

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

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported): March 16, 2006

**Southwest Gas Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**California**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

**1-7850**

(Commission File Number)

**88-0085720**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**5241 Spring Mountain Road  
Post Office Box 98510  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**89193-8510**

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (702) 876-7237

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.**

On March 16, 2006, Southwest Gas Corporation (the "Company") entered into a Sales Agency Financing Agreement (the "Agreement") with BNY Capital Markets, Inc. ("BNY") relating to the issuance and sale of up to \$45 million aggregate amount of shares (the "Shares") of the Company's common stock, par value \$1.00 per share ("Common Stock") over a twenty-four month period commencing on the execution of the Agreement.

The Shares will be issued pursuant to the Company's shelf registration statement (the "Registration Statement") on Form S-3 (File No. 333-106419), which was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 15, 2004.

The Agreement is filed as Exhibit 1.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K (this "report"), and the description of the material terms of the Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to that exhibit. For a more detailed description of the Agreement, see the disclosure under the caption "Plan of Distribution" contained in the Company's prospectus supplement, dated March 16, 2006 (the "Prospectus Supplement"), to the Prospectus dated April 15, 2004, as previously supplemented. The Prospectus Supplement, the Prospectus and all other supplements to the Prospectus have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, which disclosure is hereby incorporated reference. The Agreement is also filed with reference to, and is hereby incorporated by reference into, the Registration Statement. A copy of the opinion of Morrison & Foerster LLP relating to the legality of the Shares is filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this report and is filed with reference to, and is hereby incorporated by reference into, the Registration Statement.

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such statements include information regarding the Company's expectations, goals or intentions regarding the future, including but not limited to statements regarding the Company's issuance of its common stock. Forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in any such statement. Factors that could cause actual results to differ are discussed under the heading "Company Risk Factors" in the Prospectus Supplement and in other sections of the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and in its other current and periodic reports filed from time to time with the Commission. All forward-looking statements in this document are made as of the date hereof, based on information available to the Company as of the date hereof, and the Company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1	Sales Agency Financing Agreement, dated March 16, 2006, between Southwest Gas Corporation and BNY Capital Markets, Inc.
3.(II)	Bylaws
5.1	Opinion of Morrison & Foerster LLP.
23.1	Consent of Morrison & Foerster LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).

**SIGNATURE**

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

**SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION**

Date: March 16, 2006

By: /s/ Roy R. Centrella  
Roy R. Centrella  
Vice President/Controller and  
Chief Accounting Officer

## Index to Exhibits

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**Sales Agency Financing Agreement**

Sales Agency Financing Agreement (this "Agreement"), dated as of March 16, 2006, between Southwest Gas Corporation, a California corporation (the "Company"), and BNY CAPITAL MARKETS, INC., a registered broker-dealer organized under the laws of New York ("BNYCM").

## WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Company has authorized and proposes to issue and sell in the manner contemplated by this Agreement Common Shares with an aggregate Sales Price of up to \$45,000,000 upon the terms and subject to the conditions contained herein; and

WHEREAS, BNYCM has been appointed by the Company as its agent to distribute the Common Shares and agrees to use its commercially reasonable efforts to distribute the Common Shares offered by the Company upon the terms and subject to the conditions contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, representations, warranties, covenants and agreements contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I  
DEFINITIONS

Section 1.01 Certain Definitions. For purposes of this Agreement, capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the following respective meanings:

"Actual Sold Amount" means the number of Issuance Shares that BNYCM has sold during the Selling Period.

"Affiliate" of a Person means another Person that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, such first mentioned Person. The term "control" (including the terms "controlling," "controlled by" and "under common control with") means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.

"Closing" has the meaning set forth in Section 2.02.

"Closing Date" means the date on which the Closing occurs.

"Commission" means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Commitment Period" means the period commencing on the date of this Agreement and expiring on the earliest to occur of (x) the date on which BNYCM shall have distributed the Maximum Program Amount pursuant to this Agreement, (y) the date this Agreement is terminated pursuant to Article VII and (z) the third anniversary of the date of this Agreement.

"Common Shares" shall mean shares of the Company's Common Stock issued or issuable pursuant to this Agreement.

"Common Stock" shall mean the Company's Common Stock, \$1 par value per share.

“Effective Date” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.03.

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“Floor Price” means the minimum price set by the Company in the Issuance Notice below which BNYCMI shall not sell Common Shares during the Selling Period, which may be adjusted by the Company at any time during the Selling Period and which in no event shall be less than \$1.00 without the prior written consent of BNYCMI, which may be withheld in BNYCMI’s sole discretion.

“Issuance” means each occasion the Company elects to exercise its right to deliver an Issuance Notice requiring BNYCMI to use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell the Common Shares as specified in such Issuance Notice, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

“Issuance Amount” means the aggregate Sales Price of the Issuance Shares to be distributed by BNYCMI with respect to any issuance, which may not exceed \$7,500,000 during any Selling Period without the prior written consent of BNYCMI, which may be withheld in its sole discretion.

“Issuance Date” means any Trading Day during the Commitment Period that an Issuance Notice is deemed delivered pursuant to Section 2.03(b) hereof.

“Issuance Notice” means a written notice to BNYCMI delivered in accordance with this Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

“Issuance Price” means the Sales Price less the Selling Commission.

“Issuance Shares” means all shares of Common Stock issued or issuable pursuant to an Issuance that has occurred or may occur in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

“Material Adverse Effect” means a material adverse effect on the business, assets, operations, properties, or (financial condition) of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or any material adverse effect on the Company’s ability to consummate the transactions contemplated by, or to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under, this Agreement.

“Material Subsidiary” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.05.

“Maximum Program Amount” means Common Shares with an aggregate Sales Price of \$45,000,000.

“Person” means an individual or a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust, incorporated or unincorporated association, joint venture, joint stock company, governmental authority or other entity of any kind.

“Principal Market” means the New York Stock Exchange.

“Prospectus” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.01.

“Registration Statement” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.01.

“Sales Price” means the actual sale execution price of each Common Share sold by BNYCMI on the Principal Market (or, in BNYCMI’s sole discretion, any other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or admitted to trading) hereunder in the case of ordinary brokers’ transactions, or as otherwise agreed by the parties in other methods of sale.

“Securities Act” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

“Selling Commission” means 1.0% of the Sales Price.

“Selling Period” means the period of one to twenty consecutive Trading Days (as determined by the Company in its sole discretion and specified in the applicable Issuance Notice) following the Trading Day on which an Issuance Notice is delivered or deemed to be delivered pursuant to Section 2.03(b) hereof.

“Settlement Date” means the Trading Day immediately following the last Trading Day of the Selling Period.

“Subsidiary” has the meaning set forth in Section 3.05.

“Trading Day” means any day which is a trading day on the New York Stock Exchange, other than a day on which trading is scheduled to close prior to its regular weekday closing time.

“Voting Stock” of any Person as of any date means the capital stock of such Person that is at the time entitled to vote in the election of the Board of Directors of such Person.

## ARTICLE II DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON STOCK

Section 2.01 Issuance. (a) Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement, the Company may issue Common Shares through BNYCMI and BNYCMI shall use its commercially reasonable efforts to distribute Common Shares, up to the Maximum Program Amount, based on and in accordance with such number of Issuance Notices as the Company, in its sole discretion, shall choose to deliver during the Commitment Period until the aggregate number of Common Shares distributed under this Agreement equals the Maximum Program Amount or this Agreement is otherwise terminated. Subject to the foregoing and the other terms and conditions of this Agreement, upon the delivery of an Issuance Notice, and unless the sale of the Issuance Shares described therein has been suspended, cancelled or otherwise terminated in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, BNYCMI will use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell such Issuance Shares up to the Issuance Amount specified in such Issuance Notice (or, in BNYCMI’s sole discretion, any other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or admitted for trading), and otherwise in accordance with the terms of such Issuance Notice. BNYCMI will provide written confirmation to the Company no later than the opening of the Trading Day next following the Trading Day on which it has made sales of Issuance Shares hereunder setting forth the portion of the Actual Sold Amount for such Trading Day, the corresponding Sales Price and the Issuance Price payable to the Company in respect thereof. BNYCMI may sell Issuance Shares in the manner described in Section 2.01(b) herein. The Company acknowledges and agrees that (i) there can be no assurance that BNYCMI will be successful in selling Issuance Shares and (ii) BNYCMI will incur no liability or obligation to the Company or any other Person if it does not sell Issuance Shares for any reason other than a failure by BNYCMI to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell such Issuance Shares as required under this Section 2.01. In acting hereunder, BNYCMI will be acting as agent for the Company and not as principal.

(b) Method of Offer and Sale. The Common Shares may be offered and sold in (1) privately negotiated transactions (if and only if the parties hereto have so agreed in writing), or (2) by any other method or payment permitted by law deemed to be an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act, including sales made directly on the Principal Market (or, in BNYCMI’s sole discretion,



any other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or admitted to trading) or sales made to or through a market maker or through an electronic communications network. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to require either party to agree to the method of offer and sale specified in clause (1) above, and either party may withhold its consent thereto in its sole discretion.

(c) Issuances. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth herein, on any Trading Day as provided in Section 2.03(b) hereof during the Commitment Period on which the conditions set forth in Section 5.01 and 5.02 hereof have been satisfied, the Company may exercise an Issuance by the delivery of an Issuance Notice, executed by the Chief Executive Officer, President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, Vice President/Finance, Corporate Secretary or Assistant Corporate Secretary of the Company (each, an “Authorized Officer”), to BNYCMI. The number of Issuance Shares that BNYCMI shall use its commercially reasonable efforts to distribute pursuant to such Issuance shall have an aggregate Sales Price equal to the Issuance Amount. Each Issuance will be settled on the applicable Settlement Date following the Issuance Date.

Section 2.02 Effectiveness. The effectiveness of this Agreement (the “Closing”) shall be deemed to take place concurrently with the execution and delivery of this Agreement by the parties hereto and the completion of the closing transactions set forth in the immediately following sentence. At the Closing, the following closing transactions shall take place, each of which shall be deemed to occur simultaneously with the Closing: (a) the Company shall deliver to BNYCMI a certificate executed by the Secretary of the Company, signing in such capacity, dated the date of the Closing (i) certifying that attached thereto are true and complete copies of the resolutions duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company authorizing the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby (including, without limitation, the issuance of the Common Shares pursuant to this Agreement), which authorization shall be in full force and effect on and as of the date of such certificate and (ii) certifying and attesting to the office, incumbency, due authority and specimen signatures of each Person who executed the Agreement for or on behalf of the Company; (b) the Company shall deliver to BNYCMI a certificate executed by the Chief Executive Officer, the President or any Vice-President of the Company and by the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer of the Company, signing in such capacity, dated the date of the Closing, confirming that the representations and warranties of the Company contained in this Agreement are true and correct in all material respects and that the Company has performed in all material respects all of its obligations hereunder to be performed on or prior to the Closing Date and as to the matters set forth in Section 5.01(a) hereof; (c) Morrison & Foerster LLP, counsel to the Company, shall deliver to BNYCMI an opinion, dated the date of the Closing and addressed to BNYCMI, substantially in the form of Exhibit B1 attached hereto and Robert M. Johnson, Assistant General Counsel of the Company, shall deliver to BNYCMI an opinion, dated the date of the Closing and addressed to BNYCMI, substantially in the form of Exhibit B2 attached hereto; (d) PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP shall deliver to BNYCMI a letter, dated the Closing Date, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to BNYCMI; and (e) the Company shall pay the expenses set forth in Section 9.02(ii), (iv) and (viii) hereof by wire transfer to the account designated by BNYCMI in writing prior to the Closing.

