

PROSPECTUS

MAY 1, 2011



Van Eck VIP Trust

Van Eck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund
(Initial Class Shares)



These securities have not been approved or disapproved either by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any State Securities Commission. Neither the SEC nor any State Commission has passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any claim to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Van Eck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in hard asset securities. Income is a secondary consideration.

FUND FEES AND EXPENSES

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The table does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the table.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	Initial Class
Management Fees	0.89%
Other Expenses	0.08%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.00%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	0.97%

Expense Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the example.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then either redeem all of your shares at the end of these periods or continue to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual expenses may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

	Share Status	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Class	Sold or Held	\$99	\$309	\$536	\$1,190

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate that the Fund pays higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 70% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in securities of "hard asset" companies and instruments that derive their value from "hard assets". Hard assets include precious metals (including gold), base and industrial metals, energy, natural resources and other commodities. A hard assets company is a company that derives directly or indirectly, at least 50% of its revenues from exploration, development, production, distribution or facilitation of processes relating to hard assets. The Fund concentrates its investments in the securities of hard assets companies and instruments that derive their value from hard assets. The Fund is considered to be "non-diversified" which means that it may invest in fewer securities than a "diversified" fund.

The Fund may invest without limitation in any one hard asset sector and is not required to invest any portion of its assets in any one hard asset sector. The Fund may invest in securities of companies located anywhere in the world, including the U.S. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund will invest in securities of issuers from a number of different countries, and may invest any amount of its assets in emerging markets. The Fund may invest in securities of companies of any capitalization range.

Utilizing qualitative and quantitative measures, the Fund's investment management team selects equity securities of companies that it believes represent value opportunities and/or that have growth potential. Candidates for the Fund's portfolio are evaluated based on their relative desirability using a wide range of criteria and are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to offer absolute and relative desirability.

The Fund may use derivative instruments, such as structured notes, futures, options and swap agreements, to gain or hedge exposure to hard assets, hard asset companies and other assets. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions to attempt to moderate the effect of currency fluctuations. The Fund may write covered call options on portfolio securities to the extent that the value of all securities with respect to which covered calls are written does not exceed 10% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund may also invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). The Fund may also invest in money market funds, but these investments are not subject to this limitation. The Fund may invest in ETFs to participate in, or gain rapid exposure to, certain market sectors, or when direct investments in certain countries are not permitted.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund's share price and return will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's portfolio securities. Accordingly, an investment in the Fund involves the risk of losing money.

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives. Exposure to the commodities markets, such as precious metals, industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources, may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument and structured note typically are based upon the price movements of physical commodities, the value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodities or related index of investment.

Derivatives. The use of derivatives, such as swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. Also, a liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund's derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions and over the counter instruments may be illiquid.

Direct Investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Markets Securities. Emerging markets securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under "Foreign Securities" and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging markets securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade.

Foreign Currency Transactions. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself.

Foreign Securities. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, or political, economic or social instability. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Hard Assets Sectors. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the hard assets sectors (such as the energy, metals and real estate sectors). Precious metals and natural resources securities are at times volatile and there may be sharp fluctuations in prices, even during periods of rising prices.

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses.

Market. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Non-Diversification. A non-diversified fund's greater investment in a single issuer makes the fund more susceptible to financial, economic or market events impacting such issuer. A decline in the value of or default by a single security in the non-diversified fund's portfolio may have a greater negative effect than a similar decline or default by a single security in a diversified portfolio.

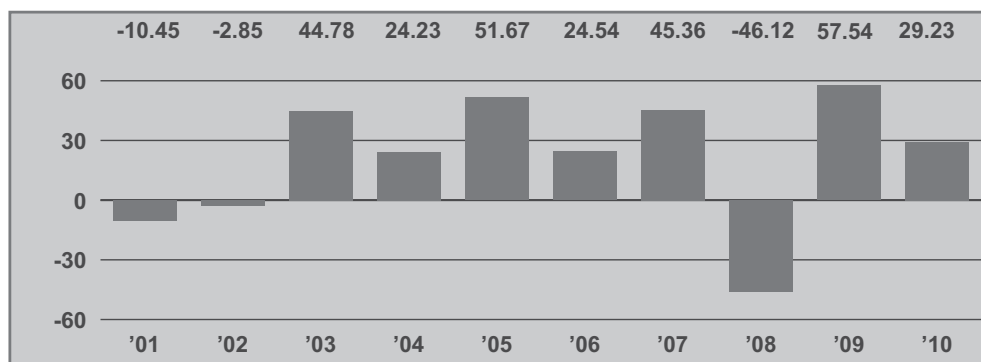
Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger more established companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

