

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

VERITAS DGC INC
Form 424B3
November 07, 2003

PROSPECTUS, DATED NOVEMBER 5, 2003

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-110033

VERITAS DGC INC.
61,576 SHARES

COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$.01 PER SHARE

This prospectus relates to the offering of up to 61,576 shares of our common stock, par value \$.01 per share.

The selling stockholders named on page 5 of this prospectus hold the shares of common stock offered hereunder.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling stockholders. We have agreed to bear all expenses, including registration and filing fees, printing expenses and certain fees and disbursements of our counsel and accountants (other than selling discounts and commissions) in connection with the registration and sale of the shares being offered by the selling stockholders. We have agreed to indemnify the selling stockholders against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act").

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "VTS" and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "VER." Any common stock sold pursuant to this prospectus will be listed on those exchanges, subject to official notice of issuance. On October 24, 2003 the last reported sales price for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$8.25 per share.

SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 2 OF THIS PROSPECTUS BEFORE INVESTING IN THE COMMON STOCK.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY OTHER REGULATORY BODY HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THE SECURITIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS PROSPECTUS OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS.....	1
ABOUT VERITAS DGC INC.....	1
RISK FACTORS.....	2
CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS.....	4
USE OF PROCEEDS.....	5
SELLING STOCKHOLDERS.....	5
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION.....	6
LEGAL MATTERS.....	7
EXPERTS.....	7
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION.....	7
INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE.....	8

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by our company. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy any securities other than the common stock offered by this prospectus, or an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy the common stock in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale made under this prospectus will under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus or that the information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date of this prospectus.

i

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, the selling stockholders may, from time to time, offer shares of our common stock that are owned by them and covered by this prospectus. Each time the selling stockholders offer common stock under this prospectus, they will provide a prospectus supplement, if required, that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described in "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 7.

The selling stockholders may offer the common stock in amounts, at prices, and on terms determined at the time of offering.

ABOUT VERITAS DGC INC.

GENERAL

We are a leading provider of integrated geophysical services to the petroleum industry worldwide. Our customers include major, national and independent oil and gas companies that utilize geophysical technologies to:

- Identify new areas where subsurface conditions are favorable for the production of hydrocarbons.
- Determine the size and structure of previously identified oil and gas fields.
- Optimize development and production of hydrocarbon reserves.

We acquire, process and interpret geophysical data and produce geophysical surveys that are either 2D or 3D images of the subsurface geology in the survey area. We also produce 4D surveys, which record fluid movement in the reservoir, by repeating specific 3D surveys over time. Additionally, we use geophysical data for reservoir characterization to enable our customers to maximize their recovery of oil and natural gas.

The address of our executive offices is 10300 Town Park Drive, Houston, Texas 77072, and our telephone number is (832) 351-8300.

1

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock is subject to a number of risks, including those discussed below. You should carefully consider these risks and the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding whether an investment in the common stock is appropriate for you.

AS A PROVIDER OF GEOPHYSICAL TECHNOLOGIES, OUR BUSINESS IS SUBSTANTIALLY DEPENDENT ON THE LEVEL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BY OIL AND GAS COMPANIES.

Capital expenditures by oil and gas companies are affected by several factors including actual and forecast petroleum commodity prices and the companies' own short term and strategic plans. These capital expenditures may also be affected by worldwide economic conditions. Should there be a sustained period of substantially reduced capital expenditures by oil and gas companies the demand for geophysical services likely will drop and there will be an adverse effect on our results of operations and cash flow during the affected period. Recently, many of our customers have been using a substantial portion of their discretionary cash to pay down debt, buy back their stock, drill low-risk prospects and maximize production from existing fields rather than exploring for new prospects. We do not see any indication that this spending pattern will change much in the next 12 to 18 months.

WEAK DEMAND OR TECHNOLOGICAL OBSOLESCENCE COULD IMPAIR THE VALUE OF OUR MULTI-CLIENT DATA LIBRARY.