Section 2.03 Mechanics of Issuances. (a) Issuance Notice. On any Trading Day during the Commitment Period, the Company may deliver an Issuance Notice to BNYCMI, subject to the satisfaction of the conditions set forth in Sections 5.01 and 5.02; provided, however, that (1) the Issuance Amount for each Issuance as designated by the Company in the applicable Issuance Notice shall in no event exceed \$7,500,000 during the Selling Period without the prior written consent of BNYCMI, which may be withheld in its sole discretion and (2) notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, BNYCMI shall have no further obligations with respect to any Issuance Notice if and to the extent the aggregate Sales Price of the Issuance Shares sold pursuant thereto, together with the aggregate Sales Price of the Common Shares previously sold under this Agreement (together with the amount of Common

Stock sold by the Company pursuant to the terms of any other “at-the-market offering”, as such term is defined in Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act, to the extent such sales are required to be taken into account for purposes of clause (ii) of Rule 415(a)(4)), shall exceed the Maximum Program Amount.

(b) Delivery of Issuance Notice. An Issuance Notice shall be deemed delivered on the Trading Day that it is received by facsimile or otherwise (and the Company confirms such delivery by e-mail notice or by telephone (including voicemail message)) by BNYCMI. No Issuance Notice may be delivered other than on a Trading Day during the Commitment Period.

(c) Floor Price. BNYCMI shall not sell Common Shares below the Floor Price during any Selling Period, and such Floor Price may be adjusted by the Company at any time during any Selling Period upon notice to BNYCMI and confirmation to the Company.

(d) Determination of Issuance Shares to be Distributed. The number of Issuance Shares to be distributed by BNYCMI with respect to any Issuance shall be the Actual Sold Amount during the Selling Period.

(e) Trading Guidelines. BNYCMI may, to the extent permitted under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, purchase and sell Common Stock for its own account while this Agreement is in effect provided that (i) no such purchase or sale shall take place while an Issuance Notice is in effect (except to the extent BNYCMI may engage in sales of Issuance Shares purchased or deemed purchased from the Company as a “riskless principal” or in a similar capacity), (ii) in no circumstances shall BNYCMI have a short position in the Common Stock for its own account and (iii) the Company shall not be deemed to have authorized or consented to any such purchases or sales by BNYCMI. In addition, the Company hereby acknowledges and agrees that BNYCMI’s affiliates, subject to compliance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, may make markets in the Common Stock or other securities of the Company, in connection with which they may buy and sell, as agent or principal, for long or short account, shares of Common Stock or other securities of the Company, at the same time BNYCMI is acting as agent pursuant to this Agreement.

Section 2.04 Use of Free Writing Prospectuses. Neither the Company nor BNYCMI has prepared, used, referred to or distributed, and will not prepare, use, refer to or distribute any “written communication” which constitutes a free writing prospectus with respect to the offering contemplated by the Prospectus as such terms are defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act (“Free Writing Prospectus”) without the Company’s prior permission and approval.

Section 2.05 Settlements. Subject to the provisions of Article V, on or before each Settlement Date, the Company will, or will cause its transfer agent to, electronically transfer the Issuance Shares being sold by crediting BNYCMI or its designee’s account at the Depository Trust Company through its Deposit Withdrawal At Custodian (DWAC) System, or by such other means of delivery as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties hereto and, upon receipt of such Issuance Shares, which in all cases shall be freely tradeable, transferable, registered shares in good deliverable form, BNYCMI will deliver the related Issuance Price in same day funds delivered to an account designated by the Company prior to the Settlement Date. If the Company defaults in its obligation to deliver Issuance Shares on a Settlement Date, the Company agrees that it will (i) hold BNYCMI harmless against any loss, claim, damage or expense (including, without limitation, penalties, interest and reasonable legal fees and expenses), as incurred, arising out of or in connection with such default by the Company, and (ii) pay to BNYCMI any Selling Commission to which it would otherwise have been entitled absent such default. The parties acknowledge and agree that, in performing its obligations under this Agreement, BNYCMI may borrow shares of Common Stock from stock lenders, and may use the Issuance Shares to settle or close out such borrowings.

ARTICLE III  
REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF THE COMPANY

The Company represents and warrants to, and agrees with, BNYCMI that as of the date hereof, as of the date of delivery of each Issuance Notice by the Company, as of each Settlement Date and as of any time that the Registration Statement or the Prospectus shall be amended or supplemented (each of the times referenced above is referred to herein as a “Representation Date”), except as may be disclosed in the Prospectus (including any documents incorporated by reference therein and any supplements thereto) on or before a Representation Date:

Section 3.01 Registration. The Common Stock is registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is currently listed and quoted on the Principal Markets under the trading symbol “SWX”, and the Common Shares have been listed on the Principal Markets, subject to notice of issuance. The Company (i) meets the requirements for the use of Form S-3 under the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder for the registration of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and (ii) has been subject to the requirements of Section 12 of the Exchange Act and has timely filed all the material required to be filed pursuant to Sections 13 and 14 of the Exchange Act for a period of more than 12 calendar months. The Company has filed with the Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-106419) which registration statement, as amended, has been declared effective by the Commission for the registration of up to \$300,000,000 aggregate amount of Common Shares and other securities under the Securities Act (of which \$160,000,000 has been issued and sold prior to the date of this Agreement), and the offering thereof from time to time pursuant to Rule 415 promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act. Such registration statement (and any further registration statements that may be filed by the Company for the purpose of registering additional Common Shares to be sold pursuant to this Agreement), and the prospectus constituting a part of such registration statement, together with the Prospectus Supplement (as defined in Section 5.01(k)) and any pricing supplement relating to a particular issuance of the Issuance Shares (each, an “Issuance Supplement”), including all documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated therein by reference pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 under the Securities Act, in each case, as from time to time amended or supplemented, are referred to herein as the “Registration Statement” and the “Prospectus,” respectively, except that if any revised prospectus is provided to BNYCMI by the Company for use in connection with the offering of the Common Shares that is not required to be filed by the Company pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act, the term “Prospectus” shall refer to such revised prospectus from and after the time it is first provided to BNYCMI for such use. Promptly after the Closing, the Company will prepare and file the Prospectus Supplement relating to the Issuance Shares pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act, as contemplated by Section 5.01(k) of this Agreement. As used in this Agreement, the terms “amendment” or “supplement” when applied to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus shall be deemed to include the filing by the Company with the Commission of any document under the Exchange Act after the date hereof that is or is deemed to be incorporated therein by reference.

Section 3.02 Incorporated Documents. The documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 (collectively, the “Incorporated Documents”), as of the date filed with the Commission under the Exchange Act, conformed and will conform in all material respects to the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder, and none of such documents contained or will contain at such time an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or will omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

Section 3.03 The Registration Statement. No stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceeding for that purpose has been initiated or threatened by the Commission. The Registration Statement, as of the Effective Date, conformed or will conform in all material respects to the requirements of the Securities Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder and, as of the Effective Date, does not and will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, and the Prospectus, as of its original issue date, as of the date of any filing of an Issuance Supplement thereto pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act and as of the date of any other amendment or supplement thereto, conforms or will conform in all material respects to the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder and, as of such respective dates, does not and will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; provided, however, that this representation and warranty shall not apply to any statements or omissions made in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by BNYCFI expressly for use in the Prospectus. As used herein, with respect to the Registration Statement, the term “Effective Date” means, as of a specified time, the later of (i) the date that the Registration Statement or the most recent post-effective amendment thereto was or is declared effective by the Commission under the Securities Act and (ii) the date that the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for its most recently completed fiscal year is filed with the Commission under the Exchange Act.

Section 3.04 Changes. Neither the Company nor any Material Subsidiary has sustained since the date of the latest audited financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the Prospectus any material loss or interference with its business from fire, explosion, flood or other calamity, whether or not covered by insurance, or from any labor dispute or court or governmental action, order or decree, otherwise than as set forth or contemplated in the Prospectus; and, since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, (i) neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries has incurred any liabilities or obligations, direct or contingent, or entered into any transactions, not in the ordinary course of business, that are material to the Company and its Subsidiaries and (ii) there has not been any change in the capital stock, except for issuances of capital stock pursuant to the Company’s prior sales under the Sales Agency Financing Agreement dated April 22, 2004, dividend reinvestment program, employee or director stock option or benefit plans, stock purchase or ownership plan or dividend reinvestment plan, or warrants, options or other rights described in the Prospectus, or long-term debt, other than the repayment of current maturities of long-term debt, of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any material adverse change, or any development involving a prospective material adverse change, in or affecting the general affairs, management, financial position, shareholders’ equity or results of operations of the Company and its Subsidiaries, otherwise than as set forth or contemplated in the Prospectus.

Section 3.05 Organizational Matters. The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of California, with corporate power and authority to own or lease its properties and conduct its business as described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus; the Company is duly qualified to transact business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the failure to so qualify would have a Material Adverse Effect. Each Material Subsidiary of the Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation. As used in this Agreement, the term “Subsidiary” means any Person (other than a natural person), at least a majority of the outstanding Voting Stock of which is owned by the Company, by one or more Subsidiaries or by the Company and one or more Subsidiaries. As used in this Agreement, the term “Material Subsidiary” means each Subsidiary of the Company set forth on Exhibit 21 to the Company’s most recent annual report on Form 10-K filed prior to or during the term of this Agreement. Except as disclosed in the Incorporated Documents, no

Subsidiary, and no two or more Subsidiaries of the Company considered in the aggregate, constitute a “significant subsidiary” within the meaning of Rule 1-02(w) of Regulation S-X. As of the date of this Agreement, the only Material Subsidiaries are Paiute Pipeline Company; Northern Pipeline Construction Co.; Southwest Gas Transmission Company; Southwest Gas Capital II, III, IV; Utility Financial Corp.; and Black Mountain Gas Company.

Section 3.06 Authorization; Enforceability. The Company has the corporate power and authority to execute, deliver and perform the terms and provisions of this Agreement and has taken all necessary corporate action to authorize the execution, delivery and performance by it of, and the consummation of the transactions to be performed by it contemplated by, this Agreement. No other corporate proceeding on the part of the Company is necessary, and no consent of any shareholder in its capacity as such of the Company is required, for the valid execution and delivery by the Company of this Agreement, and the performance and consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to be performed by the Company. The Company has duly executed and delivered this Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, except as enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting the enforcement of creditors’ rights generally and by general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is sought in a proceeding in equity or at law) and by limitations imposed by law and public policy on indemnification or exculpation.

Section 3.07 Capitalization. The Company has an authorized capitalization as set forth in the Prospectus, and all of the issued shares of capital stock of the Company have been duly and validly authorized and issued and are fully paid and non-assessable; none of the outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company was issued in violation of the preemptive or other similar rights of any security holder of the Company; all of the issued shares of capital stock of each Material Subsidiary have been duly and validly authorized and issued and are fully paid and non-assessable; and all shares of capital stock or other equity interests of each Material Subsidiary (other than directors’ qualifying shares) are owned directly or indirectly by the Company, free and clear of any liens, encumbrances or security interests, except as described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus. The Common Shares (in an amount up to the Maximum Program Amount) have been duly and validly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company. When issued against payment therefor as provided in this Agreement, the Common Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, free and clear of all preemptive rights, claims, liens, charges, encumbrances and security interests of any nature whatsoever, other than any of the foregoing created by BNYCMI. The capital stock of the Company, including the Common Shares, conforms to the description contained in the Registration Statement. Except as set forth in the Prospectus, there are no outstanding options, warrants, conversion rights, subscription rights, preemptive rights, rights of first refusal or other rights or agreements of any nature outstanding to subscribe for or to purchase any shares of Common Stock of the Company or any other securities of the Company of any kind binding on the Company (except pursuant to dividend reinvestment, stock purchase or ownership, stock option, director or employee benefit plans ) and there are no outstanding securities or instruments of the Company containing anti-dilution or similar provisions that will be triggered by the issuance of the Common Shares as described in this Agreement. There are no restrictions upon the voting or transfer of any shares of the Company’s Common Stock pursuant to the Company’s Articles of Incorporation or bylaws. There are no agreements or other obligations (contingent or otherwise) that may require the Company to repurchase or otherwise acquire any shares of its Common Stock. No Person has the right, contractual or otherwise, to cause the Company to issue to it, or to register pursuant to the Securities Act, any shares of capital stock or other securities of the Company upon the filing of the Registration Statement or the issuance or sale of the Common Shares hereunder.

