
Section 1: 8-K (8-K)

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 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): **January 1, 2019**

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

Commission
File No.: **0-26823**

73-1564280
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

1717 South Boulder Avenue, Suite 400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(918) 295-7600
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations 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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

ITEM 5.02 DEPARTURE OF DIRECTORS OR CERTAIN OFFICERS; ELECTION OF DIRECTORS; APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS; COMPENSATORY ARRANGEMENTS OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.

On January 7, 2019, Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. (“ARLP”) announced that Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of ARLP’s general partner, has assumed the additional role of Chairman of the general partner's Board of Directors. Mr. Craft replaces John P. Neafsey, who retired effective January 1, 2019 after serving as Board Chairman since 1999. Concurrent with Mr. Neafsey’s retirement, Robert J. Druten has been elected to the general partner’s board of directors and will serve as Chairman of its Conflict Committee and as a member of its Audit and Compensation Committees.

ITEM 9.01. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	<u>Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. press release dated January 7, 2019.</u>

SIGNATURES

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

Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.

By: Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC,
its general partner

By: /s/ Joseph W. Craft III
Joseph W. Craft III
*President, Chief Executive Officer
and Director*

Date: January 7, 2019

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Section 2: EX-99.1 (EX-99.1)

Exhibit
99.1

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P.

Names Craft Chairman of Board of Directors; Druten Elected to Replace Retiring Chairman Neafsey

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, January 7, 2019 – Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. (NASDAQ: ARLP) today announced that Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of ARLP's general partner, has assumed the additional role of Chairman of the general partner's Board of Directors. Mr. Craft replaces John P. Neafsey, who retired effective January 1, 2019 after serving as Board Chairman since 1999.

"Jack Neafsey has been a key member of the Alliance team since our initial public offering in 1999," said Mr. Craft. "Jack's leadership over the years has been invaluable to the growth and success enjoyed by ARLP and he has our deepest appreciation and gratitude for his many contributions. With Jack stepping down, I look forward to assuming this additional role and working to assure Alliance's continued success."

Mr. Craft was instrumental in the acquisition of the Alliance coal business in 1996 by the Beacon Group from MAPCO Coal Inc., and has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of ARLP's general partner since its formation and led ARLP's IPO in 1999. Mr. Craft also served as Chairman, President and CEO of the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. ("AHGP") since its inception (AHGP was a publicly traded master limited partnership from 2006 until completion of ARLP's simplification transactions in 2018). Mr. Craft has been an active supporter of the coal and energy industries throughout his career, and is a Board member and former Chairman of the National Coal Council, a Board Member of the National Mining Association, and a Director and past Chairman of American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity.

Alliance also announced that, concurrent with Mr. Neafsey's retirement, Robert J. Druten has been elected to the general partner's board of directors and will serve as Chairman of its Conflict Committee and as a member of its Audit and Compensation Committees. Mr. Druten served as a director of AHGP's former general partner from January 2007 through December 2018.

"I am pleased that Bob Druten is continuing in an important role with the Alliance team," said Mr. Craft. "Bob's previous tenure as an AHGP director, in addition to his decades of business leadership, knowledge and experience will serve ARLP well as we pursue our goal of creating long-term value for unitholders."

Mr. Druten currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc. He is also a Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Entertainment Properties Trust and a member of its Audit, Compensation, Finance and Governance Committees. Mr. Druten

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previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Hallmark Cards, Inc. from September 1994 until his retirement in August 2006.

About Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.

ARLP is a diversified natural resource company that generates income from coal production and oil and gas mineral interests located in strategic producing regions across the United States.

ARLP currently produces coal from eight mining complexes it operates in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia. ARLP also operates a coal loading terminal on the Ohio River at Mount Vernon, Indiana. ARLP markets its coal production to major domestic and international utilities and industrial users and is currently the second largest coal producer in the eastern United States.

ARLP generates royalty income from mineral interests it owns in premier oil and gas producing regions in the United States, primarily the Anadarko, Permian, Williston and Appalachian basins.

ARLP also generates income from a variety of other sources, including investments in gas compression services.

News, unit prices and additional information about ARLP, including filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, are available at <http://www.arlp.com>. For more information, contact the investor relations department of ARLP at (918) 295-7674 or via e-mail at investorrelations@arlp.com.

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