We have invested significant amounts in acquiring and processing multi-client data and expect to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. There is no assurance that we will recover all the costs of such surveys. Technological, regulatory or other industry or general economic developments could render all or portions of our multi-client data library obsolete or reduce its value. For example, in fiscal 2003 and fiscal 2002 we incurred \$4.9 million and \$55.2 million, respectively, in impairment charges related to slow moving surveys in our multi-client library. These surveys were found to be impaired for various reasons, including slow acreage turnover in the case of U.S. land surveys, a border dispute in the case of a Shetland-Faroes survey and excessive acquisition cost in the case of a Gulf of Mexico survey.

WE ARE DEPENDENT ON ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, WHICH CREATES RISKS REGARDING TECHNOLOGICAL OBSOLESCENCE, REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL FUTURE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, THE UNAVAILABILITY OF NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND THE FAILURE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

The development of geophysical data acquisition and processing equipment has been characterized by rapid technological advancements in recent years. We expect this trend to continue. We will be required to invest substantial capital in the future to maintain our technology. Furthermore, manufacturers of geophysical equipment may develop new systems that render our equipment, even if recently acquired, obsolete or less desirable, requiring significant additional capital expenditures. Since some of our competitors are themselves leading designers and manufacturers of seismic equipment, we may not have access to their technology. Even if critical new and advanced equipment is available to us, we may not have funds available or be able to obtain necessary financing on acceptable terms to acquire it. Further, any investment we may make in a perceived technological advance may not be effective, economically successful or otherwise accepted in the market.

WE FACE INTENSE COMPETITION IN OUR INDUSTRY, WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR RESULTS.

Competition among geophysical service providers historically has been, and

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

will continue to be, intense. Competitive factors in recent years have included price, crew experience, equipment availability, technological expertise and reputation for quality, safety and dependability. Some of our competitors operate substantially more data acquisition crews and have significantly greater financial and other resources than we do. These larger and better-financed operators could enjoy an advantage over us in a competitive environment for contract awards and data sales and in the development of new technologies. Other competitors operate with extremely low overhead and compete vigorously on price in certain markets where that is the determining factor in awarding work. These low-cost competitors can have a competitive advantage over us in these markets.

2

HIGH FIXED COSTS COULD RESULT IN OPERATING LOSSES.

Our business has high fixed costs. As a result, downtime or low productivity due to reduced demand, weather interruptions, equipment failures or other causes can result in significant operating losses. Low utilization rates may hamper our ability to recover the cost of necessary capital investments.

OUR REVENUES ARE SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATIONS THAT ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL, WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR RESULTS OF OPERATIONS IN ANY FINANCIAL PERIOD.

Our operating results vary in material respects from quarter to quarter and will most probably continue to do so in the future. Factors that cause variations include the timing of the receipt and commencement of contracts for data acquisition, customers' budgetary cycles, the timing of offshore lease sales and the effect of such timing on the demand for geophysical activities, seasonal factors and the timing of sales of geophysical data from our multi-client data library, which may be significant to us and which are not typically made in a linear or consistent pattern. Combined with our high fixed costs, these revenue fluctuations could produce unexpected adverse results of operations in any fiscal period.

WE MAY BE UNABLE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN KEY EMPLOYEES, WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS.

Our success depends upon attracting and retaining highly skilled professionals and other technical personnel. A number of our employees are highly skilled scientists and highly trained technicians, and our failure to continue to attract and retain such individuals could adversely affect our ability to compete in the geophysical services industry. We may confront significant and potentially adverse competition for key personnel, particularly during periods of increased demand for geophysical services. In addition, our success will depend to a significant extent upon the abilities and efforts of members of our senior management, the loss of whom could adversely affect our business. Of relevance to this risk factor, our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, David B. Robson, has announced his intention to resign and our Board of Directors has initiated a search for his replacement.

WE FACE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH OUR FOREIGN REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITIES.

Substantial portions of our revenues are derived from foreign activities and, as a result, significant portions of our revenues are denominated in foreign currencies. These revenues are impacted by foreign currency fluctuations. In addition, net assets reflected on the balance sheets of our foreign subsidiaries, and therefore on our consolidated balance sheet, are subject to currency fluctuations. Foreign revenues are also subject to special risks that may disrupt markets, including the risk of war, terrorism, civil disturbances, embargo, and government activities. Revenue generating activities in certain foreign countries may require prior United States government approval

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

in the form of an export license and otherwise be subject to tariffs and import/export restrictions. There can be no assurance that we will not experience difficulties in connection with future foreign revenues and, in particular, adverse effects from foreign currency fluctuations.

WE OPERATE UNDER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS THAT SUBJECT US TO RISK OF DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR PERSONAL INJURIES AND MAY INTERRUPT OUR BUSINESS.

Our seismic data acquisition activities involve operating under extreme weather and other hazardous conditions. These operations are subject to risks of loss to property and injury to personnel from fires, accidental explosions, ice floes, and high seas. These events could result in an interruption of our business or significant liability. We may not obtain insurance against all risks or for certain equipment located from time to time in certain areas of the world.

THE TRADING PRICE OF OUR SECURITIES COULD BE SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT FLUCTUATIONS.

The trading prices of our securities fluctuate. Factors such as fluctuations in our financial performance, and that of our competitors, as well as general market conditions could have a significant impact on the future trading prices of our securities. The trading prices also may be affected by weakness in oil prices, changes in

3

interest rates and other factors beyond our control. These factors may have an adverse effect on the trading price of our securities.

OUR BUSINESS IS SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION, WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR FUTURE OPERATIONS OR ACCOUNTING FOR THEM.

Our operations are subject to a variety of federal, provincial, state, foreign and local laws and regulations, including environmental laws. We invest financial and managerial resources to comply with these laws and related permit requirements. Failure to timely obtain the required permits may result in crew downtime and operating losses. Because laws and regulations change frequently, we cannot predict the impact of government regulations on our future operations. The adoption of laws and regulations that have the effect of curtailing exploration by oil and gas companies could also adversely affect our operations by reducing the demand for our geophysical services.

We follow the generally accepted accounting principles of the United States (GAAP) as promulgated and/or enforced by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other organizations. GAAP is subject to change, with such changes occurring at a rapid rate in recent years. Changes in GAAP can affect the reporting of our future results. For example, we do not currently expense stock options granted to our employees and directors. It is possible that the accounting rules will change, directing us to expense stock options. This could reduce the reported earnings of the company.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF OUR CHARTER, DELAWARE LAW AND OUR SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS PLAN MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR A THIRD PARTY TO ACQUIRE US, EVEN IN SITUATIONS THAT MAY BE VIEWED AS DESIRABLE BY OUR STOCKHOLDERS.

The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware contains provisions that may delay or prevent an attempt by a third party to acquire control of the company. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that authorize the issuance of preferred stock, and establish advance notice requirements for director nominations and actions to be taken at stockholder

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

meetings. These provisions could also discourage or impede a tender offer, proxy contest or other similar transaction involving control of us, even if viewed favorably by stockholders. In addition, we have adopted a stockholder rights plan that would likely discourage a hostile attempt to acquire control of us.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference contain forward-looking statements, within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements include statements incorporated by reference to other documents we file with the SEC. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, business strategy and expectations concerning industry conditions, market position, future operations, margins, profitability, liquidity and capital resources. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of terminology such as "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate" or "believe" or similar expressions or the negatives thereof. These expectations are based on management's assumptions and current beliefs based on currently available information. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will be correct. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus. Our operations are subject to a number of uncertainties, risks and other influences, many of which are outside our control, and any one of which, or a combination of which, could cause our actual results of operations to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations are disclosed in "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this prospectus.

4

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock covered by this prospectus.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC, of which this prospectus forms a part, pursuant to registration rights we granted to the selling stockholders upon the issuance of their respective shares.