Section 3.08 No Conflicts. The issuance and sale of the Common Shares, the compliance by the Company with all of the provisions of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein do not and will not conflict with or result in a breach or violation of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, or result in the imposition of a lien or security interest under, any material indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan agreement or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or any Material Subsidiary is a party or by which the Company or any Material Subsidiary is bound or to which any of the property or assets used in the conduct of the business of the Company or any Material Subsidiary is subject, nor will such action result in any violation of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the by-laws of the Company or the organizational documents of any Material Subsidiary or any statute or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental agency or body having jurisdiction over the Company or any Material Subsidiary or any of their properties (except in each case for conflicts, breaches, violations, defaults, liens or security interests that would not have a Material Adverse Effect); and no consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification of or with any court or governmental agency or body is required for the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement or in connection with the issuance and sale of the Common Shares hereunder, except (1) such as have been, or will have been prior to the Closing Date, obtained under the Securities Act (2) for authorizations of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (the "CPUC") dated September 7, 2000 (D.00-09-009)(as corrected on September 18, 2000 (D.00-09-053)) and February 24, 2005 (D.00-02-049) (which authorizations are, to the best knowledge of the Company, not the subject of any pending or threatened application for rehearing or petition for modification) and (3) for such consents, approvals, authorizations, orders, registrations or qualifications as may be required under state securities or blue sky laws, as the case may be, and except in any case where the failure to obtain such consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification would not have a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.09 Legal Proceedings. Other than as set forth in the Prospectus, there are no legal or governmental proceedings pending to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or of which any property of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is the subject which, if determined adversely to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect and, to the best of the Company's knowledge, no such proceedings are threatened or contemplated by governmental authorities or threatened by others.

Section 3.10 Sale of Common Shares. Immediately after any sale of Common Shares by the Company hereunder, the aggregate amount of Common Stock that has been issued and sold by the Company hereunder will not exceed the aggregate amount of Common Stock (x) registered under the Registration Statement and permitted to be sold under Rule 415(a)(4) under the Securities Act or (y) that shall be authorized by the CPUC from time to time (in this regard, the Company acknowledges and agrees that BNYCMI shall have no responsibility for maintaining records with respect to the aggregate amount of Common Shares sold, or of otherwise monitoring the availability of Common Stock for sale, under the Registration Statement or applicable CPUC authorizations).

Section 3.11 Permits. Each of the Company and the Material Subsidiaries has such permits, licenses, franchises and authorizations of governmental or regulatory authorities (the "permits") as are necessary to own its respective properties and to conduct its business in the manner described in the Prospectus, except where the failure to obtain such permits would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; to the best knowledge of the Company after due inquiry, each of the Company and the Material Subsidiaries has fulfilled and performed all its material obligations with respect to such permits, except where the failure to fulfill or perform any such obligation would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; and no event has occurred that allows, or after notice or lapse of time would allow, revocation or termination of any material permits or would result in any other

material impairment of the rights of the holder of any such material permits, subject in each case to such qualifications as may be set forth in the Prospectus.

Section 3.12 Investment Company. The Company is not, and after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Common Shares, will not be, an “investment company” within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

Section 3.13 Financial Condition; No Adverse Changes. (a) The financial statements, together with related schedules and notes, included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, present fairly the consolidated financial position, results of operations and changes in financial position of the Company and the Subsidiaries on the basis stated in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus at the respective dates or for the respective periods to which they apply; such statements and related schedules and notes have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied throughout the periods involved, subject to normal year end adjustments, except as disclosed therein; and the other financial and statistical information and data included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus are accurately presented and prepared on a basis consistent with such financial statements and the books and records of the Company and the Subsidiaries. No other financial statements are required to be set forth or to be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus under the Securities Act.

(b) The Company and its Subsidiaries maintain systems of internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act) sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (i) transactions are executed in accordance with management’s general or specific authorizations; (ii) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain asset accountability; (iii) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management’s general or specific authorization; (iv) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences; and (v) material information relating to the Company and its subsidiaries is made known to the Company by its officers and employees. The Company’s internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2004, and the Company is not aware of any material weaknesses therein. Since the date of the latest audited financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the Prospectus, there has been no change that has materially adversely affected, or is reasonably likely to materially adversely affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

(c) The accountants who have audited the financial statements of the Company that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus are independent certified public accountants as required by the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

(d) The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act) that were effective as of December 31, 2005.

Section 3.14 Use of Proceeds. The Company will use the net proceeds from the offering of Common Shares in the manner specified in the Prospectus under “Use of Proceeds.”

Section 3.15 Environmental Matters. Other than as set forth in the Prospectus, (a) the Company and its Subsidiaries are in compliance in all material respects with all applicable state and federal environmental laws, except for instances of noncompliance that, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect, and (b) no event or condition has occurred that is reasonably likely to interfere in any material respect with the compliance by the Company and its Subsidiaries with

any environmental law or that is reasonably likely to give rise to any liability under any environmental law, in each case that, individually or in the aggregate, would have a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.16 Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is currently subject to regulation under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended.

Section 3.17 Insurance. Each of the Company and its Subsidiaries is insured by insurers of recognized financial responsibility against such losses and risks and in such amounts as management of the Company believes to be prudent.

Section 3.18 Officer's Certificate. Any certificate signed by any officer of the Company and delivered to BNYCMI or to counsel for BNYCMI in connection with an Issuance shall be deemed a representation and warranty by the Company to BNYCMI as to the matters covered thereby on the date of such certificate.

Section 3.19 Finder's Fees. The Company has not incurred (directly or indirectly) nor will it incur, directly or indirectly, any liability for any broker's, finder's, financial advisor's or other similar fee, charge or commission in connection with this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

#### ARTICLE IV COVENANTS

The Company covenants and agrees during the term of this Agreement with BNYCMI as follows:

Section 4.01 Registration Statement and Prospectus. (i) To make no amendment or supplement to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus after the date of delivery of an Issuance Notice and prior to the related Settlement Date that is reasonably disapproved by BNYCMI promptly after reasonable notice thereof; (ii) to prepare, with respect to any Issuance Shares to be sold pursuant to this Agreement, an Issuance Supplement with respect to such Common Shares in a form previously approved by BNYCMI and to file such Issuance Supplement pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act within the time period required thereby and to deliver such number of copies of each Issuance Supplement to each exchange or market on which such sales were effected, in each case only if delivery and filing of such an Issuance Supplement is required by applicable law or by the rules and regulations of the Commission; (iii) to make no amendment or supplement to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus (other than (1) an amendment or supplement relating solely to the issuance or offering of securities other than the Common Shares and (2) by means of an Annual Report on Form 10-K, a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission under the Exchange Act and incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus) at any time prior to having afforded BNYCMI a reasonable opportunity to review and comment thereon; (iv) to file within the time periods required by the Exchange Act all reports and any definitive proxy or information statements required to be filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act for so long as the delivery of a prospectus is required under the Securities Act or under the blue sky or securities laws of any jurisdiction in connection with the offering or sale of the Common Shares, and during such same period to advise BNYCMI, promptly after the Company receives notice thereof, of the time when any amendment to the Registration Statement has been filed or has become effective or any supplement to the Prospectus or any amended Prospectus has been filed with the Commission, of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order or of any order preventing or suspending the use of any prospectus relating to the Common Shares, of the suspension of the qualification of the Common Shares for offering or sale in any jurisdiction, of the initiation or threatening of any proceeding for any such purpose, of any request



by the Commission for the amendment or supplement of the Registration Statement or the Prospectus or for additional information, or the receipt of any comments from the Commission with respect to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus (including, without limitation, any Incorporated Documents); (v) in the event of the issuance of any such stop order or of any such order preventing or suspending the use of any such prospectus or suspending any such qualification, to use promptly its reasonable best efforts to obtain its withdrawal and (vi) to promptly advise BNYCMI in writing of the issuance of any authorization relating to the authority of the Company to issue and sell Common Stock, including authorizations from the CPUC, in addition to the authorizations referred to in Section 3.08 of this Agreement or any expirations thereof.

Section 4.02 Blue Sky. To use its reasonable best efforts to cause the Common Shares to be listed on the Principal Market and promptly from time to time to take such action as BNYCMI may reasonably request to cooperate with BNYCMI in the qualification of the Common Shares for offering and sale under the blue sky or securities laws of such jurisdictions within the United States of America and its territories as BNYCMI may reasonably request and to use its reasonable best efforts to comply with such laws so as to permit the continuance of sales and dealings therein for as long as may be necessary to complete the distribution or sale of the Common Shares; provided, however, that in connection therewith the Company shall not be required to qualify as a foreign corporation, to file a general consent to service of process or to subject itself to taxation in respect of doing business in any jurisdiction.

Section 4.03 Copies of Registration Statement and Prospectus. To furnish BNYCMI with copies (which may be electronic copies) of the Registration Statement and each amendment thereto, and with copies of the Prospectus and each amendment or supplement thereto in the form in which it is filed with the Commission pursuant to the Securities Act or Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act, both in such quantities as BNYCMI may reasonably request from time to time; and, if the delivery of a prospectus is required under the Securities Act or under the blue sky or securities laws of any jurisdiction at any time on or prior to the applicable Settlement Date for any Selling Period in connection with the offering or sale of the Common Shares and if at such time any event has occurred as a result of which the Prospectus as then amended or supplemented would include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made when such Prospectus is delivered, not misleading, or, if for any other reason it is necessary during such same period to amend or supplement the Prospectus or to file under the Exchange Act any document incorporated by reference in the Prospectus in order to comply with the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, to notify BNYCMI and request BNYCMI to suspend offers to sell Common Shares (and, if so notified, BNYCMI shall cease such offers as soon as practicable); and if the Company decides to amend or supplement the Registration Statement or the Prospectus as then amended or supplemented, to advise BNYCMI promptly by telephone (with confirmation in writing) and to prepare and cause to be filed promptly with the Commission an amendment or supplement to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus as then amended or supplemented that will correct such statement or omission or effect such compliance; provided, however, that if during such same period BNYCMI is required to deliver a prospectus in respect of transactions in the Common Shares, the Company shall promptly prepare and file with the Commission such an amendment or supplement.

Section 4.04 Rule 158. To make generally available to its holders of the Common Shares as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than eighteen months after the effective date of the Registration Statement (as defined in Rule 158(c) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act), an earnings statement of the Company and the Subsidiaries (which need not be audited) complying with Section 11(a) of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder (including the option of the Company to file periodic reports in order to make generally

available such earnings statement, to the extent that it is required to file such reports under Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, pursuant to Rule 158 promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act).

Section 4.05 Information. Except where such reports, communications, financial statements or other information is available on the Commission's EDGAR system, to furnish to BNYCMI (in paper or electronic format) copies of all publicly available reports or other communications (financial or other) furnished generally to stockholders and filed with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act, and deliver to BNYCMI (in paper or electronic format) (i) promptly after they are available, copies of any publicly available reports and financial statements furnished to or filed with the Commission or any national securities exchange on which any class of securities of the Company is listed; and (ii) such additional publicly available information concerning the business and financial condition of the Company as BNYCMI may from time to time reasonably request (such financial statements to be on a consolidated basis to the extent the accounts of the Company and its Subsidiaries are consolidated in reports furnished to its stockholders generally or to the Commission).

Section 4.06 Representations and Warranties. That each delivery of an Issuance Notice and each delivery of Common Shares on a Settlement Date shall be deemed to be (i) an affirmation to BNYCMI that the representations and warranties of the Company contained in or made pursuant to this Agreement are true and correct in all material respects as of the date of such Issuance Notice or of such Settlement Date, as the case may be, as though made at and as of each such date, except as may be disclosed in the Prospectus (including any documents incorporated by reference therein and any supplements thereto) or otherwise in writing by the Company to BNYCMI on or before such date of delivery or Settlement Date, as the case may be, and (ii) an undertaking that the Company will advise BNYCMI if any of such representations and warranties will not be true and correct in all material respects as of the Settlement Date for the Common Shares relating to such Issuance Notice, as though made at and as of each such date (except that such representations and warranties shall be deemed to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as amended and supplemented relating to such Common Shares).

