

AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON NOVEMBER 30, 2000

REGISTRATION NO. 333-39800

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1

TO

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

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

73-0569878  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

ONE WILLIAMS CENTER  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74172  
(918) 573-2000

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

WILLIAM G. VON GLAHN, ESQ.  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL  
THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

ONE WILLIAMS CENTER  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74172  
(918) 573-2000

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

Copy To:  
MARLENE ALVA, ESQ.  
DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL  
450 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017  
(212) 450-4000

APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE TO THE PUBLIC: From time  
to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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

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

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

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

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434,  
please check the following box. [ ]

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATES AS  
NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT FILES A FURTHER  
AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT WILL BE

EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL  
THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION,  
ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

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THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IT IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

Subject to Completion, dated November 30, 2000

PROSPECTUS

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

\$1,775,000,000

DEBT SECURITIES,

PREFERRED STOCK AND

COMMON STOCK

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We will provide the specific terms of each series or issue of securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the supplements carefully before you invest.

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NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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The date of this prospectus is December , 2000

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Williams has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C., a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933 for the securities offered in this prospectus. Williams has not included certain portions of the registration statement in this prospectus, as permitted by the Commission's rules and regulations. For further information, you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits. Williams is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and therefore files reports and other information with the Commission.

You may inspect and copy the registration statement and its exhibits, as well as such reports and other information which Williams files with the Commission, at the public reference facilities of the Commission at its principal offices at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549 and its regional offices at Northwest Atrium Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511 and 7 World Trade Center, Suite 1300, New York, New York 10048. You can obtain information on the operation of the Commission's public reference facilities by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. Information filed by Williams is also available at the Commission's worldwide web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You can also obtain these materials at set rates from the Public Reference Section of the Commission at its principal office at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549.

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YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE OR PROVIDED IN THIS PROSPECTUS AND ITS SUPPLEMENT(S). WE HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT INFORMATION. YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY SUPPLEMENT IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN THE DATE ON THE FRONT OF THOSE DOCUMENTS. THIS PROSPECTUS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL OR A SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY THE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION TO ANY PERSON TO WHOM IT IS UNLAWFUL TO MAKE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION IN SUCH JURISDICTION.

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## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

Williams is incorporating by reference its annual report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999, its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2000, June 30, 2000, and September 30, 2000, and its current reports on Form 8-K filed January 19, 2000, March 1, 2000, July 24, 2000, August 2, 2000, October 26, 2000, and November 29, 2000.

All documents which Williams files pursuant to Sections 13, 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be a part of this prospectus from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement in this prospectus or in any subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference modifies or replaces such statement.

Williams will provide without charge to each person to whom a copy of this prospectus has been delivered, upon the written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference herein, other than exhibits to such documents, unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the information that this prospectus incorporates. You should direct written or oral requests for such copies to: The Williams Companies, Inc., One Williams Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74172, Attention: Corporate Secretary, telephone (918) 573-2000.

## THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

Williams is a holding company headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Williams, through Williams Gas Pipeline Company and Williams Energy Services and their subsidiaries, engages in the following types of energy-related activities:

- transportation and storage of natural gas and related activities through operation and ownership of five wholly owned interstate natural gas pipelines and several pipeline joint ventures;
- exploration and production of oil and gas through ownership of 1.05 trillion cubic feet of proved natural gas reserves primarily located in New Mexico, Wyoming, and Colorado;
- natural gas gathering, processing, and treating activities through ownership and operation of approximately 11,200 miles of gathering lines, 11 natural gas treating plants, and 15 natural gas processing plants (one of which is partially owned);
- natural gas liquids transportation through ownership and operation of approximately 13,508 miles of natural gas liquids pipeline;
- transportation of petroleum products and related terminal services through ownership or operation of approximately 9,170 miles of petroleum products pipeline and 80 petroleum products terminals;
- production and marketing of ethanol and bio-products through operation and ownership of two ethanol plants (one of which is partially owned);
- refining of petroleum products through operation and ownership of two refineries;
- light hydrocarbon/olefin transportation through 300 miles of pipeline in Southern Louisiana;
- ethylene production through a 5/12 interest in a 1.2 billion pound/year facility in Geismar, Louisiana;
- distributed power services;
- retail marketing through 227 convenience stores and 46 travel centers; and
- energy commodity marketing and trading.

Williams, through Williams Communications Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, engages in the following types of communications-related activities:

- owner and operator of a nationwide intercity telecommunications fiber optic network, which is being extended locally and globally;
- Internet-, data-, voice-, and video-transmission related products and services for communications service providers;
- video services and other multimedia services for the broadcast industry;
- customer-premise voice and data equipment, sales, and services including installation, maintenance, and integration; and
- network integration and management services nationwide.

Williams, through subsidiaries, also directly invests in energy and telecommunications projects primarily in Canada, South America, Australia, and Lithuania and continues to explore and develop additional projects for international investments. It also invests in energy, telecommunications, and infrastructure development funds in Asia and Latin America.

Williams was originally incorporated under the laws of the State of Nevada in 1949 and was reincorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1987. Williams maintains its principal executive offices at One Williams Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74172, telephone (918) 573-2000.

## ORGANIZATION CHART

To achieve organizational and operating efficiencies, Williams' interstate natural gas pipelines and pipeline joint venture investments are grouped together under its wholly owned subsidiary, Williams Gas Pipeline Company. The other energy operations are grouped into a wholly owned subsidiary, Williams Energy Services. The communications operations, including investments in international communications projects, are grouped into a majority owned subsidiary, Williams Communications Group, Inc. The international energy operations are grouped into a wholly owned subsidiary, Williams International Company. The following chart shows Williams' principal subsidiaries.

[Chart]

## WILLIAMS DEPENDS ON PAYMENTS FROM ITS SUBSIDIARIES

The debt securities, preferred stock or common stock offered by a prospectus supplement will represent obligations of, or an investment in, Williams exclusively. Williams is a holding company and conducts substantially all of its operations through subsidiaries. Williams performs management, legal, financial, tax, consulting, administrative, and other services for its subsidiaries. Williams' principal sources of cash are from external financings, dividends and advances from its subsidiaries, investments, payments by subsidiaries for services rendered, and interest payments from subsidiaries on cash advances. The amount of dividends available to Williams from subsidiaries largely depends upon each subsidiary's earnings and operating capital requirements. The terms of some of Williams' subsidiaries' borrowing arrangements limit the transfer of funds to Williams. In addition, the ability of Williams' subsidiaries to make any payments to Williams will depend on the subsidiaries' earnings, business and tax considerations, and legal restrictions.

CLAIMS OF HOLDERS OF DEBT SECURITIES AND PREFERRED STOCK RANK JUNIOR TO THOSE OF CREDITORS OF WILLIAMS' SUBSIDIARIES

As a result of the holding company structure, the debt securities and preferred stock will effectively rank junior to all existing and future debt, trade payables, and other liabilities of Williams' subsidiaries. Any right of Williams and its creditors to participate in the assets of any of Williams' subsidiaries upon any liquidation or reorganization of any such subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors, except to the extent that Williams may itself be a creditor of such subsidiary.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, Williams will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes, including repayment of outstanding debt. Williams anticipates that it will raise additional funds from time to time through debt financings, including borrowings under its bank credit agreements.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES  
AND EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES  
AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDEND REQUIREMENTS

The following table presents Williams' consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods shown.

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
1.87	1.31	1.40	2.34	2.72	2.26

The following table presents Williams' consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividend requirements for the periods shown.

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
1.87	1.30	1.37	2.27	2.63	2.16

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will constitute either senior or subordinated debt of Williams. Williams will issue debt securities that will be senior debt under the senior debt indenture between Williams and Bank One Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee. Williams will issue debt securities that will be subordinated debt under the subordinated debt indenture between Williams and Bank One Trust Company, National Association, as trustee. This prospectus refers to the senior debt indenture and the subordinated debt indenture individually as the indenture and collectively as the indentures. This prospectus refers to Bank One Trust Company, National Association, as the trustee. Williams has filed the forms of the indentures as exhibits to the registration statement.