PERFORMANCE

The following chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns compare with those of a broad measure of market performance and one or more other performance measures. For instance, the S&P North American Natural Resources Sector Index includes mining, energy, paper and forest products, and plantation-owning companies. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy are not reflected; if these amounts were reflected, returns would be lower than those shown. Additionally, large purchases and/or redemptions of shares of a class, relative to the amount of assets represented by the class, may cause the annual returns for each class to differ. Updated performance information for the Fund is available on the Van Eck website at vaneck.com.

INITIAL CLASS: Annual Total Returns (%) as of 12/31



Best Quarter: +24.57% 3Q '05

Worst Quarter: -36.96% 3Q '08

Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/10			
	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Class Shares (9/1/89)	29.23%	14.70%	16.76%
S&P® North American Natural Resources Sector Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes)	23.88%	8.98%	9.94%
S&P® 500 Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes)	15.06%	2.29%	1.41%

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser. Van Eck Associates Corporation

Co-Portfolio Managers and Investment Team Members.

Charles T. Cameron, Co-Portfolio Manager, 2010; Investment Team Member, 1995

Shawn Reynolds, Co-Portfolio Manager, 2010; Investment Team Member, 2005

Joseph M. Foster, Investment Team Member, 1996

Samuel L. Halpert, Investment Team Member, 2000

Geoffrey R. King, CFA, Investment Team Member, 2007

Gregory F. Krenzer, CFA, Investment Team Member, 1994

Charl P. de M. Malan, Investment Team Member, 2003

Mark A. Miller, Investment Team Member, 2007

Edward W. Mitby, CFA, Investment Team Member, 2008

PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

The Fund is available for purchase only through variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies offered by the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Shares of the Fund may not be purchased or sold directly by individual owners of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies. If you are a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy holder, please refer to the prospectus that describes your annuity contract or life insurance policy for information about minimum investment requirements and how to purchase and redeem shares of the Fund.

TAX INFORMATION

The Fund normally distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, the participating insurance companies investing in the Fund through separate accounts. These distributions may not be taxable to you as a holder of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy; please consult the prospectus or other information provided to you by your participating insurance company regarding the federal income taxation of your contract or policy.

PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase Fund shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the Fund and/or its affiliates may pay intermediaries for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial professional to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your financial professional or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

This section states the Fund's investment objective and describes certain strategies and policies that the Fund may utilize in pursuit of its investment objective. This section also provides additional information about the principal risks associated with investing in the Fund.

1. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Van Eck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in hard asset securities. Income is a secondary consideration.

The Fund's investment objective is fundamental and may only be changed with shareholder approval.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY-LINKED DERIVATIVES

Definition

Commodities include precious metals (such as gold, silver, platinum and palladium in the form of bullion and coins), industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources. The value of a commodity-linked derivative investment generally is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity (such as energy, mineral, or agricultural products), a commodity futures contract or commodity index, or other economic variable based upon changes in the value of commodities or the commodities markets. The Fund may seek exposure to the commodity markets through investments in leveraged or unleveraged commodity-linked or index-linked notes, which are derivative debt instruments with principal and/or coupon payments linked to the value of commodities, commodity futures contracts or the performance of commodity indices. These notes are sometimes referred to as "structured notes" because the terms of these notes may be structured by the issuer and the purchaser of the note.

Risk

Exposure to the commodities markets may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Prices of various commodities may also be affected by factors such as drought, floods, weather, embargoes, tariffs and other regulatory developments. The prices of commodities can also fluctuate widely due to supply and demand disruptions in major producing or consuming regions. Certain commodities may be produced in a limited number of countries and may be controlled by a small number of producers. As a result, political, economic and supply related events in such countries could have a disproportionate impact on the prices of such commodities.

Commodity-Linked "Structured" Securities. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument typically is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity, the value of the commodity-linked derivative instrument may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry. The value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodity or related index of investment.

Structured Notes. Structured notes expose the Fund economically to movements in commodity prices. The performance of a structured note is determined by the price movement of the commodity underlying the note. A highly liquid secondary market may not exist for structured notes, and there can be no assurance that one will develop. These notes are often leveraged, increasing the volatility of each note's market value relative to changes in the underlying commodity, commodity futures contract or commodity index.