Section 4.07 Opinions of Counsel. That each time the Registration Statement or the Prospectus is amended or supplemented (other than by an Issuance Supplement or a Current Report on Form 8-K, unless reasonably requested by BNYCMI within 30 days of the filing thereof with the Commission), including by means of an Annual Report on Form 10-K or a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission under the Exchange Act and incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into the Prospectus (each such amendment or supplement, an "Opinion Trigger Event"), the Company shall at any time selected by the Company on or following the date of such Opinion Trigger Event (except that during a Selling Period or any other period in which a prospectus relating to the Issuance Shares is required to be delivered by BNYCMI under the Securities Act, such time shall be no later than one Trading Day after each Opinion Trigger Event that occurs during such period; and provided that in any case delivery shall be a condition to the delivery of an Issuance Notice) furnish or cause to be furnished forthwith to BNYCMI a written opinion of Morrison & Foerster LLP, counsel for the Company, and Robert M. Johnson, Assistant General Counsel of the Company, in each case dated the date of delivery and in form reasonably satisfactory to BNYCMI, (i) if such counsel has previously furnished an opinion to the effect set forth in Exhibit B1 or B2 hereto (as applicable), to the effect that BNYCMI may rely on such previously furnished opinion of such counsel to the same extent as though it were dated the date of such letter authorizing reliance (except that the statements in such last opinion shall be deemed to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as amended and supplemented to such date) or (ii) if such counsel has not previously furnished an opinion to the effect set forth in Exhibit B1 or B2 hereto (as applicable), of the same tenor as such an opinion of such counsel but modified to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as amended and supplemented to such date.

Section 4.08 Comfort Letters. That each time the Registration Statement or the Prospectus is amended or supplemented, including by means of an Annual Report on Form 10-K, a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission under the Exchange Act and incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into the Prospectus, in any case to set forth financial information included in or derived from the Company's financial statements or accounting records (each such amendment or supplement, a "Comfort Letter Trigger Event"), the Company shall at any time selected by the Company on or following the date of such Comfort Letter Trigger Event (except that during a Selling Period or any other period in which a prospectus relating to the Issuance Shares is required to be delivered by BNYCMI under the Securities Act, such time shall be no later than one Trading Day after each Comfort Letter Trigger Event that occurs during such period; and provided that in any case delivery shall be a condition to the delivery of an Issuance Notice) cause the independent certified public accountants who have audited the financial statements of the Company included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement forthwith to furnish to BNYCMI a letter, dated the date of delivery, in form reasonably satisfactory to BNYCMI, of the same tenor as the letter referred to in Section 5.01(g) hereof but modified to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as amended or supplemented to the date of such letter, with such changes as may be necessary to reflect changes in the financial statements and other information derived from the accounting records of the Company, to the extent such financial statements and other information are available as of a date not more than five business days prior to the date of such letter; provided, however, that, with respect to any financial information or other matters, such letter may reconfirm as true and correct at such date as though made at and as of such date, rather than repeat, statements with respect to such financial information or other matters made in the letter referred to in Section 5.01(g) hereof that was last furnished to BNYCMI; provided further, that the Company shall not be required to furnish such a letter with respect to the financial statements of any business acquired that are included in a Current Report on Form 8-K.

Section 4.09 Officers Certificate. That each time the Registration Statement or the Prospectus is amended or supplemented (other than by an Issuance Supplement or a Current Report on Form 8-K, unless reasonably requested by BNYCMI within 30 days of the filing thereof with the Commission), including by means of an Annual Report on Form 10-K or a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission under the Exchange Act and incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into the Prospectus (each such amendment or supplement, an "Officers' Certificate Trigger Event"), the Company shall at any time selected by the Company on or following the date of such Officers' Certificate Trigger Event (except that during a Selling Period or any other period in which a prospectus relating to the Issuance Shares is required to be delivered by BNYCMI under the Securities Act, such time shall be no later than one Trading Day after each Officers' Certificate Trigger Event that occurs during such period; and provided that in any case delivery shall be a condition to the delivery of an Issuance Notice) furnish forthwith to BNYCMI a certificate, dated the date of delivery, in such form and executed by such officers of the Company as is reasonably satisfactory to BNYCMI, of the same tenor as the certificate referred to in Section 2.02(b) but modified to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as amended and supplemented to such date.

Section 4.10 Stand Off Agreement. Without the written consent of BNYCMI, the Company will not, directly or indirectly, offer to sell, sell, contract to sell, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of any shares of Common Stock (other than Common Shares hereunder) or securities convertible into or exchangeable for Common Stock, warrants or any rights to purchase or acquire, Common Stock during the period beginning on the first (1st) Trading Day immediately prior to the date on which any Issuance Notice is delivered to BNYCMI hereunder and ending on the first (1st) Trading Day immediately following the Settlement Date with respect to Common Shares sold pursuant to such

Issuance Notice; provided, however, that such restriction will not be required in connection with the Company's issuance or sale of (i) Common Stock, options to purchase shares of Common Stock or Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of options or other rights pursuant to any employee or director stock option or benefit plan, stock purchase or ownership plan (whether currently existing or adopted hereafter) or dividend reinvestment plan (but not shares subject to a waiver to exceed plan limits in its stock purchase plan) of the Company, (ii) Common Stock issuable upon conversion of securities or the exercise of warrants, options or other rights disclosed in the Company's Commission filings and (iii) Common Stock issuable as consideration in connection with acquisitions of business, assets or securities of other Persons.

Section 4.11 Market Activities. The Company will not, directly or indirectly, (i) take any action designed to cause or result in, or that constitutes or might reasonably be expected to constitute, the stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale or resale of the Common Shares or (ii) sell, bid for or purchase the Common Shares, or pay anyone any compensation for soliciting purchases of the Common Shares other than BNYCMI.

ARTICLE V  
CONDITIONS TO DELIVERY OF ISSUANCE  
NOTICES AND TO SETTLEMENT

Section 5.01 Conditions Precedent to the Right of the Company to Deliver an Issuance Notice and the Obligation of BNYCMI to Purchase Common Shares on the Settlement Date. The right of the Company to deliver an Issuance Notice hereunder is subject to the satisfaction, on the date of delivery of such Issuance Notice, and the obligation of BNYCMI to purchase Common Shares on the applicable Settlement Date is subject to the satisfaction, on the Settlement Date, of each of the following conditions:

(a) Effective Registration Statement and Authorizations. The Registration Statement shall remain effective, and sales of all of the Common Shares (including all of the Issuance Shares issued with respect to all prior Issuances and all of the Issuance Shares expected to be issued in connection with the Issuance specified by the current Issuance Notice) may be made by BNYCMI thereunder; and (i) no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall have been issued and no proceeding for that purpose shall have been initiated or threatened by the Commission; (ii) no other suspension of the use or withdrawal of the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or Prospectus shall exist; (iii) all requests for additional information on the part of the Commission shall have been complied with to the reasonable satisfaction of BNYCMI; and (iv) no event specified in Section 4.03 hereof shall have occurred and be continuing without the Company amending or supplementing the Registration Statement or the Prospectus as provided in Section 4.03. The authorizations referred to in Section 3.08 of this Agreement are in full force and effect, to the knowledge of the Company, are not the subject of any pending application for rehearing or petition for modification and are sufficient to authorize the issuance and sale of the Common Shares.

(b) Accuracy of the Company's Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of the Company shall be true and correct in all material respects as of the Closing Date, as of the applicable date referred to in Section 4.09 that is prior to such Issuance Date or Settlement Date, as the case may be, and as of such Issuance Date and Settlement Date as though made at such time.

(c) Performance by the Company. The Company shall have performed, satisfied and complied with in all material respects all covenants, agreements and conditions required by this Agreement to be performed, satisfied or complied with by the Company at or prior to such date.

(d) No Injunction. No statute, rule, regulation, executive order, decree, ruling or injunction shall have been enacted, entered, promulgated or endorsed by any court or governmental authority of competent jurisdiction or any self-regulatory organization having authority over the matters contemplated hereby that prohibits or directly and materially adversely affects any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and no proceeding shall have been commenced that may have the effect of prohibiting or materially adversely affecting any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(e) Material Adverse Changes. Since the date of this Agreement, no event that had or is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect shall have occurred that has not been disclosed in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus (including the documents incorporated by reference therein and any supplements thereto).

(f) No Suspension of Trading In or Delisting of Common Stock; Other Events. The trading of the Common Stock (including without limitation the Issuance Shares) shall not have been suspended by the Commission, the Principal Market or the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. since the immediately preceding Settlement Date or, if there has been no Settlement Date, the Closing Date, and the Common Shares (including without limitation the Issuance Shares) shall have been approved for listing or quotation on (subject only to notice of issuance) and shall not have been delisted from the Principal Market. There shall not have occurred (and be continuing in the case of occurrences under clause (i) and (ii) below) any of the following: (i) if trading generally on the American Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange, the Pacific Stock Exchange or The Nasdaq Stock Market has been suspended or materially limited, or minimum and maximum prices for trading have been fixed, or maximum ranges for prices have been required, by any of said exchanges or by such system or by order of the Commission, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or any other governmental authority or a material disruption has occurred in commercial banking or securities settlement or clearance services in the United States; (ii) a general moratorium on commercial banking activities in New York declared by either federal or New York state authorities; or (iii) any material adverse change in the financial markets in the United States or in the international financial markets, any outbreak or escalation of hostilities or other calamity or crisis involving the United States or the declaration by the United States of a national emergency or war or any change or development involving a prospective change in national or international political, financial or economic conditions, if the effect of any such event specified in this clause (iii) in the reasonable judgment of BNYCMI makes it impractical or inadvisable to proceed with the purchase of Common Shares from the Company.

(g) Comfort Letter. The independent certified public accountants who have audited the financial statements of the Company included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall have furnished to BNYCMI the letters required to be delivered by Section 4.08 on or before the date on which satisfaction of this condition is determined.

(h) No Defaults. Immediately after consummation of the proposed sale of the Issuance Shares to BNYCMI, none of the Company nor any of the Material Subsidiaries shall be in default under (whether upon the passage of time, the giving of notice or both) its organizational or other governing documents, or any provision of any security issued by the Company or any of its Material Subsidiaries, or of any agreement, instrument or other undertaking to which the Company or any of its Material Subsidiaries is a party or by which it or any of its property or assets is bound, or the applicable provisions of any law, statute, rule, regulation, order, writ, injunction, judgment or decree of any court or governmental authority to or by which the Company, any of its Material Subsidiaries or any of their property or assets is bound, in each case which default, either individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(i) Trading Cushion. The Selling Period for any previous Issuance Notice shall have expired.

(j) Maximum Issuance Amount. In no event may the Company issue an Issuance Notice to sell an Issuance Amount to the extent that (I) the sum of (x) the Sales Price of the requested Issuance Amount, plus (y) the aggregate Sales Price of all Common Shares issued under all previous Issuances effected pursuant to this Agreement (together with the amount of Common Stock sold by the Company pursuant to the terms of any other “at-the-market offering”, as such term is defined in Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act, to the extent such sales are required to be taken into account for purposes of clause (ii) of Rule 415 (a)(4)), would exceed the Maximum Program Amount or (II) the requested Issuance Amount exceeds \$7,500,000.

(k) Prospectus Supplement and Issuance Supplement. (i) A supplement to the prospectus included in the Registration Statement (the “Prospectus Supplement”), in form and substance to be agreed upon by the parties, setting forth information regarding this Agreement including, without limitation, the Maximum Program Amount, shall have been filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act within the time period required thereby and sufficient copies thereof delivered to BNYCMI on or prior to the Issuance Date.

(ii) If required by Section 4.01(ii), an Issuance Supplement, in form and substance to be agreed upon by the parties, shall have been filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act within the time period required thereby and sufficient copies thereof delivered to BNYCMI on or prior to the Issuance Date.

