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

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**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): **August 7, 2018**

**NuStar Energy L.P.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**001-16417**

(Commission File Number)

**74-2956831**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification  
No.)

**19003 IH-10 West  
San Antonio, Texas 78257**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**(210) 918-2000**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

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:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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

Emerging growth company

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

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**Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On August 7, 2018, NuStar Energy L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, issued a press release announcing financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2018. A copy of the press release announcing the financial results is furnished with this report as Exhibit 99.01 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

**Exhibit Number**

**Exhibit**

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[Exhibit 99.01](#)

Press Release dated August 7, 2018.

**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.

NUSTAR ENERGY L.P.

By: Riverwalk Logistics, L.P.  
its general partner

By: NuStar GP, LLC  
its general partner

Date: August 7, 2018

By: /s/ Amy L. Perry  
Name: Amy L. Perry  
Title: Senior Vice President, General Counsel-  
Corporate & Commercial Law and  
Corporate Secretary

**NuStar Energy L.P. Announces 12% Increase in Second Quarter 2018 Net Income****Second Quarter 2018 Distributable Cash Flow Increases 36%****Permian Crude System Throughput Volumes Exit July at Over 300,000 Barrels Per Day****\$600 Million Equity Financing and Merger of General Partner Completed**

**SAN ANTONIO, August 7, 2018** – For the second quarter of 2018, NuStar Energy L.P. (NYSE: NS) reported net income applicable to common limited partners of \$13.7 million, or \$0.15 per unit, up \$9.3 million from \$4.4 million in the second quarter 2017, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) were \$157.1 million, up 11% from \$141.1 million for the second quarter 2017.

Distributable Cash Flow (DCF) available to common limited partners was \$82.1 million for the second quarter of 2018, up \$21.8 million or 36% compared to \$60.3 million in the second quarter of 2017. The distribution coverage ratio to the common limited partners for the second quarter of 2018 was 1.28 times, and 1.45 times for the six months ended June 30, 2018.

“Our Permian Crude System continues to grow and perform and was the primary contributor to a strong second quarter for NuStar. During the second quarter of 2018, the Permian Crude System averaged pipeline receipts of over 266,000 barrels per day (BPD) and exited July at over 300,000 BPD. Since our acquisition of the Permian Crude System in May of 2017 volumes are up 140%, significantly higher than the overall growth in the Permian basin of 46% during the same period. Based on our producers’ expectations, we expect our Permian Crude System to continue to drive our partnership’s growth and exit 2018 between approximately 360,000 and 380,000 BPD,” said Brad Barron, President and Chief Executive Officer of NuStar Energy L.P.

**Completed Merger with General Partner**

“On July 20, 2018, we completed the merger with our general partner. By simplifying our corporate structure and eliminating the incentive distribution rights, we immediately lowered our cost of capital, which will allow us to build on the strength of our superior asset base with less dependence on the capital markets,” said Barron. “We also created a more efficient and transparent structure, which was a key component of our comprehensive plan to position NuStar for long-term financial strength and allow us to successfully de-lever and deliver strong, sustainable distribution coverage in the future.”

**Completed \$600 million of Equity Financing**

“In two separate closings, one in late June and the second in early July, we closed on the private placement of \$590 million of Series D cumulative convertible preferred units. In late June, we also closed on the issuance of \$10 million of common units to Bill Greehey, our chairman. We used the net proceeds from these transactions to pay down borrowings under our revolver, which allowed us to significantly improve our leverage metrics,” said Barron.

**Conference Call Details**

A conference call with management is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. CT today, August 7, 2018, to discuss the financial and operational results for the second quarter of 2018. The conference call may be accessed by dialing toll-free 844/889-7787, reservation passcode 6187415. International callers may access the conference call by dialing 661/378-9931, reservation passcode 6187415. The Partnership intends to have a playback available following the conference call, which may be accessed by dialing toll-free 855/859-2056, reservation passcode 6187415. International callers may access the playback by dialing 404/537-3406, reservation passcode 6187415. The playback will be available until 1:00 p.m. CT on September 6, 2018.

Investors interested in listening to the live presentation or a replay via the internet may access the presentation directly at <https://edge.media-server.com/m6/p/rtc4vkz9> or by logging on to NuStar Energy L.P.’s website at [www.nustarenergy.com](http://www.nustarenergy.com).

