

MONTANA-DAKOTA

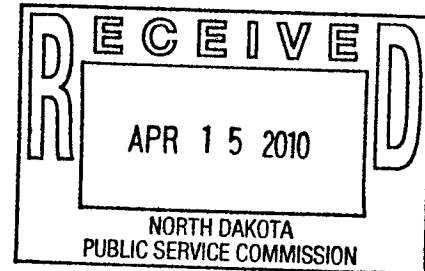
UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-7900

April 15, 2010

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service
Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505



Re: Annual Reports

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith submits one copy of its Electric and Gas Annual Reports for the year ended December 31, 2009 consisting of:

North Dakota Electric and Gas Annual Reports
North Dakota Electric and Gas Cost of Service Studies
Report of Independent Public Accountants
2009 Annual Report to Stockholders ✓

A copy of the FERC Form No. 1 is not available at this time. A copy will be sent shortly.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter attached hereto and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely,

Rita A. Mulkern
Regulatory Analysis Manager

Enclosures

4 **PU-10-136** Filed: 4/15/2010 Pages: 187
2009 Annual Report to Stockholders – Gas & Electric

4 **PU-10-135** Filed: 4/15/2010 Pages: 187
2009 Annual Report to Stockholders – Gas & Electric

Natural Gas and Oil Production
Pipeline and Energy Services
Electric and Natural Gas Utilities
Construction Services
Construction Materials and Contracting

MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

2009 Annual Report

Form 10-K

Proxy Statement

Building a Strong America[®]



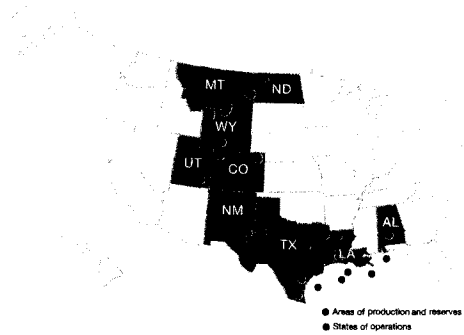
Highlights

- > Oil production was up 11 percent, spurred by involvement in the prolific Bakken Formation.
- > Fidelity Exploration & Production continues to be the largest producer of natural gas in Montana.
- > Fidelity Exploration & Production ranks 52nd in total assets out of 141 American oil and gas companies.
- > Fidelity Exploration & Production realized lower lease operating costs.

Looking Forward

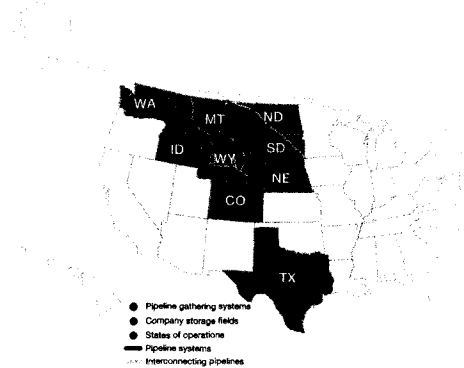
- > Fidelity expects to invest \$375 million in its business in 2010.
- > The company has active drilling on 16,000 net acres of leaseholds in the Bakken Formation.
- > Fidelity is pursuing additional exploratory and reserve acquisition opportunities.
- > An active hedging program helps mitigate risk.

Territory



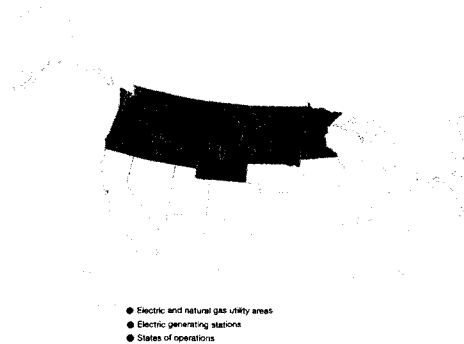
- > WBI Holdings acquired a cathodic-protection business, expanding the company's energy services portfolio.
- > Higher demand for natural gas storage services increased revenues and boosted transportation volumes to record levels.
- > Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline completed its final incremental expansion of the Grasslands Pipeline, putting it at full capacity of 213,000 Mcf per day.

- > The company is looking to increase firm deliverability and transportation capacity from its Baker storage field, the largest storage field in North America.
- > The company will pursue expanding facilities and energy-related services.
- > Additional natural gas takeaway capacity from the Bakken area will be pursued.



- > The utility operations posted record earnings.
- > Growth continues despite challenging economic conditions, with this business segment now serving more than 950,000 customers.
- > Montana-Dakota Utilities experienced its best safety record in company history.
- > Electric generation is expanding with a heat-recovery facility, two wind farms and a partnership in a Wyoming facility.

- > This segment will realize even greater efficiencies and continue to enhance service levels through the ongoing integration of its four utility companies.
- > Possible investments in high-voltage transmission opportunities are being considered.
- > Under an agreement with the city of Billings, Montana, Montana-Dakota Utilities expects to begin extracting natural gas in 2010 from the Billings Regional Landfill to send to customers.



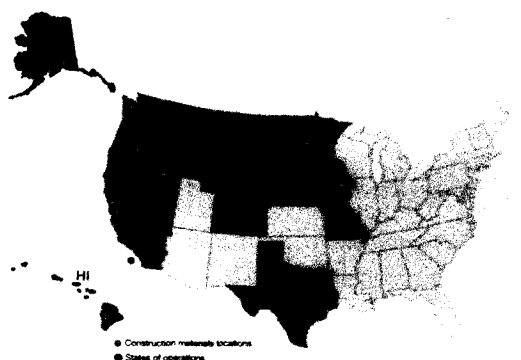
- > Rocky Mountain Contractors finished the Glacier Wind Farm project in Ethridge, Montana.
- > Desert Fire Protection completed work on the 18 million-square-foot City Center in Las Vegas.
- > Capital Electric Construction keeps the lights on for the Chiefs, doing the Arrowhead Stadium renovation in Kansas City, Missouri.

- > The construction services segment continues to focus on improving safety.
- > Rocky Mountain Contractors will begin constructing the 214-mile, 230-kilovolt Montana Alberta Tie Line transmission line.
- > Renewable energy markets continue to present opportunities for the construction services segment.
- > Preconstruction design-assist services add value for customers.

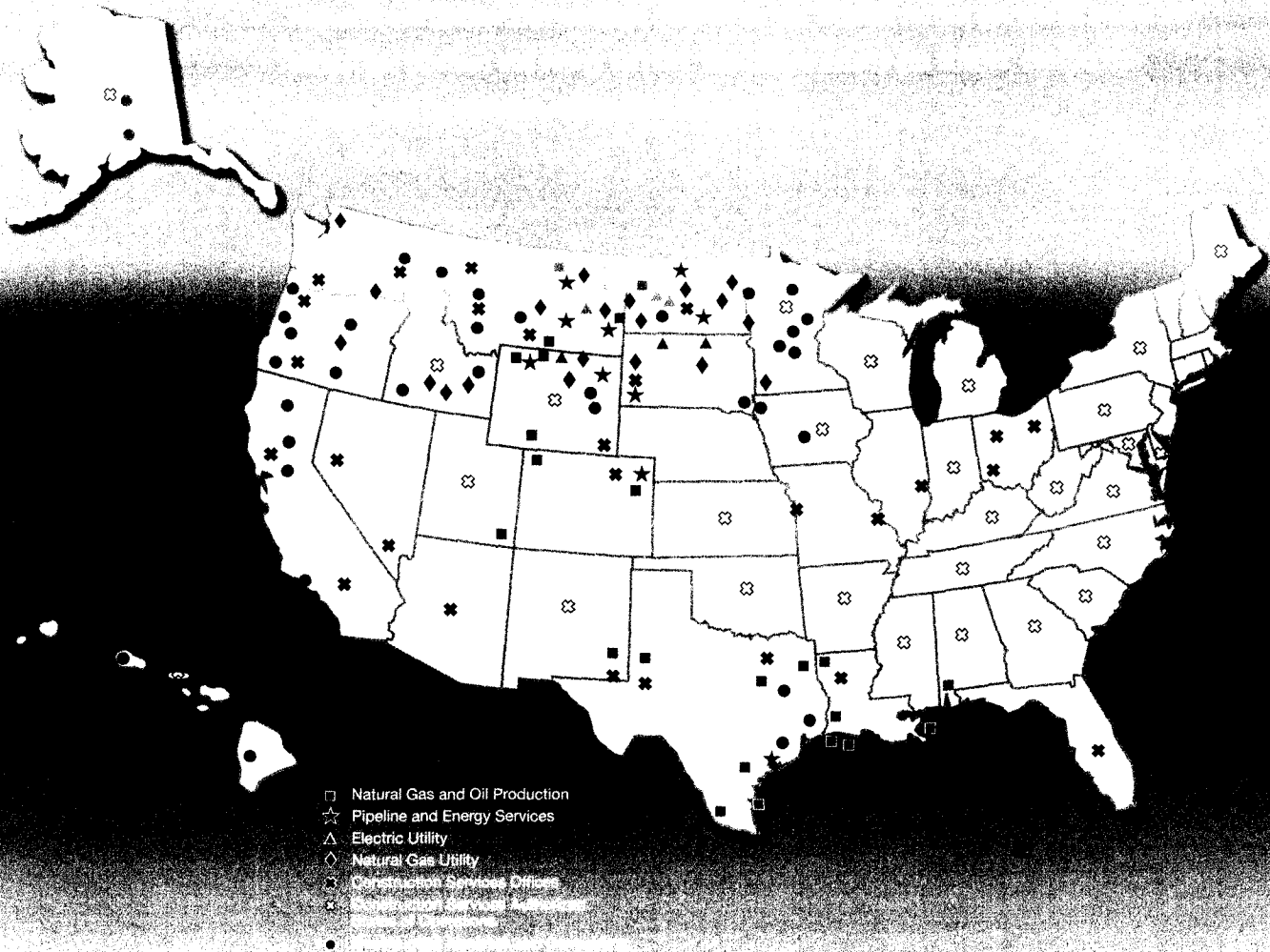


- > Federal stimulus dollars boosted earnings for many Knife River divisions and increased the company's public works portfolio.
- > Knife River expanded its presence in the renewable energy market, especially wind farm projects.
- > Knife River marked its 11th year of safety performance improvements.
- > Asphalt production and asphalt oil sales increased with a push from federal stimulus spending.

- > Knife River is focused on expanding its Energy Services business into its existing asphalt markets.
- > Public infrastructure funding is expected to be strong for the next 24 months because of stimulus spending and potential federal jobs legislation.
- > Wind energy development throughout the western United States continues to present material and construction opportunities.



MDU Resources Group, Inc.



Achievements

2009 Fortune 500 List

- No. 473 based on total revenues.

Mergent Dividend Achiever

- Honor based on more than 10 consecutive years of dividend increases. MDU Resources has increased dividends 19 consecutive years.

Platts Top 250 Global Energy Companies List

- Based on outstanding financial performance using asset worth, revenues, profits and return on invested capital.

Company Description

Key Statistics

Natural Gas and Oil Production

Fidelity Exploration & Production Co. is engaged in natural gas and oil acquisition, exploration, development and production activities in the Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent regions of the United States and in and around the Gulf of Mexico.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Revenues (millions) | \$439.7 |
| Earnings (millions)* | \$87.7 |
| Production | |
| Natural gas (Bcf) | 56.6 |
| Oil (million barrels) | 3.1 |
| Proved reserves | |
| Natural gas (Bcf) | 448.4 |
| Oil (million barrels) | 34.2 |
| Corporate earnings contribution | 34% |

* Excludes the effects of a \$384.4 million after-tax noncash charge relating to the write-down of natural gas and oil properties.

Pipeline and Energy Services

The pipeline and energy services segment provides natural gas transportation, underground storage and gathering services through regulated and nonregulated pipeline systems primarily in the Rocky Mountain and northern Great Plains regions of the United States. It also provides cathodic protection and other energy-related services.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Revenues (millions) | \$307.8 |
| Earnings (millions) | \$37.8 |
| Pipeline (MMdk) | |
| Transportation | 163.3 |
| Gathering | 92.6 |
| Corporate earnings contribution | 15% |

Electric and Natural Gas Utilities

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. generates, transmits and distributes electricity and distributes natural gas in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Cascade Natural Gas Corp. distributes natural gas in Oregon and Washington. Intermountain Gas Co. distributes natural gas in Idaho. Great Plains Natural Gas Co. distributes natural gas in western Minnesota and southeastern North Dakota. These operations also supply related value-added products and services.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Revenues (millions) | |
| Electric | \$196.2 |
| Natural gas | \$1,072.8 |
| Earnings (millions) | |
| Electric | \$24.1 |
| Natural gas | \$30.8 |
| Electric sales (million kWh) | |
| Retail | 2,663.5 |
| Sales for resale | 90.8 |
| Natural gas distribution (MMdk) | |
| Sales | 102.7 |
| Transportation | 132.7 |
| Corporate earnings contribution | |
| Electric | 9% |
| Natural gas | 12% |

Construction Services

The construction services segment specializes in constructing and maintaining electric and communication lines, gas pipelines, fire suppression systems, and external lighting and traffic signalization equipment. This segment also provides utility excavation services and inside electrical wiring, cabling and mechanical services, sells and distributes electrical materials, and manufactures and distributes specialty equipment.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Revenues (millions) | \$819.0 |
| Earnings (millions) | \$25.6 |
| Corporate earnings contribution | 10% |

Construction Materials and Contracting

Knife River Corp. mines aggregates and markets crushed stone, sand, gravel and related construction materials, including ready-mix concrete, cement, asphalt, liquid asphalt and other value-added products. It also performs integrated contracting services. Knife River operates in the central, southern and western United States and Alaska and Hawaii.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Revenues (millions) | \$1,515.1 |
| Earnings (millions) | \$47.1 |
| Sales (millions) | |
| Aggregates (tons) | 24.0 |
| Asphalt (tons) | 6.4 |
| Ready-mix concrete (cubic yards) | 3.0 |
| Aggregate reserves (billion tons) | 1.1 |
| Corporate earnings contribution | 18% |

Notes:

- Corporate earnings contribution percentages exclude the effects of a \$384.4 million after-tax noncash charge relating to the write-down of natural gas and oil properties.
- The Other category contributed 2 percent of corporate earnings with revenues of \$9.5 million and earnings of \$7.3 million.
- Consolidated revenues reflect intersegment eliminations of \$183.6 million.

Highlights

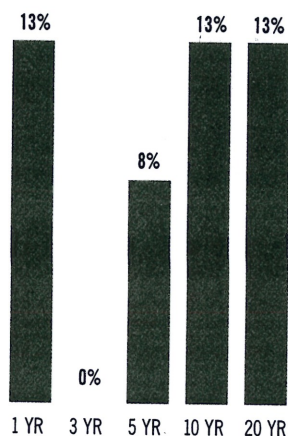
| Years Ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | Increase/Decrease | |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|---------|
| | | | Amount | Percent |
| <i>(In millions, where applicable)</i> | | | | |
| Operating revenues | \$ 4,176.5 | \$ 5,003.3 | \$ (826.8) | (17) |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ (153.1) | \$ 512.0 | \$ (665.1) | (130) |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock | \$ (124.0) | \$ 293.0 | \$ (417.0) | (142) |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – basic | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.60 | \$ (2.27) | (142) |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – diluted | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ (2.26) | (142) |
| Dividends per common share | \$.6225 | \$.6000 | \$.0225 | 4 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding – diluted | 185.2 | 183.8 | 1.4 | 1 |
| Total assets | \$ 5,991.0 | \$ 6,587.8 | \$ (596.8) | (9) |
| Total equity | \$ 2,571.6 | \$ 2,761.1 | \$ (189.5) | (7) |
| Total debt | \$ 1,509.6 | \$ 1,752.4 | \$ (242.8) | (14) |
| Capitalization ratios: | | | | |
| Common equity | 63% | 61% | | |
| Total debt | 37 | 39 | | |
| | 100% | 100% | | |
| Return on average common equity | (4.9)% | 11.0% | | |
| Price/earnings ratio | N/A | 13.6x | | |
| Book value per common share | \$ 13.61 | \$ 14.95 | | |
| Market value as a percent of book value | 173.4% | 144.3% | | |
| Employees | 8,081 | 10,074 | | |

Note: The above information reflects an after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties of \$384.4 million in 2009 and \$84.2 million in 2008.