(l) Counsel Letter. The counsel specified in Section 4.07, or other counsel selected by the Company and reasonably satisfactory to BNYCMI, shall have furnished to BNYCMI their written opinions, dated the Closing Date and each applicable date referred to in Section 4.07 hereof that is on or prior to such Issuance Date or Settlement Date, as the case may be, to the effect required by Section 4.07.

(m) Officers’ Certificate. The Company shall have furnished or caused to be furnished to BNYCMI an officers’ certificate executed by one of the Authorized Officers specified in Section 2.01(c), dated the Closing Date and each applicable date referred to in Section 4.09 hereof that is on or prior to such Issuance Date or Settlement Date, as the case may be, as to the matters specified in Section 2.02(b).

(n) Other Documents. On the Closing Date and prior to each Issuance Date and Settlement Date, BNYCMI and its counsel shall have been furnished with such documents as they may reasonably require to pass upon the issuance and sale of the Common Shares as herein contemplated and related proceedings, or in order to evidence the accuracy and completeness of any of the representations or warranties, or the fulfillment of the conditions, herein contained; and all proceedings taken by the Company in connection with the issuance and sale of the Common Shares as herein contemplated shall be satisfactory in form and substance to BNYCMI and its counsel.

Section 5.02 Documents Required to be Delivered on each Issuance Date. BNYCMI’s obligation to purchase Common Shares pursuant to an Issuance hereunder shall additionally be conditioned upon the delivery to BNYCMI on or before the Issuance Date of a certificate in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to BNYCMI, executed by the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Financial Officer of the Company, to the effect that all conditions to the delivery of such Issuance Notice shall have been satisfied as at the date of such certificate (which certificate shall not be required if the foregoing representations shall be set forth in the Issuance Notice).

Section 5.03 Suspension of Sales. The Company or BNYCMI may, upon notice to the other party in writing or by telephone (confirmed immediately by verifiable facsimile transmission), suspend any sale of Issuance Shares, and the Selling Period shall immediately terminate; provided, however, that such suspension and termination shall not affect or impair either party's obligations with respect to any Issuance Shares sold hereunder prior to the receipt of such notice. The Company agrees that no such notice shall be effective against BNYCMI unless it is made to one of the individuals named on Schedule 1 hereto, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time. BNYCMI agrees that no such notice shall be effective against the Company unless it is made to one of the individuals named on Schedule 1 annexed hereto, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time.

ARTICLE VI  
INDEMNIFICATION AND CONTRIBUTION

Section 6.01 Indemnification by the Company. The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless BNYCMI, its officers, directors, employees and agents, and each Person, if any, who controls BNYCMI within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act, together with each such Person's respective officers, directors, employees and agents (collectively, the "Controlling Persons"), from and against any and all losses, claims, damages or liabilities, and any action or proceeding in respect thereof, to which BNYCMI, its officers, directors, employees and agents, and any such Controlling Person may become subject under the Securities Act, the Exchange Act or otherwise, insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions or proceedings in respect thereof) arise out of, or are based upon, any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any other prospectus relating to the Common Shares (including a Free Writing Prospectus), or any amendment or supplement thereto, or any preliminary prospectus, or arise out of, or are based upon, any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein (in the case of the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto or any preliminary prospectus, in light of the circumstances in which they were made) not misleading, except insofar as the same are made (a) in reliance upon and in conformity with information related to BNYCMI or its plan of distribution furnished in writing to the Company by BNYCMI expressly for use therein, or (b) in a Free Writing Prospectus used by BNYCMI in violation of Section 2.04, and the Company shall reimburse BNYCMI, its officers, directors, employees and agents and each Controlling Person for any reasonable legal and other expenses incurred thereby in investigating or defending or preparing to defend against any such losses, claims, damages or liabilities, or actions or proceedings in respect thereof, as such expenses are incurred; provided, however, that the Company shall not be liable in any such case to the extent that any such losses, claims, damages or liabilities, or any action or proceeding, arise out of or are based upon an untrue statement or omission contained in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any other prospectus relating to the Common Shares, or any amendment thereto, if (i) such untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission is corrected in an amendment or supplement to such prospectus and (ii) having previously been furnished by or on behalf of the Company with copies of such prospectus as so amended or supplemented, BNYCMI thereafter fails to deliver such prospectus as so amended or supplemented prior to the transaction giving rise to the claims from which such losses, claims, damages or liabilities, or action or proceeding arise.

Section 6.02 Indemnification by BNYCMI. BNYCMI agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, its officers, directors, employees and agents and each Person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act, together with each such Person's respective officers, directors, employees and agents, from and against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities, and any action or proceeding in respect thereof, to which the Company, its officers, directors, employees or agents, any such controlling Person and any officer, director, employee or agent of such controlling Person may become subject under the Securities Act, the

Exchange Act or otherwise, insofar as losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or action or proceeding in respect thereof) arise out of, or are based upon, any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any other prospectus relating to the Common Shares (including a Free Writing Prospectus), or any amendment or supplement thereto, or any preliminary prospectus, or arise out of, or are based upon, any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein (in the case of the Prospectus or any other prospectus relating to the Common Shares, or any amendment or supplement thereto or any preliminary prospectus, in light of the circumstances in which they were made) not misleading in each case to the extent, but only to the extent that such untrue statement or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission was made therein (a) in reliance upon and in conformity with written information related to BNYCMI or its plan of distribution furnished to the Company by BNYCMI expressly for use therein, or (b) in a Free Writing Prospectus used by BNYCMI in violation of Section 2.04, and BNYCMI shall reimburse the Company, its officers, directors, employees and agents, and each controlling Person of the Company for any reasonable legal and other expenses incurred thereby in investigating or defending or preparing to defend against any such losses, claims, damages or liabilities, or actions or proceedings in respect thereof, as such expenses are incurred.

Section 6.03 Conduct of Indemnification Proceedings. As promptly as reasonably practicable after receipt by any Person (an "Indemnified Party") of notice of any claim or the commencement of any action in respect of which indemnity may be sought pursuant to Section 6.01 or 6.02, the Indemnified Party shall, if a claim in respect thereof is to be made against the Person against whom such indemnity may be sought (an "Indemnifying Party"), notify the Indemnifying Party in writing of the claim or the commencement of such action. In the event an Indemnified Party shall fail to give such notice as provided in this Section 6.03 and the Indemnifying Party to whom notice was not given was unaware of the proceeding to which such notice would have related and was materially prejudiced by the failure to give such notice, the indemnification provided for in Sections 6.01 or 6.02 shall be reduced to the extent of any actual prejudice resulting from such failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party; provided, that the failure to notify the Indemnifying Party shall not relieve it from any liability that it may have to an Indemnified Party otherwise than under Section 6.01 or 6.02. If any such claim or action shall be brought against an Indemnified Party, the Indemnifying Party shall be entitled to participate therein, and, to the extent that it wishes, jointly with any other similarly notified Indemnifying Party, to assume the defense thereof with counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Indemnified Party. After notice from the Indemnifying Party to the Indemnified Party of its election to assume the defense of such claim or action, the Indemnifying Party shall not be liable to the Indemnified Party for any legal or other expenses subsequently incurred by the Indemnified Party in connection with the defense thereof other than reasonable costs of investigation; provided that the Indemnified Party shall have the right to employ separate counsel to represent the Indemnified Party, but the fees and expenses of such counsel shall be for the account of such Indemnified Party unless (i) the Indemnifying Party and the Indemnified Party shall have mutually agreed to the retention of such counsel or (ii) such Indemnified Party reasonably concludes that representation of both parties by the same counsel would be inappropriate due to actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Company, it being understood, however, that the Indemnifying Party shall not, in connection with any one such claim or action or separate but substantially similar or related claims or actions in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the fees and expenses of more than one separate firm of attorneys (together with appropriate local counsel) at any time for all Indemnified Parties or for fees and expenses that are not reasonable. No Indemnifying Party shall, without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party, effect any settlement of any claim or pending or threatened proceeding in respect of which the Indemnified Party is or could have been a party and indemnification could have been sought hereunder by such Indemnified Party unless such settlement includes an unconditional release of each such Indemnified Party from all losses, claims, damages or liabilities arising out of such claim or proceeding and such settlement does not admit or constitute an admission of fault, guilt, failure to act or culpability on the part of any such Indemnified



Party. Whether or not the defense of any claim or action is assumed by an Indemnifying Party, such Indemnifying Party will not be subject to any liability for any settlement made without its prior written consent, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 6.04 Contribution. If for any reason the indemnification provided for in this Article VI is unavailable to the Indemnified Parties in respect of any losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to herein, then each Indemnifying Party, in lieu of indemnifying such Indemnified Party, shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such Indemnified Party as a result of such losses, claims, damages or liabilities as between the Company, on the one hand, and BNYCMI, on the other hand, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and BNYCMI on the other hand from the offering of the Common Shares to which such losses, claims, damages or liabilities relate. If, however, the allocation provided by the immediately preceding sentence is not permitted by applicable law, then each Indemnifying Party shall contribute to such amount paid or payable by such Indemnifying Party in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only such relative benefits but also the relative fault of the Company and of BNYCMI in connection with such statements or omissions, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative benefits received by the Company, on the one hand, and by BNYCMI, on the other, shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as the total net proceeds from the sale of Common Shares (before deducting expenses) received by the Company bear to the total commissions received by BNYCMI in respect thereof. The relative fault of the Company, on the one hand, and of BNYCMI, on the other hand, shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company on one hand or by BNYCMI on the other hand, and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

The Company and BNYCMI agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 6.04 were determined by pro rata allocation or by any other method of allocation that does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph. The amount paid or payable by an Indemnified Party as a result of the losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph shall be deemed to include, subject to the limitations set forth above, any reasonable legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such Indemnified Party in connection with investigating or defending any such action or claim. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 6.04, BNYCMI shall in no event be required to contribute any amount in excess of the commissions received by it under this Agreement. No Person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Securities Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any Person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation. For purposes of this Section 6.04 each officer, director, employee and agent of BNYCMI, and each Controlling Person, shall have the same rights to contribution as BNYCMI, and each director of the Company, each officer of the Company who signed the Registration Statement, and each Person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company. The obligations of the Company and BNYCMI under this Article VI shall be in addition to any liability that the Company and BNYCMI may otherwise have.

#### ARTICLE VII TERMINATION

Section 7.01 Term. Subject to the provisions of this Article VII, the term of this Agreement shall run until the end of the Commitment Period.

Section 7.02 Termination by BNYCMI. BNYCMI may terminate the right of the Company to effect any Issuances under this Agreement upon one (1) Trading Day's notice if any of the following events shall occur:

(a) The Company or any Material Subsidiary shall make an assignment for the benefit of creditors, or apply for or consent to the appointment of a receiver or trustee for it or for all or substantially all of its property or business; or such a receiver or trustee shall otherwise be appointed;

(b) Bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or liquidation proceedings or other proceedings for relief under any bankruptcy law or any law for the relief of debtors shall be instituted by or against the Company or any of its Material Subsidiaries;

(c) The Company shall fail to maintain the listing of the Common Stock on the Principal Market;

(d) Since the Effective Date, there shall have occurred any event, development or state of circumstances or facts that has had or would reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect; or

(e) BNYCMI shall have given ten (10) days' notice of its election to terminate this Agreement, in its sole discretion, at any time.

Section 7.03 Termination by the Company. The Company shall have the right, by giving ten (10) days' notice as hereinafter specified, to terminate this Agreement in its sole discretion at any time. After delivery of such notice, the Company shall no longer have any right to deliver any Issuance Notices hereunder.

Section 7.04 Liability; Provisions that Survive Termination. If this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this Article VII, such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as provided in Section 9.02 and for the Company's obligations in respect of all prior Issuance Notices, and provided further that in any case the provisions of Article VI, Article VIII and Article IX shall survive termination of this Agreement without limitation.