The discussion will disclose certain non-GAAP financial measures. Reconciliations of certain of these non-GAAP financial measures to U.S. GAAP may be found in this press release, with additional reconciliations located on the Financials page of the Investors section of NuStar Energy L.P.’s website at [www.nustarenergy.com](http://www.nustarenergy.com).

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NuStar Energy L.P., a publicly traded master limited partnership based in San Antonio, is one of the largest independent liquids terminal and pipeline operators in the nation. NuStar currently has more than 9,700 miles of pipeline and 82 terminal and storage facilities that store and distribute crude oil, refined products and specialty liquids. The partnership's combined system has more than 97 million barrels of storage capacity, and NuStar has operations in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, including St. Eustatius in the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit NuStar Energy L.P.'s website at [www.nustarenergy.com](http://www.nustarenergy.com).

This release serves as qualified notice to nominees under Treasury Regulation Sections 1.1446-4(b)(4) and (d). Please note that 100% of NuStar Energy L.P.'s distributions to foreign investors are attributable to income that is effectively connected with a United States trade or business. Accordingly, all of NuStar Energy L.P.'s distributions to foreign investors are subject to federal income tax withholding at the highest effective tax rate for individuals and corporations, as applicable. Nominees, and not NuStar Energy L.P., are treated as the withholding agents responsible for withholding on the distributions received by them on behalf of foreign investors.

*Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*

*This press release includes, and the related conference call will include, forward-looking statements regarding future events, such as the partnership's future performance. All forward-looking statements are based on the partnership's beliefs as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to the partnership. These statements reflect the partnership's current views with respect to future events and are subject to various risks, uncertainties and assumptions. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions are discussed in NuStar Energy L.P.'s 2017 annual report on Form 10-K and subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements.*

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**NuStar Energy L.P. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Financial Information**  
(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Unit and Per Unit Data)

|  | Three Months Ended June 30, |            | Six Months Ended June 30, |            |
|--|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
|  | 2018                        | 2017       | 2018                      | 2017       |
| <b>Statement of Income Data:</b>                                     |                             |            |                           |            |
| Revenues:  |                             |            |                           |            |
| Service revenues   | \$ 302,131                  | \$ 283,700 | \$ 593,544                | \$ 550,162 |
| Product sales  | 184,073                     | 151,788    | 368,541                   | 372,756    |
| Total revenues   | 486,204                     | 435,488    | 962,085                   | 922,918    |
| Costs and expenses:  |                             |            |                           |            |
| Costs associated with service revenues:                              |                             |            |                           |            |
| Operating expenses (excluding depreciation and amortization expense) | 131,672                     | 116,400    | 240,556                   | 217,426    |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                                | 73,613                      | 65,402     | 143,510                   | 120,073    |
| Total costs associated with service revenues                         | 205,285                     | 181,802    | 384,066                   | 337,499    |
| Cost of product sales  | 170,849                     | 144,479    | 347,577                   | 352,285    |
| General and administrative expenses                                  | 27,981                      | 33,604     | 47,755                    | 58,199     |
| Other depreciation and amortization expense                          | 2,251                       | 2,199      | 4,369                     | 4,392      |
| Total costs and expenses   | 406,366                     | 362,084    | 783,767                   | 752,375    |
| Operating income   | 79,838                      | 73,404     | 178,318                   | 170,543    |
| Interest expense, net  | (48,936)                    | (45,612)   | (96,708)                  | (82,026)   |
| Other income, net  | 1,412                       | 88         | 81,164                    | 228        |
| Income before income tax expense                                     | 32,314                      | 27,880     | 162,774                   | 88,745     |
| Income tax expense   | 2,915                       | 1,630      | 7,242                     | 4,555      |
| Net income   | \$ 29,399                   | \$ 26,250  | \$ 155,532                | \$ 84,190  |
| Net income applicable to common limited partners                     | \$ 13,705                   | \$ 4,364   | \$ 121,200                | \$ 42,816  |
| Basic net income per common unit                                     | \$ 0.15                     | \$ 0.05    | \$ 1.30                   | \$ 0.51    |
| Basic weighted-average common units outstanding                      | 93,192,238                  | 90,345,469 | 93,187,038                | 84,526,506 |

**Other Data (Note 1):**

|  |            |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| EBITDA                                   | \$ 157,114 | \$ 141,093 | \$ 407,361 | \$ 295,236 |
| DCF available to common limited partners | \$ 82,057  | \$ 60,267  | \$ 173,789 | \$ 149,209 |

|   | June 30,     |              | December 31, |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | 2018         | 2017         | 2017         | 2017         |
| <b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>                    |              |              |              |              |
| Total debt                                    | \$ 3,443,366 | \$ 3,521,939 | \$ 3,648,059 | \$ 3,648,059 |
| Partners' equity and series D preferred units | \$ 2,827,188 | \$ 2,501,049 | \$ 2,480,089 | \$ 2,480,089 |