Forward-looking statements: This Annual Report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements should be read with the cautionary statements and important factors included in Part I, Forward-Looking Statements and Item 1A – Risk Factors of the company's 2009 Form 10-K. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, including without limitation those statements that are identified by the words *anticipates, estimates, expects, intends, plans, predicts* and similar expressions.

Total Shareholder Returns

(as of December 31, 2009)



Dividends (per common share)

We have paid dividends uninterrupted for 72 years.



Capitalization Ratios

A disciplined strategy for debt management has helped keep our balance sheet strong.





Report to Stockholders

We have just finished one of the most economically challenging years in our history. And yet, the response across our company to this adversity helped make 2009 one of our most rewarding years.

We certainly didn't expect that this recession would turn out to be the longest and most severe in the post-World War II era. But we did recognize the signs of financial stress early, and made adjustments that have protected our balance sheet, preserved capital and kept the company strong in a very tough operating environment.

Our employees deserve much of the credit. They have responded to the challenge with an intense focus on cost savings, operating efficiencies and sacrifices, while preserving the product and service quality to which our customers are accustomed. Across the company, we have eliminated millions of dollars in capital and operating expenses.

Thanks to these efforts, we had a very good year that exceeded our initial expectations. Consolidated earnings were \$260.4 million, or \$1.40 per common share, excluding the effect of a \$384.4 million after-tax noncash charge in the first quarter.

Including the noncash charge, we had a consolidated loss of \$124 million, or 67 cents per share. The noncash charge resulted from low energy prices on March 31 at our natural gas and oil production business.

We had record operating cash flow of about \$845 million, and we have a healthy balance sheet, good liquidity and good access to capital. This gives us the ability to take advantage of growth opportunities that may result from this recession, including the acquisition of businesses and natural gas, oil and aggregate reserves at attractive prices and with upside potential.

Our financial performance has been widely recognized over the years, and we added another milestone when the company earned a place (473 based on revenues) on the Fortune 500 list of America's largest companies. More importantly, we were ranked much higher (48) for annual growth of earnings per share over the 10-year period of 1998-2008.

In November we increased the common stock dividend for the 19th consecutive year. We are very proud of this accomplishment – only a small number of publicly traded companies can match it – and of the fact that we have been paying dividends uninterrupted for 72 consecutive years. Including dividends, total shareholder return for the year was approximately 13 percent.

Longtime stockholders will notice that this document is different from past annual reports. We have reduced production costs considerably by shortening the annual report (most of the information in a traditional annual report also appears in the 10-K) and consolidating it, the 10-K and proxy into a single document. Although the space here is shortened this year, there are some events and accomplishments that we feel are important to highlight.

Utility posts record earnings

Our utility business had record earnings, which included a full year of earnings contribution from Intermountain Gas Company, acquired late in 2008. The acquisitions of Intermountain, and Cascade Natural Gas a year earlier, have built the business into a regional utility that serves 950,000 customers in eight states. The economic conditions in our utility service area generally remain solid, and all of the utility companies are experiencing customer growth.

For the present, one of the main priorities is integrating our four utilities to capture operating efficiencies that reduce costs and improve service to customers. This includes consolidating customer service centers into a single

operation, restructuring the field work force, and relocating Cascade's headquarters to Washington's Tri-Cities area, which is more central to its operations.

Montana-Dakota Utilities is evaluating options for long-term electricity supplies following cancellation of the Big Stone II generating project in November. The 500- to 600-megawatt plant was to have been built in South Dakota next to the existing Big Stone I plant. Construction was cancelled after Montana-Dakota and its three partners were unable to find a replacement for an additional participant that withdrew earlier in the year.

Current generating capacity and a purchased power agreement ensure an adequate electricity supply through 2015. In the meantime, the utility will install 30 megawatts of additional wind generation this year, adding to its Diamond Willow wind farm in eastern Montana and building a new wind farm in southwestern North Dakota. The utility also has installed 7.5 megawatts of renewable energy with a heat recovery unit that captures waste heat from a natural gas pipeline compressor station and converts it into electricity.

Montana-Dakota has purchased a 25 percent ownership interest in the Wygen III generating plant that is being built in northeastern Wyoming. This will replace power that currently is purchased, and will provide our Wyoming customers with reliable and competitively priced electricity well into the future.

In the third quarter we expect to complete a methane gas recovery project at the Billings, Montana, landfill that will benefit the utility's natural gas customers as well as the environment and city.

We also continued to build on our reputation as a leader in safety. Montana-Dakota was one of two companies recognized by the American Gas Association as the industry's safest medium-size combination utilities. Montana-Dakota and Great Plains Natural Gas finished 2009 with the best safety performance in their history.

Production adjusts to commodity prices

Our production business, Fidelity Exploration & Production, implemented an aggressive cost-management strategy to counter low natural gas and oil prices. Its average realized price for natural gas declined 30 percent last year, and oil dropped 42 percent. The company cut its capital budget in half, reduced its drilling program, lowered lease operating expenses substantially, and benefitted from a strong hedging program.

As a result of the reduced activity, natural gas production declined 13 percent. Oil production increased 11 percent due to a continued focus on North Dakota's rich Bakken region, which has become our largest oil-producing property. In just over two years, we have produced more than 1.2 million barrels of oil from our Bakken interests. The company operates 30 wells in the Bakken and has an interest in several non-operated wells.

We believe this business has excellent growth potential. In

the short term, we have designated part of our 2010 capital budget for potential reserve acquisitions that we expect may become available in this lower price environment. Over the longer term, natural gas will be a key part of the nation's solution to energy issues such as carbon dioxide emissions. It is abundant, clean and cost-efficient, and demand for the fuel will increase. Fidelity is in a strong position to benefit, with significant natural gas reserves that are integrated with our pipeline and energy services business.

Strong year for pipeline, energy services

Strong demand for transportation and storage services contributed to record earnings for our pipeline and energy services group. Customers acquiring natural gas inexpensively and moving it into storage in anticipation of future price increases helped push storage volumes to a record level and contributed to record total throughput on our transportation system.

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline owns three storage fields with a total working storage capacity of 193 billion cubic feet. The Baker field in Montana is the largest single natural gas storage reservoir in North America. The company is exploring an expansion of firm deliverability from the Baker field and related transportation capacity.

Last August, Williston Basin completed an expansion of its Grasslands Pipeline, which provides Rocky Mountain natural gas producers access to Mid-Continent markets. The pipeline is at its ultimate firm capacity of 213 million cubic feet per day.

The energy services group broadened its portfolio of services with the acquisition of Total Corrosion Solutions. This business provides solutions for detecting, preventing and controlling corrosion on metal structures for customers throughout the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions.

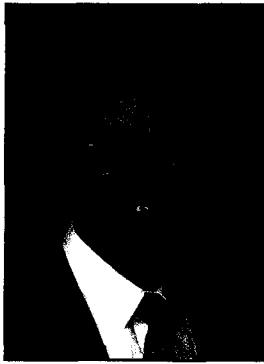
Economy impacts construction services

Our construction services business was impacted by the economy, which has brought work to a standstill in the traditionally strong Las Vegas gaming market. However, the group's equipment sales and rental business remained strong, as customers prepare for an anticipated effort to strengthen and expand the country's aging electricity transmission infrastructure.

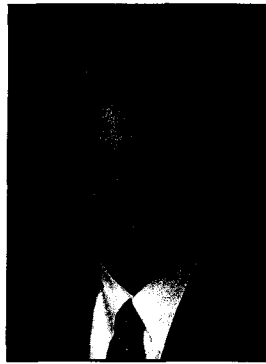
Our construction services business recently was awarded the engineering, procurement and construction contract to build a 214-mile high-voltage transmission line between Alberta, Canada, and Great Falls, Montana. We expect the infrastructure build-out, as well as government stimulus funding, to provide additional opportunities for our highly skilled work force.

Construction materials improves earnings

Our construction materials and contracting business, Knife River Corporation, increased earnings by more than 50 percent despite the continuing weakness of the national construction market. Revenue from asphalt paving and liquid



Terry D. Hildestad
President and
Chief Executive Officer



Harry J. Pearce
Chairman of the Board

asphalt oil increased substantially, and we anticipate these product lines will provide additional opportunities in 2010 as the result of government stimulus funding for roads. The government has allocated \$7.9 billion of transportation stimulus funding to states in which Knife River operates, and about 80 percent has yet to be spent.

Energy projects such as wind farms, transmission lines and refineries also present opportunities. In the meantime, the business will continue its aggressive cost management, which reduced costs by about \$90 million during 2009. Knife River also will continue its successful employee safety initiative, which has resulted in safety improvements for 11 consecutive years.

New legislation is needed

We are working with industry coalitions on several pieces of federal legislation that have significant implications for our company.

One measure would renew authorization for highway funding, which expired last September. We hope this will include a spending increase, because years of underfunding have left a third of our country's major roads in poor or mediocre condition, and more than a quarter of bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Transportation work represents a substantial portion of Knife River's business.

We also support energy legislation that reduces the country's greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to find an approach that balances the country's environmental and economic priorities; the "cap-and-trade" legislation that has been proposed in Congress fails this test. Legislation also must allow existing forms of energy, including coal, to play a role alongside a growing supply of renewables. We are in a good position to benefit because of our experience as an operator or supplier to a wide range of energy projects, including coal, natural gas, wind, solar, geothermal and the transmission needed to carry electricity to customers.

Our utility service territory includes some of the best wind resources in the nation, but development is hindered by the lack of adequate transmission. We are investigating participation in some of these transmission projects, such as the proposed Green Power Express, a 3,000-mile

transmission line that would transport wind energy to major metropolitan markets.

We also are focusing on our commitment to use natural resources efficiently and to minimize the environmental impact of our activities. This year we will develop quantitative goals, based on available technologies, for reducing total greenhouse gas emissions from our products and operations. By year-end, we will provide a report to stockholders on our plans for achieving these goals.

Thanks to retiring directors

We would like to express our appreciation to two longtime directors, John Olson and Sister Thomas Welder. John retired last August in accordance with the company's bylaws, which require retirement at age 70. Sister Thomas is not seeking re-election this year because her mandatory retirement date would occur soon after the election.

During their 20-plus years on the board of directors, John and Sister Thomas have helped guide the development of our diversified business strategy. Just as important, their personal values have served as a model for the vision that guides our company: "With integrity, create superior shareholder value by expanding upon our expertise to be the supplier of choice in all of our markets while being a safe and great place to work."

This core value of integrity also has guided us in establishing a tradition of good corporate governance throughout our history. Through the years, we have adopted governance practices that we believe are in the best interests of all our shareholders and maximize our accountability to them. Recent examples include majority voting for directors in uncontested elections, declassification of the board so that each director stands for election at each annual meeting, and separation of the chairman and chief executive positions for a more efficient leadership structure. This year, in response to a shareholder's request, we are recommending the repeal of the supermajority vote requirements in our certificate of incorporation.

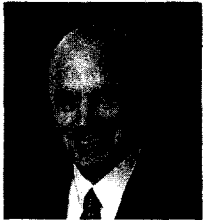
Finally, thank you for your investment in MDU Resources. Since 1992 we have completed 125 acquisitions, and have increased revenues more than tenfold. We believe the company is in a very strong financial position – balance sheet, cash flow, liquidity and access to capital – that will enable our employees to continue that extraordinary growth.

Harry J. Pearce
Chairman of the Board

Terry D. Hildestad
President and Chief Executive Officer

February 17, 2010

Board of Directors



Harry J. Pearce
67 (13)
Detroit, Michigan

Chairman of MDU Resources Board of Directors

Retired, formerly chairman of Hughes Electronics Corp., a unit of General Motors Corp., and former vice chairman and director of GM; a director of several major corporations

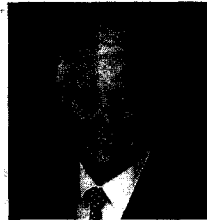
Expertise: Multinational business management, finance, engineering and law



Terry D. Hildestad
60 (4)
Bismarck, North Dakota

President and Chief Executive Officer

Formerly chief operating officer of MDU Resources and formerly president and chief executive officer of Knife River Corp.



Thomas Everist
60 (15)
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

President and chairman of The Everist Co., a construction materials company; a director of several corporations

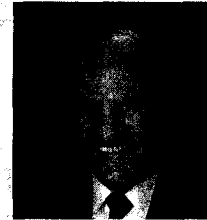
Expertise: Business management, construction and sand, gravel and aggregate production



Karen B. Fagg
56 (5)
Billings, Montana

Vice president of DOWL HKM, formerly president and majority owner of HKM Engineering Inc. and vice president of operations for Mountain States Energy Inc.; on the boards of several organizations

Expertise: Engineering and business management



A. Bart Holaday
67 (2)
Placitas, New Mexico, and Grand Forks, North Dakota

Retired, formerly managing director of Private Markets Group of UBS Asset Management; on the boards of several organizations

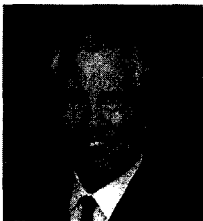
Expertise: Natural gas and oil industry, business development, finance and law



Dennis W. Johnson
60 (9)
Dickinson, North Dakota

Chairman and chief executive officer of TMI Systems Design Corp., a custom institutional furniture manufacturer; a former director of Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

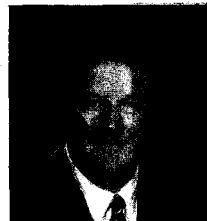
Expertise: Business management, engineering and finance



Thomas C. Knudson
63 (2)
Houston, Texas

President of Tom Knudson Interests LLC, providing consulting services in energy, sustainable development and leadership; former senior vice president of human resources, information management and communications of ConocoPhillips

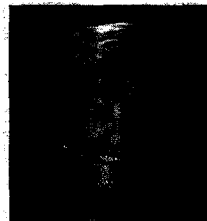
Expertise: Natural gas and oil industry, sustainable development and engineering



Richard H. Lewis
60 (5)
Denver, Colorado

Founder and former chairman, president and chief executive officer of Prima Energy Corp., a natural gas and oil exploration and production company, and chairman of Entre Pure Industries Inc., a privately held purified water and ice business; a board member of Colorado Oil and Gas Association and a director of Colorado State Bank and Trust

Expertise: Natural gas and oil industry



Patricia L. Moss
56 (7)
Bend, Oregon

President, chief executive officer and a director of Cascade Bancorp and Bank of the Cascades; a director of several corporations

Expertise: Finance and human resources



Sister Thomas Welder, O.S.B.
69 (22)
Bismarck, North Dakota

President emeritus of University of Mary; a director of several organizations

Expertise: Business development and management



John K. Wilson
55 (7)
Omaha, Nebraska

President of Durham Resources, LLC, a privately held financial management company, and president of Durham Foundation; a director of a mutual fund

Expertise: Finance and natural gas industry

Audit Committee

Dennis W. Johnson, Chairman
A. Bart Holaday
Richard H. Lewis
John K. Wilson

Compensation Committee

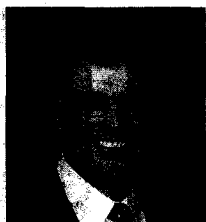
Thomas Everist, Chairman
Karen B. Fagg
Thomas C. Knudson
Patricia L. Moss

Nominating and Governance Committee

Karen B. Fagg, Chairman
Richard H. Lewis
Sister Thomas Welder, O.S.B.