#### ARTICLE VIII REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES TO SURVIVE DELIVERY

All representations and warranties of the Company herein or in certificates delivered pursuant hereto shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of (i) any investigation made by or on behalf of BNYCMI and its officers, directors, employees and agents and any Controlling Persons, (ii) delivery and acceptance of the Common Shares and payment therefor or (iii) any termination of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE IX MISCELLANEOUS

Section 9.01 Press Releases and Disclosure. The Company may issue a press release describing the material terms of the transactions contemplated hereby as soon as practicable following the Closing Date, and may file with the Commission a Current Report on Form 8-K describing the material terms of the transactions contemplated hereby, and the Company shall consult with BNYCMI prior to making such disclosures, and the parties shall use all reasonable efforts, acting in good faith, to agree upon a text for such disclosures that is reasonably satisfactory to all parties. No party hereto shall issue

thereafter any press release or like public statement (including, without limitation, any disclosure required in reports filed with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act) related to this Agreement or any of the transactions contemplated hereby not substantially similar to previously approved disclosure without the prior written approval of the other party hereto, except as may be necessary or appropriate in the opinion of the party seeking to make disclosure to comply with the requirements of applicable law or stock exchange rules. If any such press release or like public statement is so required, the party making such disclosure shall consult with the other party prior to making such disclosure, and the parties shall use all reasonable efforts, acting in good faith, to agree upon a text for such disclosure that is reasonably satisfactory to all parties.

Section 9.02 Expenses. The Company covenants and agrees with BNYCMI that the Company shall pay or cause to be paid the following: (i) the fees, disbursements and expenses of the Company's counsel and accountants in connection with the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and any Issuance Supplements and all other amendments and supplements thereto and the mailing and delivering of copies thereof to BNYCMI and the Principal Market; (ii) BNYCMI's reasonable documented out-of-pocket expenses, up to a maximum of \$50,000 in the aggregate, including the reasonable fees, disbursements and expenses of counsel for BNYCMI (including in connection with the qualification of the Common Shares for offering and sale under state securities laws as provided in Section 4.02 hereof and in connection with preparing any blue sky survey) in connection with this Agreement and the Registration Statement and ongoing services in connection with the transactions contemplated hereunder; (iii) the cost (other than those expenses described in clause (ii) above) of printing, preparing or reproducing this Agreement and any other documents in connection with the offering, purchase, sale and delivery of the Common Shares; (iv) all filing fees and expenses (other than those expenses described in clause (ii) above) in connection with the qualification of the Common Shares for offering and sale under state securities laws as provided in Section 4.02 hereof; (v) the cost of preparing the Common Shares; (vi) the fees and expenses of any transfer agent of the Company; (vii) the cost of providing any CUSIP or other identification numbers for the Common Shares; (viii) the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the listing or qualification of the Common Shares on the Principal Market and any filing fees incident to any required review by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. of the terms of the sale of the Common Shares in connection with this Agreement and the Registration Statement (including the reasonable fees, disbursements and expenses of counsel for BNYCMI), and (ix) all other costs and expenses incident to the performance of the Company's obligations hereunder that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Section. The Company will not bear any costs or expenses of BNYCMI with respect to BNYCMI's obligation to deliver shares of Common Stock to any Person.

Section 9.03 Notices. All notices, demands, requests, consents, approvals or other communications required or permitted to be given hereunder or that are given with respect to this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be personally served or deposited in the mail, registered or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid or delivered by reputable air courier service with charges prepaid, or transmitted by hand delivery, telegram, telex or facsimile, addressed as set forth below, or to such other address as such party shall have specified most recently by written notice: (i) if to the Company to: Southwest Gas Corporation, 5241 Spring Mountain Road, P.O. Box 98510, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8510, Attention Kenneth J. Kenny, Treasurer; Facsimile No. (702) 876-7037, with a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to: Morrison & Foerster LLP, 19900 MacArthur Blvd., 12th Floor, Irvine, CA 92612-2445, Attention: Tamara Powell Tate; Facsimile No. (949) 251-0900; and (ii) if to BNYCMI, BNY Capital Markets, Inc., One Wall Street, New York, NY 10286, Attention: Alexander C. Lange; Facsimile No.: 212-635-6536, with a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to: Clifford Chance US LLP, 31 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019-6131, Attention: Robert E. King, Jr., Facsimile No. (212) 878-8375. Except as set forth in Section 5.03, notice shall be deemed given on the date of service or transmission if personally served or transmitted by telegram, telex or confirmed facsimile. Notice

otherwise sent as provided herein shall be deemed given on the third business day following the date mailed or on the next business day following delivery of such notice to a reputable air courier service for next day delivery.

Section 9.04 Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements, representations, understandings, negotiations and discussions between the parties, whether oral or written, with respect to the subject matter hereof.

Section 9.05 Amendment and Waiver. This Agreement may not be amended, modified, supplemented, restated or waived except by a writing executed by the party against which such amendment, modification, supplement, restatement or waiver is sought to be enforced. Waivers may be made in advance or after the right waived has arisen or the breach or default waived has occurred. Any waiver may be conditional. No waiver of any breach of any agreement or provision herein contained shall be deemed a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach thereof nor of any other agreement or provision herein contained. No waiver or extension of time for performance of any obligations or acts shall be deemed a waiver or extension of the time for performance of any other obligations or acts.

Section 9.06 No Assignment; No Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement and the rights, duties and obligations hereunder may not be assigned or delegated by the Company or BNYCMI. Any purported assignment or delegation of rights, duties or obligations hereunder shall be void and of no effect. This Agreement and the provisions hereof shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of each of the parties and their respective successors and, to the extent provided in Article VI, the controlling persons, officers, directors, employees and agents referred to in Article VI. This Agreement is not intended to confer any rights or benefits on any Persons other than as set forth in Article VI or elsewhere in this Agreement.

Section 9.07 Severability. This Agreement shall be deemed severable, and the invalidity or unenforceability of any term or provision hereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of this Agreement or of any other term or provision hereof. Furthermore, in lieu of any such invalid or unenforceable term or provision, the parties hereto intend that there shall be added as a part of this Agreement a provision as similar in terms to such invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible and be valid and enforceable.

Section 9.08 Further Assurances. Each party hereto, upon the request of any other party hereto, shall do all such further acts and execute, acknowledge and deliver all such further instruments and documents as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

Section 9.09 Titles and Headings. Titles, captions and headings of the sections of this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction of any provision of this Agreement.

Section 9.10 Governing Law. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, INTERPRETED UNDER AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNAL LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK APPLICABLE TO AGREEMENTS MADE AND TO BE PERFORMED WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICTS OF LAWS THEREOF. Any action, suit or proceeding to enforce any provision of, or based on any matter arising out of or in connection with, this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby shall be brought in any federal court located in the Southern District of the State of New York or any New York state court located in the Borough of Manhattan, and the Company agrees to the exclusive

jurisdiction of such courts (and of the appropriate appellate courts therefrom) and each party waives (to the full extent permitted by law) any objection it may have to the laying of venue of any such suit, action or proceeding in any such court or that any such suit, action or proceeding has been brought in an inconvenient forum.

Section 9.11 Waiver of Jury Trial. The Company and BNYCMI each hereby irrevocably waives any right it may have to a trial by jury in respect of any claim based upon or arising out of this Agreement or any transaction contemplated hereby.

Section 9.12 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Delivery of an executed Agreement by one party to the other may be made by facsimile transmission.

Section 9.13 Adjustments for Stock Splits, etc. The parties acknowledge and agree that share related numbers contained in this Agreement (include the minimum Floor Price) shall be equitably adjusted to reflect stock splits, stock dividends, reverse stock splits, combinations and similar events.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, as of the date first set forth above.

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

By: /s/ Kenneth J. Kenny  
Name: Kenneth J. Kenny  
Title: Vice President/Treasurer

BNY CAPITAL MARKETS, INC.

By: /s/ Daniel C. de Menocal  
Name: Daniel C. de Menocal  
Title: Managing Director

BYLAWS  
OF  
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION  
ARTICLE I

Section 1. Principal Office

The principal office for the transaction of the business of the Corporation is hereby fixed and located at 5241 Spring Mountain Road, in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada.

Section 2. Other Offices

Branch or subordinate offices may at any time be established by the Board of Directors at any place or places where the Corporation is qualified to do business.

Section 3. Terminology

All personal pronouns used herein are employed in a generic sense and are intended and deemed to be neutral in gender.

ARTICLE II  
MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Section 1. Regular Meeting

Commencing in May 2004, the regular annual meeting of the shareholders shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation, or at such other place within or without the State of California as the officers of the Corporation may deem convenient and appropriate, at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of May of each year, if not a legal holiday, and if a legal holiday, then at 10 a.m. on the next succeeding business day, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors and transacting such other business as properly may come before the meeting; provided, however, that the Board of Directors may, by resolution, establish a different date not more than 120 days thereafter if, in its sole discretion, it deems such postponement appropriate.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Except in those instances where a particular manner of calling a meeting of the shareholders is prescribed by law or elsewhere in these Bylaws, a special meeting of the shareholders may be called at any time by the Chief Executive Officer or other officers acting for him or by the Board of Directors, or by the holders of not less than one-third of the voting shares then issued and

outstanding. Each call for a special meeting of the shareholders shall state the time, place, and the purpose of such meeting; if made by the Board of Directors, it shall be by resolution duly adopted by a majority vote and entered in the minutes; if made by an authorized officer or by the shareholders, it shall be in writing and signed by the person or persons making the same, and unless the office of Secretary be vacant, delivered to the Secretary. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting other than as is stated in the call and the notice based thereon.

### Section 3. Notice of Regular and Special Meetings of the Shareholders

Notice of each regular and special meeting of the shareholders of the Corporation shall be given by mailing to each shareholder a notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting addressed to him at his address as it appears upon the books of the Corporation. Each such notice shall be deposited in the United States Mail with the postage thereon prepaid at least ten days prior to the time fixed for such meeting. If the address of any such shareholder does not appear on the books of the Corporation and his post office address is unknown to the person mailing such notices, the notice shall be addressed to him at the principal office of the Corporation.

### Section 4. Quorum

At any meeting of the shareholders, the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except when it is otherwise provided by law. Any regular or special meeting of the shareholders may adjourn from day to day or from time to time if, for any reason, there are not present in person or by proxy the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at said meeting. Such adjournment and the reasons therefor shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings.

### Section 5. Waiver of Notice

When all the shareholders of the Corporation are present at any meeting, or when the shareholders not represented thereat give their written consent to the holding thereof at the time and place the meeting is held, and such written consent is made a part of the records of such meeting, the proceedings had at such meeting are valid, irrespective of the manner in which the meeting is called or the place where it is held.

### Section 6. Proper Business for Shareholder Meetings

1. At a meeting of the shareholders, only such business shall be proper as shall be brought before the meeting: (i) pursuant to the Corporation's notice of meeting; (ii) by or at the direction of the Board of Directors of the Corporation; or (iii) by any shareholder of the Corporation who is a shareholder of record at the time of giving the notice provided for herein, who shall be entitled to vote at such meeting and who complies with the notice procedures set forth herein.
2. For business to be properly brought before a meeting by a shareholder pursuant to clause (iii) above, the shareholder must have given timely notice thereof in writing to the Secretary. To be timely as to an annual meeting of shareholders, a shareholder's notice must be received at the

principal executive office of the Corporation not less than 120 calendar days before the date of the Corporation's proxy statement released to shareholders in connection with the previous year's annual meeting; provided however, that if the date of the meeting is changed by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's meeting, notice by shareholder to be timely must be received no later than the close of business on the 10th day following the earlier of the day on which notice of the date of the meeting was mailed to shareholders or public disclosure of such date was made. To be timely as to a special meeting of shareholders, a shareholder notice must be received not later than the call of the meeting as provided for in Section 2 of this Article II. Such shareholder notice shall set forth as to each matter the shareholder proposes to bring before the meeting: (a) a brief description of and the reasons for proposing such matter at the meeting; (b) the name and address, as they appear on the Corporation's books, and the name and address of the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made; (c) the class and number of shares of the Corporation which are owned beneficially and of record by such shareholder of record and by the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made; and (d) any material interest of such shareholder of record and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made, in such proposal.