DERIVATIVES

Definition The term “derivatives” covers a broad range of financial instruments, including swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, whose values are derived, at least in part, from the value of one or more indicators, such as a security, asset, index or reference rate.

Risk The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. The values of derivatives may move in unexpected ways, especially in unusual market conditions, and may result in increased volatility, among other consequences. The use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders. Other risks arise from the Fund’s potential inability to terminate or sell derivative positions. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund’s derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over the counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the counter market are subject to the risk that the other party will not meet its obligations. The use of derivatives also involves the risk of mispricing or improper valuation and that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate.

DIRECT INVESTMENTS

Definition Investments made directly with an enterprise through a shareholder or similar agreement—not through publicly traded shares or interests. The Fund will not invest more than 10% of its total assets in direct investments.

Risk Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Although these securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices on these sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund. Issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to public disclosure and other investor protection requirements applicable to publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

EMERGING MARKETS SECURITIES

Definition Securities of companies that are primarily located in developing countries.

Risk Emerging markets securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under “Foreign Securities” and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging markets securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade. Political risks may include unstable governments, nationalization, restrictions on foreign ownership, laws that prevent investors from getting their money out of a country and legal systems that do not protect property rights as well as the laws of the U.S. Market risks may include economies that concentrate in only a few industries, securities issued that are held by only a few investors, limited trading capacity in local exchanges and the possibility that markets or issues may be manipulated by foreign nationals who have inside information.

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS

Definition The contracts involved in buying and selling foreign money in order to buy and sell foreign securities denominated in that money.

Risk An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions either to facilitate settlement transactions or for purposes of hedging exposure to underlying currencies. To manage currency exposure, the Fund may enter into forward currency contracts to “lock in” the U.S. dollar price of the security. A forward currency contract involves an agreement to purchase or sell a specified currency at a specified future price set at the time of the contract.

FOREIGN SECURITIES

Definition Securities issued by foreign companies, traded in foreign currencies or issued by companies with most of their business interests in foreign countries.

Risk Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, including the takeover of property without adequate compensation or imposition of prohibitive taxation, or political, economic or social instability. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies. Some of the risks of investing in foreign securities may be reduced when the Fund invests indirectly in foreign securities through American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), European Depositary Receipts (EDRs), American Depositary Shares (ADSs), Global Depositary Shares (GDSs), and other securities which are traded on larger, recognized exchanges and in stronger, more recognized currencies.

HARD ASSETS SECTORS

Definition The Fund concentrates its investments in the securities of “hard asset” companies and instruments that derive their value from “hard assets.” Hard assets include precious metals (including gold), base and industrial metals, energy, natural resources and other commodities, as well as real estate.

Risk The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the hard assets sectors. Specifically, the energy sector can be affected by changes in the prices of and supplies of oil and other energy fuels, energy conservation, the success of exploration projects, and tax and other government regulations. The metals sector can be affected by sharp price volatility over short periods caused by global economic, financial and political factors, resource availability, government regulation, economic cycles, changes in inflation, interest rates, currency fluctuations, metal sales by governments, central banks or international agencies, investment speculation and fluctuations in industrial and commercial supply and demand. The real estate sector can be affected by possible declines in the value of real estate, possible lack of availability of mortgage funds, extended vacancies of properties, general and local economic conditions, overbuilding, property taxes and operating expenses, natural disasters and changes in interest rates. Precious metals and natural resources securities are at times volatile and there may be sharp fluctuations in prices, even during periods of rising prices.

INVESTMENTS IN OTHER INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Definition The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies (excluding money market funds), including open end and closed end funds and ETFs, subject to the limitations under the 1940 Act. The Fund's investments in money market funds are not subject to this limitation.

Risk The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses. Shares of closed-end funds and ETFs may trade at prices that reflect a premium above or a discount below the investment company's net asset value, which may be substantial in the case of closed-end funds. If investment company securities are purchased at a premium to net asset value, the premium may not exist when those securities are sold and the Fund could incur a loss.

MARKET

Definition An investment in the Fund involves "market risk"—the risk that securities prices will rise or fall.

Risk Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. Security prices may decline over short or even extended periods not only because of company-specific developments but also due to an economic downturn, a change in interest or currency rates or a change in investor sentiment. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

NON-DIVERSIFICATION

Definition A non-diversified fund may invest a larger portion of its assets in a single issuer. A "diversified" fund is required by the 1940 Act, generally, with respect to 75% of its total assets, to invest not more than 5% of such assets in the securities of a single issuer.

