



Whiting Petroleum Corporation

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NEWS RELEASE

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Whiting Petroleum Corporation Files Universal Shelf Registration Statement

DENVER – May 8, 2006 – Whiting Petroleum Corporation (NYSE:WLL) today announced that it has filed a new universal shelf registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission to allow the Company to offer an indeterminate amount of securities in the future. The registration statement replaces the Company's previous universal shelf registration statement, under which approximately \$48 million of securities remained available for offering.

Under the shelf registration statement, the Company will have the flexibility to offer and sell from time to time debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and other securities or any combination of such securities. The Company may periodically offer one or more of these securities in amounts, prices and on terms announced when and if the securities are offered. The specifics of any future offerings, along with the use of proceeds of any securities offered, will be described in detail in a prospectus supplement at the time of any such offering.

This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state or jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such state or jurisdiction.

About Whiting Petroleum

Whiting Petroleum Corporation is a growing energy company based in Denver, Colorado. Whiting Petroleum Corporation is a holding company engaged in oil and natural gas acquisition, exploitation, exploration and production activities primarily in the Permian Basin, Rocky Mountains, Mid-Continent, Gulf Coast and Michigan regions of the United States. The Company trades publicly under the symbol WLL on the New York Stock Exchange. For further information, please visit www.whiting.com.