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIES OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE INDENTURES AND THE DEBT SECURITIES ARE NOT COMPLETE AND THESE SUMMARIES ARE SUBJECT TO THE DETAILED PROVISIONS OF THE APPLICABLE INDENTURE. FOR A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THESE PROVISIONS, INCLUDING THE DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN TERMS USED IN THIS PROSPECTUS, AND FOR OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEBT SECURITIES, SEE THE INDENTURES. Wherever this prospectus refers to particular sections or defined terms of the applicable indenture, these sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus as part of the statement made, and the statement is qualified

in its entirety by such reference. The indentures are substantially identical, except for the provisions relating to subordination and Williams' limitation on liens. See "-- Subordinated Debt" and "-- Certain Covenants of Williams." Neither indenture contains any covenant or provision which affords debt holders protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

#### CERTAIN DEFINITIONS

Certain terms in Article One of the senior debt indenture are summarized as follows:

"Consolidated Funded Indebtedness" means the aggregate of all outstanding Funded Indebtedness of Williams and its consolidated Subsidiaries determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

"Consolidated Net Tangible Assets" means the total assets appearing on a consolidated balance sheet of Williams and its consolidated subsidiaries less, in general:

- intangible assets;
- current and accrued liabilities (other than Consolidated Funded Indebtedness and capitalized rentals or leases), deferred credits, deferred gains, and deferred income;
- reserves;
- advances to finance oil or natural gas exploration and development to the extent that the indebtedness related thereto is excluded from Funded Indebtedness;
- an amount equal to the amount excluded from Funded Indebtedness representing "production payment" financing of oil or natural gas exploration and development; and
- minority stockholder interests.

"Funded Indebtedness" means any indebtedness which matures more than one year after the date the amount of Funded Indebtedness is being determined, less any such indebtedness as will be retired by any deposit or payment required to be made within one year from such date under any prepayment provision, sinking fund, purchase fund, or otherwise. Funded Indebtedness does not, however, include indebtedness of Williams or any of its subsidiaries incurred to finance outstanding advances to others to finance oil or natural gas exploration and development, to the extent that the latter are not in default in their obligations to Williams or such subsidiary. Funded Indebtedness also does not include indebtedness of Williams or any of its subsidiaries incurred to finance oil or natural gas exploration and development through what is commonly referred to as a "production payment" to the extent that Williams or any of its subsidiaries have not guaranteed the repayment of the production payment.

You should note that the term "subsidiary," as used in this section describing the debt securities, refers only to a corporation in which Williams, or another subsidiary or subsidiaries of Williams, owns at least a majority of the outstanding securities which have voting power.

#### GENERAL TERMS OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

Neither of the indentures limits the amount of debt securities, debentures, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness that Williams or any of its subsidiaries may issue. The debt securities will be unsecured senior or subordinated obligations of Williams. Williams' subsidiaries own all of the operating assets of Williams and its subsidiaries. Therefore, Williams' rights and the rights of Williams' creditors, including holders of debt securities, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation or recapitalization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that Williams may itself be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary. The ability of Williams to pay principal of and interest on the debt securities is, to a large extent, dependent upon dividends or other payments from its subsidiaries.



The indentures provide that Williams may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series and that Williams may denominate the debt securities and make them payable in foreign currencies. The relevant prospectus supplement will describe special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to any debt securities denominated and payable in a foreign currency.

#### TERMS YOU WILL FIND IN THE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

The prospectus supplement will provide information relating to the debt securities and the following terms of the debt securities, to the extent such terms are applicable to the debt securities described in a particular prospectus supplement:

- classification as senior or subordinated debt securities;
- ranking of the specific series of debt securities relative to other outstanding indebtedness, including subsidiaries' debt;
- if the debt securities are subordinated, the aggregate amount of outstanding indebtedness, as of a recent date, that is senior to the subordinated securities, and any limitation on the issuance of additional senior indebtedness;
- the specific designation, aggregate principal amount, purchase price, and denomination of such debt securities;
- currency or units based on or relating to currencies in which such debt securities are denominated and/or in which principal, premium, if any, and/or any interest will or may be payable;
- maturity date;
- interest rate or rates, if any, or the method by which the rate will be determined;
- the dates on which any interest will be payable;
- the place or places where the principal of and interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable;
- any redemption or sinking fund provisions;
- whether the debt securities will be issuable in registered or bearer form or both and, if debt securities in bearer form are issuable, restrictions applicable to the exchange of one form for another and to the offer, sale, and delivery of debt securities in bearer form;
- any applicable United States federal income tax consequences, including whether and under what circumstances Williams will pay additional amounts on debt securities held by a person who is not a U.S. person, as defined in the prospectus supplement, in respect of any tax, assessment, or governmental charge withheld or deducted, and if so, whether Williams will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts; and
- any other specific terms of the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants with respect to such debt securities.

Holders of debt securities may present debt securities for exchange in the manner, at the places, and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the prospectus supplement. Holders of registered debt securities may present debt securities for transfer in the manner, at the places, and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the prospectus supplement. Williams will provide these services without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the applicable indenture. Debt securities in bearer form and the coupons, if any, appertaining thereto will be transferable by delivery.

## INTEREST RATE

Debt securities that bear interest will do so at a fixed rate or a floating rate. Williams will sell, at a discount below the stated principal amount, any debt securities which bear no interest or which bear interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate.

The relevant prospectus supplement will describe the special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to:

- any discounted debt securities; or
- certain debt securities issued at par which are treated as having been issued at a discount for United States federal income tax purposes.

## REGISTERED GLOBAL SECURITIES

Williams may issue registered debt securities of a series in the form of one or more fully registered global securities. Williams will deposit the registered global security with a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. Williams will then issue one or more registered global securities in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding registered debt securities of the series to be represented by the registered global security or securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred, except as a whole in three cases:

- by the depository for the registered global security to a nominee of the depository;
- by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository; or
- by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository or a nominee of the successor.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement concerning any portion of the debt securities to be represented by a registered global security. Williams anticipates that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository for the registered global security will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the registered global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with the depository. These persons are referred to as "participants." Any underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of debt securities represented by the registered global security will designate the accounts to be credited. Only participants or persons that hold interests through participants will be able to beneficially own interests in a registered global security. The depository for a global security will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a registered global security for participants. Participants or persons that hold through participants will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a global security for persons other than participants. These records will be the only means to transfer beneficial ownership in a registered global security.

So long as the depository for a registered global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, the depository or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security:

- may not have the debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in their names;
- will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities represented by a registered global security in definitive form; and

- will not be considered the owners or holders of debt securities represented by a registered global security under the applicable indenture.

#### PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON AND PRINCIPAL OF REGISTERED GLOBAL SECURITIES

Williams will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee to the depository or its nominee as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of Williams, the trustee, or any paying agent for debt securities represented by a registered global security will have any responsibility or liability for:

- any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in such registered global security; or
- maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests.

Williams expects that the depository, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their beneficial interests in the principal amount of a registered global security as shown on the depository's records. Williams also expects that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices. This is currently the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers registered in "street name." Williams also expects that this payout will be the responsibility of participants.

#### EXCHANGE OF REGISTERED GLOBAL SECURITIES

Williams will issue debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security if:

- the depository for any debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository; and
- Williams does not appoint a successor depository within ninety days.

In addition, Williams may, at any time, determine not to have any of the debt securities of a series represented by one or more registered global securities. In this event, Williams will issue debt securities of a series in definitive form in exchange for all of the registered global security or securities representing these debt securities.

#### SENIOR DEBT

Williams will issue under the senior debt indenture the debt securities and any coupons that will constitute part of the senior debt of Williams. These senior debt securities will rank equally and ratably with all other unsecured and unsubordinated debt of Williams.

#### SUBORDINATED DEBT

Williams will issue under the subordinated debt indenture the debt securities and any coupons that will constitute part of the subordinated debt of Williams. These subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the subordinated debt indenture, to all "senior indebtedness" of Williams. The subordinated debt indenture defines "senior indebtedness" as obligations of, or guaranteed or assumed by, Williams for borrowed money or evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes, or other similar instruments, and amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications, and refundings of any such indebtedness or obligation. "Senior indebtedness" does not include nonrecourse obligations, the subordinated debt securities, or any other obligations specifically designated as being subordinate in right of payment to senior indebtedness. See subordinated debt indenture, section 1.1.