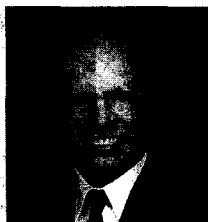
Numbers indicate age and years of service () on the MDU Resources Board of Directors as of December 31, 2009.

Corporate Management



Terry D. Hildestad
60 (35)
President and
Chief Executive Officer,
MDU Resources

Serves on the company's Board of Directors and as chairman of the board of all major subsidiary companies; formerly chief operating officer of MDU Resources and formerly president and chief executive officer of Knife River Corp.



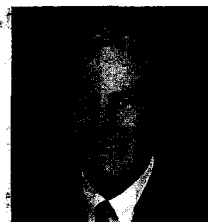
Steven L. Bietz
51 (29)
President and
Chief Executive Officer,
WBI Holdings Inc.

Formerly held executive and management positions with WBI Holdings



Mark Del Vecchio
50 (6)
Vice President of
Human Resources,
MDU Resources

Formerly director of compensation and executive programs of MDU Resources



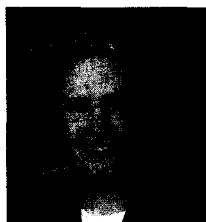
David L. Goodin
48 (26)
President and
Chief Executive Officer,
Montana-Dakota Utilities
Co., Great Plains Natural
Gas Co. and
Intermountain Gas Co.

Formerly executive vice president of operations and acquisitions with Montana-Dakota



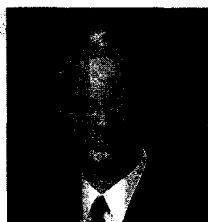
John G. Harp
57 (34)
President and
Chief Executive Officer,
MDU Construction
Services Group Inc.

Formerly owned construction services companies that were acquired by MDU Resources



Cynthia J. Norland
55 (25)
Vice President
of Administration,
MDU Resources

Formerly associate general counsel of MDU Resources



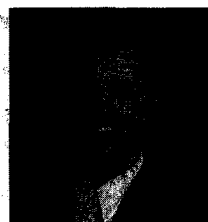
Paul K. Sandness
55 (29)
General Counsel
and Secretary,
MDU Resources

Serves as general counsel and secretary of all major subsidiary companies; formerly senior attorney and held other positions of increasing responsibility with MDU Resources



William E. Schneider
61 (16)
President and
Chief Executive Officer,
Knife River Corp.

Serves as chief executive officer of all construction materials and contracting subsidiaries of Knife River; formerly senior vice president of construction materials of Knife River



Doran N. Schwartz
40 (5)
Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer,
MDU Resources

Serves as the senior financial officer and member of the boards of directors of all major subsidiary companies; formerly chief accounting officer of MDU Resources

Other Corporate and Senior Company Officers

Nicole A. Kivisto, 36 (14)
Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer,
MDU Resources

Douglass A. Mahowald, 60 (27)
Treasurer, MDU Resources

John P. Stumpf, 50 (17)
Vice President of Strategic Planning,
MDU Resources

William E. Connors, 48 (5)
Vice President of Renewable Resources,
MDU Resources

Management Changes

Vernon A. Raile, executive vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer of MDU Resources, retired effective February 16, 2010.

Doran N. Schwartz was named vice president and chief financial officer effective February 17, 2010.

Nicole A. Kivisto was named vice president, controller and chief accounting officer effective February 17, 2010.

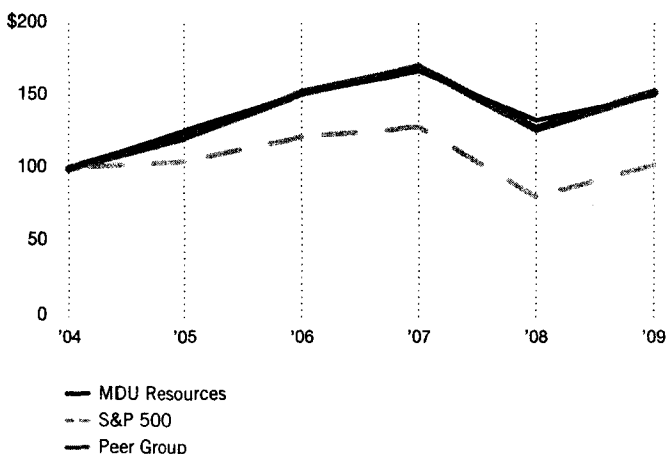
Douglass A. Mahowald was named treasurer effective February 17, 2010.

Numbers indicate age and years of service () as of December 31, 2009.

Stockholder Return Comparison

Comparison of Five-Year Total Stockholder Return (in dollars)

\$100 invested December 31, 2004, in MDU Resources was worth \$149.64 at year-end 2009.



| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| MDU Resources | \$100.00 | \$125.69 | \$150.95 | \$165.82 | \$132.56 | \$149.64 |
| S&P 500 Index | 100.00 | 104.91 | 121.48 | 128.16 | 80.74 | 102.11 |
| Peer Group | 100.00 | 121.20 | 151.16 | 168.58 | 126.71 | 151.54 |

All data is indexed to December 31, 2004, for MDU Resources, the S&P 500 and the peer group. Total stockholder return is calculated using the December 31 price for each year. It is assumed that all dividends are reinvested in stock at the frequency paid, and the returns of each component peer issuer of the group are weighted according to the issuer's stock market capitalization at the beginning of the period.

Peer group issuers are Alliant Energy Corp., Berry Petroleum Co., Black Hills Corp., Comstock Resources Inc., Dycom Industries Inc., EMCOR Group Inc., Encore Acquisition Co., EQT Corp., Granite Construction Inc., Martin Marietta Materials Inc., National Fuel Gas Co., Northwest Natural Gas Co., NSTAR, OGE Energy Corp., ONEOK Inc., Quanta Services Inc., Questar Corp., SCANA Corp., Southwest Gas Corp., St. Mary Land & Exploration Co., Swift Energy Co., U.S. Concrete Inc., Vectren Corp., Vulcan Materials Co. and Whiting Petroleum Corp.

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

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-3480

MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

41-0423660
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1200 West Century Avenue
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5650
(Address of principal executive offices)
(Zip Code)

(701) 530-1000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| <u>Title of each class</u> | <u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Common Stock, par value \$1.00 | New York Stock Exchange |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Preferred Stock, par value \$100
(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No .

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No .

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No .

State the aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by nonaffiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2009: \$3,489,895,496.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of February 2, 2010: 187,863,394 shares.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's 2010 Proxy Statement are incorporated by reference in Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of this Report.

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FORM 10-K

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The following abbreviations and acronyms used in this Form 10-K are defined below:

Abbreviation or Acronym

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| AFUDC | Allowance for funds used during construction | Clean Water Act | Federal Clean Water Act |
| ALJ | Administrative Law Judge | Company | MDU Resources Group, Inc. |
| Alusa | Tecnica de Engenharia Electrica – Alusa | D.C. Appeals Court | U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit |
| Army Corps | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | dk | Decatherm |
| ASC | FASB Accounting Standards Codification | ECTE | Empresa Catarinense de Transmissão de Energia S.A. |
| Bbl | Barrel | EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| Bcf | Billion cubic feet | ENTE | Empresa Norte de Transmissão de Energia S.A. |
| BER | Montana Board of Environmental Review | EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| Big Stone Station | 450-MW coal-fired electric generating facility near Big Stone City, South Dakota (22.7 percent ownership) | ERTE | Empresa Regional de Transmissão de Energia S.A. |
| Big Stone Station II | Formerly proposed coal-fired electric generating facility near Big Stone City, South Dakota (the Company had anticipated ownership of at least 116 MW) | ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| Bitter Creek | Bitter Creek Pipelines, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings | Exchange Act | Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended |
| Black Hills Power | Black Hills Power and Light Company | FASB | Financial Accounting Standards Board |
| Brazilian Transmission Lines | Company's equity method investment in companies owning ECTE, ENTE and ERTE | FERC | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| Btu | British thermal unit | Fidelity | Fidelity Exploration & Production Company, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings |
| Cascade | Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of MDU Energy Capital | GAAP | Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America |
| CBNG | Coalbed natural gas | GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| CELESC | Centrais Elétricas de Santa Catarina S.A. | Great Plains | Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a public utility division of the Company |
| CEM | Colorado Energy Management, LLC, a former direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources (sold in the third quarter of 2007) | Hartwell | Hartwell Energy Limited Partnership, a former equity method investment of the Company (sold in the third quarter of 2007) |
| CEMIG | Companhia Energética de Minas Gerais | IBEW | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers |
| Centennial | Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of the Company | ICWU | International Chemical Workers Union |
| Centennial Capital | Centennial Holdings Capital LLC, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial | Indenture | Indenture dated as of December 15, 2003, as supplemented, from the Company to The Bank of New York as Trustee |
| Centennial International | Centennial Energy Resources International, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources | Innovatum | Innovatum, Inc., a former indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings (the stock and Innovatum's assets have been sold) |
| Centennial Power | Centennial Power, Inc., a former direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources (sold in the third quarter of 2007) | Intermountain | Intermountain Gas Company, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of MDU Energy Capital (acquired October 1, 2008) |
| Centennial Resources | Centennial Energy Resources LLC, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial | IPUC | Idaho Public Utilities Commission |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act | Item 8 | Financial Statements and Supplementary Data |
| Clean Air Act | Federal Clean Air Act | Kennecott | Kennecott Coal Sales Company |
| | | Knife River | Knife River Corporation, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial |
| | | K-Plan | Company's 401(k) Retirement Plan |
| | | kW | Kilowatts |
| | | kWh | Kilowatt-hour |
| | | LTM | LTM, Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Knife River |
| | | LPP | Lea Power Partners, LLC, a former indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources (member interests were sold in October 2006) |

Definitions

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| LWG | Lower Willamette Group | OPUC | Oregon Public Utilities Commission |
| MAPP | Mid-Continent Area Power Pool | Order on Rehearing | Order on Rehearing and Compliance and Remanding Certain Issues for Hearing |
| MBbls | Thousands of barrels | Oregon DEQ | Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality |
| MBI | Morse Bros., Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Knife River | PCBs | Polychlorinated biphenyls |
| MBOGC | Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation | Prairielands | Prairielands Energy Marketing, Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings |
| Mcf | Thousand cubic feet | PRP | Potentially Responsible Party |
| MD&A | Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations | Proxy Statement | Company's 2010 Proxy Statement |
| Mdk | Thousand decatherms | PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration |
| MDU Brasil | MDU Brasil Ltda., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial International | RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| MDU Construction Services | MDU Construction Services Group, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial | ROD | Record of Decision |
| MDU Energy Capital | MDU Energy Capital, LLC, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of the Company | SDPUC | South Dakota Public Utilities Commission |
| MEIC | Montana Environmental Information Center, Inc. | SEC | U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission |
| Midwest ISO | Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. | SEC Defined Prices | The average price of natural gas and oil during the applicable 12-month period, determined as an unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within such period, unless prices are defined by contractual arrangements, excluding escalations based upon future conditions |
| MMBtu | Million Btu | Securities Act | Securities Act of 1933, as amended |
| MMcf | Million cubic feet | Securities Act Industry Guide 7 | Description of Property by Issuers Engaged or to be Engaged in Significant Mining Operations |
| MMcfe | Million cubic feet equivalent – natural gas equivalents are determined using the ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of oil | Sheridan System | A separate electric system owned by Montana-Dakota |
| MMdk | Million decatherms | SMCRA | Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act |
| MNPUC | Minnesota Public Utilities Commission | South Dakota Federal District Court | U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota |
| Montana-Dakota | Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a public utility division of the Company | South Dakota SIP | South Dakota State Implementation Plan |
| Montana DEQ | Montana State Department of Environmental Quality | Stock Purchase Plan | Company's Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan |
| Montana First Judicial District Court | Montana First Judicial District Court, Lewis and Clark County | TRWUA | Tongue River Water Users' Association |
| Montana Twenty-Second Judicial District Court | Montana Twenty-Second Judicial District Court, Big Horn County | UA | United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada |
| Mortgage | Indenture of Mortgage dated May 1, 1939, as supplemented, amended and restated, from the Company to The Bank of New York and Douglas J. MacInnes, successor trustees | WBI Holdings | WBI Holdings, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial |
| MPX | MPX Termoceara Ltda. (49 percent ownership, sold in June 2005) | Westmoreland | Westmoreland Coal Company |
| MTPSC | Montana Public Service Commission | Williston Basin | Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings |
| MW | Megawatt | WUTC | Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission |
| NDPSC | North Dakota Public Service Commission | WYPSC | Wyoming Public Service Commission |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act | | |
| North Dakota District Court | North Dakota South Central Judicial District Court for Burleigh County | | |
| NPRC | Northern Plains Resource Council | | |
| NSPS | New Source Performance Standards | | |
| Oil | Includes crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids | | |

Forward-Looking Statements

This Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, including without limitation those statements that are identified by the words "anticipates," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "predicts" and similar expressions, and include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions (many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions) and other statements that are other than statements of historical facts. From time to time, the Company may publish or otherwise make available forward-looking statements of this nature, including statements contained within Item 7 – MD&A – Prospective Information.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed. The Company's expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and are believed by the Company to have a reasonable basis, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in the Company's records and other data available from third parties. Nonetheless, the Company's expectations, beliefs or projections may not be achieved or accomplished.

Any forward-looking statement contained in this document speaks only as of the date on which the statement is made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all of the factors, nor can it assess the effect of each factor on the Company's business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. All forward-looking statements, whether written or oral and whether made by or on behalf of the Company, are expressly qualified by the risk factors and cautionary statements in this Form 10-K, including statements contained within Item 1A – Risk Factors.

Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties

General

The Company is a diversified natural resource company, which was incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware in 1924. Its principal executive offices are at 1200 West Century Avenue, P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5650, telephone (701) 530-1000.

Montana-Dakota, through the electric and natural gas distribution segments, generates, transmits and distributes electricity and distributes natural gas in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Cascade distributes natural gas in Oregon and Washington. Intermountain distributes natural gas in Idaho. Great Plains distributes natural gas in western Minnesota and southeastern North Dakota. These operations also supply related value-added products and services.

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Centennial, owns WBI Holdings (comprised of the pipeline and energy services and the natural gas and oil production segments), Knife River (construction materials and contracting segment), MDU Construction Services (construction services segment), Centennial Resources and Centennial Capital (both reflected in the Other category).

The Company's equity method investment in the Brazilian Transmission Lines, as discussed in Item 8 – Note 4, is reflected in the Other category.

As of December 31, 2009, the Company had 8,081 employees with 158 employed at MDU Resources Group, Inc., 874 at Montana-Dakota, 31 at Great Plains, 329 at Cascade, 264 at Intermountain, 603 at WBI Holdings, 2,879 at Knife River and 2,943 at MDU Construction Services. The number of employees at certain Company operations fluctuates during the year depending upon the number and size of construction projects. The Company considers its relations with employees to be satisfactory.