**NuStar Energy L.P. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Financial Information - Continued**  
(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Barrel Data)

|   | Three Months Ended June 30, |            | Six Months Ended June 30, |            |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
|   | 2018                        | 2017       | 2018                      | 2017       |
| <b>Pipeline:</b>                                    |                             |            |                           |            |
| Refined products pipelines throughput (barrels/day) | 565,740                     | 531,529    | 548,910                   | 522,820    |
| Crude oil pipelines throughput (barrels/day):       | 839,574                     | 558,182    | 815,568                   | 483,909    |
| Total throughput (barrels/day)                      | 1,405,314                   | 1,089,711  | 1,364,478                 | 1,006,729  |
| Throughput and other revenues                       | \$ 150,276                  | \$ 126,740 | \$ 287,066                | \$ 247,980 |
| Operating expenses                                  | 48,706                      | 40,197     | 91,047                    | 73,271     |
| Depreciation and amortization expense               | 38,591                      | 33,675     | 75,246                    | 56,813     |
| Segment operating income                            | \$ 62,979                   | \$ 52,868  | \$ 120,773                | \$ 117,896 |
| <b>Storage:</b>                                     |                             |            |                           |            |
| Throughput (barrels/day)                            | 331,917                     | 337,518    | 337,892                   | 326,327    |
| Throughput terminal revenues                        | \$ 20,141                   | \$ 22,122  | \$ 40,157                 | \$ 42,812  |
| Storage terminal revenues                           | 137,309                     | 136,437    | 272,621                   | 263,178    |
| Total revenues                                      | 157,450                     | 158,559    | 312,778                   | 305,990    |
| Operating expenses                                  | 78,244                      | 70,783     | 144,069                   | 132,922    |
| Depreciation and amortization expense               | 35,022                      | 31,727     | 68,264                    | 63,260     |
| Segment operating income                            | \$ 44,184                   | \$ 56,049  | \$ 100,445                | \$ 109,808 |
| <b>Fuels Marketing:</b>                             |                             |            |                           |            |
| Product sales and other revenue                     | \$ 180,483                  | \$ 153,918 | \$ 366,321                | \$ 376,620 |
| Cost of product sales                               | 172,724                     | 147,013    | 351,401                   | 357,612    |
| Gross margin  | 7,759                       | 6,905      | 14,920                    | 19,008     |
| Operating expenses                                  | 4,855                       | 6,616      | 5,696                     | 13,579     |
| Segment operating income                            | \$ 2,904                    | \$ 289     | \$ 9,224                  | \$ 5,429   |
| <b>Consolidation and Intersegment Eliminations:</b> |                             |            |                           |            |
| Revenues  | \$ (2,005)                  | \$ (3,729) | \$ (4,080)                | \$ (7,672) |
| Cost of product sales                               | (1,875)                     | (2,534)    | (3,824)                   | (5,327)    |
| Operating expenses                                  | (133)                       | (1,196)    | (256)                     | (2,346)    |
| Total   | \$ 3                        | \$ 1       | \$ —                      | \$ 1       |
| <b>Consolidated Information:</b>                    |                             |            |                           |            |
| Revenues  | \$ 486,204                  | \$ 435,488 | \$ 962,085                | \$ 922,918 |
| Costs associated with service revenues:             |                             |            |                           |            |
| Operating expenses                                  | 131,672                     | 116,400    | 240,556                   | 217,426    |
| Depreciation and amortization expense               | 73,613                      | 65,402     | 143,510                   | 120,073    |
| Total costs associated with service revenues        | 205,285                     | 181,802    | 384,066                   | 337,499    |
| Cost of product sales                               | 170,849                     | 144,479    | 347,577                   | 352,285    |
| Segment operating income                            | 110,070                     | 109,207    | 230,442                   | 233,134    |
| General and administrative expenses                 | 27,981                      | 33,604     | 47,755                    | 58,199     |
| Other depreciation and amortization expense         | 2,251                       | 2,199      | 4,369                     | 4,392      |
| Consolidated operating income                       | \$ 79,838                   | \$ 73,404  | \$ 178,318                | \$ 170,543 |

**NuStar Energy L.P. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Financial Information - Continued**  
**(Unaudited, Thousands of Dollars, Except Ratio Data)**

**Note 1:** NuStar Energy L.P. utilizes financial measures, such as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA), distributable cash flow (DCF) and distribution coverage ratio, which are not defined in U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Management believes these financial measures provide useful information to investors and other external users of our financial information because (i) they provide additional information about the operating performance of the partnership's assets and the cash the business is generating, (ii) investors and other external users of our financial statements benefit from having access to the same financial measures being utilized by management and our board of directors when making financial, operational, compensation and planning decisions and (iii) they highlight the impact of significant transactions.