In general, the holders of all senior indebtedness are entitled to receive payment of the full amount unpaid on senior indebtedness before the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities or coupons are entitled to receive a payment on account of the principal or interest on the indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities in certain events. These events include:

- any insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, or any receivership, liquidation, reorganization, or other similar proceedings which concern Williams or a substantial part of its property;
- a default having occurred for the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest on or other monetary amounts due and payable on any senior indebtedness or any other default having occurred concerning any senior indebtedness, which permits the holder or holders of any senior indebtedness to accelerate the maturity of any senior indebtedness with notice or lapse of time, or both. This type of an event of default must have continued beyond the period of grace, if any, provided for this type of an event of default under the senior indebtedness, and this type of an event of default shall not have been cured or waived or shall not have ceased to exist; or
- the principal of, and accrued interest on, any series of the subordinated debt securities having been declared due and payable upon an event of default contained in the subordinated debt indenture. This declaration must not have been rescinded and annulled as provided in the subordinated debt indenture.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with a series of subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information incorporated in this prospectus by reference will set forth the approximate amount of senior indebtedness outstanding as of the end of the most recent fiscal quarter.

#### CERTAIN COVENANTS OF WILLIAMS

Liens. The senior debt indenture refers to any instrument securing indebtedness, such as a mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest, or encumbrance on any property of Williams, as a "mortgage." The senior debt indenture further provides that, subject to certain exceptions, Williams will not, nor will it permit any subsidiary to, issue, assume, or guarantee any indebtedness secured by a mortgage unless Williams provides equal and proportionate security for the senior debt securities Williams issues under the senior debt indenture. Among these exceptions are:

- certain purchase money mortgages;
- certain preexisting mortgages on any property acquired or constructed by Williams or a subsidiary;
- certain mortgages created within one year after completion of such acquisition or construction;
- certain mortgages created on any contract for the sale of products or services related to the operation or use of any property acquired or constructed within one year after completion of such acquisition or construction;
- mortgages on property of a subsidiary existing at the time it became a subsidiary of Williams; and
- mortgages, other than as specifically excepted, in an aggregate amount which, at the time of, and after giving effect to, the incurrence does not exceed five percent of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets. See the senior debt indenture, section 3.6.

Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance of Assets. Each indenture provides, in general, that Williams will not consolidate with or merge into any other entity or convey, transfer, or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person unless:

- the corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint stock company, or trust formed by such consolidation or into which Williams is merged or the person which acquires such assets

expressly assumes Williams' obligations under the applicable indenture and the debt securities issued under this indenture; and

- immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no event of default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default, shall have happened and be continuing. See section 9.1 of the indentures.

Event Risk. Except for the limitations on liens described above, neither indenture nor the debt securities contains any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving Williams.

#### EVENT OF DEFAULT

In general, each indenture defines an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series issued under the indenture as being:

(a) default in payment of any principal of the debt securities of such series, either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration, or otherwise;

(b) default for 30 days in payment of any interest on any debt securities of such series unless otherwise provided;

(c) default for 90 days after written notice in the observance or performance of any covenant or warranty in the debt securities of that series or that Indenture other than:

- default in or breach of a covenant which is dealt with otherwise below, or
- if certain conditions are met, if the events of default described in this clause (c) are the result of changes in generally accepted accounting principles; or

(d) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization of Williams. See section 5.1 of the indentures.

In general, each indenture provides that if an event of default described in clauses (a), (b), or (c) above occurs and does not affect all series of debt securities then outstanding, the trustee or the holders of debt securities of the relevant series may then declare the following amounts to be due and payable immediately:

- the entire principal of all debt securities of each series affected by the event of default; and
- the interest accrued on such principal.

Such a declaration by the holders requires the approval of at least 25 percent in principal amount of the debt securities of each series issued under the applicable indenture and then outstanding, treated as one class, which are affected by the event of default.

Each indenture also generally provides that if a default described in clause (c) above which is applicable to all series of debt securities then outstanding or certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, and reorganization of Williams occur and are continuing, the trustee or the holders of debt securities may declare the entire principal of all such debt securities and interest accrued thereon to be due and payable immediately. This declaration by the holders requires the approval of at least 25 percent in principal amount of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture and then outstanding, treated as one class. Upon certain conditions, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of all such affected series then outstanding may annul such declarations and waive the past defaults. However, the majority holders may not annul or waive a continuing default in payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on such debt securities. See sections 5.1 and 5.10 of the indentures.

Each indenture provides that the holders of debt securities issued under that indenture, treated as one class, will indemnify the trustee before the trustee exercises any of its rights or powers under the indenture. This indemnification is subject to the trustee's duty to act with the required standard of care during a default. See section 6.2 of the indentures. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected, treated as one class, issued under the applicable indenture may direct the time, method, and place of:

- conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or
- exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

This right of the holders of debt securities is, however, subject to the provisions in each indenture providing for the indemnification of the trustee and other specified limitations. See section 5.9 of the indentures.

In general, each indenture provides that holders of debt securities issued under that indenture may only institute an action against Williams under the indenture if the following four conditions are fulfilled:

- the holder previously has given to the trustee written notice of default and the default continues;
- the holders of at least 25 percent in principal amount of the debt securities of each affected series (treated as one class) issued under the applicable indenture and then outstanding have requested the trustee to institute such action and have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity;
- the trustee has not instituted such action within 60 days of receipt of such request; and
- the trustee has not received direction inconsistent with such written request by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of each affected series (treated as one class) issued under the applicable indenture and then outstanding. See sections 5.6, 5.7, and 5.9 of the indentures.

The above four conditions do not apply to actions by holders of the debt securities under the applicable indenture against Williams for payment of principal or interest on or after the due date provided. Each indenture contains a covenant that Williams will file annually with the trustee a certificate of no default or a certificate specifying any default that exists. See section 3.5 of the indentures.

#### DISCHARGE, DEFEASANCE, AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE

Williams can discharge or defease its obligations under each indenture as set forth below. See section 10.1 of the indentures.

Under terms satisfactory to the trustee, Williams may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under the applicable indenture which have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation. These debt securities must also:

- have become due and payable;
- be due and payable by their terms within one year; or
- be scheduled for redemption by their terms within one year.

Williams may redeem any series of debt securities by irrevocably depositing an amount certified to be sufficient to pay, at maturity or upon redemption, the principal of and interest on such debt securities. Williams may make such deposit in cash or, in the case of debt securities payable only in U.S. dollars, U.S. Government Obligations, as defined in the applicable indenture.

Williams may also, upon satisfaction of the conditions listed below, discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under such indenture at any time ("Defeasance"). Under terms satisfactory to the trustee, Williams may be released with respect to any outstanding series of debt

securities issued under the relevant indenture from the obligations imposed by sections 3.6 and 9.1, in the case of the senior debt indenture, and section 9.1, in the case of the subordinated debt indenture. These sections contain the covenants described above limiting liens and consolidations, mergers and conveyances of assets. Also under terms satisfactory to the trustee, Williams may omit to comply with these sections without creating an event of default ("Covenant Defeasance"). Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance may be effected only if, among other things:

- Williams irrevocably deposits with the trustee cash or, in the case of debt securities payable only in U.S. dollars, U.S. Government obligations as trust funds in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay at maturity or upon redemption the principal of and interest on all outstanding debt securities of the series issued under the applicable indenture;
- Williams delivers to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain, or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance. Such opinion must further state that these holders will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance had not occurred. In the case of a Defeasance, this opinion must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in United States federal income tax law occurring after the date of the applicable indenture, since this result would not occur under current tax law;
- in the case of the subordinated debt indenture, no event or condition shall exist that, pursuant to certain provisions described under "-- Subordinated Debt" above, would prevent Williams from making payments of principal of or interest on the subordinated debt securities at the date of the irrevocable deposit referred to above or at any time during the period ending on the 91st day after the deposit date; and
- in the case of the subordinated indenture, Williams delivers to the trustee for the subordinated debt indenture an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

(1) the trust funds will not be subject to any rights of holders of senior indebtedness; and

(2) after the 91st day following the deposit, the trust funds will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, or similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally.

If a court were to rule under any such law in any case or proceeding that the trust funds remained property of Williams, counsel must give its opinion only with respect to:

(1) the trustee's valid and perfected security interest in these trust funds;

(2) adequate protection of holders of the subordinated debt securities interests in these funds; and

(3) no prior rights of holders of senior debt securities in property or interests granted to the trustee or holders of the subordinated debt securities in exchange for or with respect to these trust funds.