3. Notwithstanding anything in these Bylaws to the contrary, no business shall be proper at a meeting unless brought before it in accordance with the procedures set forth herein. Further, a shareholder shall also comply with all applicable requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder with respect to the matters set forth herein.

4. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation or the individual designated as chairman of the meeting shall, if the facts warrant, determine and declare to the meeting that business was not properly brought before the meeting and in accordance with the procedures proscribed herein, and if the chairman should so determine, that any such business not properly brought before the meeting shall not be transacted.

5. Notwithstanding anything provided herein to the contrary, the procedures for submission of shareholder proposals have not expanded, altered or affected in any manner, whatever rights or limitations may exist regarding the ability of a shareholder of the Corporation to submit to a proposal for consideration by shareholders of the Corporation under California or federal law.

### ARTICLE III

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Section 1. Number—Quorum

The business of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors, whose number shall be not fewer than eleven (11) nor greater than fourteen (14), as the Board of Directors or the shareholders by amendment of these Bylaws may establish, provided, however, that a reduction in the authorized number of directors shall not remove any director prior to the expiration of his term of office, and provided further that the shareholders may, pursuant to law, establish a different and definite number of directors or different maximum and minimum numbers of directors by



amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or by a duly adopted amendment to these Bylaws. A majority of the prescribed number of directors shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the trans- action of business. At a meeting at which a quorum is present, every decision or act of a majority of the directors present made or done when duly assembled shall be valid as the act of the Board of Directors, provided that a minority of the directors, in the absence of a quorum, may adjourn from day to day but may transact no business.

### Section 2. Exact Number of Directors

The number of Directors of the Corporation is hereby established, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of this Article III, as twelve (12).

### Section 3. Director Nominating Procedure

1. Except for the filling of vacancies, as provided for in Section 6 of this Article III, only persons who are nominated in accordance with the procedures set forth herein shall be qualified to serve as directors. Nominations of persons for election to the Board may be made at a meeting of shareholders (a) by or at the direction of the Board or (b) by any shareholder of the Corporation who is a shareholder of record at the time of giving of notice provided for in this Bylaw, who shall be entitled to vote for the election of directors at the meeting and who complies with the notice procedures set forth in this Bylaw.

2. Nominations by shareholders shall be made pursuant to timely notice in writing to the Secretary. To be timely as to an annual meeting, a shareholder's notice must be received at the principal executive offices of the Corporation not less than 20 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, however, that if the date of the annual meeting is changed by more than 30 days from such anniversary date, notice by the shareholder to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the earlier of the day on which notice of the date of the meeting was mailed to shareholders or public disclosure of such date was made. To be timely as to a special meeting at which directors are to be elected, a shareholder's notice must be received not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the earlier of the day on which notice of the date of the meeting was mailed to shareholders or public disclosure of such date was made. Such shareholder's notice shall set forth (a) as to each person whom the shareholder proposes to nominate for election or reelection as a director all information relating to such person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors, or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (including such person's written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected); (b) as to the shareholder giving the notice (i) the name and address, as they appear on the Corporation's books, of such shareholder and (ii) the class and number of shares of the Corporation which are beneficially owned by such shareholder and also which are owned of record by such shareholder; and (c) as to the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the nomination is made, (i) the name and address of such person and (ii) the class and number of shares of the Corporation which are beneficially owned by such person. At the request of the Board, any person nominated by the Board for election as a director shall

furnish to the Secretary that information required to be set forth in the shareholder's notice of nomination which pertains to the nominee.

3. Except for the filling of vacancies, as provided for in Section 6 of this Article III, no person shall be qualified to serve as a director of the Corporation unless nominated in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Bylaw. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation or the individual designated as chairman of the meeting shall, if the facts warrant, determine and declare to the meeting that a nomination was not made in accordance with the procedures prescribed by these Bylaws, and if the chairman should so determine, that the defective nomination shall be disregarded. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Bylaw, a shareholder shall also comply with all applicable requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder with respect to the matters set forth in this Bylaw.

#### Section 4. Qualification of Directors

The majority of directors of the Board of Directors shall not be officers or employees of the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries and shall not have held such positions at any time during the three years prior to election or selection to the Board of Directors. Whether an individual, who is an officer or employee of the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries, satisfies this qualification requirement will be determined at the time of his or her election or selection.

#### Section 5. Election and Term of Office

The directors shall be elected at each annual meeting of shareholders, but if any such annual meeting is not held, or the directors are not elected thereat, the directors may be elected at any special meeting of shareholders held for that purpose. All directors shall hold office until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

#### Section 6. Vacancies

Vacancies in the Board of Directors may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, though they be less than a quorum, and each director so elected shall hold office until his successor is qualified following the election at the next annual meeting of the shareholders or at any special meeting of shareholders duly called for that purpose prior to such annual meeting. A vacancy shall be deemed to exist in case the shareholders (or the Board of Directors, within the provisions of Section 1 of this Article III) shall increase the authorized number of directors, but shall fail, for a period of thirty days from the effective date of such increase, to elect the additional directors so provided for, or in case the shareholders fail at any time to elect the full number of authorized directors. When one or more of the directors shall give notice to the Board of Directors of his or their resignation from said Board, effective at a future date, the Board of Directors shall have the power to fill such vacancy or vacancies to take effect when such resignation or resignations become effective. Each director so appointed shall hold office during the remainder of the term of office of the resigning director or directors or until their successors are appointed and qualify.

#### Section 7. First Meeting of Directors

Immediately following each annual meeting of shareholders, the Board of Directors shall hold a regular meeting for the purpose of organization, election of officers, and the transaction of other business. Notice of such meeting is hereby dispensed with.

#### Section 8. Regular Meetings

Commencing in 1991, the time for other regular meetings of the Board of Directors, when held, shall be 8 a.m. on the third Tuesday of January, July, September and November, the first Tuesday of March and the second Wednesday of May, unless a different schedule is established by a resolution of the Board. If any regular meeting date shall fall on a legal holiday, then the regular meeting date shall be the business day next following.

#### Section 9. Special Meetings

A special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer acting for him, or by three directors. Any and all business may be transacted at a special meeting. Each call for a special meeting shall be in writing, signed by the person or persons making the same, addressed and delivered to the Secretary, and shall state the time and place of such meeting.

#### Section 10. Notice of Regular and Special Meetings of the Directors

No notice shall be required to be given of any regular meeting of the Board of Directors, but each director shall take notice thereof. Notice of each special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given to each of the directors by: (i) mailing to each of them a copy of such notice at least five days; or (ii) delivering personally or by telephone, including voice messaging system or other system or technology designed to record and communicate messages, telegraph, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic means such notice at least 48 hours, prior to the time affixed for such meeting to the address of such director as shown on the books of the Corporation. If his address does not appear on the books of the Corporation, then such notice shall be addressed to him at the principal office of the Corporation.

#### Section 11. Waiver of Notice

When all the directors of the Corporation are present at any meeting of the Board of Directors, however called or noticed, and sign a written consent thereto on the record of such meeting, or if the majority of the directors are present, and if those not present sign in writing a waiver of notice of such meeting, whether prior to or after the holding of such meeting, which waiver shall be filed with the Secretary of the Corporation, the transactions of such meeting are as valid as if had at a meeting regularly called and noticed.

#### Section 12. Action by Unanimous Consent of Directors

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board, and such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as if approved or taken at a regular meeting duly held. Any certificate or other document which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Directors without a meeting, and that these Bylaws authorize the directors to so act.

#### Section 13. Telephonic Participation in Meetings

Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

### ARTICLE IV

#### POWERS OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The directors shall have power:

1. To call special meetings of the shareholders when they deem it necessary, and they shall call a meeting at any time upon the written request of shareholders holding one-third of all the voting shares;
2. To appoint and remove at pleasure all officers and agents of the Corporation, prescribe their duties, fix their compensation, and require from them as necessary security for faithful service;
3. To create and appoint committees, offices, officers and agents of the Corporation, and to prescribe and from time to time change their duties and compensation, but no committee shall be created and no member appointed thereto except upon approval of a majority of the whole Board of Directors; and
4. To conduct, manage, and control the affairs and business of the Corporation and to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the State of California, or the Bylaws of the Corporation, for the guidance of the officers and management of the affairs of the Corporation.

## ARTICLE V

### DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the directors:

1. To cause to be kept a complete record of all their minutes and acts, and of the proceedings of the shareholders, and present a full statement at the regular annual meeting of the shareholders, showing in detail the assets and liabilities of the Corporation, and generally the condition of its affairs. A similar statement shall be presented at any other meeting of the shareholders when theretofore required by persons holding at least one-half of the voting shares of the Corporation;
2. To declare dividends out of the profits arising from the conduct of the business, whenever such profits shall, in the opinion of the directors, warrant the same;
3. To oversee the actions of all officers and agents of the Corporation, see that their duties are properly performed; and
4. To cause to be issued to the shareholders, in proportion to their several interests, certificates of stock.

## ARTICLE VI

### OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers shall include a Chairman of the Board of Directors, a Chief Executive Officer, who may be designated Chairman, a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Controller, and may include one or more Executive Vice Presidents, Senior Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, and Assistant Treasurers. All such officers shall be elected by and hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, provided that the Chief Executive Officer shall have authority to dismiss any other officer. Any director shall be eligible to be the Chairman of the Board of Directors and any two or more of such offices may be held by the same person, except that the Chief Executive Officer or President may not also hold the office of Secretary. Any officer may exercise any of the powers of any other officer in the manner specified in these Bylaws, as specified from time to time by the Board of Directors, and/or as specified from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer or senior officer acting in his or her absence or incapacity, and any such acting officer shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him or her.

## ARTICLE VII

### FEES AND COMPENSATION

Section 1. Directors shall be reimbursed for their expenses, and shall be compensated for their services as directors in such amounts as the Board may fix by resolution. Nothing herein contained

shall be construed to preclude any director from serving the Corporation in any other capacity as an officer, agent, employee, or otherwise, and receiving compensation therefor.

## ARTICLE VIII

### INDEMNIFICATION

#### Section 1. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Each person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is involved in any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, formal or informal, whether brought in the name of the Corporation or otherwise and whether of a civil, criminal, administrative or investigative nature (hereinafter a "proceeding"), by reason of the fact that he or she, or a person of whom he or she is the legal representative, is or was a director or officer of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another Corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, whether the basis of such proceeding is an alleged action or inaction in an official capacity or in any other capacity while serving as a director or officer, shall, subject to the terms of any agreement between the Corporation and such person, be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent permissible under California law and the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation, against all costs, charges, expenses, liabilities and losses (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise tax or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such person in connection therewith, and such indemnification shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director or officer and shall inure to the benefit of his or her heirs, executors and administrators; provided, however, that (a) the Corporation shall indemnify any such person seeking indemnification in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized by the Board of the Corporation, (b) the Corporation shall indemnify such person seeking indemnification in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) other than a proceeding by or in the name of the Corporation to procure a judgment in its favor only if any settlement of such a proceeding is approved in writing by the Corporation, and (c) that no such person shall be indemnified (i) on account of any suit in which judgment is rendered against such person for an accounting of profits made from the purchase or sale by such person of securities of the Corporation pursuant to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and amendments thereto or similar provisions of any federal, state or local statutory law; (ii) if a court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that any indemnification hereunder is unlawful; (iii) for acts or omissions involving intentional misconduct or knowing and culpable violation of law; (iv) for acts or omissions that the director or officer believes to be contrary to the best interests of the Corporation or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of the director or officer; (v) for any transaction for which the director or officer derived an improper personal benefit; (vi) for acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's or officer's duty to the Corporation or its shareholders in circumstances in which the director or officer was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing his or her duties, of a risk of serious injury to the Corporation or its shareholders; (vii) for acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director's or officer's duties to the Corporation or its shareholders;

(viii) for costs, charges, expenses, liabilities and losses arising under Section 310 or 316 of the General Corporation Law of California (the "Law"); and (ix) as to circumstances in which indemnity is expressly prohibited by Section 317 of the Law. The right to indemnification conferred in this Article shall be a contract right and shall include the right to be paid by the Corporation expenses incurred in defending any proceeding in advance of its final disposition; provided, however, that if the Law requires the payment of such expenses incurred by a director or officer in his or her capacity as a director or officer (and not in any other capacity in which service was or is rendered by such person while a director or officer, including, without limitation, service to an employee benefit plan) in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding, such advances shall be made only upon delivery to the Corporation of an undertaking, by or on behalf of such director or officer, to repay all amounts to the Corporation if it shall be ultimately determined that such person is not entitled to be indemnified.