At Montana-Dakota and Williston Basin, 365 and 80 employees, respectively, are represented by the IBEW. Labor contracts with such employees are in effect through May 30, 2011, and March 31, 2011, for Montana-Dakota and Williston Basin, respectively.

At Cascade, 201 employees are represented by the ICWU. The labor contract with the field operations group, consisting of 169 employees, is effective through April 1, 2012. Cascade has an agreement with the bargaining unit consisting of 32 customer service representatives and credit and collections clerks in effect through March 19, 2011.

At Intermountain, 114 employees are represented by the UA. Labor contracts with such employees are in effect through September 30, 2010.

Knife River has 43 labor contracts that represent approximately 440 of its construction materials employees. Knife River is in negotiations on five of its labor contracts.

MDU Construction Services has 126 labor contracts representing the majority of its employees. The majority of the labor contracts contain provisions that prohibit work stoppages or strikes and provide for binding arbitration dispute resolution in the event of an extended disagreement.

The Company's principal properties, which are of varying ages and are of different construction types, are generally in good condition, are well maintained and are generally suitable and adequate for the purposes for which they are used.

The financial results and data applicable to each of the Company's business segments, as well as their financing requirements, are set forth in Item 7 – MD&A and Item 8 – Note 15 and Supplementary Financial Information.

The operations of the Company and certain of its subsidiaries are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations providing for air, water and solid waste pollution control; state facility-siting regulations; zoning and planning regulations of certain state and local authorities; federal health and safety regulations and state hazard communication standards. The Company believes that it is in substantial compliance with these regulations, except as to what may be ultimately determined with regard to items discussed in Environmental matters in Item 8 – Note 19. There are no pending CERCLA actions for any of the Company's properties, other than the Portland, Oregon, Harbor Superfund Site.

The Company produces GHG emissions primarily from its fossil fuel electric generating facilities, as well as from natural gas pipeline and storage systems, operations of equipment and fleet vehicles, and oil and natural gas exploration and development activities. GHG emissions also result from customer use of natural gas for heating and other uses. As concern for reductions in GHG emissions and expansion of renewable energy resources has increased, the Company has placed an increasing emphasis on developing renewable generation resources. Governmental legislative and regulatory initiatives regarding environmental and energy policy are continuously evolving and could negatively impact the Company's operations and financial results. Until legislation and regulation are finalized, the impact of these measures cannot be accurately predicted. The Company will continue to monitor legislative activity related to environmental and energy policy initiatives. Disclosure regarding specific environmental matters applicable to each of the Company's businesses is set forth under each business description later.

This annual report on Form 10-K, the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, the Company's current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act are available free of charge through the Company's Web site as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company has electronically filed such reports with, or furnished such reports to, the SEC. The Company's Web site address is www.mdu.com. The information available on the Company's Web site is not part of this annual report on Form 10-K.

Electric

General Montana-Dakota provides electric service at retail, serving more than 122,000 residential, commercial, industrial and municipal customers in 177 communities and adjacent rural areas as of December 31, 2009. The principal properties owned by Montana-Dakota for use in its electric operations include interests in nine electric generating facilities, as further described under System Supply, System Demand and Competition, and approximately 3,000 and 4,600 miles of transmission and distribution lines, respectively. Montana-Dakota has obtained and holds, or is in the process of renewing, valid and existing franchises authorizing it to conduct its electric operations in all of the municipalities it serves where such franchises are required. Montana-Dakota intends to protect its service area and seek renewal of all expiring franchises. As of December 31, 2009, Montana-Dakota's net electric plant investment approximated \$514.5 million.

The percentage of Montana-Dakota's 2009 retail electric utility operating revenues by jurisdiction is as follows: North Dakota – 58 percent; Montana – 24 percent; Wyoming – 11 percent; and South Dakota – 7 percent. Retail electric rates, service, accounting and certain security issuances are subject to regulation by the NDPSC, MTPSC, SDPUC and WYPSC. The interstate transmission and wholesale electric power operations of Montana-Dakota also are subject to regulation by the FERC under provisions of the Federal Power Act, as are interconnections with other utilities and power generators, the issuance of securities, accounting and other matters. Montana-Dakota participates in the Midwest ISO wholesale energy and ancillary services market. The Midwest ISO is a regional transmission organization responsible for operational control of the transmission systems of its members. The Midwest ISO provides security center operations, tariff

administration and operates day-ahead and real-time energy markets and an ancillary services market. As a member of Midwest ISO, Montana-Dakota's generation is sold into the Midwest ISO energy market and its energy needs are purchased from that market.

System Supply, System Demand and Competition Through an interconnected electric system, Montana-Dakota serves markets in portions of western North Dakota, including Bismarck, Dickinson and Williston; eastern Montana, including Glendive and Miles City; and northern South Dakota, including Mobridge. The interconnected system consists of nine electric generating facilities, which have an aggregate nameplate rating attributable to Montana-Dakota's interest of 463,055 kW and a total summer net capability of 486,900 kW. Montana-Dakota's four principal generating stations are steam-turbine generating units using coal for fuel. The nameplate rating for Montana-Dakota's ownership interest in these four stations (including interests in the Big Stone Station and the Coyote Station, aggregating 22.7 percent and 25.0 percent, respectively) is 327,758 kW. Three combustion turbine peaking stations, a wind electric generating facility and a heat recovery electric generating facility supply the balance of Montana-Dakota's interconnected system electric generating capability.

In September 2005, Montana-Dakota entered into a contract for seasonal capacity from a neighboring utility, starting at 85 MW in 2007, increasing to 105 MW in 2011, with an option for capacity in 2012. In April 2007, Montana-Dakota entered into a contract for seasonal capacity of 10 MW in May through October of each year continuing through 2010. In August 2009, Montana-Dakota entered into a contract for capacity of 110 MW, 115 MW and 120 MW annually for the three-year period from June 1 to May 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. Energy also will be purchased as needed from the Midwest ISO market. In 2009, Montana-Dakota purchased approximately 17 percent of its net kWh needs for its interconnected system through the Midwest ISO market.

The following table sets forth details applicable to the Company's electric generating stations:

| Generating Station | Type | Nameplate Rating (kW) | Summer Capability (kW) | 2009 Net Generation (kWh in thousands) |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| North Dakota: | | | | |
| Coyote* | Steam | 103,647 | 106,750 | 625,979 |
| Heskett | Steam | 86,000 | 102,730 | 556,757 |
| Williston | Combustion Turbine | 7,800 | 9,600 | (81)** |
| Glen Ullin | Heat Recovery | 7,500 | *** | 10,271 |
| South Dakota: | | | | |
| Big Stone* | Steam | 94,111 | 107,500 | 624,595 |
| Montana: | | | | |
| Lewis & Clark | Steam | 44,000 | 52,300 | 316,532 |
| Glendive | Combustion Turbine | 77,347 | 79,610 | 1,950 |
| Miles City | Combustion Turbine | 23,150 | 24,500 | (28)** |
| Diamond Willow | Wind | 19,500 | 3,910 | 67,690 |
| | | 463,055 | 486,900 | 2,203,665 |

* Reflects Montana-Dakota's ownership interest.

** Station use, to meet MAPP's accreditation requirements, exceeded generation.

*** Pending accreditation.

Virtually all of the current fuel requirements of the Coyote, Heskett and Lewis & Clark stations are met with coal supplied by subsidiaries of Westmoreland under contracts that expire in May 2016, April 2011 and December 2012, respectively. The Coyote coal supply agreement provides for the purchase of coal necessary to supply the coal requirements of the Coyote Station or 30,000 tons per week, whichever may be the greater quantity at contracted pricing. The maximum quantity of coal during the term of the agreement, and any extension, is 75 million tons. The Heskett and Lewis & Clark coal supply agreements provide for the purchase of coal necessary to supply the coal requirements of these stations at contracted pricing. Montana-Dakota estimates the Heskett and Lewis & Clark coal requirement to be in the range of 500,000 to 600,000 tons, and 250,000 to 350,000 tons per contract year, respectively.

Montana-Dakota has a coal supply agreement, which meets the majority of the Big Stone Station's fuel requirements, for the purchase of 1.0 million tons of coal in 2010 with Kennecott at contracted pricing.

Part I

The average cost of coal purchased, including freight, at Montana-Dakota's electric generating stations (including the Big Stone and Coyote stations) was as follows:

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Average cost of coal per MMBtu | \$ 1.52 | \$ 1.49 | \$ 1.29 |
| Average cost of coal per ton | \$22.05 | \$21.45 | \$18.71 |

The maximum electric peak demand experienced to date attributable to sales to retail customers on the interconnected system was 525,643 kW in July 2007. Montana-Dakota's latest forecast for its interconnected system indicates that its annual peak will continue to occur during the summer and the peak demand growth rate through 2015 will approximate two percent annually.

Montana-Dakota expects that it has secured adequate capacity available through existing baseload generating stations, renewable generation, turbine peaking stations, demand reduction programs and firm contracts to meet the peak customer demand requirements of its customers through mid-2015. Future capacity that is needed to replace contracts and meet system growth requirements is expected to be met by constructing new generation resources or acquiring additional capacity through power contracts. For additional information regarding potential power generation projects, see Item 7 – MD&A – Prospective Information – Electric.

Montana-Dakota has major interconnections with its neighboring utilities and considers these interconnections adequate for coordinated planning, emergency assistance, exchange of capacity and energy and power supply reliability.

Through the Sheridan System, Montana-Dakota serves Sheridan, Wyoming, and neighboring communities. The maximum peak demand experienced to date attributable to Montana-Dakota sales to retail customers on that system was approximately 60,600 kW in July 2007. Montana-Dakota has a power supply contract with Black Hills Power to purchase up to 74,000 kW of capacity annually through December 31, 2016. On April 9, 2009, Montana-Dakota exercised an option to purchase a 25 percent interest in the Wygen III electric generating facility under construction by Black Hills Power to serve a portion of the needs of its Sheridan-area customers. The plant is expected to be commercial in the second quarter of 2010, and will replace 25 MW of capacity and energy purchased under the power supply contract. Montana-Dakota received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the WYPSC on July 29, 2008, for ownership of Wygen III.

Montana-Dakota is subject to competition in varying degrees, in certain areas, from rural electric cooperatives, on-site generators, co-generators and municipally owned systems. In addition, competition in varying degrees exists between electricity and alternative forms of energy such as natural gas.

Regulatory Matters and Revenues Subject to Refund Fuel adjustment clauses contained in North Dakota and South Dakota jurisdictional electric rate schedules allow Montana-Dakota to reflect monthly increases or decreases in fuel and purchased power costs (excluding demand charges). In North Dakota, the Company is deferring electric fuel and purchased power costs (excluding demand charges) that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. In Montana, a monthly Fuel and Purchased Power Tracking Adjustment mechanism allows Montana-Dakota to reflect 90 percent of the increases or decreases in fuel and purchased power costs (including demand charges) and Montana-Dakota is deferring 90 percent of costs that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. In Wyoming, an annual Electric Power Supply Cost Adjustment mechanism allows Montana-Dakota to reflect increases or decreases in fuel and purchased power costs (including demand charges) related to power supply and Montana-Dakota is deferring costs that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. Such orders generally provide that these amounts are recoverable or refundable through rate adjustments within a period ranging from 14 to 25 months from the time such costs are paid. For additional information, see Item 8 – Note 6.

On August 14, 2009, Montana-Dakota filed an application with the WYPSC for an electric rate increase. For additional information, see Item 8 – Note 18.

In November 2009, a decision was made by the Big Stone Station II participants not to proceed with the project. For additional information, see Item 8 – Note 18.

Environmental Matters Montana-Dakota's electric operations are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations providing for air, water and solid waste pollution control; state facility-siting regulations; zoning and planning regulations of certain state and local authorities; federal health and safety regulations; and state hazard communication standards. Montana-Dakota believes it is in substantial compliance with these regulations.

Montana-Dakota's electric generating facilities have Title V Operating Permits, under the Clean Air Act, issued by the states in which they operate. Each of these permits has a five-year life. Near the expiration of these permits, renewal applications are submitted. Permits continue in force beyond the expiration date, provided the application for renewal is submitted by the required date, usually six months prior to expiration. Title V Operating Permits for the Big Stone Station and the Lewis & Clark Station were renewed in 2009. In August 2009, an application for renewal of the Heskett Station Title V Operating Permit was submitted. On February 25, 2009, a Montana Air Quality Permit application was granted for the Lewis & Clark Station to obtain a mercury emissions limit and approve its proposed mercury emissions control strategy.

State water discharge permits issued under the requirements of the Clean Water Act are maintained for power production facilities on the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. These permits also have five-year lives. Montana-Dakota renews these permits as necessary prior to expiration. Other permits held by these facilities may include an initial siting permit, which is typically a one-time, preconstruction permit issued by the state; state permits to dispose of combustion by-products; state authorizations to withdraw water for operations; and Army Corps permits to construct water intake structures. Montana-Dakota's Army Corps permits grant one-time permission to construct and do not require renewal. Other permit terms vary and the permits are renewed as necessary.

Montana-Dakota's electric operations are conditionally exempt small-quantity hazardous waste generators and subject only to minimum regulation under the RCRA. Montana-Dakota routinely handles PCBs from its electric operations in accordance with federal requirements. PCB storage areas are registered with the EPA as required.

In June 2008, the Sierra Club filed a complaint in the South Dakota Federal District Court against Montana-Dakota and the two other co-owners of the Big Stone Station. For more information regarding this complaint, see Item 8 – Note 19.

Montana-Dakota incurred \$5.9 million of environmental capital expenditures in 2009. Capital expenditures are estimated to be \$1.7 million, \$5.0 million and \$6.5 million in 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively, to maintain environmental compliance as new emission controls are required. Projects will include sulfur-dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury control equipment installation at electric generating stations. Montana-Dakota's capital and operational expenditures could also be affected in a variety of ways by potential new GHG legislation or regulation. In particular, such legislation or regulation would likely increase capital expenditures for renewable energy resources and operational costs associated with GHG emissions compliance until carbon capture technology becomes economical, at which time capital expenditures may be necessary to incorporate such technology into existing or new generating facilities. Montana-Dakota expects that it will recover the operational and capital expenditures for GHG regulatory compliance in its rates consistent with the recovery of other reasonable costs of complying with environmental laws and regulations.

Natural Gas Distribution

General The Company's natural gas distribution operations consist of Montana-Dakota, Great Plains, Cascade and Intermountain which sell natural gas at retail, serving over 829,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 333 communities and adjacent rural areas across eight states as of December 31, 2009, and provide natural gas transportation services to certain customers on their systems. These services are provided through distribution systems aggregating approximately 17,000 miles. The natural gas distribution operations have obtained and hold, or are in the process of renewing, valid and existing franchises authorizing them to conduct their natural gas operations in all of the municipalities they serve where such franchises are required. These operations intend to protect their service areas and seek renewal of all expiring franchises. As of December 31, 2009, the natural gas distribution operations' net natural gas distribution plant investment approximated \$909.9 million.

The percentage of the natural gas distribution operations' 2009 natural gas utility operating sales revenues by jurisdiction is as follows: Idaho – 32 percent; Washington – 30 percent; North Dakota – 11 percent; Oregon – 9 percent; Montana – 7 percent; South Dakota – 6 percent; Minnesota – 3 percent; and Wyoming – 2 percent. The natural gas distribution operations are subject to regulation by the IPUC, MNPUC, MTPSC, NDPSC, OPUC, SDPUC, WUTC and WYPSC regarding retail rates, service, accounting and certain security issuances.