#### MODIFICATION OF THE INDENTURES

Each indenture provides that Williams and the trustee may enter into supplemental indentures, which conform to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, without the consent of the holders to, in general:

- secure any debt securities;
- evidence the assumption by a successor person of the obligations of Williams;
- add further covenants for the protection of the holders;

- cure any ambiguity or correct any inconsistency in that indenture, so long as the action will not adversely affect the interests of the holders;
- establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series; and
- evidence the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee. See section 8.1 of the indentures.

Each indenture also permits Williams and the trustee to:

- add any provisions to that indenture;
- change in any manner that indenture;
- eliminate any of the provisions of that indenture; and
- modify in any way the rights of the holders of debt securities of each series affected.

All of the above actions require the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of debt securities of each series issued under that indenture then outstanding and affected. These holders will vote as one class to approve such changes.

Such changes must, however, conform to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 and Williams and the trustee may not, without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities affected thereby:

- extend the final maturity of the principal of any debt securities;
- reduce the principal amount of any debt securities;
- reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest on any debt securities;
- reduce any amount payable on redemption of any debt securities;
- change the currency in which the principal, including any amount in respect of original issue discount, or interest on any debt securities is payable;
- reduce the amount of any original issue discount security payable upon acceleration or provable in bankruptcy;
- alter certain provisions of the indenture relating to debt securities not denominated in U.S. dollars or for which conversion to another currency is required to satisfy the judgment of any court;
- impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any debt securities when due; or
- reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of any series issued under the applicable indenture, the consent of the holders of which is required for any such modification. See section 8.2 of the indentures.

The subordinated debt indenture may not be amended to alter the subordination of any outstanding subordinated debt securities without the consent of each holder of senior indebtedness then outstanding that would be adversely affected by such an amendment. See the subordinated debt indenture, section 8.6.

#### CONVERSION RIGHTS

The prospectus supplement will provide if a series of securities is convertible into our common stock and the initial conversion price per share at which the securities may be converted.

If we have not redeemed a convertible security, the holder of the convertible security may convert the security, or any portion of the principal amount in integral multiples of \$1,000, at the conversion price in effect at the time of conversion, into shares of Williams' common stock. Conversion rights expire at the close of business on the date specified in the prospectus supplement for a series of convertible securities.



Conversion rights expire at the close of business on the redemption date in the case of any convertible securities that we call for redemption.

In order to exercise the conversion privilege, the holder of the convertible security must surrender to us, at any office or agency maintained for that purpose, the security with a written notice of the election to convert the security, and, if the holder is converting less than the entire principal amount of the security, the amount of security to be converted. In addition, if the convertible security is converted during the period between a record date for the payment of interest and the related interest payment date, the person entitled to convert the security must pay us an amount equal to the interest payable on the principal amount being converted.

We will not pay any interest on converted securities on any interest payment date after the date of conversion except for those securities surrendered during the period between a record date for the payment of interest and the related interest payment date.

Convertible securities shall be deemed to have been converted immediately prior to the close of business on the day of surrender of the security. We will not issue any fractional shares of stock upon conversion, but we will make an adjustment in cash based on the market price at the close of business on the date of conversion.

The conversion price will be subject to adjustment in the event of:

- payment of stock dividends or other distributions on our common stock;
- issuance of rights or warrants to all our stockholders entitling them to subscribe for or purchase our stock at a price less than the market price of our common stock;
- the subdivision of our common stock into a greater or lesser number of shares of stock;
- the distribution to all stockholders of evidences of our indebtedness or assets, excluding stock dividends or other distributions and rights or warrants; or
- the reclassification of our common stock into other securities.

We may also decrease the conversion price as we consider necessary so that any event treated for Federal income tax purposes as a dividend of stock or stock rights will not be taxable to the holders of our common stock.

We will pay any and all transfer taxes that may be payable in respect of the issue or delivery of shares of common stock on conversion of the securities. We are not required to pay any tax which may be payable in respect of any transfer involved in the issue and delivery of shares in a name other than that of the holder of the security to be converted and no issue and delivery shall be made unless and until the person requesting the issue has paid the amount of any such tax or established to our satisfaction that such tax has been paid.

After the occurrence of:

- consolidation with or merger of Williams into any other corporation,
- any merger of another corporation into Williams, or
- any sale or transfer of substantially all of the assets of Williams,

which results in any reclassification, change or conversion of our common stock, the holders of any convertible securities will be entitled to receive on conversion the kind and amount of shares of common stock or other securities, cash or other property receivable upon such event by a holder of our common stock immediately prior to the occurrence of the event.

## CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE

The trustee is one of a number of banks with which Williams and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking relationships and with which Williams and its subsidiaries maintain credit facilities.

## LIMITATIONS ON ISSUANCE OF BEARER DEBT SECURITIES

Debt securities in bearer form are subject to special U.S. tax requirements and may not be offered, sold, or delivered within the United States or its possessions or to a U.S. person, except in certain transactions permitted by U.S. tax regulations. Investors should consult the prospectus supplement in the event that bearer debt securities are issued for special procedures and restrictions that will apply to such an offering.

## DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

Under the Williams' certificate of incorporation, as amended, Williams is authorized to issue up to 30,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, in one or more series. At September 30, 2000, no shares of preferred stock were outstanding. The following description of preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the series of preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock will describe certain other terms of such series of preferred stock. If so indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, the terms of any such series of preferred stock may differ from the terms set forth below. The description of preferred stock set forth below and the description of the terms of a particular series of preferred stock set forth in the related prospectus supplement are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the certificate of incorporation and to the certificate of designation relating to that series of preferred stock.

The rights of the holders of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of Williams' general creditors.

## GENERAL TERMS OF THE PREFERRED STOCK

The certificate of incorporation will set forth the designations, preferences, and relative, participating, optional and other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations, and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series. To the extent the certificate of incorporation does not set forth the rights and limitations, they shall be fixed by the certificate of designation relating to the series. A prospectus supplement, relating to each series, shall specify the terms of the preferred stock as follows:

- the distinctive designation of the series and the number of shares which shall constitute the series;
- the rate of dividends, if any, payable on shares of the series, the date, if any, from which the dividends shall accrue, the conditions upon which and the date when the dividends shall be payable, and whether the dividends shall be cumulative or noncumulative;
- the amounts which the holders of the preferred stock of the series shall be entitled to be paid in the event of a voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of Williams; and
- whether or not the preferred stock of the series shall be redeemable and at what times and under what conditions and the amount or amounts payable thereon in the event of redemption.

The prospectus supplement may, in a manner not inconsistent with the provisions of the certificate of incorporation:

- limit the number of shares of the series that may be issued;
- provide for a sinking fund for the purchase or redemption or a purchase fund for the purchase of shares of the series, set forth the terms and provisions governing the operation of any fund, and

establish the status as to reissue of shares of preferred stock purchased or otherwise reacquired or redeemed or retired through the operation of the sinking or purchase fund;

- grant voting rights to the holder of shares of the series, in addition to and not inconsistent with those granted by the certificate of incorporation to the holders of preferred stock;
- impose conditions or restrictions upon the creation of indebtedness of Williams or upon the issue of additional preferred stock or other capital stock ranking equally with or prior to the preferred stock or capital stock as to dividends or distribution of assets on liquidation;
- impose conditions or restrictions upon the payment of dividends upon, the making of other distributions to, or the acquisition of junior stock;
- grant to the holders of the preferred stock of the series the right to convert the preferred stock into shares of another series or class of capital stock; and
- grant other special rights to the holders of shares of the series as the board of directors may determine and as shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the certificate of incorporation.

#### DIVIDENDS

Holders of the preferred stock of any series shall be entitled to receive, when and as declared by the board of directors, preferential dividends in cash at the rate per annum, if any, fixed for the series. Their entitlement will be subject to any limitations specified in the certificate of designation providing for the issuance of a particular series of preferred stock. The certificate of designation providing for the issuance of preferred stock of the series may specify the date on which the preferential dividends are payable. The preferential dividends shall further be payable to stockholders of record on a date which precedes each dividend payment date which the board of directors has fixed in advance of each particular dividend.

Each share of preferred stock shall rank on a parity with each other share of preferred stock, irrespective of series, with respect to preferential dividends accrued on the shares of the series. Williams will not declare or pay any dividend nor will it set apart a dividend for payment for the preferred stock of any series unless at the same time Williams declares, pays, or sets apart a dividend in like proportion to the dividends accrued upon the preferred stock of each other series. This does not, however, prevent Williams from authorizing or issuing one or more series of preferred stock bearing dividends subject to contingencies as to the existence or amount of earnings of Williams during one or more fiscal periods, or as to other events, to which dividends on other series of preferred stock are not subject.

So long as any shares of preferred stock remain outstanding, Williams will not, unless all dividends accrued on outstanding shares of preferred stock for all past dividend periods shall have been paid, or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment of the dividends set apart:

- pay or declare any dividends whatsoever, whether in cash, stock, or otherwise;
- make any distribution on any class of junior stock;
- purchase, retire, or otherwise acquire for valuable consideration any shares of preferred stock (subject to certain limitations) or junior stock.

The ability of Williams, as a holding company, to pay dividends on the preferred stock will depend upon the payment of dividends, interest, or other charges by subsidiaries to it. Debt instruments of certain subsidiaries of Williams limit the amount of payments to Williams, which could affect the amount of funds available to Williams to pay dividends on the preferred stock.

Bank One Trust Company, National Association, is the registrar, transfer agent, and dividend disbursing agent for the shares of the preferred stock.

## REDEMPTION

With the approval of its board of directors, Williams may redeem all or any part of the preferred stock of any series that by its terms is redeemable. Redemption will take place at the time or times and on the terms and conditions fixed for the series. Williams must duly give notice in the manner provided in the certificate of designation providing for this series. Williams must pay for preferred stock in cash the sum fixed for this series, together, in each case, with an amount equal to accrued and unpaid dividends on the series of preferred stock. The certificate of designation providing for a series of preferred stock which is subject to redemption may provide, upon the two conditions discussed below, that the shares will no longer be deemed outstanding, and all rights with respect to the shares will cease, including the accrual of further dividends, other than the right to receive the redemption price of the shares without interest, when:

- Williams has given notice of redemption of all or part of the shares of the series; and
- Williams has set aside or deposited with a suitable depository for the proportionate benefit of the shares called for redemption the redemption price of these shares, together with accrued dividends to the date fixed as the redemption date.

Redemption will terminate the right of holders of the preferred stock to accrual of further dividends. Redemption will not, however, terminate the right of holders of the shares redeemed to receive the redemption price for these shares without interest.

## VOTING RIGHTS

The preferred stock will have no right or power to vote on any question or in any proceeding or to be represented at or to receive notice of any meeting of stockholders, except as:

- stated in this prospectus;
- expressly provided by law; or
- provided in the certificate of designation of the series of preferred stock.

On any matters on which the holders of the preferred stock or any series thereof shall be entitled to vote separately as a class or series, they shall be entitled to one vote for each share held.

So long as any shares of preferred stock are outstanding, Williams must not, during the continuance of any default in the payment of dividends on the preferred stock, redeem or otherwise acquire for value any shares of the preferred stock or of any other stock ranking on a parity with the preferred stock concerning dividends or distribution of assets on liquidation. Holders of a majority of the number of shares of preferred stock outstanding at the time may, however, permit such a redemption by giving their consent in person or by proxy, either in writing or by vote at any annual meeting or any special meeting called for the purpose.

## LIQUIDATION RIGHTS

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the affairs of Williams, voluntary or involuntary, the holders of the preferred stock of the respective series are entitled to be paid in full the following amounts:

- the amount fixed in the certificate of designation providing for the issue of shares of the series; plus
- a sum equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends on the shares of preferred stock to the date of payment of the dividends.

Williams must have made this payment in full to the holders of the preferred stock before it may make any distribution or payment to the holders of any class of stock of Williams ranking junior to the preferred stock as to dividends or distribution of assets on liquidation. After Williams has made this

payment in full to the holders of the preferred stock, the remaining assets and funds of Williams will be distributed among the holders of the stock of Williams ranking junior to the preferred stock according to their rights. If the assets of Williams available for distribution to holders of preferred stock are sufficient to make the payment required to be made in full, these assets will be distributed to the holders of shares of preferred stock proportionately to the amounts payable upon each share of preferred stock.

#### PREFERRED STOCK PURCHASE RIGHTS

On February 6, 1996, Williams entered into a rights agreement with The First Chicago Trust Company of New York, as rights agent, which currently provides for a dividend of one-third preferred stock purchase right for each outstanding share of Williams' common stock. The rights trade automatically with shares of common stock and become exercisable only under the circumstances described below. The rights are designed to protect the interests of Williams and its stockholders against coercive takeover tactics. The purpose of the rights is to encourage potential acquirers to negotiate with the board of directors of Williams prior to attempting a takeover and to provide the board with leverage in negotiating on behalf of all stockholders the terms of any proposed takeover. The rights may have anti-takeover effects. The rights should not, however, interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the board of directors of Williams.

Until a right is exercised, the right does not entitle the holder to additional rights as a Williams' stockholder, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends. Upon becoming exercisable, each right entitles its holder to purchase from Williams one two-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at an exercise or purchase price of \$140.00 per right, subject to adjustment. Each one two-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock entitles the holder to receive quarterly dividends payable in cash of an amount per share equal to:

- the greater of (a) \$120, or (b) 1200 times the aggregate per share amount of all cash dividends; plus
- 1200 times the aggregate per share amount payable in kind of all non-cash dividends or other distributions other than dividends payable in common stock, since the immediately preceding quarterly dividend payment date.

The dividends on the Junior Participating Preferred Stock are cumulative. Holders of Junior Participating Preferred Stock have voting rights entitling them to 1200 votes per share on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders of Williams.

In general, the rights will not be exercisable until the distribution date, which is the earlier of (a) the close of business on the 10th business day after Williams learns that a person or group has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock, (b) the close of business on the 10th business day after the commencement of a tender or exchange offer for 15% or more of Williams' outstanding common stock, or (c) the close of business on the 10th business day after the board of directors of Williams determines that any adverse person or group has become the beneficial owner of an amount of common stock which the board of directors determines to be substantial. Below we refer to the person or group acquiring at least 15% of our common stock as an acquiring person.

In the event that a person or group acquires beneficial ownership of 15% or more of Williams' outstanding common stock or the board of directors of Williams determines that any adverse person or group has become the beneficial owner of a substantial amount of common stock, each holder of a right will have the right to exercise and receive common stock having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the right. The exercise price is the purchase price times the number of shares of common stock associated with each right. Any rights that are at any time beneficially owned by an acquiring person will be null and void and any holder of such right will be unable to exercise or transfer the right.

In the event that someone becomes an acquiring person and either (a) Williams is involved in a merger or other business combination in which Williams is not the surviving corporation, (b) Williams is

involved in a merger or other business combination in which Williams is the surviving corporation but all or a part of its common stock is changed or exchanged, or (c) 50% or more of Williams' assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred, each right becomes exercisable and each right will entitle its holder to receive common stock of the acquiring person having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the right.

The rights will expire at the close of business on February 6, 2006, unless redeemed before that time. At any time prior to the earlier of (a) 10 days following the stock acquisition date, as defined in the rights agreement, and (b) the expiration date, the board of directors of Williams may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.01 per right. Prior to the distribution date, Williams may amend the rights agreement in any respect without the approval of the rights holders. However, after the distribution date, the rights agreement may not be amended in any way that would adversely affect the holders of rights (other than any acquiring person or group) or cause the rights to again become redeemable. The Junior Participating Preferred Stock ranks junior to all other series of Williams' preferred stock as to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets unless the terms of the series specify otherwise.

You should refer to the applicable provisions of the rights agreement, which is incorporated by reference as Exhibit 4 to Form 8-K filed January 24, 1996.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

As of the date of this prospectus, Williams is authorized to issue up to 960,000,000 shares of common stock. As of September 30, 2000, Williams had issued 469,602,588 shares of common stock. In addition, at September 30, 2000, options to purchase 23,410,833 shares of common stock were outstanding under various stock and compensation incentive plans. The outstanding shares of Williams' common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of Williams' common stock are not entitled to preemptive or redemption rights. Shares of Williams' common stock are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock. First Chicago Trust Company of New York, a division of EquiServe, is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Williams currently has the following provisions in its charter or bylaws which could be considered to be "anti-takeover" provisions: (i) an article in its charter providing for a classified board of directors divided into three classes, one of which is elected for a three-year term at each annual meeting of stockholders, (ii) an article in its charter providing that directors cannot be removed except for cause and by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the outstanding shares of common stock, (iii) an article in its charter requiring the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the outstanding shares of common stock for certain merger and asset sale transactions with holders of more than five percent of the voting power of Williams, and (iv) a bylaw requiring stockholders to provide prior notice for nominations for election to the board of directors or for proposing matters which can be acted upon at stockholders meetings.