## Section 2. Indemnification of Employees and Agents

A person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is involved in any proceedings by reason of the fact that he or she is or was an employee or agent of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as an employee or agent of another enterprise, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, whether the basis of such action is an alleged action or inaction in an official capacity or in any other capacity while serving as an employee or agent, may, subject to the terms of any agreement between the Corporation and such person, be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent permitted by California law and the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation, against all costs, charges, expenses, liabilities and losses (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement), reasonably incurred or suffered by such person in connection therewith. The immediately preceding sentence is not intended to be and shall not be considered to confer a contract right on any employee or agent (other than directors and officers) of the Corporation.

## Section 3. Right of Directors and Officers to Bring Suit

If a claim under Section 1 of this Article is not paid in full by the Corporation within 30 days after a written claim has been received by the Corporation, the claimant may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Corporation to recover the unpaid amount of the claim and, if successful in whole or in part, the claimant shall also be entitled to be paid the expense of prosecuting such claim. Neither the failure of the Corporation (including its Board, independent legal counsel, or its shareholders) to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification of the claimant is permissible in the circumstances because he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct, if any, nor an actual determination by the Corporation (including its Board, independent legal counsel, or its shareholders) that the claimant has not met the applicable standard of conduct, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption for the purpose of an action that the claimant has not met the applicable standard of conduct.

#### Section 4. Successful Defense

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, to the extent that a director or officer has been successful on the merits or otherwise (including the dismissal of an action without prejudice or the settlement of a proceeding or action without admission of liability) in defense of any proceeding referred to in Section 1 or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred in connection therewith.

#### Section 5. Non-Exclusivity of Rights

The right to indemnification provided by this Article shall not be exclusive of any other right which any person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, bylaw, agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.

#### Section 6. Insurance

The Corporation may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation or another Corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any expense, liability or loss, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such expense, liability or loss under the law.

#### Section 7. Expenses as a Witness

To the extent that any director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation is by reason of such position, or a position with another entity at the request of the Corporation, a witness in any action, suit or proceeding, he or she shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him or her on his or her behalf in connection therewith.

#### Section 8. Indemnity Agreements

The Corporation may enter into agreements with any director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation providing for indemnification to the fullest extent permissible under the law and the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation.

#### Section 9. Separability

Each and every paragraph, sentence, term and provision of this Article is separate and distinct so that if any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or unenforceability of any other paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof. To the extent required, any paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Article may be modified by a court of competent jurisdiction to preserve its validity and to provide the claimant with, subject to the limitations set forth in this Article and any agreement between the Corporation and claimant, the broadest possible indemnification permitted under applicable law.



#### Section 10. Effect of Repeal or Modification

Any repeal or modification of this Article shall not adversely affect any right of indemnification of a director or officer existing at the time of such repeal or modification with respect to any action or omission occurring prior to such repeal or modification.”

### ARTICLE IX

#### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Section 1. If there shall be a Chairman of the Board of Directors, he shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the stockholders and the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as the Bylaws or the Board of Directors shall require of him.

### ARTICLE X

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER; OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall, at their first regular meeting, elect such officers as are required by Article VI hereof and such additional officers authorized by Article VI hereof as the Board, in its discretion, may choose to elect. If at any time the Chief Executive Officer shall be unable to act, the President (if there shall be one who is not also the Chief Executive Officer) shall act in his place and perform his duties; if the President or next most senior officer is unable to perform such duties, then the vice presidents, in such sequence as the Board of Directors may specify, shall act. If all the foregoing shall be unable to act, the senior officer among them shall appoint some other person in whom shall be vested, for the time being, all the duties and functions of Chief Executive Officer, to act until the Board of Directors can be convened and elect appropriate officers. The Chief Executive Officer (or person acting as such) shall:

1. Preside (if there shall be no Chairman of the Board of Directors or in his absence) over all meetings of the shareholders and directors;
2. Sign in behalf of the Corporation contracts and other instruments in writing within the scope of his authority or if, when, and as directed so to do by the Board of Directors, but nothing herein shall limit the power of the Board of Directors to authorize such contracts and other instruments in writing to be signed by any other officer or person or limit the power of the Chief Executive Officer to delegate his authority in any such matter to another officer or other officers of the Corporation. The Chief Executive Officer or any other officer specified by the Board of Directors may sign certificates of stock as provided in Article XIII hereof;
3. Delegate duties and responsibilities to any other officers and/or employees of the Corporation in any manner not prohibited by these Bylaws or by the Board of Directors, and change such duties and responsibilities so delegated from time to time at will;

4. Call the directors together when he deems it necessary, and have, subject to the advice of the directors, direction of the affairs of the Corporation; and
5. Generally discharge such other duties as may be required of him by the Bylaws of the Corporation.

#### ARTICLE XI

##### SECRETARY

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall elect a Secretary:

1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of proceedings of the Board of Directors and of the shareholders, and to keep the corporate seal of the Corporation. He shall be responsible for maintaining proper records showing the number of shares of stock of all classes and series issued and transferred by any shareholder, and the dates of such issuance and transfer;
2. Whenever it is provided in these Bylaws that notice shall be given either of regular or special meetings of the shareholders, regular or special meetings of the directors, or otherwise, such notice shall be given by the Secretary or by the Chief Executive Officer or by any person designated by either of them, or by any authorized person who shall have signed the call for such meeting. Any notice which the Secretary may give or serve, or act required to be done by him, may with like effect be given or served or done by or under the direction of an Assistant Secretary;
3. The Secretary shall discharge such other duties as pertain to his office or which may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE XII

##### TREASURER

Section 1. The Treasurer shall receive and keep all the funds of the Corporation and pay them out only on checks or otherwise, as directed by the Board of Directors; provided, however, that the Board of Directors may provide for a depository of the funds of the Corporation, and may by resolution prescribe the manner in which said funds shall be drawn from said depository.

#### ARTICLE XIII

##### CERTIFICATES OF STOCK

Section 1. Certificates of stock shall be of such form and device as the Board of Directors may direct, and shall be signed by the genuine or facsimile signatures of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer or the President or any authorized Vice President and the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary. Each certificate shall express on its face its number, date of issuance, the number of shares for which and the person to whom it is issued, the kind of shares represented by said certificate, and

such other matters as may be required by law. Certificates of stock may be issued prior to full payment, in harmony with all permits issued by regulatory authorities having jurisdiction in the premises, or as is otherwise allowed by law, but any certificate issued prior to full payment must show on its face what amount has been paid thereon.

#### ARTICLE XIV

##### TRANSFER OF STOCK

Section 1. Shares of stock of the Corporation may be transferred at any time by the holders, or by power of attorney, or by their legal representative, by endorsement on the certificate of stock, but no transfer is valid until the surrender of the endorsed certificate. A surrendered certificate shall be delivered up for cancellation before a new one is issued in lieu thereof, and the Secretary shall preserve the certificate so canceled or a suitable record thereof. If, however, a certificate is lost or destroyed, the Board of Directors may order a new certificate issued as is by law required or permitted.

#### ARTICLE XV

##### VOTING

Section 1. At all corporate meetings, each shareholder, either in person or by proxy, shall be entitled to as many votes as he owns shares of stock; however, every shareholder entitled to vote at any election for directors shall have the right to cumulate his votes.

##### Section 2. Proxies

Every person entitled to vote or execute consents shall have the right to do so either in person or by one or more agents authorized by a written proxy executed by such person or his duly authorized agent and filed with the Secretary of the Corporation; provided that no such proxy shall be valid after the expiration of eleven (11) months from the date of its execution, unless the person executing it specifies therein the length of time for which such proxy is to continue in force, which in no case shall exceed seven (7) years from the date of its execution.

#### ARTICLE XVI

##### INDEBTEDNESS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall have power to incur indebtedness, and the terms and amount thereof shall be entered in the minutes. The Board of Directors shall have the power to secure said indebtedness, or any obligation or obligations of the Corporation, by pledge, mortgage, deed of trust, or other security given upon any property owned by it or in which it has any interest.

ARTICLE XVII

REGISTRAR AND/OR TRANSFER AGENT

Section 1. The Board of Directors may designate and appoint one or more registrars and/or transfer agents for the registration of the stock of the Corporation, and make such rules and regulations for the registrations of stock at the office of such registrars and/or transfer agents as may to the Board of Directors seem desirable. The Corporation may act as its own transfer agent, at the direction of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may, in its discretion, fix a transfer fee for transfer of stock certificates.

ARTICLE XVIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Meetings. Notice. When Conclusive.

An entry made in the minutes of the directors or shareholders, pursuant to resolution or recital, to the effect that the notice of such meeting required by these Bylaws to be given has been given, shall be conclusive upon the Corporation, its directors, shareholders, and all other persons that such notice has been duly given in proper form and substance to the proper persons and for the requisite length of time.

ARTICLE XIX

SEAL

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall provide a suitable seal containing the name of the Corporation, the years of its creation, and other appropriate words, and may alter the same at pleasure.

ARTICLE XX

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Section 1. Power of Shareholders

New Bylaws may be adopted or these Bylaws may be amended or repealed by the vote of shareholders entitled to exercise a majority of the voting power of the Corporation or by the written assent of such shareholders, except as otherwise provided by law or by the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 2. Power of Directors

Subject to the right of the shareholders as provided in Section 1 of this Article XX to adopt, amend or repeal Bylaws, the Board of Directors may adopt, amend or repeal any of the Bylaws of this Corporation, except that the powers of the Board of Directors to change, and/or establish the authorized number of directors of this Corporation shall be as set forth in Article III of these Bylaws.

## [LETTERHEAD OF MORRISON &amp; FOERSTER LLP]

March 16, 2006

Southwest Gas Corporation  
5241 Spring Mountain Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89150

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Southwest Gas Corporation, a California corporation (the "Company"), in connection with its registration statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-106419) (the "Registration Statement") previously declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") relating to the public offering of securities of the Company that may be offered and sold by the Company from time to time as set forth in the prospectus dated April 15, 2004 (the "Prospectus"), and as may be set forth from time to time in one or more supplements to the Prospectus. This opinion is rendered in connection with the proposed issuance and sale from time to time of up to forty-five million dollars (\$45 million) of shares of the Company's common stock, \$1.00 par value (the "Shares"), in accordance with the terms of that certain Sales Agency Financing Agreement (the "Agreement"), dated as of March 16, 2006, by and between the Company and BNY Capital Markets, Inc., a registered broker-dealer organized under the laws of New York (the "Agreement"), and as described in the prospectus supplement dated March 16, 2006 (the "Prospectus Supplement").

As your counsel in connection with this opinion, we have examined such corporate records, documents, and instruments of the Company and reviewed such questions of law as we have deemed necessary for the purpose of rendering the opinions set forth herein and we have examined the proceedings proposed to be taken by the Company relating to the issuance and sale by the Company of the Shares. We have also examined the Registration Statement as filed with the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

We are of the opinion that upon completion of the procedures proposed to be taken by the Company as set forth in the Agreement and in the Prospectus Supplement, the Shares with an aggregate offering price of up to Forty-Five Million Dollars that may be issued and sold by the Company will be duly authorized, legally issued, fully paid and nonassessable when sold.

We consent to the use of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and further consent to all references to us in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus constituting a

Southwest Gas Corporation  
March 16, 2006  
Page Two

part thereof and any amendments thereto. We also consent to the use of our name in the related Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement under the heading "Legal Matters."

Very truly yours,

/s/ MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP