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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT  
TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 31, 2009

**DUNCAN ENERGY PARTNERS L.P.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**1-33266**  
(Commission File Number)

**20-5639997**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**1100 Louisiana, 10th Floor**  
**Houston, Texas 77002**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices, including Zip Code)

**(713) 381-6500**  
(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2.):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

***Election of New Director***

Effective January 1, 2010, Enterprise Products Operating LLC (“EPO”), the sole member of DEP Holdings, LLC (the “Company”), elected Richard S. Snell to the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Company, which is the general partner of Duncan Energy Partners L.P. (the “Partnership”).

Mr. Snell, age 67, was elected a director of the Company effective January 1, 2010 and also serves as a member of the Audit, Conflicts and Governance Committee of the Board. Mr. Snell was an attorney with the Snell & Smith, P.C. law firm in Houston, Texas, from the founding of the firm in 1993 until May 2000. Since May 2000, he has been a partner with the firm of Thompson & Knight LLP in Houston, Texas, and is a certified public accountant. Mr. Snell served as a director of Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company, LLC, the general partner of TEPPCO Partners, L.P. (“TEPPCO”), from January 2006 until the merger of TEPPCO with a subsidiary of Enterprise Products Partners L.P. in October 2009. Mr. Snell also served as a director of Enterprise Products GP, LLC, the general partner of Enterprise Products Partners L.P., from June 2000 until his resignation in February 2006.

On January 4, 2010, the Partnership issued a press release announcing the election of Mr. Snell to the Board. The press release is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference into this Item 1.01.

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

***Compensation of Non-Management Directors***

On January 1, 2010, the Board adopted and approved an increased compensation package for non-management members of the Board for the period beginning on January 1, 2010 and until revised by similar Board action.

Effective as of January 1, 2010, the compensation payable to each of the current non-management directors and any non-management director who may be elected or appointed a director (an “Independent Director”), as approved by the Board, consists of:

- (i) an annual retainer in cash of \$75,000;
- (ii) a meeting fee in cash of \$1,500 for each meeting (including without limitation any telephonic meeting) of the Board attended by such Independent Director;
- (iii) a meeting fee in cash of \$1,500 for each meeting (including without limitation any telephonic meeting) of a duly appointed committee of the Board (each a “Committee”) attended by such Independent Director, provided that he or she is a duly elected or appointed member of such Committee as of the time of such meeting; and
- (iv) an annual grant of common units representing limited partner interests (“Common Units”) of the Partnership having a fair market value, based on the closing price of a Common Unit of the Partnership on the New York Stock Exchange (or, in the event that such Common Units are no longer listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, then such other national securities trading market on which such Common Units shall be listed for trading) on the trading day immediately preceding the date of grant, of \$40,000.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the compensation payable to an Independent Director who is also a Chairman of a Committee shall also include (in addition to any compensation payable in accordance with the immediately preceding paragraph) an annual retainer in cash of \$15,000.

The cash portion of the compensation described above (i) will be payable quarterly, (ii) in the case of the annual retainers described above, will be prorated for the number of days in a calendar quarter that an individual serves

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as an Independent Director and/or as a Chairman of a Committee, and (iii) in the case of the meeting fees described above, will be payable in arrears.

### **Equity Ownership Guidelines**

On December 31, 2009, the Audit, Conflicts and Governance Committee of the Board recommended to the Board, and effective on January 1, 2010, the Board adopted and approved, the following equity ownership guidelines for directors and executive officers of the Company (as an amendment of the equity ownership provisions of the Partnership's Governance Guidelines) in order to further align the interests and actions of each of the directors and executive officers of the Company with the interests of the Company, the Partnership and the Partnership's unitholders:

*Non-Management Directors.* Each non-management director of the Company shall be required to own units representing limited partner interests of the Partnership ("Partnership Units") having an aggregate Value (as defined below) of three times the dollar amount of such non-management director's aggregate annual cash retainer for service on the Board paid for the most recently completed calendar year.

*Management Directors and other Executive Officers.* Each executive officer of the Company shall be required to own Partnership Units having an aggregate Value of three times the dollar amount of such executive officer's aggregate annual base salary for the most recently completed calendar year paid by Enterprise Products Company, a Texas corporation formerly named EPCO, Inc., and/or its successors-in-interest; provided, however, that (notwithstanding the foregoing) the Value of any units representing limited partnership interests in Enterprise Products Partners L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("EPD"), or Enterprise GP Holdings L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("EPE" and together with EPD, the "Affiliated MLPs" and each an "Affiliated MLP"), owned by an executive officer of the Company who is also an executive officer of the general partner of such Affiliated MLP, shall be counted toward the equity ownership requirements set forth above.

*Deadline for Achieving Required Ownership Level.* For each director and executive officer, the deadline to achieve the applicable required ownership described above shall be the later of (a) January 1, 2015 and (b) the fifth anniversary of (i) the election or appointment of such person to the Board (in the case of a non-management director) or (ii) the election or appointment of such person as an executive officer of the Company (in the case of a management director or other executive officer).

For purposes of the Company's equity ownership guidelines, the "Value" of a unit owned by a person means (i) for units that are purchased by such person, the price paid by such person at the time of purchase or (ii) for units granted to such person by the Partnership or an Affiliated MLP (including without limitation restricted units granted pursuant to a long-term incentive or other equity ownership plan), the closing price of the relevant class of units as of the trading day immediately preceding the date of such grant on the New York Stock Exchange (or, in the event that such class of units is no longer listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, then such other national securities trading market on which such class of units shall be listed for trading).