All of the shares of common stock offered under this prospectus are being offered and sold by the selling stockholders listed in the table below. In addition, the selling stockholders include any donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares received after the date of this prospectus from a selling stockholder named below as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other non-sale related transfer. Except as previously described, no offer or sale under this prospectus may be made by a holder of the shares of common stock, unless that holder is listed in the table below. The selling stockholders may offer pursuant to this prospectus only those shares of common stock listed below. The shares of common stock reflected below in the column entitled "Number of Shares Being Offered" are restricted securities within the meaning of Rule 144 of the Securities Act because they were issued in private placement transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

The shares of common stock reflected below in the column entitled "Number of Shares Being Offered" were issued to the selling stockholders on September 15, 2003 in connection with our acquisition of the two-thirds of the outstanding member interests of Fairweather Geophysical LLC ("Fairweather") not owned by us,

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

pursuant to a Member Interest Purchase Agreement, dated December 7, 2000, among the selling stockholders, Veritas DGC Inc. ("Veritas DGC") and one of our subsidiaries (the "Agreement"). We acquired the other one third of the member interests of Fairweather from the selling stockholders on December 7, 2000 in exchange for an aggregate of 20,243 shares of our common stock. We are filing this registration statement in accordance with registration rights we granted to the selling stockholders under the Agreement.

The information in the table reflects information as of September 15, 2003 with respect to the selling stockholders. Except as disclosed in the footnotes to the table, no selling stockholder has held any position, office or other material relationship with us or our affiliates during the past three years.

We prepared the table based on the information supplied to us by the selling stockholders named in the table.

NAME	NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY OWNED PRIOR TO THE OFFERING (1)	NUMBER OF SHARES BEING OFFERED	NUMBER OF SHARES COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY OWNED AFTER THE OFFERING
Jeff H. Hastings(3).....	26,170	26,170	-0-
Fairweather, Inc.(4).....	25,554	25,554	-0-
Robert L. Costello.....	4,618	4,618	-0-
Ted K. Smith.....	4,618	4,618	-0-
Sherron G. Perry(5).....	616	616	-0-
Total.....	61,576	61,576	-0-

(1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Unless otherwise indicated below, the persons and entities named in the table have sole voting and sole investment power with respect to all shares beneficially owned, subject to community property laws where applicable.

(2) Assumes each selling stockholder sells all of the shares of common stock offered under this prospectus.

5

(3) As of the date of this filing, Mr. Hastings remains president of Fairweather, which is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Veritas DGC.

(4) Fairweather, Inc. is a separate company owned by Sherron G. Perry and was not part of the acquisition of Fairweather Geophysical LLC.

(5) Mr. Perry is vice president of Fairweather.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling stockholders may from time to time offer the shares of common stock listed in the preceding section through brokers, dealers or agents who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling stockholders and/or the purchasers of the shares of common stock for whom they may act as agent. In effecting sales, broker-dealers that are engaged

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

by the selling stockholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. The selling stockholders and any such brokers, dealers or agents who participate in the distribution of the shares of common stock may be deemed to be underwriters, and any profits on the sale of the shares of common stock by them and any discounts, commissions or concessions received by any such brokers, dealers or agents might be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

The selling stockholders will act independently of Veritas DGC in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale. These sales may be made over the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise, at then prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. The shares of common stock may be sold according to one or more of the following methods:

- a block trade in which the broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the shares of common stock as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by such broker or dealer for its account pursuant to this prospectus;
- an over-the-counter distribution in accordance with the Nasdaq rules;
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchasers; and
- privately negotiated transactions.

A selling stockholder may decide not to sell any shares. We cannot assure you that any selling stockholder will use this prospectus to sell any or all of the shares. Any shares covered by this prospectus that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus. In addition, a selling stockholder may transfer, devise or gift the shares by other means not described in this prospectus.