Williams is a Delaware corporation and is subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, Section 203 prevents an interested stockholder (defined generally as a person owning 15% or more of Williams' outstanding voting stock) from engaging in a business combination with Williams for three years following the date that person became an interested stockholder unless: (i) before that person became an interested stockholder, the board of directors of Williams approved the transaction in which the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder or approved the business combination; (ii) upon completion of the transaction that resulted in the interested stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of Williams outstanding at the time the transaction commenced (excluding stock held by persons who are both directors and officers of Williams or by certain employee stock plans); or (iii) on or following the date on which that person became an interested stockholder, the business combination is approved by Williams' board of directors and authorized at a meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock of Williams (excluding shares held by the interested stockholder). A business combination includes mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder.

## DIVIDENDS

The holders of Williams' common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as, and if declared by the board of directors of Williams, out of funds legally available for their payment subject to the rights of holders of any outstanding preferred stock.

## VOTING RIGHTS

The holders of Williams' common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders.

## RIGHTS UPON LIQUIDATION

In the event of Williams' voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, the holders of Williams' common stock will be entitled to share equally in any assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock have received their liquidation preferences in full.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Williams may sell the securities through agents, through underwriters, through dealers, and directly to purchasers.

Agents designated by Williams from time to time may solicit offers to purchase the securities. The prospectus supplement will name any such agent who may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered. The prospectus supplement will also set forth any commissions payable by Williams to such agent. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

If Williams uses any underwriters in the sale, Williams will enter into an underwriting agreement with the underwriters at the time of sale to them. The prospectus supplement which the underwriter will use to make resales to the public of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will set forth the names of the underwriters and the terms of the transaction.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, Williams will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale.

Agents, dealers, and underwriters may be entitled under agreements entered into with Williams to indemnification by Williams against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which such agents, dealers, or underwriters may be required to make in respect of such civil liabilities. Agents, dealers, and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for Williams in the ordinary course of business.

One or more firms, referred to as "remarketing firms," may also offer or sell the securities, if the prospectus supplement so indicates, in connection with a remarketing arrangement upon their purchase. Remarketing firms will act as principals for their own accounts or as agents for Williams. These remarketing firms will offer or sell the securities in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to the terms of the securities. The prospectus supplement will identify any remarketing firm and the terms of its agreement, if any, with Williams and will describe the remarketing firm's compensation. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities they remarket. Remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements that may be entered into with Williams to indemnification by Williams against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for Williams in the ordinary course of business.

If the prospectus supplement so indicates, Williams will authorize agents and underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from Williams at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement. The solicitation will occur pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. These contracts will be subject to only those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of such offers.

Each series of debt securities offered will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market. The debt securities offered may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Williams cannot be sure as to the liquidity of or the existence of trading markets for any debt securities offered.

Certain persons participating in this offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities. Specifically, the underwriters, if any, may over allot in connection with the offering, and may bid for, and purchase, the securities in the open market.

#### EXPERTS

As set forth in their report incorporated by reference in this prospectus, Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, have audited the consolidated financial statements and schedules of Williams for the three years ended December 31, 1999, which appear in Williams' Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 1999. The report of Ernst & Young LLP (which contains an explanatory paragraph describing Williams' changes in accounting method for its crude oil and refined products inventories, start-up costs, and lease transactions relating to its fiber optic network) is based in part on the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, on the consolidated financial statements of MAPCO Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1997. The report of Deloitte & Touche LLP appears in Williams' Annual Report on Form 10-K/A and is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The report of Deloitte & Touche LLP expresses an unqualified opinion and includes explanatory paragraphs relating to certain litigation to which MAPCO Inc. is a defendant and the change in its method of accounting for business process reengineering activities to conform to the consensus reached by the Emerging Issues Task Force in Issue No. 97-13. Williams' consolidated financial statements and schedules for the three years ended December 31, 1999, which appear in Williams' Annual Report on Form 10-K/A are incorporated in this prospectus by reference in reliance upon such reports given upon the authority of such firms as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of Williams included in or incorporated by reference in any documents filed pursuant to Sections 13, 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering will be so included or incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of independent auditors pertaining to such financial statements (to the extent covered by consents filed with the Commission) given upon the authority of such independent auditors as experts in accounting and auditing.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

William G. von Glahn, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Williams will pass upon certain legal matters for Williams in connection with the securities offered by this prospectus. Davis Polk & Wardwell, New York, New York will pass upon certain legal matters for the underwriters in connection with the securities offered by this prospectus. As of the date of this prospectus, Mr. von Glahn beneficially owns, directly or indirectly approximately 193,409 shares of Williams' common stock and also has exercisable options to purchase an additional 135,504 shares of Williams' common stock.



## PART II

## INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION.

Set forth below is an estimate of the approximate amount of the fees and expenses payable by Williams in connection with the offering described in this Registration Statement:

	APPROXIMATE AMOUNT -----
Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee.....	\$396,000
Printing and engraving expenses.....	50,000
Accounting fees and expenses.....	50,000
Legal fees and expenses.....	85,000
Trustees' fees.....	12,000
Fees of rating agencies.....	50,000
Miscellaneous expenses.....	31,950
	-----
TOTAL.....	\$674,950 =====

## ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.

Williams, a Delaware corporation, is empowered by Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, subject to the procedures and limitations stated therein, to indemnify any person against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding in which such person is made party by reason of their being or having been a director, officer, employee, or agent of Williams. The statute provides that indemnification pursuant to its provisions is not exclusive of other rights of indemnification to which a person may be entitled under any by-law, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise. The By-laws of Williams provide for indemnification by Williams of its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. In addition, Williams has entered into indemnity agreements with its directors and certain officers providing for, among other things, the indemnification of and the advancing of expenses to such individuals to the fullest extent permitted by law, and to the extent insurance is maintained, for the continued coverage of such individuals.

Policies of insurance are maintained by Williams under which the directors and officers of Williams are insured, within the limits and subject to the limitations of the policies, against certain expenses in connection with the defense of actions, suits, or proceedings, and certain liabilities which might be imposed as a result of such actions, suits or proceedings, to which they are parties by reason of being or having been such directors or officers.

## ITEM 16. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

## (a) Exhibits:

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
*1.1	-- Form of Underwriting Agreement (filed as Exhibit 1.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 8, 1997).
*1.2	-- Form of Distribution Agreement (filed as Exhibit 1.2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 8, 1997).
*3.1	-- Restated Certificate of Incorporation (filed as Exhibit 4(a) to Form 8-B filed August 20, 1987).
*3.2	-- Certificate of Amendment of Restated Certificate of Incorporation dated May 20, 1994 (filed as Exhibit 3(d) to Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1994).

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
*3.3	-- Certificate of Amendment of Restated Certificate of Incorporation dated May 16, 1997 (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed November 21, 1997).
*3.4	-- Certificate of Amendment of Restated Certificate of Incorporation dated February 26, 1998 (filed as Exhibit 3(d) to Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).
*3.5	-- Restated By-laws (filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Form 8-K filed January 19, 2000).
*4.1	-- Form of Senior Debt Indenture (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 8, 1997).
*4.2	-- Form of Subordinated Debt Indenture (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 9, 1997).
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*4.6	-- Form of Fixed Rate Subordinated Note (filed as Exhibit 4.6 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed September 8, 1997).
*4.7	-- Rights Agreement dated as of February 6, 1996, between Williams and First Chicago Trust Company of New York (filed as Exhibit 4 to Form 8-K filed January 24, 1996).
*4.8	-- Certificate of Increase of Authorized Number of Shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (filed as Exhibit 3(f) to Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995).
*4.9	-- Certificate of Increase of Authorized Number of Shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (filed as Exhibit 3(g) to Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).
5	-- Opinion and consent of counsel of Williams relating to the validity of the Securities.
12	-- Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividend Requirements
23.1	-- Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
23.2	-- Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
23.3	-- Consent of counsel (contained in Exhibit 5).
*24.1	-- Powers of Attorney (filed as Exhibit 24.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed June 21, 2000).
24.1a	-- Powers of Attorney dated November 16, 2000.
*24.2	-- Certified copy of resolutions authorizing signatures pursuant to power of attorney (filed as Exhibit 24.2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed June 21, 2000).
24.2a	-- Certified copy of resolutions dated November 30, 2000, authorizing signatures pursuant to power of attorney.
*25.1	-- Statement of Eligibility and Qualification of Bank One Trust Company, National Association, on Form T-1 for Indentures (filed as Exhibit 25.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed June 21, 2000).

