six decimal places, for all of the Common Shares purchased by the Plan Administrator with all Participants' optional cash payments for the related month.

13. What are the Record Dates and Investment Dates for distribution reinvestment?

For the reinvestment of distributions, the Record Date is the record date declared by the Board of Trustees for such distribution. Likewise, the distribution payment date declared by the Board of Trustees constitutes the Investment Date applicable to the reinvestment of such distribution with respect to Common Shares acquired directly from the Company, provided, however, that if a distribution payment date relating to any series of Preferred Shares is later in the month than the applicable Common Share distribution payment date, such later distribution payment date relating to such Preferred Shares shall constitute the Investment Date relating thereto, and provided further that if any such date is not a business day, the first business day immediately following such date shall be the Investment Date. The Investment Date with respect to Common Shares purchased in open market transactions will be no later than ten business days following the distribution payment date. Distributions will be reinvested on the Investment Date using the applicable Market Price (as defined in Question 12). Generally, record dates for quarterly distributions on the Common Shares will precede the distribution payment dates by approximately two weeks. Please refer to Question 18 for a discussion of the Record Dates and Investment Dates applicable to optional cash payments.

14. How will the number of shares purchased for a Participant be determined?

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A Participant's account in the Plan will be credited with the number of shares, including fractions computed to six decimal places, equal to the total amount to be invested on behalf of such Participant divided by the purchase price per share as calculated pursuant to the methods described in Question 12, as applicable. The total amount to be invested will depend on the amount of any distributions paid on the number of Participating Shares and Plan Shares in such Participant's Plan account and available for investment on the related Investment Date, or the amount of any optional cash payments made by such Participant and available for investment on the related Investment Date. Subject to the availability of Common Shares registered for issuance under the Plan, there is no total maximum number of shares available for issuance pursuant to the reinvestment of distributions.

15. What is the source of Common Shares purchased under the Plan?

Plan Shares will be purchased either directly from the Company, in which event such shares will be authorized but unissued shares, or on the open market, or by a combination of the foregoing, at the option of the Company, after a review of current market conditions and the Company's current and projected capital needs. The Company will determine the source of the Common Shares to be purchased under the Plan at least three business days prior to the relevant Record Date, and will notify the Plan Administrator of the same. Neither the Company nor the Plan Administrator shall be required to provide any written notice to Participants as to the source of the Common Shares to be purchased under the Plan, but current information regarding the source of the Common Shares may be obtained by contacting the Company's Investor Relations Department at (888) 879-6356.

16. How does the optional cash payment feature of the Plan work?

All Record Holders and interested new investors who have timely submitted signed Enrollment Forms indicating their intention to participate in this feature of the Plan, and all Beneficial Owners whose brokers, banks or other nominees have timely submitted signed Enrollment Forms indicating their intention to participate in this feature of the Plan (except for Beneficial Owners whose brokers, banks or other nominees hold the shares of the Beneficial Owners in the name of a major securities depository), are eligible to make optional cash payments during any month, whether or not a distribution is declared. If a broker, bank or other nominee holds shares of a Beneficial Owner in the name of a major securities depository, optional cash payments must be made through the use of the B&N Form. See Question 8. Optional cash payments must be accompanied by an Enrollment Form or a B&N Form, as applicable. Each month the Plan Administrator will apply any optional cash payment received from a Participant no later than one business day prior to the commencement of that month's Pricing Period (as defined in Question 11) to the purchase of additional Common Shares for the account of the Participant on the following Investment Date (as defined in Question 11). The Plan Administrator will not accept cash, traveler's checks, money orders, or third party checks for optional cash payments.

Participants may also make initial and optional cash investments online through Investor Centre on the Plan Administrator's web site, www.computershare.com/investor. In order to purchase shares online, you must authorize the withdrawal of funds from your bank account. You do not need to invest the same amount, or any amount, each month.

16A. Can I establish an automatic monthly deduction from my bank account?

Yes. The Automatic Monthly Electronic Deduction feature will enable you to make optional cash investments in any amount from \$250 up to \$5,000 from a predesignated U.S. account.

To begin Automatic Monthly Electronic Deductions, you must complete and sign a Direct Debit Authorization Form designating the amount to be withdrawn each month and the account from which funds are to be withdrawn, and return the form to the Plan Administrator. The Direct Debit Authorization Form is available by calling the Plan Administrator. You may also enroll online at www.computershare.com/investor. Your election of the Automatic Monthly Electronic Deduction feature will become effective as soon as practicable after the Direct Debit Authorization Form is processed. However, you should allow four to six weeks for the first investment to be initiated using this Automatic Monthly Electronic Deduction feature.

Once you begin Automatic Monthly Electronic Deductions, the Plan Administrator will withdraw funds in the requested dollar amount (\$250 minimum/\$5,000 maximum) from your designated account on the 2nd day of each month, or the next trading day if the 2nd is not a trading day. Those funds will be invested in our Common Shares on the following Investment Date for optional cash investments.

You may change the amounts of your future Automatic Monthly Electronic Deductions online at www.computershare.com/investor or by completing and sending to the Plan Administrator a new Direct Debit Authorization Form. You may terminate Automatic Monthly Electronic Deductions by notifying the Plan

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Administrator in writing or online at www.computershare.com/investor. Your request will be processed and will become effective as promptly as is practicable.

If the Plan Administrator does not receive a payment from your bank for any reason, the requested purchase will be deemed void and the Plan Administrator will immediately remove from your account any shares purchased in anticipation of receiving such funds. If the net proceeds from the sale of such shares are insufficient to satisfy the balance of the uncollected amount, the Plan Administrator may sell additional shares from your account as necessary to satisfy the uncollected balance. In addition, a returned funds fee of \$25.00 will be deducted from your Plan account.

17. What limitations apply to optional cash payments?

Each optional cash payment is subject to a minimum per month purchase limit of \$250 and a maximum per month purchase limit of \$5,000. For purposes of these limitations, all Plan accounts under the common control or management of a Participant (which shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Company) will be aggregated. Generally, optional cash payments of less than \$250 and that portion of any optional cash payment which exceeds the maximum monthly purchase limit of \$5,000, unless such limit has been waived by the Company, will be returned to Participants without interest at the end of the relevant Pricing Period.

Participants may make optional cash payments of up to \$5,000 each month without the prior approval of the Company, subject to the Company's right to modify, suspend or terminate participation in the Plan by otherwise eligible holders of Common Shares, Preferred Shares or interested new investors in order to eliminate practices which are, in the sole discretion of the Company, not consistent with the purposes or operation of the Plan or which adversely affect the price of the Common Shares. Optional cash payments in excess of \$5,000 may be made by a Participant only upon acceptance by the Company of a completed Request for Waiver form from such Participant and receipt of such form by the Plan Administrator. There is no pre-established maximum limit applicable to optional cash payments that may be made pursuant to accepted Requests for Waiver. A Request for Waiver form