Risk A non-diversified fund's greater investment in a single issuer makes the fund more susceptible to financial, economic or market events impacting such issuer. A decline in the value of or default by a single security in the non-diversified fund's portfolio may have a greater negative effect than a similar decline or default by a single security in a diversified portfolio.

SMALL- AND MEDIUM-CAPITALIZATION COMPANIES

Definition Companies with smaller and medium capitalizations. These companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources or depend upon a few key employees.

Risk Securities of small- and medium-sized companies are often subject to less analyst coverage and may be in early and less predictable periods of their corporate existences. In addition, these companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger more established companies. These companies tend to have smaller revenues, narrower product lines, less management depth and experience, smaller shares of their product or service markets, fewer financial resources and less competitive strength than larger companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

3. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

INVESTMENTS IN OTHER EQUITY AND FIXED INCOME SECURITIES

Strategy The investments of the Fund may include, but not be limited to, common stocks, preferred stocks (either convertible or non-convertible), rights, warrants, direct equity interests in trusts, partnerships, joint ventures and other unincorporated entities or enterprises, convertible debt instruments and special classes of shares available only to foreigners in markets that restrict ownership of certain shares or classes to their own nationals or residents.

INVESTING DEFENSIVELY

Strategy The Fund may take temporary defensive positions in anticipation of or in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions. Such a position could have the effect of reducing any benefit the Fund may receive from a market increase.

SECURITIES LENDING

Strategy The Fund may lend its securities as permitted under the 1940 Act, including by participating in securities lending programs managed by broker-dealers or other institutions. Securities lending allows the Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, earn additional income. The borrowings must be collateralized in full with cash, U.S. government securities or high-quality letters of credit.

The Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering the securities loaned or in gaining access to the securities lending collateral. If the Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased. Cash received as collateral and which is invested is subject to market appreciation and depreciation.

4. OTHER INFORMATION AND POLICIES

CHANGING THE FUND'S 80% POLICY

The Fund's policy of investing "at least 80% of its net assets" (which includes net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes) may be changed by the Board of Trustees without a shareholder vote, as long as shareholders are given 60 days notice of the change.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Generally, it is the Fund's and Adviser's policy that no current or potential investor, including any Fund shareholder, shall be provided information about the Fund's portfolio on a preferential basis in advance of the provision of that information to other investors. A complete description of the Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is available in the Fund's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI").

Limited portfolio holdings information for the Fund is available to all investors on the Van Eck website at vaneck.com. This information regarding the Fund's top holdings and country and sector weightings, updated as of each month-end, is located on this website. Generally, this information is posted to the website within 30 days of the end of the applicable month. This information generally remains available on the website until new information is posted. The Fund reserves the right to exclude any portion of these portfolio holdings from publication when deemed in the best interest of the Fund, and to discontinue the posting of portfolio holdings information at any time, without prior notice.

PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS

The percentage limitations relating to the composition of the Fund's portfolio apply at the time the Fund acquires an investment. A subsequent increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in the value of portfolio securities or the total or net assets of the Fund will not be considered a violation of the restriction.

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Van Eck Associates Corporation (the “Adviser”), 335 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017 is the Adviser to the Fund. The Adviser has been an investment adviser since 1955 and also acts as adviser or sub-adviser to other mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, other pooled investment vehicles and separate accounts.

John C. van Eck and members of his immediate family own 100% of the voting stock of the Adviser. As of December 31, 2010, the Adviser’s assets under management were approximately \$31.3 billion.

THE ADVISER, THE FUND, AND INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

The Fund sells shares to various insurance company variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts as a funding vehicle for those accounts. The Fund does not foresee any disadvantages to shareholders from offering the Fund to various insurance companies. However, the Board of Trustees will monitor any potential conflicts of interest. If conflicts arise, the Board may require an insurance company to withdraw its investments in one Fund, and place them in another. This might force the Fund to sell securities at a disadvantageous price. The Board of Trustees may refuse to sell shares of the Fund to any separate account. It may also suspend or terminate the offering of shares of the Fund if required to do so by law or regulatory authority, or if such an action is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. The Adviser and its affiliates act as investment manager of several hedge funds and other investment companies and/or accounts (the “Other Clients”), which trade in the same securities as the Fund. These Other Clients may have investment objectives and/or investment strategies similar to or completely opposite of those of the Fund. From time to time such Other Clients may enter contemporaneous trades with those of the Fund, which implement strategies that are similar to or directly opposite those of the Fund. The Adviser will maintain procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Fund is not unduly disadvantaged by such trades, yet still permit the Other Clients to pursue their own investment objectives and strategies.

FEES PAID TO THE ADVISER

The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at the annual rate of 1.00% of the first \$500 million of average daily net assets, 0.90% on the next \$250 million of average daily net assets and 0.70% of average daily net assets in excess of \$750 million. This includes the fee paid to the Adviser for accounting and administrative services.

The Adviser has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% of the Fund’s average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2012. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board of Trustees acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

For the Fund’s most recent fiscal year, the advisory fee paid to the Adviser was as follows:

Van Eck VIP Trust	As a % of average daily net assets
Van Eck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund	0.89%

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board’s approval of the investment advisory agreement of the Fund is available in the Fund’s semi-annual report to shareholders for the six months ended June 30, 2010.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS AND INVESTMENT TEAM MEMBERS

VAN ECK VIP GLOBAL HARD ASSETS FUND

The Fund’s portfolio managers and investment team members are responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the Fund. The portfolio managers oversee all investment research and decisions related to fund portfolio strategy and allocations, while the investment team members conduct ongoing investment research and analysis.

Charles T. Cameron. Mr. Cameron is a co-portfolio manager of the Fund and head of trading and portfolio strategy. He has been with the Adviser since 1995 and has over 28 years of experience in the international and financial markets. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Cameron was a trader in both the Eurobond and emerging market debt for Standard Charter.

Shawn Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds is a co-portfolio manager of the Fund and head of company research. He has been with the Adviser since 2005 and has over 23 years of experience in the international and financial markets. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Reynolds was an analyst covering U.S. oil and gas exploration and production companies at Petrie Parkman & Co. He has also served as an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston, Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers.

Joseph M. Foster. Mr. Foster is an investment team member and a senior precious metals analyst. He has been with the Adviser since 1996 and is currently the portfolio manager for various funds advised by the Adviser. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Foster was a senior geologist at Pinson Mining Company, responsible for district exploration, reserve/resource delineation and modeling, and geologic input and/or strategy on mining issues.

Samuel L. Halpert. Mr. Halpert is an investment team member and a senior analyst covering agriculture, timber, steel and coal. He has been with the Adviser since 2000. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Halpert was an analyst/trader for a global macro hedge fund at Goldman Sachs & Co. He also served as vice president of institutional futures sales at Salomon Smith Barney.

Geoffrey R. King, CFA. Mr. King is an investment team member and an energy analyst specializing in exploration and production, refining, drilling and alternative energy markets. He has been with the Adviser since 2007. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. King was an analyst in the energy investment banking group at Merrill Lynch.

Gregory F. Krenzer, CFA. Mr. Krenzer is an investment team member and serves as senior trader and risk manager. He has been with the Adviser since 1994 and has over 17 years' experience in the international and financial markets. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Krenzer was an investment researcher in the high net worth group at Merrill Lynch.

Charl P. de M. Malan. Mr. Malan is an investment team member and a senior base and industrial metals analyst. He has been with the Adviser since 2003. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Malan was an equity research sales analyst specializing in South African mining, natural resources and financial sectors at JPMorgan Chase. He also served an equity research analyst and junior portfolio manager at Standard Corporate and Merchant Bank (Asset Management), South Africa.

Mark A. Miller. Mr. Miller is an investment team member and an energy analyst specializing in oil services and exploration and production, with a focus on the energy sector external to the U.S. He has been with the Adviser since 2007. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Miller was a high-yield analyst for Bear Stearns. He also served as a petro-physicist for Dresser Atlas and field engineer for Schlumberger.

Edward W. Mitby, CFA. Mr. Mitby is an investment team member and a senior analyst specializing in alternative energy, industrials, infrastructure and power generation. He has been with the Adviser since 2008. Prior to joining Van Eck, Mr. Mitby was a senior research analyst with Sailfish Capital Partners. He also served as a proprietary trading portfolio manager at Washington Mutual.

The SAI provides additional information about the above Portfolio Managers and Investment Team Members, their compensation, other accounts they manage, and their securities ownership in the Fund.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

Van Eck Securities Corporation, 335 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Adviser, has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Van Eck VIP Trust for distributing shares of the Fund.

The Distributor generally sells and markets shares of the Fund through intermediaries, including insurance companies or their affiliates.