On January 4, 2010, the Partnership issued a press release announcing the adoption and approval of the equity ownership guidelines described above. The press release is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference into this Item 8.01.

### **Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

#### *(d) Exhibits.*

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u>                   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 99.1               | Press release dated January 4, 2010. |

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**SIGNATURES**

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

DUNCAN ENERGY PARTNERS L.P.

By: DEP HOLDINGS, LLC,  
its General Partner

Date: January 4, 2010

By: /s/ Michael J. Knesek  
Name: Michael J. Knesek  
Title: *Senior Vice President, Controller and Principal  
Accounting Officer of DEP Holdings, LLC*

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## Exhibit Index

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u>                   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 99.1               | Press release dated January 4, 2010. |

**Snell Elected to Board of Directors of General Partner; Equity  
Ownership Guidelines Approved**

Houston, Texas—(January 4, 2010)—Duncan Energy Partners L.P. (NYSE: DEP) today announced that Richard S. Snell has been elected to the board of directors of its general partner, effective January 1, 2010. Also taking effect January 1, 2010, are equity ownership guidelines for its directors and executive officers that were adopted by the board.

Mr. Snell's duties as a director will include serving as a member of the board's Audit, Conflicts and Governance Committee. He most recently served as a director of Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company, LLC, the general partner of TEPPCO Partners, L.P. from January 2006 until TEPPCO's merger with Enterprise Products Partners L.P. (NYSE: EPD) in October 2009. From June 2000 until his resignation in February 2006, he served as a director of Enterprise Products GP, LLC, the general partner of Enterprise Products Partners L.P.

A certified public accountant, Mr. Snell has been a partner with the law firm of Thompson & Knight LLP in Houston since May 2000. Prior to his current position, he worked as an attorney for the Snell & Smith, P.C. law firm in Houston from its founding in 1993 until May 2000.

"Given his past board experience with the general partners of Enterprise and TEPPCO, Dick brings valuable, first-hand knowledge of the midstream energy business," said Richard H. Bachmann, president and chief executive officer of Duncan Energy Partners. "His expertise will be a strong asset to our board and will provide guidance for our partnership's future growth and success."

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### Equity Ownership Guidelines

The board also adopted equity ownership guidelines for directors and executive officers of the general partner. The guidelines require non-management directors to own Duncan Energy Partners L.P. units (“DEP units”) having an aggregate value of at least three times the dollar amount of the non-management director’s aggregate annual cash retainer paid for the most recently completed calendar year. Based on the annual retainer that went into effect January 1, 2010, this equates to at least \$225,000 of DEP units.

The guidelines also require executive officers (including management directors) to own DEP units with an aggregate value equal to at least three times the officer’s salary for the most recently completed calendar year. However, if any executive officer of Duncan Energy’s general partner also serves as an executive officer of the general partner of Enterprise Products Partners L.P. and/or Enterprise GP Holdings L.P., the value of that officer’s partnership units in such affiliated partnership(s) shall be counted toward the equity ownership requirements described above. To transition into this requirement, each director and executive officer subject to these equity ownership guidelines will have until January 1, 2015 to comply.

Bachmann further stated, “These new equity ownership guidelines reflect Duncan Energy’s commitment to strong management ownership of the partnership, which is already among the highest in the midstream sector. The board’s actions will further align the interests and actions of the directors and management with those of our unitholders.”

Duncan Energy Partners is a publicly traded partnership that provides midstream energy services, including gathering, transportation, marketing and storage of natural gas, in addition to NGL fractionation (or separation), transportation and storage and petrochemical transportation and storage. Duncan Energy Partners owns interests in assets located primarily in Texas and Louisiana, including interests in approximately 9,200 miles of natural gas pipelines with a transportation capacity aggregating approximately 6.8 billion cubic feet (“Bcf”) per day; more than 1,600 miles of NGL and petrochemical pipelines featuring access to the world’s largest fractionation complex at

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Mont Belvieu, Texas; two NGL fractionation facilities located in south Texas; approximately 18 million barrels (“MMBbls”) of leased NGL storage capacity; 8.5 Bcf of leased natural gas storage capacity; and 34 underground salt dome caverns with more than 100 MMBbls of NGL storage capacity at Mont Belvieu. Duncan Energy Partners is managed by its general partner, DEP Holdings, LLC, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Enterprise. Additional information about Duncan Energy Partners is available online at [www.deplp.com](http://www.deplp.com).

*This press release includes forward-looking statements. Except for the historical information contained herein, the matters discussed in this press release are forward-looking statements that involve certain risks and uncertainties, such as the partnership’s expectations regarding future results, capital expenditures, project completions, liquidity and financial market conditions. These risks and uncertainties include, among other things, insufficient cash from operations, adverse market conditions, governmental regulations and other factors discussed in Duncan Energy’s filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results or outcomes may vary materially from those expected. The partnership disclaims any intention or obligation to update publicly or reverse such statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.*

Contacts: Randy Burkhalter, 713-381-6812 or 866-230-0745 (Investor Relations)

Rick Rainey, 713-381-3635 (Media Relations)

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