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
*99	-- Report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, on the consolidated financial statements of MAPCO Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1997 (filed as Exhibit 99 to Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999).

\* Such exhibit has heretofore been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of the filing indicated and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 17. UNDERTAKINGS.

Williams hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of Williams' annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) of 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereto) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) (sec.230,424(b) of this chapter) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered that remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of Williams pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, Williams has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable.

In the event a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by Williams of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of Williams in a successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted against Williams by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, Williams will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the City of Tulsa and State of Oklahoma on the 30th day of November, 2000.

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ SHAWNA L. GEHRES

-----  
Shawna L. Gehres  
Attorney-in-Fact

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated:

SIGNATURE -----	TITLE -----	DATE -----
/s/ KEITH E. BAILEY ----- Keith E. Bailey*	Chairman of the Board & President (principal executive officer)	November 30, 2000
/s/ JACK D. MCCARTHY ----- Jack D. McCarthy*	Senior Vice President (principal financial officer)	November 30, 2000
/s/ GARY R. BELITZ ----- Gary R. Belitz*	Controller (principal accounting officer)	November 30, 2000
/s/ HUGH M. CHAPMAN ----- Hugh M. Chapman*	Director	November 30, 2000
/s/ GLENN A. COX ----- Glenn A. Cox*	Director	November 30, 2000
/s/ THOMAS H. CRUIKSHANK ----- Thomas H. Cruikshank*	Director	November 30, 2000
/s/ WILLIAM E. GREEN ----- William E. Green*	Director	November 30, 2000
/s/ W. R. HOWELL ----- W. R. Howell*	Director	November 30, 2000
/s/ JAMES C. LEWIS ----- James C. Lewis*	Director	November 30, 2000

## SIGNATURE

-----

## TITLE

-----

## DATE

-----

/s/ CHARLES M. LILLIS

Director

November 30, 2000

-----  
Charles M. Lillis\*

/s/ PETER C. MEINIG

Director

November 30, 2000

-----  
Peter C. Meinig\*

/s/ GORDON R. PARKER

Director

November 30, 2000

-----  
Gordon R. Parker\*

/s/ JANICE D. STONEY

Director

November 30, 2000

-----  
Janice D. Stoney\*

/s/ JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS

Director

November 30, 2000

-----  
Joseph H. Williams\*

\*By: /s/ SHAWNA L. GEHRES

-----  
Shawna L. Gehres  
Attorney-in-Fact

## EXHIBIT INDEX

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\* Such exhibit has heretofore been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of the filing indicated and is incorporated herein by reference.



November 30, 2000

The Williams Companies, Inc.  
One Williams Center  
Tulsa, OK 74172

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have requested me, as General Counsel of The Williams Companies, Inc., to render my opinion regarding certain matters in connection with the preparation and filing of the Registration Statement by The Williams Companies, Inc. (the "Company") on Form S-3 (as amended, the "Registration Statement") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the contemplated issuance by the Company from time to time of up to \$1,775,000,000 aggregate initial offering price of Debt Securities, Preferred Stock, and Common Stock. The Debt Securities are to be issued as senior or subordinated indebtedness of the Company under a senior debt indenture or a subordinated debt indenture between the Company and Bank One Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (the "Indentures"). The forms of the Indentures and the Debt Securities have been filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement. In addition, the Debt Securities and the Preferred Stock may be convertible into Common Stock of the Company. The Debt Securities, Preferred Stock, and Common Stock are collectively referred to herein as the "Securities."

I am familiar with the Certificate of Incorporation and the By-laws, each as amended to date, of the Company and have examined the originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction, of corporate records of the Company, statutes, and other instruments and documents as the basis for the opinion expressed herein. In addition, I am, or someone under my supervision is, familiar with the forms of the Indentures and the Debt Securities.

Based upon the foregoing, and having regard for such legal considerations as I have deemed relevant, I am of the opinion that, (1) with respect to the Debt Securities, when the remaining terms are set by an officer of the Company pursuant to the authority granted such officer by the Board of Directors of the Company, the Indentures have been duly executed and delivered, and the Debt Securities have been duly issued in accordance with the provisions of the Indentures and duly paid for by the purchasers thereof, (2) with respect to the Preferred Stock, when the remaining terms are set by an officer of the Company pursuant to the authority granted such officer by the Board of Directors of the Company and have been duly issued and delivered by the Company and duly paid for by the purchasers thereof, and (3) with respect to the Common Stock, when duly issued and delivered by the Company and duly paid for by the purchasers thereof (a) the Debt Securities will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company enforceable in accordance with their terms, except

as enforceability may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, or other laws relative to or affecting generally the enforcement of creditor's rights and by principles of equity, and (b) the Preferred Stock and the Common Stock will have been validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable.

In connection with my opinions expressed above, I have assumed that, at or prior to the time of the delivery of any such Security, the Registration Statement has been declared effective, that the authorization of such Securities, will not have been modified or rescinded and there will not have occurred any change in law affecting the validity or enforceability of such Security. I have also assumed that none of the terms of any Security to be established subsequent to the date hereof nor the issuance and delivery of such Security, nor the compliance by the Company with the terms of such Security, will violate any applicable law or will result in a violation of any provision of any instrument or agreement then binding upon the Company, or any restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company.

I am a member of the Bar of the State of New York and the foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of New York, the federal laws of the United States of America and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to the undersigned appearing under the caption "Legal Matters" in the related Prospectus.

Very truly yours,

William G. von Glahn



## Consent of Independent Auditors

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Experts" in Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-39800) and related Prospectus of The Williams Companies, Inc. for the registration of a maximum aggregate amount of \$1.775 billion of debt securities, preferred stock and common stock, and to the incorporation by reference therein of our report dated February 17, 2000, except for the matters described in the fourth and sixth paragraphs of Note 1, Note 11 and Note 22, as to which the date is June 9, 2000, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedules of The Williams Companies, Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K/A) for the year ended December 31, 1999, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ERNST &amp; YOUNG LLP

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
November 29, 2000

## Independent Auditors' Consent

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Post-effective Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement No. 333-39800 of The Williams Companies, Inc. on Form S-3 of our report dated January 27, 1998 (March 3, 1998, as to Notes 2 and 16 to the MAPCO Inc. consolidated financial statements) with respect to the consolidated financial statements of MAPCO Inc., which report includes explanatory paragraphs relating to certain litigation to which MAPCO Inc. is a defendant and the change in its method of accounting for business process reengineering activities to conform to the consensus reached by the Emerging Issues Task Force in Issue No. 97-13, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of The Williams Companies, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1999, and to the reference to us under the heading "Experts" in the Prospectus, which is part of this Registration Statement.

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
November 29, 2000

## THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that each of the undersigned individuals, in their capacity as a director or officer, or both, as hereinafter set forth below their signature, of THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC., a Delaware corporation ("Williams"), does hereby constitute and appoint WILLIAM G. von GLAHN, SHAWNA L. GEHRES, and SUZANNE H. COSTIN their true and lawful attorneys and each of them (with full power to act without the others) their true and lawful attorneys for them and in their name and in their capacity as a director or officer, or both, of Williams, as hereinafter set forth below their signature, to sign a registration statement or post-effective amendment to a registration statement on Form S-3 for the registration of equity securities of Williams with an initial aggregate offering price not to exceed one billion seven hundred and seventy-five million dollars (\$1,775,000,000), and any and all amendments to said registration statement and any and all instruments necessary or incidental in connection therewith; and

THAT the undersigned Williams does hereby constitute and appoint WILLIAM G. von GLAHN, SHAWNA L. GEHRES, and SUZANNE H. COSTIN its true and lawful attorneys and each of them (with full power to act without the others) its true and lawful attorney for it and in its name and on its behalf to sign said registration statement and any and all amendments thereto and any and all instruments necessary or incidental in connection therewith.