System Supply, System Demand and Competition The natural gas distribution operations serve retail natural gas markets, consisting principally of residential and firm commercial space and water heating users, in portions of Idaho, including Boise, Nampa, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls; western Minnesota, including Fergus Falls, Marshall and Crookston; eastern Montana, including Billings, Glendive and Miles City; North Dakota, including Bismarck, Dickinson, Wahpeton, Williston, Minot and Jamestown; central and eastern Oregon, including Bend and Pendleton; western and north-central South Dakota, including Rapid City, Pierre, Spearfish and Mobridge; western, southeastern and south-central Washington, including Bellingham, Bremerton, Longview, Moses Lake, Mount Vernon, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima; and northern Wyoming, including Sheridan. These markets are highly seasonal and sales volumes depend largely on the weather, the effects of which are mitigated in certain jurisdictions by a weather normalization mechanism discussed in Regulatory Matters.

Competition in varying degrees exists between natural gas and other fuels and forms of energy. The natural gas distribution operations have established various natural gas transportation service rates for their distribution businesses to retain interruptible commercial and industrial loads. Certain of these services include transportation under flexible rate schedules whereby interruptible customers can avail themselves of the advantages of open access transportation on regional transmission pipelines, including the systems of Williston Basin, Northern Border Pipeline Company, Northern Natural Gas Company, South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline, Viking Gas Transmission Company, Northwest Pipeline GP and Gas Transmission Northwest Corporation. These services have enhanced the natural gas distribution operations' competitive posture with alternative fuels, although certain customers have bypassed the distribution systems by directly accessing transmission pipelines within close proximity. These bypasses did not have a material effect on results of operations.

The natural gas distribution operations obtain their system requirements directly from producers, processors and marketers. Such natural gas is supplied by a portfolio of contracts specifying market-based pricing and is transported under transportation agreements by Williston Basin, South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company, Northern Border Pipeline Company, Viking Gas Transmission Company, Northern Natural Gas Company, Source Gas, TransCanada Foothills System, TransCanada NOVA System, Northwestern Energy, Northwest Pipeline GP, TransCanada Gas Transmission Northwest Corporation and Spectra Energy Transmission West. The natural gas distribution operations have contracts for storage services to provide gas supply during the winter heating season and to meet peak day demand with Williston Basin, Northern Natural Gas Company, Questar Pipeline and Northwest Pipeline GP. In addition, certain of the operations have entered into natural gas supply management agreements with Sequent Energy Management, IGI Resources Inc. and Tenaska Gas Storage. Demand for natural gas, which is a widely traded commodity, has historically been sensitive to seasonal heating and industrial load requirements as well as changes in market price. The natural gas distribution operations believe that, based on current and projected domestic and regional supplies of natural gas and the pipeline transmission network currently available through their suppliers and pipeline service providers, supplies are adequate to meet their system natural gas requirements for the next decade.

Regulatory Matters The natural gas distribution operations' retail natural gas rate schedules contain clauses permitting adjustments in rates based upon changes in natural gas commodity, transportation and storage costs. Current tariffs allow for recovery or refunds of under- or over-recovered gas costs within a period ranging from 12 to 28 months.

Montana-Dakota's North Dakota and South Dakota natural gas tariffs contain weather normalization mechanisms applicable to firm customers that adjust the distribution delivery charge revenues to reflect weather fluctuations during the November 1 through May 1 billing periods.

Cascade has received approval for decoupling its margins from weather and conservation in Oregon, and has also received approval of a decoupling mechanism in Washington that allows it to recover margin differences resulting from customer conservation. Cascade also has an earnings sharing mechanism with respect to its Oregon jurisdictional operations as required by the OPUC.

Environmental Matters The natural gas distribution operations are subject to federal, state and local environmental, facility-siting, zoning and planning laws and regulations. The natural gas distribution operations believe they are in substantial compliance with those regulations.

Natural gas distribution operations are conditionally exempt small-quantity hazardous waste generators and subject only to minimum regulation under the RCRA. Certain of the natural gas distribution operations routinely handle PCBs from their natural gas operations in accordance with federal requirements. PCB storage areas are registered with the EPA as required. Capital and operational expenditures for natural gas distribution operations could be affected in a variety of ways by potential new GHG legislation or regulation. In particular, such legislation or regulation would likely increase capital expenditures for energy efficiency and conservation programs and operational costs associated with GHG emissions compliance. The natural gas distribution operations expect they will recover the operational and capital expenditures for GHG regulatory compliance in its rates consistent with the recovery of other reasonable costs of complying with environmental laws and regulations.

The natural gas distribution operations did not incur any material environmental expenditures in 2009 and, except as to what may be ultimately determined with regard to the issues described later, do not expect to incur any material capital expenditures related to environmental compliance with current laws and regulations in relation to the natural gas distribution operations through 2012.

Montana-Dakota has had an economic interest in five historic manufactured gas plants within its service territory, none of which are currently being actively investigated, and for which any remediation expenses are not expected to be material. Cascade has had an economic interest in nine former manufactured gas plants within its service territory. Cascade has been involved with other PRPs in the investigation of a manufactured gas plant site in Oregon, with remediation of this site pending additional investigation. See Item 8 – Note 19 for a further discussion of this site and for two additional sites for which Cascade has received claim notice. To the extent these

claims are not covered by insurance, Cascade will seek recovery through the OPUC and WUTC of remediation costs in its natural gas rates charged to customers.

Construction Services

General MDU Construction Services specializes in constructing and maintaining electric and communication lines, gas pipelines, fire suppression systems, and external lighting and traffic signalization equipment. This segment also provides utility excavation services and inside electrical wiring, cabling and mechanical services, sells and distributes electrical materials, and manufactures and distributes specialty equipment. These services are provided to utilities and large manufacturing, commercial, industrial, institutional and government customers.

Construction and maintenance crews are active year round. However, activity in certain locations may be seasonal in nature due to the effects of weather.

MDU Construction Services operates a fleet of owned and leased trucks and trailers, support vehicles and specialty construction equipment, such as backhoes, excavators, trenchers, generators, boring machines and cranes. In addition, as of December 31, 2009, MDU Construction Services owned or leased facilities in 17 states. This space is used for offices, equipment yards, warehousing, storage and vehicle shops. At December 31, 2009, MDU Construction Services' net plant investment was approximately \$48.5 million.

MDU Construction Services' backlog is comprised of the uncompleted portion of services to be performed under job-specific contracts. The backlog at December 31, 2009, was approximately \$383 million compared to \$604 million at December 31, 2008. MDU Construction Services expects to complete a significant amount of this backlog during the year ending December 31, 2010. Due to the nature of its contractual arrangements, in many instances MDU Construction Services' customers are not committed to the specific volumes of services to be purchased under a contract, but rather MDU Construction Services is committed to perform these services if and to the extent requested by the customer. Therefore, there can be no assurance as to the customer's requirements during a particular period or that such estimates at any point in time are predictive of future revenues.

MDU Construction Services works with the National Electrical Contractors Association, the IBEW and other trade associations on hiring and recruiting a qualified workforce.

Competition MDU Construction Services operates in a highly competitive business environment. Most of MDU Construction Services' work is obtained on the basis of competitive bids or by negotiation of either cost-plus or fixed-price contracts. The workforce and equipment are highly mobile, providing greater flexibility in the size and location of MDU Construction Services' market area. Competition is based primarily on price and reputation for quality, safety and reliability. The size and location of the services provided, as well as the state of the economy, will be factors in the number of competitors that MDU Construction Services will encounter on any particular project. MDU Construction Services believes that the diversification of the services it provides, the markets it serves throughout the United States and the management of its workforce will enable it to effectively operate in this competitive environment.

Utilities and independent contractors represent the largest customer base for this segment. Accordingly, utility and subcontract work accounts for a significant portion of the work performed by MDU Construction Services and the amount of construction contracts is dependent to a certain extent on the level and timing of maintenance and construction programs undertaken by customers. MDU Construction Services relies on repeat customers and strives to maintain successful long-term relationships with these customers.

Environmental Matters MDU Construction Services' operations are subject to regulation customary for the industry, including federal, state and local environmental compliance. MDU Construction Services believes it is in substantial compliance with these regulations.

The nature of MDU Construction Services' operations is such that few, if any, environmental permits are required. Operational convenience supports the use of petroleum storage tanks in several locations, which are permitted under state programs authorized by the EPA. MDU Construction Services has no ongoing remediation related to releases from petroleum storage tanks. MDU Construction Services' operations are conditionally exempt small-quantity waste generators, subject to minimal regulation under the RCRA. Federal permits for specific construction and maintenance jobs that may require these permits are typically obtained by the hiring entity, and not by MDU Construction Services.

MDU Construction Services did not incur any material environmental expenditures in 2009 and does not expect to incur any material capital expenditures related to environmental compliance with current laws and regulations through 2012.

Pipeline and Energy Services

General Williston Basin, the regulated business of WBI Holdings, owns and operates over 3,700 miles of transmission, gathering and storage lines and owns or leases and operates 33 compressor stations in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Three underground storage fields in Montana and Wyoming provide storage services to local distribution companies, producers, natural gas marketers and others, and serve to enhance system deliverability. Williston Basin's system is strategically located near five natural gas producing basins, making natural gas supplies available to Williston Basin's transportation and storage customers. The system has 11 interconnecting points with other pipeline facilities allowing for the receipt and/or delivery of natural gas to and from other regions of the country and from Canada. At December 31, 2009, Williston Basin's net plant investment was approximately \$287.3 million. Under the Natural Gas Act, as amended, Williston Basin is subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC regarding certificate, rate, service and accounting matters.

Bitter Creek, the nonregulated pipeline business, owns and operates gathering facilities in Colorado, Kansas, Montana and Wyoming. Bitter Creek also owns a one-sixth interest in the assets of various offshore gathering pipelines, an associated onshore pipeline and related processing facilities in Texas. In total, these facilities include over 1,900 miles of field gathering lines and 88 owned or leased compression stations, some of which interconnect with Williston Basin's system. In 2009, the Company acquired the assets of a cathodic protection company. This acquisition was not material to the Company. Bitter Creek also provides a variety of energy-related services such as water hauling, contract compression operations, measurement services and energy efficiency product sales and installation services to large end-users.

WBI Holdings, through its energy services business, provides natural gas purchase and sales services to local distribution companies, producers, other marketers and a limited number of large end-users, primarily using natural gas produced by the Company's natural gas and oil production segment. Certain of the services are provided based on contracts that call for a determinable quantity of natural gas. WBI Holdings currently estimates that it can adequately meet the requirements of these contracts. WBI Holdings transacts a majority of its pipeline and energy services business in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States.

System Demand and Competition Williston Basin competes with several pipelines for its customers' transportation, storage and gathering business and at times may discount rates in an effort to retain market share. However, the strategic location of Williston Basin's system near five natural gas producing basins and the availability of underground storage and gathering services provided by Williston Basin and affiliates along with interconnections with other pipelines serve to enhance Williston Basin's competitive position.

Although certain of Williston Basin's firm customers, including its largest firm customer Montana-Dakota, serve relatively secure residential and commercial end-users, they generally all have some price-sensitive end-users that could switch to alternate fuels.

Williston Basin transports substantially all of Montana-Dakota's natural gas, primarily utilizing firm transportation agreements, which for the year ended December 31, 2009, represented 50 percent of Williston Basin's subscribed firm transportation contract demand. Montana-Dakota has firm transportation agreements with Williston Basin expiring November 2010 through June 2012. In addition, Montana-Dakota has a contract with Williston Basin to provide firm storage services to facilitate meeting Montana-Dakota's winter peak requirements expiring in July 2015.

Bitter Creek competes with several pipelines for existing customers and for the expansion of its systems to gather natural gas in new areas. Bitter Creek's strong position in the fields in which it operates, its focus on customer service and the variety of services it offers, along with its interconnection with various other pipelines, serve to enhance its competitive position.

System Supply Williston Basin's underground natural gas storage facilities have a certificated storage capacity of approximately 353 Bcf, including 193 Bcf of working gas capacity, 85 Bcf of cushion gas and 75 Bcf of native gas. The native gas includes an estimated 29 Bcf of recoverable gas. Williston Basin's storage facilities enable its customers to purchase natural gas at more uniform daily volumes throughout the year and meet winter peak requirements.

Natural gas supplies emanate from traditional and nontraditional production activities in the region and from off-system supply sources. While certain traditional regional supply sources are in various stages of decline, incremental supply from nontraditional sources have been developed which have helped support Williston Basin's supply needs. This includes new natural gas supply associated with the continued development of the Bakken area in Montana and North Dakota. The Powder River Basin, including the Company's CBNG assets, also provides a nontraditional natural gas supply to the Williston Basin system. For additional information regarding CBNG legal proceedings, see Item 1A – Risk Factors and Item 8 – Note 19. In addition, off-system supply sources are available through the Company's interconnections with other pipeline systems. Williston Basin expects to facilitate the movement of these supplies by making available its

transportation and storage services. Williston Basin will continue to look for opportunities to increase transportation, gathering and storage services through system expansion and/or other pipeline interconnections or enhancements that could provide substantial future benefits.

Regulatory Matters and Revenues Subject to Refund In December 1999, Williston Basin filed a general natural gas rate change application with the FERC. For additional information, see Item 8 – Note 18.

Environmental Matters WBI Holdings' pipeline and energy services operations are generally subject to federal, state and local environmental, facility-siting, zoning and planning laws and regulations. WBI Holdings believes it is in substantial compliance with those regulations.

Ongoing operations are subject to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the NEPA and other state and federal regulations. Administration of many provisions of these laws has been delegated to the states where Williston Basin and Bitter Creek operate. Permit terms vary and all permits carry operational compliance conditions. Some permits require annual renewal, some have terms ranging from one to five years and others have no expiration date. Permits are renewed and modified, as necessary, based on defined permit expiration dates, operational demand and/or regulatory changes.

Detailed environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements are included in the FERC's permitting processes for both the construction and abandonment of Williston Basin's natural gas transmission pipelines, compressor stations and storage facilities.

WBI Holdings' pipeline and energy services operations did not incur any material environmental expenditures in 2009 and do not expect to incur any material capital expenditures related to environmental compliance with current laws and regulations through 2012.

Natural Gas and Oil Production

General Fidelity is involved in the acquisition, exploration, development and production of natural gas and oil resources. Fidelity's activities include the acquisition of producing properties and leaseholds with potential development opportunities, exploratory drilling and the operation and development of natural gas and oil production properties. Fidelity continues to seek additional reserve and production growth opportunities through these activities. Future growth is dependent upon its success in these endeavors. Fidelity shares revenues and expenses from the development of specified properties in proportion to its ownership interests.

Fidelity's business is focused primarily in two core regions: Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent/Gulf States.

Rocky Mountain

Fidelity's properties in this region are primarily in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Fidelity owns in fee or holds natural gas and oil leases for the properties it operates that are in the Bonny Field in eastern Colorado, the Baker Field in southeastern Montana and southwestern North Dakota, the Bowdoin area in north-central Montana, the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming, the Bakken area in North Dakota, the Paradox Basin of Utah, and the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. Fidelity also owns nonoperated natural gas and oil interests and undeveloped acreage positions in this region.