The Distributor may pay certain intermediaries, out of its own resources and not as an expense of the Fund, additional cash or non-cash compensation as an incentive to intermediaries to promote and sell shares of the Fund and other mutual funds distributed by the Distributor. These payments are commonly known as "revenue sharing". The benefits that the Distributor may receive when it makes these payments include, among other things, placing the Fund on the intermediary's sales system and/or preferred or recommended fund list, offering the Fund through the intermediary's advisory or other specialized programs, and/or access (in some cases on a preferential basis over other competitors) to individual members of the intermediary's sales force. Such payments may also be used to compensate intermediaries for a variety of administrative and shareholders services relating to investments by their customers in the Fund.

The fees paid by the Distributor to intermediaries may be calculated based on the gross sales price of shares sold by an intermediary, the net asset value of shares held by the customers of the intermediary, or otherwise. These fees, may, but are not normally expected to, exceed in the aggregate 0.50% of the average net assets of the Fund attributable to a particular intermediary on an annual basis.

The Distributor may also provide intermediaries with additional cash and non-cash compensation, which may include financial assistance to intermediaries in connection with conferences, sales or training programs for their employees, seminars for the public and advertising campaigns, technical and systems support, attendance at sales meetings and reimbursement of ticket charges. In some instances, these incentives may be made available only to intermediaries whose representatives have sold or may sell a significant number of shares.

Intermediaries may receive different payments, based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, reputation in the industry, sales and asset retention rates, target markets, and customer relationships and quality of service. No one factor is determinative of the type or amount of additional compensation to be provided. Financial intermediaries that sell Fund's shares may also act as a broker or dealer in connection with execution of transactions for the Fund's portfolios. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted procedures to ensure that the sales of the Fund's shares by an intermediary will not affect the selection of brokers for execution of portfolio transactions.

Not all intermediaries are paid the same to sell mutual funds. Differences in compensation to intermediaries may create a financial interest for an intermediary to sell shares of a particular mutual fund, or the mutual funds of a particular family of mutual funds. Before purchasing shares of the Fund, you should ask your intermediary or its representative about the compensation in connection with the purchase of such shares, including any revenue sharing payments it receives from the Distributor.

THE CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank & Trust Company
One Lincoln Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

THE TRANSFER AGENT

DST Systems, Inc.
210 West 10th Street, 8th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Ernst & Young LLP
Five Times Square
New York, New York 10036

COUNSEL

Goodwin Procter LLP
One Exchange Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

2. TAXES

The Fund intends to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). As such, the Fund generally will not be subject to federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its net income and net capital gains.

The Code requires funds used by insurance company variable annuity and life insurance contracts to comply with special diversification requirements for such contracts to qualify for tax deferral privileges. The Fund intends to invest so as to comply with these Code requirements.

For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to holders of the underlying variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, see the accompanying prospectus for the applicable contract.

3. HOW THE FUND SHARES ARE PRICED

The Fund buys or sells its shares at its net asset value, or NAV, per share next determined after receipt of a purchase or redemption plus applicable sales charge. The Fund calculates its NAV every day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open, as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, which is normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

You may enter a buy or sell order when the NYSE is closed for weekends or holidays. If that happens, your price will be the NAV calculated as of the close of the next regular trading session of the NYSE.

The Fund may invest in certain securities which are listed on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other days when the Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the NAV of the Fund's shares may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

The Fund's investments are generally valued based on market quotations. When market quotations are not readily available for a portfolio security, or in the opinion of the Adviser do not reflect the security's fair value, the Fund will use the security's "fair value" as determined in good faith in accordance with the Fund's Fair Value Pricing Procedures, which

have been approved by the Board of Trustees. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security is the amount which the Fund might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. The Fund's Pricing Committee, whose members are selected by the senior management of the Adviser, is responsible for recommending fair value procedures to the Board of Trustees and for administering the process used to arrive at fair value prices.

Factors that may cause the Fund to use the fair value of a portfolio security to calculate the Fund's NAV include, but are not limited to: (1) market quotations are not readily available because a portfolio security is not traded in a public market or the principal market in which the security trades is closed, (2) trading in a portfolio security is limited or suspended and not resumed prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV, (3) the market for the relevant security is thin, or "stale" because its price doesn't change in 5 consecutive business days, (4) the Adviser determines that a market quotation is inaccurate, for example, because price movements are highly volatile and cannot be verified by a reliable alternative pricing source, or (5) where a significant event affecting the value of a portfolio security is determined to have occurred between the time of the market quotation provided for a portfolio security and the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV.

