



Whiting Petroleum Corporation

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Whiting Petroleum Corporation Files Registration Statement for Proposed Offering of Common Stock**

DENVER – October 18, 2004 – Whiting Petroleum Corporation (NYSE: WLL) announced today that it filed an amendment to its registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission to include a proposed public offering of 7,500,000 newly issued shares of its common stock in addition to the sale of the remaining 1,080,000 shares of common stock currently held by Alliant Energy Corporation (NYSE: LNT).

Whiting intends to use all of the net proceeds that it will receive from the shares of common stock that it will sell in the proposed offering to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under its bank credit agreement that was incurred in connection with recent acquisitions.

Merrill Lynch & Co. will act as sole book-running manager for the offering. The offering is being made only by means of a prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained, when available, from Merrill Lynch & Co., 4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080. An electronic copy of the prospectus will be available from the Securities and Exchange Commission's Web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission but has not yet become effective. These securities may not be sold nor offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. 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 in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such State.

#### **About Whiting Petroleum**

Whiting Petroleum Corporation is a holding company for Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation and Equity Oil Company. Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation is a growing energy company based in Denver, Colorado that is engaged in oil and natural gas acquisition, exploitation, exploration and production activities primarily in the Gulf Coast, Permian Basin, Rocky Mountains, Michigan and Mid-Continent 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](http://www.whiting.com).

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