Mid-Continent/Gulf States

This region includes properties in Alabama, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas and the Offshore Gulf of Mexico. The Offshore Gulf of Mexico interests are primarily located in the shallow waters off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. Fidelity owns in fee or holds natural gas and oil leases for the properties it operates that are in the Tabasco and Texan Gardens fields of Texas and natural gas properties in Rusk County in eastern Texas. In addition, Fidelity owns several nonoperated interests and undeveloped acreage positions in this region.

Operating Information Annual net production by region for 2009 was as follows:

| Region | Natural Gas (MMcf)* | Oil (MBbls) | Total (MMcfe) | Percent of Total |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Rocky Mountain | 41,635 | 2,182 | 54,729 | 73% |
| Mid-Continent/Gulf States | 14,997 | 929 | 20,570 | 27 |
| Total | 56,632 | 3,111 | 75,299 | 100% |

*Baker field and Bowdoin field represent 28 percent and 19 percent, respectively, of total annual net natural gas production.

Part I

Annual net production by region for 2008 was as follows:

| Region | Natural Gas (MMcf)* | Oil (MBbls) | Total (MMcfe) | Percent of Total |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Rocky Mountain | 47,504 | 1,698 | 57,691 | 70% |
| Mid-Continent/Gulf States | 17,953 | 1,110 | 24,612 | 30 |
| Total | 65,457 | 2,808 | 82,303 | 100% |

* Baker field and Bowdoin field represent 28 percent and 18 percent, respectively, of total annual net natural gas production.

Annual net production by region for 2007 was as follows:

| Region | Natural Gas (MMcf)* | Oil (MBbls) | Total (MMcfe) | Percent of Total |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Rocky Mountain | 48,832 | 1,287 | 56,553 | 74% |
| Mid-Continent/Gulf States | 13,966 | 1,078 | 20,435 | 26 |
| Total | 62,798 | 2,365 | 76,988 | 100% |

* Baker field and Bowdoin field represent 31 percent and 19 percent, respectively, of total annual net natural gas production.

Well and Acreage Information Gross and net productive well counts and gross and net developed and undeveloped acreage related to Fidelity's interests at December 31, 2009, were as follows:

| | Gross* | Net** |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Productive wells: | | |
| Natural gas | 3,869 | 3,121 |
| Oil | 3,706 | 258 |
| Total | 7,575 | 3,379 |
| Developed acreage (000's) | 720 | 400 |
| Undeveloped acreage (000's) | 834 | 449 |

* Reflects well or acreage in which an interest is owned.

** Reflects Fidelity's percentage of ownership.

Exploratory and Development Wells The following table reflects activities related to Fidelity's natural gas and oil wells drilled and/or tested during 2009, 2008 and 2007:

| | Net Exploratory | | | Net Development | | | Total |
|------|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | Productive | Dry Holes | Total | Productive | Dry Holes | Total | |
| 2009 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 104 | - | 104 | 107 |
| 2008 | 11 | 4 | 15 | 251 | 9 | 260 | 275 |
| 2007 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 317 | 16 | 333 | 342 |

At December 31, 2009, there were 74 gross (60 net) wells in the process of drilling or under evaluation, 70 of which were development wells and 4 of which were exploratory wells. These wells are not included in the previous table. Fidelity expects to complete the drilling and testing of the majority of these wells within the next 12 months.

The information in the preceding table should not be considered indicative of future performance nor should it be assumed that there is necessarily any correlation between the number of productive wells drilled and quantities of reserves found or economic value. Productive wells are those that produce commercial quantities of hydrocarbons whether or not they produce a reasonable rate of return.

Competition The natural gas and oil industry is highly competitive. Fidelity competes with a substantial number of major and independent natural gas and oil companies in acquiring producing properties and new leases for future exploration and development, and in securing the equipment, services and expertise necessary to explore, develop and operate its properties.

Environmental Matters Fidelity's natural gas and oil production operations are generally subject to federal, state and local environmental and operational laws and regulations. Fidelity believes it is in substantial compliance with these regulations.

The ongoing operations of Fidelity are subject to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the NEPA and other state and federal regulations. Administration of many provisions of these laws has been delegated to the states where Fidelity operates. Permit terms vary and all permits carry operational compliance conditions. Some permits require annual renewal, some have terms ranging from one to five years and others have no expiration date. Permits are renewed and modified, as necessary, based on defined permit expiration dates, operational demand and/or regulatory changes.

Detailed environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements under federal and state laws are required as part of the permitting process covering the conduct of drilling and production operations as well as in the abandonment and reclamation of facilities.

In connection with production operations, Fidelity has incurred certain capital expenditures related to water handling. For 2009, capital expenditures for water handling in compliance with current laws and regulations were approximately \$222,000 and are estimated to be approximately \$3.0 million, \$8.9 million and \$9.2 million in 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. These water handling costs are primarily related to the CBNG properties. For more information regarding CBNG litigation, see Item 1A – Risk Factors and Item 8 – Note 19.

Proved Reserve Information Estimates of proved reserves were prepared in accordance with guidelines established by the industry and the SEC. The estimates are arrived at using actual historical wellhead production trends and/or standard reservoir engineering methods utilizing available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data. Other factors used in the reserve estimates are prices, estimates of well operating and future development costs, taxes, timing of operations, and the interests owned by the Company in the properties. These estimates are refined as new information becomes available.

The reserve estimates are prepared by internal engineers assigned to an asset team by geographic area and are reviewed and approved by management. The technical person responsible for overseeing the preparation of the reserve estimates holds a bachelor of science degree in geological engineering, has substantial practical experience in petroleum engineering and reserve estimation, and is a member of multiple professional organizations. In addition, the Company engages an independent third party to audit its proved reserves. Ryder Scott Company, L.P. reviewed the Company's proved reserve quantity estimates as of December 31, 2009. The technical person at Ryder Scott Company, L.P. primarily responsible for overseeing the reserves audit holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering, has extensive experience estimating and auditing reserves attributable to oil and gas properties, and is a member of multiple professional organizations.

Fidelity's recoverable proved reserves by region at December 31, 2009, are as follows:

| Region | Natural Gas (MMcf) | Oil (MBbls) | Total (MMcfe) | Percent of Total | PV-10 Value* (in millions) |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rocky Mountain | 309,359 | 24,354 | 455,482 | 70% | \$563.9 |
| Mid-Continent/Gulf States | 139,066 | 9,862 | 198,242 | 30 | 225.3 |
| Total reserves | 448,425 | 34,216 | 653,724 | 100% | 789.2 |
| Discounted future income taxes | | | | | 130.4 |
| Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows relating to proved reserves | | | | | \$658.8 |

* Pre-tax PV-10 value is a non-GAAP financial measure that is derived from the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure which is the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows. The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows disclosed in Item 8 – Supplementary Financial Information, is presented after deducting discounted future income taxes, whereas the PV-10 value is presented before income taxes. Pre-tax PV-10 value is commonly used by the Company to evaluate properties that are acquired and sold and to assess the potential return on investment in the Company's natural gas and oil properties. The Company believes pre-tax PV-10 value is a useful supplemental disclosure to the standardized measure as the Company believes readers may utilize this value as a basis for comparison of the relative size and value of the Company's reserves to other companies because many factors that are unique to each individual company impact the amount of future income taxes to be paid. However, pre-tax PV-10 value is not a substitute for the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows. Neither the Company's pre-tax PV-10 value nor the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows purports to represent the fair value of the Company's natural gas and oil properties.

For additional information related to natural gas and oil interests, see Item 8 – Note 1 and Supplementary Financial Information.

Construction Materials and Contracting

General Knife River operates construction materials and contracting businesses headquartered in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. These operations mine, process and sell construction aggregates (crushed stone, sand and gravel); produce and sell asphalt mix and supply liquid asphalt for various commercial and roadway applications; and supply ready-mixed concrete for use in most types of construction, including roads, freeways and bridges, as well as homes, schools, shopping centers, office buildings and industrial parks. Although not common to all locations, other products include the sale of cement, various finished concrete products and other building materials and related contracting services.

For information regarding construction materials litigation, see Item 8 – Note 19.

The construction materials business had approximately \$459 million in backlog at December 31, 2009, compared to \$453 million at December 31, 2008. The Company anticipates that a significant amount of the current backlog will be completed during the year ending December 31, 2010.

Competition Knife River's construction materials products are marketed under highly competitive conditions. Price is the principal competitive force to which these products are subject, with service, quality, delivery time and proximity to the customer also being significant factors. The number and size of competitors varies in each of Knife River's principal market areas and product lines.

The demand for construction materials products is significantly influenced by the cyclical nature of the construction industry in general. In addition, construction materials activity in certain locations may be seasonal in nature due to the effects of weather. The key economic factors affecting product demand are changes in the level of local, state and federal governmental spending, general economic conditions within the market area that influence both the commercial and private sectors, and prevailing interest rates.

Knife River is not dependent on any single customer or group of customers for sales of its products and services, the loss of which would have a material adverse effect on its construction materials businesses.

Reserve Information Reserve estimates are calculated based on the best available data. These data are collected from drill holes and other subsurface investigations, as well as investigations of surface features such as mine highwalls and other exposures of the aggregate reserves. Mine plans, production history and geologic data also are utilized to estimate reserve quantities. Most acquisitions are made of mature businesses with established reserves, as distinguished from exploratory-type properties.

Estimates are based on analyses of the data described above by experienced internal mining engineers, operating personnel and geologists. Property setbacks and other regulatory restrictions and limitations are identified to determine the total area available for mining. Data described above are used to calculate the thickness of aggregate materials to be recovered. Topography associated with alluvial sand and gravel deposits is typically flat and volumes of these materials are calculated by applying the thickness of the resource over the areas available for mining. Volumes are then converted to tons by using an appropriate conversion factor. Typically, 1.5 tons per cubic yard in the ground is used for sand and gravel deposits.

Topography associated with the hard rock reserves is typically much more diverse. Therefore, using available data, a final topography map is created and computer software is utilized to compute the volumes between the existing and final topographies. Volumes are then converted to tons by using an appropriate conversion factor. Typically, 2 tons per cubic yard in the ground is used for hard rock quarries.

Estimated reserves are probable reserves as defined in Securities Act Industry Guide 7. Remaining reserves are based on estimates of volumes that can be economically extracted and sold to meet current market and product applications. The reserve estimates include only salable tonnage and thus exclude waste materials that are generated in the crushing and processing phases of the operation. Approximately 1.0 billion tons of the 1.1 billion tons of aggregate reserves are permitted reserves. The remaining reserves are on properties that are expected to be permitted for mining under current regulatory requirements. The data used to calculate the remaining reserves may require revisions in the future to account for changes in customer requirements and unknown geological occurrences. The years remaining were calculated by dividing remaining reserves by the three-year average sales from 2007 through 2009. Actual useful lives of these reserves will be subject to, among other things, fluctuations in customer demand, customer specifications, geological conditions and changes in mining plans.

The following table sets forth details applicable to the Company's aggregate reserves under ownership or lease as of December 31, 2009, and sales for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007:

| Production Area | Number of Sites (Crushed Stone) | | Number of Sites (Sand & Gravel) | | Tons Sold (000's) | | | Estimated Reserves (000's tons) | Lease Expiration | Reserve Life (years) |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | owned | leased | owned | leased | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | | | |
| Anchorage, AK | - | - | 1 | - | 891 | 1,267 | 1,118 | 17,554 | N/A | 16 |
| Hawaii | - | 6 | - | - | 1,940 | 2,467 | 3,081 | 63,622 | 2011-2064 | 25 |
| Northern CA | - | - | 9 | 1 | 1,215 | 2,054 | 2,534 | 49,393 | 2014 | 26 |
| Southern CA | - | 2 | - | - | 337 | 106 | 69 | 94,887 | 2035 | Over 100 |
| Portland, OR | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2,718 | 4,074 | 5,372 | 248,243 | 2010-2055 | 61 |
| Eugene, OR | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1,097 | 1,633 | 2,007 | 172,258 | 2010-2046 | Over 100 |
| Central OR/WA/Idaho | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1,436 | 1,686 | 2,652 | 107,632 | 2010-2021 | 56 |
| Southwest OR | 5 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 1,871 | 2,248 | 3,686 | 102,561 | 2011-2048 | 39 |
| Central MT | - | - | 3 | 2 | 1,220 | 2,086 | 2,424 | 27,136 | 2013-2027 | 14 |
| Northwest MT | - | - | 9 | 3 | 1,289 | 1,198 | 1,318 | 48,033 | 2010-2020 | 38 |
| Wyoming | - | - | 1 | 2 | 655 | 720 | 116 | 14,041 | 2013-2019 | 28 |
| Central MN | - | 1 | 38 | 33 | 1,868 | 1,367 | 2,639 | 83,549 | 2010-2028 | 43 |
| Northern MN | 2 | - | 17 | 6 | 838 | 333 | 753 | 28,262 | 2010-2016 | 44 |
| ND/SD | - | - | 2 | 24 | 699 | 876 | 943 | 39,428 | 2010-2031 | 47 |
| Iowa | - | 2 | 1 | 14 | 545 | 1,405 | 1,592 | 10,544 | 2010-2018 | 9 |
| Texas | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 1,080 | 1,619 | 1,290 | 18,348 | 2010-2025 | 14 |
| Sales from other sources | | | | | 4,296 | 5,968 | 5,318 | | | |
| | | | | | 23,995 | 31,107 | 36,912 | 1,125,491 | | |

The 1.1 billion tons of estimated aggregate reserves at December 31, 2009, is comprised of 472 million tons that are owned and 653 million tons that are leased. Approximately 51 percent of the tons under lease have lease expiration dates of 20 years or more. The weighted average years remaining on all leases containing estimated probable aggregate reserves is approximately 22 years, including options for renewal that are at Knife River's discretion. Based on a three-year average of sales from 2007 through 2009 of leased reserves, the average time necessary to produce remaining aggregate reserves from such leases is approximately 53 years. Some sites have leases that expire prior to the exhaustion of the estimated reserves. The estimated reserve life assumes, based on Knife River's experience, that leases will be renewed to allow sufficient time to fully recover these reserves.

The following table summarizes Knife River's aggregate reserves at December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, and reconciles the changes between these dates:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | (000's of tons) | | |
| Aggregate reserves: | | | |
| Beginning of year | 1,145,161 | 1,215,253 | 1,248,099 |
| Acquisitions | 21,400 | 27,650 | 29,740 |
| Sales volumes* | (19,699) | (25,139) | (31,594) |
| Other** | (21,371) | (72,603) | (30,992) |
| End of year | 1,125,491 | 1,145,161 | 1,215,253 |

* Excludes sales from other sources.

** Includes property sales and revisions of previous estimates.

Environmental Matters Knife River's construction materials and contracting operations are subject to regulation customary for such operations, including federal, state and local environmental compliance and reclamation regulations. Except as to what may be ultimately determined with regard to the Portland, Oregon, Harbor Superfund Site issue described later, Knife River believes it is in substantial compliance with these regulations. Individual permits applicable to Knife River's various operations are managed largely by local operations, particularly as they relate to application, modification, renewal, compliance, and reporting procedures.

Knife River's asphalt and ready-mixed concrete manufacturing plants and aggregate processing plants are subject to Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act requirements for controlling air emissions and water discharges. Some mining and construction activities also are subject to these laws. In most of the states where Knife River operates, these regulatory programs have been delegated to state and local regulatory authorities. Knife River's facilities also are subject to RCRA as it applies to the management of hazardous wastes and underground storage tank systems. These programs also have generally been delegated to the state and local authorities in the states where Knife River operates. Knife River's facilities must comply with requirements for managing wastes and underground storage tank systems.