In determining the fair value of securities, the Pricing Committee will consider, among other factors, the fundamental analytical data relating to the security, the nature and duration of any restrictions on the disposition of the security, and the forces influencing the market in which the security is traded.

Foreign securities in which the Fund invests may be traded in markets that close before the time that the Fund calculates its NAV. Foreign securities are normally priced based upon the market quotation of such securities as of the close of their respective principal markets, as adjusted to reflect the Adviser's determination of the impact of events, such as a significant movement in the U.S. markets occurring subsequent to the close of such markets but prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV. In such cases, the Pricing Committee will apply a fair valuation formula to all foreign securities based on the Committee's determination of the effect of the U.S. significant event with respect to each local market.

Certain of the Fund's portfolio securities are valued by an outside pricing service approved by the Board of Trustees. The pricing service may utilize an automated system incorporating a model based on multiple parameters, including a security's local closing price (in the case of foreign securities), relevant general and sector indices, currency fluctuations, and trading in depositary receipts and futures, if applicable, and/or research evaluations by its staff, in determining what it believes is the fair valuation of the portfolio securities valued by such pricing service.

There can be no assurance that the Fund could purchase or sell a portfolio security at the price used to calculate the Fund's NAV. Because of the inherent uncertainty in fair valuations, and the various factors considered in determining value pursuant to the Fund's fair value procedures, there can be significant deviations between a fair value price at which a portfolio security is being carried and the price at which it is purchased or sold. Furthermore, changes in the fair valuation of portfolio securities may be less frequent, and of greater magnitude, than changes in the price of portfolio securities valued by an independent pricing service, or based on market quotations.

4. SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

FREQUENT TRADING POLICY

The Board of Trustees has adopted policies and procedures reasonably designed to deter frequent trading in shares of the Fund, commonly referred to as "market timing," because such activities may be disruptive to the management of the Fund's portfolio and may increase Fund expenses and negatively impact the Fund's performance. As such, the Fund may reject a purchase or exchange transaction or restrict an insurance company's contract holder from investing in the Fund for any reason if the Adviser, in its sole discretion, believes that such contract holder is engaging in market timing activities that may be harmful to the Fund. The Fund discourages and does not accommodate frequent trading of shares by contract holders.

The Fund invests portions of its assets in securities of foreign issuers, and consequently may be subject to an increased risk of frequent trading activities because frequent traders may attempt to take advantage of time zone differences between the foreign markets in which the Fund's portfolio securities trade and the time as of which the Fund's net asset value is calculated ("time-zone arbitrage"). The Fund's investments in other types of securities may also be susceptible to frequent trading strategies. These investments include securities that are, among other things, thinly traded, traded infrequently, or relatively illiquid, which have the risk that the current market price for the securities may not accurately reflect current market values. The Fund has adopted fair valuation policies and procedures intended to reduce the Fund's exposure to potential price arbitrage. However, there is no guarantee that the Fund's net asset value will immediately reflect changes in market conditions.

Shares of the Fund are sold exclusively through institutional omnibus account arrangements registered to insurance companies and used by them as investment options for variable contracts issued by insurance companies. Such omnibus accounts allow for the aggregation of holdings of multiple contract holders and do not identify the underlying contract holders or their activity on an individual basis. Certain insurance companies have adopted policies and procedures to deter frequent short-term trading by their contract holders. The Fund may rely on an insurance company's policies and procedures, in addition to the Fund's techniques, to monitor for and detect abusive trading practices. The Fund reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow insurance companies to apply their own policies and procedures which may be more or less restrictive than those of the Fund. Contract holders are advised to contact their insurance company for further information as it relates to their specific contracts.

In addition to the foregoing, the Fund requires all insurance companies to agree to cooperate in identifying and restricting market timers in accordance with the Fund's policies and will periodically request contract holder trading activity based on certain criteria established by the Fund. The Fund may make inquiries regarding contract holder purchases, redemptions, and exchanges that meet certain criteria established by the Fund. There is no assurance that the Fund will request such information with sufficient frequency to detect or deter excessive trading or that review of such information will be sufficient to detect or deter excessive trading effectively. Furthermore, an insurance company may be limited by the terms of an underlying insurance contract regarding frequent trading from restricting short-term trading of mutual fund shares by contract owners, thereby limiting the ability of such insurance company to implement remedial steps to deter market timing activity in the Fund.