Each of said attorneys shall have full power of substitution and resubstitution, and said attorneys or any of them or any substitute appointed by any of them hereunder shall have full power and authority to do and perform in the name and on behalf of each of the undersigned, in any and all capacities, every act whatsoever requisite or necessary to be done in the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as each of the undersigned might or could do in person, the undersigned hereby ratifying and approving the acts of said attorneys or any of them or of any such substitute pursuant hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this instrument, all as of the 16th day of November, 2000.

/s/ KEITH E. BAILEY

/s/ JACK D. McCARTHY

-----  
 Keith E. Bailey  
 Chairman of the Board,  
 President and Chief Executive Officer  
 (Principal Executive Officer)

-----  
 Jack D. McCarthy  
 Senior Vice President  
 (Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ GARY R. BELITZ

-----  
 Gary R. Belitz  
 Controller  
 (Principal Accounting Officer)

/s/ HUGH M. CHAPMAN

-----  
Hugh M. Chapman  
Director

/s/ GLENN A. COX

-----  
Glenn A Cox  
Director

/s/ THOMAS H. CRUIKSHANK

-----  
Thomas H. Cruikshank  
Director

/s/ WILLIAM E. GREEN

-----  
William E. Green  
Director

/s/ W. R. HOWELL

-----  
W. R. Howell  
Director

/s/ JAMES C. LEWIS

-----  
James C. Lewis  
Director

/s/ CHARLES M. LILLIS

-----  
Charles M. Lillis  
Director

-----  
Frank T. MacInnis  
Director

/s/ PETER C. MEINIG

-----  
Peter C. Meinig  
Director

/s/ GORDON R. PARKER

-----  
Gordon R. Parker  
Director

/s/ JANICE D. STONEY

-----  
Janice D. Stoney  
Director

/s/ JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS

-----  
Joseph H. Williams  
Director

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

By: /s/ WILLIAM G. VON GLAHN

-----  
William G. von Glahn

ATTEST:

/s/ SHAWNA L. GEHRES

-----  
Shawna L. Gehres  
Secretary

I, the undersigned, SUZANNE H. COSTIN, Assistant Secretary of THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC., a Delaware company (hereinafter called the "Company"), do hereby certify that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company, duly convened and held on November 16, 2000, at which a quorum of said Board was present and acting throughout, the following resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company has previously authorized the registration and offering of one or more series of debt securities, preferred stock, equity hybrid securities and other securities convertible into equity securities of the Company;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors wishes to expand the authority previously granted to include shares of Common Stock of the Company;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the resolutions of the Board of Directors adopted on July 26, 1998, July 25, 1999, and January 23, 2000, each authorizing the Company to register and issue up to one billion dollars of debt securities, preferred stock, equity hybrid securities, and other securities convertible into equity securities of the Company, be, and each of them hereby is, amended to include, in addition to the authority previously granted, authority to register and issue shares of Common Stock of the Company and that such resolutions shall otherwise remain in full force and effect;

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Company hereby deems it advisable and in the best interests of the Company for the Company to issue shares (the "Shares") of Common Stock of the Company and that the Chairman of the Board shall have authority to determine the number of Shares to be issued, such shares to have a market price not to exceed One Billion Seven Hundred and Seventy Five Million Dollars at the time of issuance to the public;

RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Board, the President, the Chief Financial Officer, or the Treasurer of the Company (the "Designated Officers") be, and each hereby is, authorized to take such action, for and on behalf of the Company, as may be necessary or desirable to effect the intent of the foregoing resolution, including, without limitation, filing a post-effective amendment with the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File Number 333-39800) to include the additional types of securities authorized herein.

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each hereby is, are hereby authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Company, to



prepare or cause to be prepared and to execute and file with the Commission one or more prospectuses and one or more supplementary prospectuses (the "Prospectuses") in connection with offerings or sales of the Shares registered under the Shelf Registration Statement (the "Offerings"); and

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each hereby is, authorized, for and on behalf of the Company, to prepare or cause to be prepared, and to execute and file with the Commission pursuant to the Securities Act and the Rules and Regulations, any and all necessary pre-effective and post-effective amendments to the Shelf Registration Statement, or supplements to the Prospectuses and any and all exhibits and documents relating thereto, as such officers executing the same shall approve, such approval for and in the name of the Company to be conclusively evidenced by their signature thereto, and to take all such further action as may, in the judgment of such officers, be necessary, appropriate or desirable to secure and thereafter to maintain the effectiveness of the Shelf Registration Statement; and

RESOLVED that each officer or director of the Company who may be required to execute the Shelf Registration Statement or any amendment or amendments thereto to be filed with the Commission, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a power of attorney appointing William G. von Glahn, Shawna L. Gehres, and Suzanne H. Costin, and each of them, severally, his true and lawful attorney or attorney-in-fact and agent or agents with the power to act, with or without the other, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place or stead, in his capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of the Company, to sign the Shelf Registration Statement and any and all amendments thereto and all documents or instruments necessary, appropriate or desirable to enable the Company to comply with the Securities Act, other federal and state securities laws and other applicable United States and other laws in connection with the Offerings, and to file the same with the Commission with full power and authority to each of said attorneys-in-fact to do and to perform in the name and on behalf of each such officer or director, or both, as the case may be, every act whatsoever necessary or appropriate, as fully and for all intents and purposes as such officer or director, or both, as the case may be, might or could do in person; and

RESOLVED that William G. von Glahn of the Company, is hereby designated, for and on behalf of the Company, the Agent for Service to be named in the Shelf Registration Statement and in any and all amendments thereto to be executed and filed with the Commission and is hereby authorized and empowered to receive notices and communications with respect to the registration under the Securities Act of the Shares and with respect to the Offerings, with all powers consequent upon such designation under the Rules and Regulations; and

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, for and on behalf of the Company, to take any and all such actions

that, in the judgment of the officer taking such action are necessary or appropriate to effectuate, carry out and consummate fully the Offerings in accordance with the terms and procedures set forth in the Shelf Registration Statement or as may be required by the Securities Act, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or the respective rules and regulations thereunder; and

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, for and on behalf of the Company, to prepare or cause to be prepared and to execute, verify and file such other applications, declarations, powers or other instruments, and any amendment or amendments thereto, together with any and all exhibits and instruments relating thereto, that in the judgment of the officer taking such action, are necessary or appropriate to obtain any order or orders, approval or approvals, certificate or certificates of approval of the Commission or any other regulatory authority that may have jurisdiction in the premises and in connection with any of the matters aforesaid; and

RESOLVED that the execution by any of said Designated Officers of any document authorized by the foregoing resolutions or any document executed in the accomplishment of any action or actions so authorized, is (or shall become upon delivery) the enforceable and binding act and obligation of the Company, without the necessity of the signature or attestation of any other corporate officer of the Company or the affixing of the corporate seal; and

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, for and on behalf of the Company, to file with the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") an application to effect the listing upon the NYSE of the Shares (the "Listing Application") and admission to trading of the Shares on the NYSE and that such officers be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, empowered and directed to take all action, and file with the NYSE all such documents as such officer may deem necessary or appropriate in order to accomplish such listing and admission to trading and to cause the Company to pay filing, listing and application fees associated therewith; such judgment to be conclusively evidenced by such officer's acting thereon or execution thereof; and

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, for and on behalf of the Company, to do and perform all such acts and things and to enter into, execute and file all such documents, that in the judgment of the officer taking such action, are necessary or appropriate to effectuate the listing of the Shares on the NYSE, such judgment to be conclusively evidenced by such officer's acting thereon; and

RESOLVED that the Designated Officers be, and each hereby is, authorized, by and on behalf of the Company and in its name, to take, or cause to be taken, any and all such actions (including, without limitation, the execution and delivery of notices, certificates and other instruments) as such officer(s) may deem

necessary, appropriate or convenient to carry out the foregoing resolutions and consummate the transactions contemplated thereby; and

RESOLVED that all acts, transactions, or agreements undertaken prior to the adoption of these Resolutions by any of the officers or representatives of the Company in its name in connection with the foregoing matters are hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted.

I further certify that the foregoing resolutions have not been modified, revoked, or rescinded and are in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC., this \_\_\_\_ day of November, 2000.

/s/ SUZANNE H. COSTIN

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Suzanne H. Costin  
Assistant Secretary

(CORPORATE SEAL)