Some Knife River activities are directly regulated by federal agencies. For example, certain in-water mining operations are subject to provisions of the Clean Water Act that are administered by the Army Corps. Knife River operates several such operations, including gravel bar skimming and dredging operations, and Knife River has the associated permits as required. The expiration dates of these permits vary, with five years generally being the longest term.

Knife River's operations also are occasionally subject to the ESA. For example, land use regulations often require environmental studies, including wildlife studies, before a permit may be granted for a new or expanded mining facility or an asphalt or concrete plant. If endangered species or their habitats are identified, ESA requirements for protection, mitigation or avoidance apply. Endangered species protection requirements are usually included as part of land use permit conditions. Typical conditions include avoidance, setbacks, restrictions on operations during certain times of the breeding or rearing season, and construction or purchase of mitigation habitat. Knife River's operations also are subject to state and federal cultural resources protection laws when new areas are disturbed for mining operations or processing plants. Land use permit applications generally require that areas proposed for mining or other surface disturbances be surveyed for cultural resources. If any are identified, they must be protected or managed in accordance with regulatory agency requirements.

The most comprehensive environmental permit requirements are usually associated with new mining operations, although requirements vary widely from state to state and even within states. In some areas, land use regulations and associated permitting requirements are minimal. However, some states and local jurisdictions have very demanding requirements for permitting new mines. Environmental impact reports are sometimes required before a mining permit application can even be considered for approval. These reports can take up to several years to complete. The report can include projected impacts of the proposed project on air and water quality, wildlife, noise levels, traffic, scenic vistas and other environmental factors. The reports generally include suggested actions to mitigate the projected adverse impacts.

Provisions for public hearings and public comments are usually included in land use permit application review procedures in the counties where Knife River operates. After taking into account environmental, mine plan and reclamation information provided by the permittee as well as comments from the public and other regulatory agencies, the local authority approves or denies the permit application. Denial is rare, but land use permits often include conditions that must be addressed by the permittee. Conditions may include property line setbacks, reclamation requirements, environmental monitoring and reporting, operating hour restrictions, financial guarantees for reclamation, and other requirements intended to protect the environment or address concerns submitted by the public or other regulatory agencies.

Knife River has been successful in obtaining mining and other land use permit approvals so that sufficient permitted reserves are available to support its operations. For mining operations, this often requires considerable advanced planning to ensure sufficient time is available to complete the permitting process before the newly permitted aggregate reserve is needed to support Knife River's operations.

Knife River's Gascoyne surface coal mine last produced coal in 1995 but continues to be subject to reclamation requirements of the SMCRA, as well as the North Dakota Surface Mining Act. Portions of the Gascoyne Mine remain under reclamation bond until the 10-year revegetation liability period has expired. A portion of the original permit has been released from bond and additional areas are currently in the process of having the bond released. Knife River's intention is to request bond release as soon as it is deemed possible with all final bond release applications being filed by 2013.

Knife River did not incur any material environmental expenditures in 2009 and, except as to what may be ultimately determined with regard to the issue described below, Knife River does not expect to incur any material expenditures related to environmental compliance with current laws and regulations through 2012.

In December 2000, MBI was named by the EPA as a PRP in connection with the cleanup of a commercial property site, acquired by MBI in 1999, and part of the Portland, Oregon, Harbor Superfund Site. For additional information, see Item 8 – Note 19.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The Company's business and financial results are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including those set forth below and in other documents that it files with the SEC. The factors and the other matters discussed herein are important factors that could cause actual results or outcomes for the Company to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements included elsewhere in this document.

Economic Risks

The Company's natural gas and oil production and pipeline and energy services businesses are dependent on factors, including commodity prices and commodity price basis differentials, which are subject to various external influences that cannot be controlled.

These factors include: fluctuations in natural gas and oil prices; fluctuations in commodity price basis differentials; availability of economic supplies of natural gas; drilling successes in natural gas and oil operations; the timely receipt of necessary permits and approvals; the ability to contract for or to secure necessary drilling rig and service contracts and to retain employees to drill for and develop reserves; the ability to acquire natural gas and oil properties; and other risks incidental to the operations of natural gas and oil wells. Volatility in natural gas and oil prices could negatively affect the results of operations and cash flows of the Company's natural gas and oil production and pipeline and energy services businesses.

The regulatory approval, permitting, construction, startup and operation of power generation facilities may involve unanticipated changes or delays that could negatively impact the Company's business and its results of operations and cash flows.

The construction, startup and operation of power generation facilities involve many risks, including: delays; breakdown or failure of equipment; competition; inability to obtain required governmental permits and approvals; inability to negotiate acceptable acquisition, construction, fuel supply, off-take, transmission or other material agreements; changes in market price for power; cost increases; as well as the risk of performance below expected levels of output or efficiency. Such unanticipated events could negatively impact the Company's business, its results of operations and cash flows.

Economic volatility affects the Company's operations, as well as the demand for its products and services and the value of its investments and investment returns and, as a result, may have a negative impact on the Company's future revenues and cash flows.

The global demand for natural resources, interest rates, governmental budget constraints and the ongoing threat of terrorism can create volatility in the financial markets. The current economic slowdown has negatively affected the level of public and private expenditures on projects and the timing of these projects which, in turn, has negatively affected the demand for certain of the Company's products and services. Continued economic volatility could adversely impact the Company's results of operations and cash flows. Changing market conditions could negatively affect the market value of assets held in the Company's pension and other postretirement benefit plans and may increase the amount and accelerate the timing of required funding contributions.

The Company relies on financing sources and capital markets. Access to these markets may be adversely affected by factors beyond the Company's control. If the Company is unable to obtain economic financing in the future, the Company's ability to execute its business plans, make capital expenditures or pursue acquisitions that the Company may otherwise rely on for future growth could be impaired. As a result, the market value of the Company's common stock may be adversely affected. If the Company issues a substantial amount of common stock it could have a dilutive effect on its existing shareholders.

The Company relies on access to both short-term borrowings, including the issuance of commercial paper, and long-term capital markets as sources of liquidity for capital requirements not satisfied by its cash flow from operations. If the Company is not able to access capital at competitive rates, the ability to implement its business plans may be adversely affected. Market disruptions or a further downgrade of the Company's credit ratings may increase the cost of borrowing or adversely affect its ability to access one or more financial markets. Such disruptions could include:

- A severe prolonged economic downturn
- The bankruptcy of unrelated industry leaders in the same line of business
- Further deterioration in capital market conditions
- Turmoil in the financial services industry
- Volatility in commodity prices
- Terrorist attacks

Economic turmoil, market disruptions and volatility in the securities trading markets, as well as other factors including changes in the Company's financial condition, results of operations and prospects, may adversely affect the market price of the Company's common stock.

The Company currently has authorization to issue and sell up to \$1.0 billion of securities pursuant to a registration statement on file with the SEC. The issuance of a substantial amount of the Company's common stock, whether sold pursuant to the registration statement, issued in connection with an acquisition or otherwise issued, or the perception that such an issuance could occur, may adversely affect the market price of the Company's common stock.

The Company is exposed to credit risk and the risk of loss resulting from the nonpayment and/or nonperformance by the Company's customers and counterparties.

If any of the Company's customers or counterparties were to experience financial difficulties or file for bankruptcy, the Company could experience difficulty in collecting receivables. The nonpayment and/or nonperformance by the Company's customers and counterparties could have a negative impact on the Company's results of operations and cash flows.

The backlogs at the Company's construction services and construction materials and contracting businesses are subject to delay or cancellation and may not be realized.

Backlog consists of the uncompleted portion of services to be performed under job-specific contracts. Contracts are subject to delay, default or cancellation and the contracts in the Company's backlog are subject to changes in the scope of services to be provided as well as adjustments to the costs relating to the applicable contracts. Backlog may also be affected by project delays or cancellations resulting from weather conditions, external market factors and economic factors beyond the Company's control, including the current economic slowdown. Accordingly, there is no assurance that backlog will be realized.

Actual quantities of recoverable natural gas and oil reserves and discounted future net cash flows from those reserves may vary significantly from estimated amounts.

The process of estimating natural gas and oil reserves is complex. Reserve estimates are based on assumptions relating to natural gas and oil pricing, drilling and operating expenses, capital expenditures, taxes, timing of operations, and the percentage of interest owned by the Company in the well. The reserve estimates are prepared for each of the Company's properties by internal engineers assigned to an asset team by geographic area. The internal engineers analyze available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data for each geographic area. The internal engineers make various assumptions regarding this data. The extent, quality and reliability of this data can vary. Although the Company has prepared its reserve estimates in accordance with guidelines established by the industry and the SEC, significant changes to the reserve estimates may occur based on actual results of production, drilling, costs and pricing.

The Company bases the estimated discounted future net cash flows from proved reserves on prices and current costs in accordance with SEC requirements. Actual future prices and costs may be significantly different. Sustained downward movements in natural gas and oil prices could result in future noncash write-downs of the Company's natural gas and oil properties.

Environmental and Regulatory Risks

Some of the Company's operations are subject to extensive environmental laws and regulations that may increase costs of operations, impact or limit business plans, or expose the Company to environmental liabilities.

The Company is subject to extensive environmental laws and regulations affecting many aspects of its present and future operations including air quality, water quality, waste management and other environmental considerations. These laws and regulations can result in increased capital, operating and other costs, and delays as a result of ongoing litigation and administrative proceedings and compliance, remediation, containment and monitoring obligations, particularly with regard to laws relating to power plant emissions and CBNG development. These laws and regulations generally require the Company to obtain and comply with a wide variety of environmental licenses, permits, inspections and other approvals. Public officials and entities, as well as private individuals and organizations, may seek injunctive relief or other remedies to enforce applicable environmental laws and regulations. The Company cannot predict the outcome (financial or operational) of any related litigation or administrative proceedings that may arise.

Existing environmental laws and regulations may be revised and new laws and regulations seeking to protect the environment may be adopted or become applicable to the Company. These laws and regulations could require the Company to limit the use or output of certain facilities, restrict the use of certain fuels, require the installation of pollution control equipment or the initiation of pollution control technologies, remediate environmental contamination, remove or reduce environmental hazards, or prevent or limit the development of

resources. Revised or additional laws and regulations, which result in increased compliance costs or additional operating restrictions, particularly if those costs are not fully recoverable from customers, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and cash flows.

The Company's electric generation operations could be adversely impacted by global climate change initiatives to reduce GHG emissions.

Concern that GHG emissions are contributing to global climate change has led to international, federal and state legislative and regulatory proposals to reduce or mitigate the effects of GHG emissions including the EPA's proposed endangerment finding for GHGs which could lead to regulation of GHG under the Clean Air Act. The primary GHG emitted from the Company's operations is carbon dioxide from combustion of fossil fuels at Montana-Dakota's electric generating facilities, particularly its coal-fired electric generating facilities which comprise more than 70 percent of Montana-Dakota's generating capacity. More than 90 percent of the electricity generated by Montana-Dakota is from coal-fired plants and Montana-Dakota has acquired a 25 MW ownership interest in the Wygen III coal-fired generation facility which is under construction near Gillette, Wyoming. Montana-Dakota also owns approximately 100 MW of natural gas- and oil-fired peaking plants. While there are many uncertainties regarding the future of GHG regulation, Montana-Dakota's electric generating facilities may be subject to regulation under climate change laws or regulations within the next few years. Implementation of treaties, legislation or regulations to reduce GHG emissions could affect Montana-Dakota's electric utility operations by requiring the expansion of energy conservation efforts and/or the increased development of renewable energy sources, as well as instituting other mandates that could significantly increase the capital expenditures and operating costs at its fossil fuel-fired generating facilities. The most prominent federal legislative proposals are based on "cap and trade" programs which place a limit on GHG emissions from major emission sources such as the electric generating industry. The impact of a cap and trade program on Montana-Dakota would be determined by considerations such as the overall GHG emissions cap level, the scope and timeframe by which the cap level is decreased, the extent to which GHG offsets are allowed, whether allowances are given to new and existing emission sources, and the indirect impact on natural gas, coal and other fuel prices. Montana-Dakota's ability to recover costs incurred to comply with new regulations and programs will also be important in determining the financial impact on the Company.

Due to the uncertainty of technologies available to control GHG emissions and the unknown nature of compliance obligations with potential GHG emission legislation or regulations, the Company cannot determine the financial impact on its operations. If Montana-Dakota does not receive timely and full recovery of the costs of complying with GHG emission legislation and regulations from its customers, then such requirements could have an adverse impact on the results of its operations.

One of the Company's subsidiaries is subject to ongoing litigation and administrative proceedings in connection with its CBNG development activities. These proceedings have caused delays in CBNG drilling activity, and the ultimate outcome of the actions could have a material negative effect on existing CBNG operations and/or the future development of its CBNG properties.

Fidelity's operations are and have been the subject of numerous lawsuits filed in connection with its CBNG development in the Montana and Wyoming Powder River Basin. If the plaintiffs are successful in the current lawsuits, the ultimate outcome of the actions could have a material negative effect on Fidelity's existing CBNG operations and/or the future development of its CBNG properties.

The BER in March 2006 issued a decision in a rulemaking proceeding, initiated by the NPRC, that amends the non-degradation policy applicable to water discharged in connection with CBNG operations. The amended policy includes additional limitations on factors deemed harmful, thereby restricting water discharges even further than under previous standards. Due in part to this amended policy, in May 2006, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe commenced litigation in Montana state court challenging two five-year water discharge permits that the Montana DEQ granted to Fidelity in February 2006 and which are critical to Fidelity's ability to manage water produced under present and future CBNG operations. Although the Montana state court decided the case in favor of Fidelity and the Montana DEQ in January 2009, the case was appealed to the Montana Supreme Court in March 2009. In a separate proceeding in Montana state court, plaintiffs are challenging the ROD adopted by the MBOGC in 2003 and alleging that various water management tools, including Fidelity's water discharge permits, allow for the "wasting" of water in violation of the Montana State Constitution. If these permits are set aside, Fidelity's CBNG operations in Montana could be significantly and adversely affected.

The Company is subject to extensive government regulations that may delay and/or have a negative impact on its business and its results of operations and cash flows. Statutory and regulatory requirements also may limit another party's ability to acquire the Company.

The Company is subject to regulation by federal, state and local regulatory agencies with respect to, among other things, allowed rates of return, financing, industry rate structures, and recovery of purchased power and purchased gas costs. These governmental regulations significantly influence the Company's operating environment and may affect its ability to recover costs from its customers. The Company is unable to predict the impact on operating results from the future regulatory activities of any of these agencies. Changes in regulations or the imposition of additional regulations could have an adverse impact on the Company's results of operations and cash flows. Approval

from a number of federal and state regulatory agencies would need to be obtained by any potential acquirer of the Company. The approval process could be lengthy and the outcome uncertain.

Risks Relating to Foreign Operations

The value of the Company's investments in foreign operations may diminish due to political, regulatory and economic conditions and changes in currency exchange rates in countries where the Company does business.

The Company is subject to political, regulatory and economic conditions and changes in currency exchange rates in foreign countries where the Company does business. Significant changes in the political, regulatory or economic environment in these countries could negatively affect the value of the Company's investments located in these countries. Also, since the Company is unable to predict the fluctuations in the foreign currency exchange rates, these fluctuations may have an adverse impact on the Company's results of operations and cash flows.

Other Risks

Weather conditions can adversely affect the Company's operations and revenues and cash flows.