If the Fund identifies market timing activity, the insurance company will be contacted and asked to take steps to prevent further market timing activity (*e.g.*, sending warning letters, placing trade restrictions on the contract holder's account in question, or closing the account). If the insurance company refuses or is unable to take such remedial action, a determination will be made whether additional steps should be taken, including, if appropriate, terminating the relationship with such insurance company.

Although the Fund will use reasonable efforts to prevent market timing activities in the Fund's shares, there can be no assurances that these efforts will be successful. As some insurance companies' contract holders may use various strategies to disguise their trading practices, the Fund's ability to detect frequent trading activities by insurance companies' contract holders may be limited by the ability and/or willingness of the insurance companies to monitor for these activities. For further information about the Fund, please call or write your insurance company, or call 800-826-2333, or write to the Fund at the address on the cover page.

The financial highlights table that follows is intended to help you understand the Fund's Initial Class of shares financial performance for the past five years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single Fund share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements are included in the Fund's annual report, which is available upon request. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.

VAN ECK VIP GLOBAL HARD ASSETS FUND
(formerly known as Van Eck Worldwide Hard Assets Fund)

	INITIAL CLASS SHARES				
	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year	\$ 29.26	\$ 18.75	\$ 41.19	\$ 32.71	\$ 27.73
Income from Investment Operations:					
Net Investment Income (Loss)	(0.01)	(0.03)	0.11	(0.02)	0.06
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	8.52	10.72	(16.53)	12.94	6.64
Total from Investment Operations	8.51	10.69	(16.42)	12.92	6.70
Less distributions from:					
Investment Income	(0.11)	(0.06)	(0.11)	(0.05)	(0.02)
Net Realized Gains	—	(0.12)	(5.91)	(4.39)	(1.70)
Total Distributions	(0.11)	(0.18)	(6.02)	(4.44)	(1.72)
Settlement Payments from Unaffiliated Third Parties	0.01	—	—	—	—
Redemption Fees	—(b)	—(b)	—(b)	—(b)	—(b)
Net Asset Value, End of Year	\$ 37.67	\$ 29.26	\$ 18.75	\$ 41.19	\$ 32.71
Total Return (a)	29.23%(c)	57.54%	(46.12)%	45.36%	24.54%
RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTARY DATA					
Net Assets, End of Year (000's)	\$1,162,125	\$897,073	\$541,777	\$1,031,487	\$642,822
Ratio of Gross Expenses to Average Net Assets	0.97%	1.10%	0.99%	1.01%	1.13%
Ratio of Net Expenses to Average Net Assets	0.97%	1.10%	0.99%	1.01%	1.13%
Ratio of Net Expenses, Excluding Interest Expense, to Average Net Assets	0.97%	1.09%	0.99%	1.00%	1.13%
Ratio of Net Investment Income (Loss) to Average Net Assets	(0.05)%	(0.15)%	0.28%	(0.09)%	0.17%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	70%	105%	76%	94%	78%

(a) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of period, reinvestment of any dividends and distributions at net asset value on the dividend/distributions payment date and a redemption on the last day of the period. The return does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund dividends/distributions or the redemption of Fund shares.

(b) Amount represents less than \$0.005 per share

(c) The Fund received settlement payments from unaffiliated third parties which represented 0.04% of the Initial Class Shares and Class R1 Shares total return.

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For more detailed information, see the Statement of Additional Information (SAI), which is legally a part of and is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus. Additional information about the Fund's investments is available in the annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during its last fiscal year.

- Call Van Eck at 800.826.2333, or visit the Van Eck Web site at vaneck.com to request, free of charge, the annual or semi-annual reports, the SAI, or other information about the Fund.
- Information about the Fund (including the SAI) can also be reviewed and copied at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information about the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 202.551.8090.
- Reports and other information about the Fund are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of this information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-1520.

Shares of the Fund are offered only to separate accounts of various insurance companies to fund the benefits of variable life policies and variable annuity policies. This Prospectus sets forth concise information about the Van Eck VIP Trust and Fund that you should know before investing. It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus for the Contract which accompanies this Prospectus and should be retained for future reference. The Contract involves certain expenses not described in this Prospectus and also may involve certain restrictions or limitations on the allocation of purchase payments or Contract values to the Fund. In particular, the Fund may not be available in connection with a particular Contract or in a particular state. See the applicable Contract prospectus for information regarding expenses of the Contract and any applicable restrictions or limitations with respect to the Fund.



Van Eck VIP Trust
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vaneck.com

REGISTRATION NUMBER 811-05083