Our board of directors and management use EBITDA and/or DCF when assessing the following: (i) the performance of our assets, (ii) the viability of potential projects, (iii) our ability to fund distributions, (iv) our ability to fund capital expenditures and (v) our ability to service debt. In addition, our board of directors uses a distribution coverage ratio, which is calculated based on DCF, as one of the factors in its compensation determinations. DCF is a widely accepted financial indicator used by the master limited partnership (MLP) investment community to compare partnership performance. DCF is used by the MLP investment community, in part, because the value of a partnership unit is partially based on its yield, and its yield is based on the cash distributions a partnership can pay its unitholders.

None of these financial measures are presented as an alternative to net income. They should not be considered in isolation or as substitutes for a measure of performance prepared in accordance with GAAP. The following is a reconciliation of EBITDA, DCF and distribution coverage ratio:

|   | Three Months Ended June 30, |                  | Six Months Ended June 30, |                   |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
|   | 2018                        | 2017             | 2018                      | 2017              |
| Net income  | \$ 29,399                   | \$ 26,250        | \$ 155,532                | \$ 84,190         |
| Interest expense, net                               | 48,936                      | 45,612           | 96,708                    | 82,026            |
| Income tax expense                                  | 2,915                       | 1,630            | 7,242                     | 4,555             |
| Depreciation and amortization expense               | 75,864                      | 67,601           | 147,879                   | 124,465           |
| <b>EBITDA</b>                                       | <b>157,114</b>              | <b>141,093</b>   | <b>407,361</b>            | <b>295,236</b>    |
| Interest expense, net                               | (48,936)                    | (45,612)         | (96,708)                  | (82,026)          |
| Reliability capital expenditures                    | (21,913)                    | (10,380)         | (41,795)                  | (15,402)          |
| Income tax expense                                  | (2,915)                     | (1,630)          | (7,242)                   | (4,555)           |
| Mark-to-market impact of hedge transactions (a)     | (437)                       | (563)            | (231)                     | (3,149)           |
| Unit-based compensation (b)                         | 1,783                       | 1,618            | 3,120                     | 3,706             |
| Preferred unit distributions                        | (16,245)                    | (9,950)          | (32,235)                  | (14,763)          |
| Insurance gain adjustment (c)                       | 10,609                      | —                | (55,753)                  | —                 |
| Other items   | 2,997                       | (1,095)          | (1,587)                   | (1,369)           |
| DCF   | \$ 82,057                   | \$ 73,481        | \$ 174,930                | \$ 177,678        |
| Less DCF available to general partner               | —                           | 13,214           | 1,141                     | 28,469            |
| DCF available to common limited partners            | <u>\$ 82,057</u>            | <u>\$ 60,267</u> | <u>\$ 173,789</u>         | <u>\$ 149,209</u> |
| Distributions applicable to common limited partners | \$ 64,205                   | \$ 101,869       | \$ 120,121                | \$ 203,782        |
| Distribution coverage ratio (d)                     | 1.28x                       | 0.59x            | 1.45x                     | 0.73x             |

- (a) DCF excludes the impact of unrealized mark-to-market gains and losses that arise from valuing certain derivative contracts, as well as the associated hedged inventory. The gain or loss associated with these contracts is realized in DCF when the contracts are settled.
- (b) We intend to satisfy the vestings of equity-based awards with the issuance of our common units. As such, the expenses related to these awards are considered non-cash and added back to DCF. Certain awards include distribution equivalent rights (DERs). Payments made in connection with DERs are deducted from DCF.
- (c) For the second quarter of 2018, DCF includes an adjustment for reliability capital expenditures incurred for hurricane repairs at our St. Eustatius terminal that were offset by insurance proceeds received in the first quarter.
- (d) Distribution coverage ratio is calculated by dividing DCF available to common limited partners by distributions applicable to common limited partners.