Some persons participating in this offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our common stock, including the entry of stabilizing bids or syndicate covering transactions or the imposition of penalty bids. The selling stockholders and any other person participating in such distribution will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder including, without limitation, Regulation M, which regulation may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any of the shares of common stock by the selling stockholders and any other person. The anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares of common stock in the market and to the activities of the selling stockholders and their affiliates. Furthermore, Regulation M of the Exchange Act may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the shares of common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to the particular shares of common stock being distributed for a period of up to five business days prior to the commencement of such distribution. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the shares of common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of common stock.

Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act, among other things, generally prohibit certain participants in a distribution from bidding for or purchasing for an account in which the participant has

a beneficial interest, any of the securities that are the subject of the

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

distribution. Rule 104 of Regulation M governs bids and purchases made to stabilize the price of a security in connection with a distribution of the security.

In connection with distributions of the shares of common stock or otherwise, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers. In connection with these transactions, broker-dealers may engage in short sales of the shares of common stock registered hereunder in the course of hedging the positions they assume with selling stockholders. The selling stockholders may also sell shares of common stock short and redeliver the shares of common stock to close out such short positions. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers which require the delivery to the broker-dealer of the shares of common stock registered hereunder, which the broker-dealer may resell or otherwise transfer pursuant to this prospectus. Selling stockholders may also loan or pledge the shares of common stock registered hereunder to a broker-dealer and the broker-dealer may sell the shares of common stock so loaned or, upon a default, the broker-dealer may effect sales of the pledged shares of common stock pursuant to this prospectus.

We have agreed to pay the expenses of registering the shares of common stock under the Securities Act, including registration and filing fees, printing expenses, administrative expenses and certain legal and accounting fees. Each of the selling stockholders will bear its pro rata share of all discounts, commissions or other amounts payable to underwriters, dealers or agents as well as fees and disbursements for legal counsel retained by any selling stockholder.

We have agreed to indemnify each of the selling stockholders against specified liabilities in connection with the offering of the shares of common stock, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

At any time a particular offer of the shares of common stock is made, a revised prospectus or prospectus supplement will be distributed if required by law. Any required prospectus supplement or post-effective amendment will be filed with the SEC to reflect the disclosure of required additional information with respect to the distribution of the shares of common stock. Under the terms of the agreement giving rise to the selling stockholders being permitted to include their shares in this prospectus, we may suspend the period of sale or distribution of the shares at any time when we reasonably believe that the sale or distribution of shares under this prospectus would adversely affect a pending or proposed public offering of our securities, an acquisition, merger, recapitalization, consolidation, reorganization or similar transaction relating to us or negotiations, discussions or pending proposals with respect thereto or would require premature disclosure of information not otherwise required to be disclosed to our potential detriment.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the validity of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Houston, Texas.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Veritas DGC for the year ended July 31, 2003, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Edgar Filing: VERITAS DGC INC - Form 424B3

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 registering the shares of common stock offered by the selling stockholders. This prospectus, which is a part of the registration statement, omits certain information included in the registration statement.

7

Veritas DGC files annual, quarterly and other reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC, including the registration statement, at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on their public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You can also obtain information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

This prospectus incorporates documents by reference that are not presented in or delivered with it. This means that Veritas DGC can disclose certain information by referring a reader to certain documents. These documents (other than exhibits to such documents unless specifically incorporated by reference) are available, without charge, upon written or oral request directed to Larry L. Worden, Veritas DGC Inc., at Veritas DGC's principal executive offices located at 10300 Town Park Drive, Houston, Texas 77072; telephone (832) 351-8300.

The following documents, which have been filed by Veritas DGC with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act (File No. 1-7427), are incorporated in this prospectus by reference and shall be deemed to be a part hereof, other than information under Item 9 or 12 of any Current Report on Form 8-K:

- (a) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended July 31, 2003;
- (b) Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed August 1, 2003, September 4, 2003 and October 14, 2003; and
- (c) All documents filed by Veritas DGC with the SEC pursuant to sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of securities by this prospectus.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

8