The Company's results of operations can be affected by changes in the weather. Weather conditions directly influence the demand for electricity and natural gas, affect the price of energy commodities, affect the ability to perform services at the construction services and construction materials and contracting businesses and affect ongoing operation and maintenance and construction and drilling activities for the pipeline and energy services and natural gas and oil production businesses. In addition, severe weather can be destructive, causing outages, reduced natural gas and oil production, and/or property damage, which could require additional costs to be incurred. Physical changes to the planet could further change the intensity and frequency of severe weather conditions. As a result, adverse weather conditions could negatively affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Competition is increasing in all of the Company's businesses.

All of the Company's businesses are subject to increased competition. Construction services' competition is based primarily on price and reputation for quality, safety and reliability. The construction materials products are marketed under highly competitive conditions and are subject to such competitive forces as price, service, delivery time and proximity to the customer. The electric utility and natural gas industries also are experiencing increased competitive pressures as a result of consumer demands, technological advances, volatility in natural gas prices and other factors. Pipeline and energy services competes with several pipelines for access to natural gas supplies and gathering, transportation and storage business. The natural gas and oil production business is subject to competition in the acquisition and development of natural gas and oil properties. The increase in competition could negatively affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

The Company could be subject to limitations on its ability to pay dividends.

The Company depends on earnings from its divisions and dividends from its subsidiaries to pay dividends on its common stock. Regulatory, contractual and legal limitations, as well as capital requirements and the Company's financial performance or cash flows, could limit the earnings of the Company's divisions and subsidiaries which, in turn, could restrict the Company's ability to pay dividends on its common stock and adversely affect the Company's stock price.

An increase in costs related to obligations under multi-employer pension plans could have a material negative effect on the Company's results of operations and cash flows.

The Company participates in various multi-employer pension plans for employees represented by certain unions. The Company is required to make contributions to these plans in amounts established under collective bargaining agreements. Pension expense for these plans is recognized as contributions are made. The amount of any increase or decrease in the Company's required contributions to these multi-employer pension plans will depend upon many factors including the outcome of collective bargaining, actions taken by trustees who manage the plans, government regulations, the actual return on assets held in the plans and the potential payment of a withdrawal liability upon withdrawal from a plan, among other factors. Based on available information, the Company believes that many of the multi-employer plans to which it contributes are underfunded. The underfunded liabilities of these plans may result in increased future payments by the Company and other participating employers. The Company's risk of such increased payments may be greater if any of the participating employers in these underfunded plans withdraws from the plan due to insolvency and is not able to contribute an amount sufficient to fund the unfunded liabilities associated with its participants in the plan. The Company may experience increased operating expenses as a result of required contributions to multi-employer pension plans, which may have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and cash flows.

Other factors that could impact the Company's businesses.

The following are other factors that should be considered for a better understanding of the financial condition of the Company. These other factors may impact the Company's financial results in future periods.

- Acquisition, disposal and impairments of assets or facilities
- Changes in operation, performance and construction of plant facilities or other assets
- Changes in present or prospective generation
- The ability to obtain adequate and timely cost recovery for the Company's regulated operations through regulatory proceedings
- The availability of economic expansion or development opportunities
- Population growth rates and demographic patterns
- Market demand for, and/or available supplies of, energy- and construction-related products and services
- The cyclical nature of large construction projects at certain operations
- Changes in tax rates or policies
- Unanticipated project delays or changes in project costs, including related energy costs
- Unanticipated changes in operating expenses or capital expenditures
- Labor negotiations or disputes
- Inability of the various contract counterparties to meet their contractual obligations
- Changes in accounting principles and/or the application of such principles to the Company
- Changes in technology
- Changes in legal or regulatory proceedings
- The ability to effectively integrate the operations and the internal controls of acquired companies
- The ability to attract and retain skilled labor and key personnel
- Increases in employee and retiree benefit costs and funding requirements

Item 1B. Unresolved Comments

The Company has no unresolved comments with the SEC.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

For information regarding legal proceedings of the Company, see Item 8 – Note 19.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

No matters were submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of 2009.

Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The Company's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "MDU." The price range of the Company's common stock as reported by The Wall Street Journal composite tape during 2009 and 2008 and dividends declared thereon were as follows:

| | Common Stock Price (High) | Common Stock Price (Low) | Common Stock Dividends Per Share |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 2009 | | | |
| First quarter | \$22.89 | \$12.79 | \$.1550 |
| Second quarter | 19.76 | 15.70 | .1550 |
| Third quarter | 21.16 | 17.44 | .1550 |
| Fourth quarter | 24.22 | 19.96 | .1575 |
| | | | \$.6225 |
| 2008 | | | |
| First quarter | \$27.83 | \$23.08 | \$.1450 |
| Second quarter | 35.25 | 24.70 | .1450 |
| Third quarter | 35.34 | 26.03 | .1550 |
| Fourth quarter | 29.50 | 15.50 | .1550 |
| | | | \$.6000 |

As of December 31, 2009, the Company's common stock was held by approximately 15,500 stockholders of record.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

| | 2009* | 2008** | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Selected Financial Data | | | | | | |
| Operating revenues (000's): | | | | | | |
| Electric | \$ 196,171 | \$ 208,326 | \$ 193,367 | \$ 187,301 | \$ 181,238 | \$ 178,803 |
| Natural gas distribution | 1,072,776 | 1,036,109 | 532,997 | 351,988 | 384,199 | 316,120 |
| Construction services | 819,064 | 1,257,319 | 1,103,215 | 987,582 | 687,125 | 426,821 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 307,827 | 532,153 | 447,063 | 443,720 | 477,311 | 354,164 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 439,655 | 712,279 | 514,854 | 483,952 | 439,367 | 342,840 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 1,515,122 | 1,640,683 | 1,761,473 | 1,877,021 | 1,604,610 | 1,322,161 |
| Other | 9,487 | 10,501 | 10,061 | 8,117 | 6,038 | 4,423 |
| Intersegment eliminations | (183,601) | (394,092) | (315,134) | (335,142) | (375,965) | (272,199) |
| | \$4,176,501 | \$5,003,278 | \$4,247,896 | \$4,004,539 | \$3,403,923 | \$2,673,133 |
| Operating income (loss) (000's): | | | | | | |
| Electric | \$ 36,709 | \$ 35,415 | \$ 31,652 | \$ 27,716 | \$ 29,038 | \$ 26,776 |
| Natural gas distribution | 76,899 | 76,887 | 32,903 | 8,744 | 7,404 | 1,820 |
| Construction services | 44,255 | 81,485 | 75,511 | 50,651 | 28,171 | (5,757) |
| Pipeline and energy services | 69,388 | 49,560 | 58,026 | 57,133 | 43,507 | 29,570 |
| Natural gas and oil production | (473,399) | 202,954 | 227,728 | 231,802 | 230,383 | 178,897 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 93,270 | 62,849 | 138,635 | 156,104 | 105,318 | 86,030 |
| Other | (219) | 2,887 | (7,335) | (9,075) | (5,298) | (3,954) |
| | \$ (153,097) | \$ 512,037 | \$ 557,120 | \$ 523,075 | \$ 438,523 | \$ 313,382 |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock (000's): | | | | | | |
| Electric | \$ 24,099 | \$ 18,755 | \$ 17,700 | \$ 14,401 | \$ 13,940 | \$ 12,790 |
| Natural gas distribution | 30,796 | 34,774 | 14,044 | 5,680 | 3,515 | 2,182 |
| Construction services | 25,589 | 49,782 | 43,843 | 27,851 | 14,558 | (5,650) |
| Pipeline and energy services | 37,845 | 26,367 | 31,408 | 32,126 | 22,867 | 13,806 |
| Natural gas and oil production | (296,730) | 122,326 | 142,485 | 145,657 | 141,625 | 110,779 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 47,085 | 30,172 | 77,001 | 85,702 | 55,040 | 50,707 |
| Other | 7,357 | 10,812 | (4,380) | (4,324) | 13,061 | 15,967 |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock before income from discontinued operations | (123,959) | 292,988 | 322,101 | 307,093 | 264,606 | 200,581 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | 109,334 | 7,979 | 9,792 | 5,801 |
| | \$ (123,959) | \$ 292,988 | \$ 431,435 | \$ 315,072 | \$ 274,398 | \$ 206,382 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share before discontinued operations - diluted | | | | | | |
| Discontinued operations, net of tax | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ 1.76 | \$ 1.69 | \$ 1.47 | \$ 1.14 |
| | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ 2.36 | \$ 1.74 | \$ 1.53 | \$ 1.17 |
| Common Stock Statistics | | | | | | |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted (000's) | | | | | | |
| | 185,175 | 183,807 | 182,902 | 181,392 | 179,490 | 176,117 |
| Dividends per common share | \$.6225 | \$.6000 | \$.5600 | \$.5234 | \$.4934 | \$.4667 |
| Book value per common share | \$ 13.61 | \$ 14.95 | \$ 13.80 | \$ 11.88 | \$ 10.43 | \$ 9.39 |
| Market price per common share (year end) | \$ 23.60 | \$ 21.58 | \$ 27.61 | \$ 25.64 | \$ 21.83 | \$ 17.79 |
| Market price ratios: | | | | | | |
| Dividend payout | N/A | 38% | 24% | 30% | 32% | 40% |
| Yield | 2.7% | 2.9% | 2.1% | 2.1% | 2.3% | 2.7% |
| Price/earnings ratio | N/A | 13.6x | 11.7x | 14.7x | 14.3x | 15.2x |
| Market value as a percent of book value | 173.4% | 144.3% | 200.1% | 215.8% | 209.2% | 189.4% |
| Profitability Indicators | | | | | | |
| Return on average common equity | (4.9)% | 11.0% | 18.5% | 15.6% | 15.7% | 13.2% |
| Return on average invested capital | (1.7)% | 8.0% | 13.1% | 10.6% | 10.8% | 9.4% |
| Fixed charges coverage, including preferred dividends | -*** | 5.3x | 6.4x | 6.4x | 6.6x | 4.8x |
| General | | | | | | |
| Total assets (000's) | \$5,990,952 | \$6,587,845 | \$5,592,434 | \$4,903,474 | \$4,423,562 | \$3,733,521 |
| Total debt (000's) | \$1,509,606 | \$1,752,402 | \$1,310,163 | \$1,254,582 | \$1,206,510 | \$ 945,487 |
| Capitalization ratios: | | | | | | |
| Common equity | 63% | 61% | 66% | 63% | 61% | 63% |
| Preferred stocks | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Total debt | 37 | 39 | 34 | 37 | 39 | 36 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

* Reflects a \$384.4 million after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties.

** Reflects an \$84.2 million after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties.

*** For more information on fixed charges coverage, including preferred dividends, see Item 7 - MD&A.

Notes:

• Common stock share amounts reflect the Company's three-for-two common stock split effected in July 2006.

• Cascade and Intermountain, natural gas distribution businesses, were acquired on July 2, 2007, and October 1, 2008, respectively. For further information, see Item 8 - Note 2.

Part II

Item 6. Selected Financial Data (continued)

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Electric | | | | | | |
| Retail sales (thousand kWh) | 2,663,560 | 2,663,452 | 2,601,649 | 2,483,248 | 2,413,704 | 2,303,460 |
| Sales for resale (thousand kWh) | 90,789 | 223,778 | 165,639 | 483,944 | 615,220 | 821,516 |
| Electric system summer generating and firm purchase capability – kW | | | | | | |
| (Interconnected system) | 594,700 | 597,250 | 571,160 | 547,485 | 546,085 | 544,220 |
| Demand peak – kW | | | | | | |
| (Interconnected system) | 525,643 | 525,643 | 525,643 | 485,456 | 470,470 | 470,470 |
| Electricity produced (thousand kWh) | 2,203,665 | 2,538,439 | 2,253,851 | 2,218,059 | 2,327,228 | 2,552,873 |
| Electricity purchased (thousand kWh) | 682,152 | 516,654 | 576,613 | 833,647 | 892,113 | 794,829 |
| Average cost of fuel and purchased power per kWh | \$.023 | \$.025 | \$.025 | \$.022 | \$.020 | \$.019 |
| Natural Gas Distribution* | | | | | | |
| Sales (Mdk) | 102,670 | 87,924 | 52,977 | 34,553 | 36,231 | 36,607 |
| Transportation (Mdk) | 132,689 | 103,504 | 54,698 | 14,058 | 14,565 | 13,856 |
| Degree days (% of normal) | | | | | | |
| Montana-Dakota | 104% | 103% | 93% | 87% | 91% | 91% |
| Cascade | 105% | 108% | 102% | - | - | - |
| Intermountain | 107% | 90% | - | - | - | - |
| Pipeline and Energy Services | | | | | | |
| Transportation (Mdk) | 163,283 | 138,003 | 140,762 | 130,889 | 104,909 | 114,206 |
| Gathering (Mdk) | 92,598 | 102,064 | 92,414 | 87,135 | 82,111 | 80,527 |
| Natural Gas and Oil Production | | | | | | |
| Production: | | | | | | |
| Natural gas (MMcf) | 56,632 | 65,457 | 62,798 | 62,062 | 59,378 | 59,750 |
| Oil (MBbls) | 3,111 | 2,808 | 2,365 | 2,041 | 1,707 | 1,747 |
| Total production (MMcfe) | 75,299 | 82,303 | 76,988 | 74,307 | 69,622 | 70,234 |
| Average realized prices (including hedges): | | | | | | |
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$ 5.16 | \$ 7.38 | \$ 5.96 | \$ 6.03 | \$ 6.11 | \$ 4.69 |
| Oil (per barrel) | \$47.38 | \$81.68 | \$59.26 | \$50.64 | \$42.59 | \$34.16 |
| Average realized prices (excluding hedges): | | | | | | |
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$ 2.99 | \$ 7.29 | \$ 5.37 | \$ 5.62 | \$ 6.87 | \$ 4.90 |
| Oil (per barrel) | \$49.76 | \$82.28 | \$59.53 | \$51.73 | \$48.73 | \$37.75 |
| Proved reserves: | | | | | | |
| Natural gas (MMcf) | 448,425 | 604,282 | 523,737 | 538,100 | 489,100 | 453,200 |
| Oil (MBbls) | 34,216 | 34,348 | 30,612 | 27,100 | 21,200 | 17,100 |
| Total reserves (MMcfe) | 653,724 | 810,371 | 707,409 | 700,700 | 616,400 | 555,900 |
| Construction Materials and Contracting | | | | | | |
| Sales (000's): | | | | | | |
| Aggregates (tons) | 23,995 | 31,107 | 36,912 | 45,600 | 47,204 | 43,444 |
| Asphalt (tons) | 6,360 | 5,846 | 7,062 | 8,273 | 9,142 | 8,643 |
| Ready-mixed concrete (cubic yards) | 3,042 | 3,729 | 4,085 | 4,588 | 4,448 | 4,292 |
| Aggregate reserves (000's tons) | 1,125,491 | 1,145,161 | 1,215,253 | 1,248,099 | 1,273,696 | 1,257,498 |

* Cascade and Intermountain were acquired on July 2, 2007, and October 1, 2008, respectively. For further information, see Item 8 – Note 2.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Overview

The Company's strategy is to apply its expertise in energy and transportation infrastructure industries to increase market share, increase profitability and enhance shareholder value through:

- Organic growth as well as a continued disciplined approach to the acquisition of well-managed companies and properties
- The elimination of system-wide cost redundancies through increased focus on integration of operations and standardization and consolidation of various support services and functions across companies within the organization
- The development of projects that are accretive to earnings per share and return on invested capital

The Company has capabilities to fund its growth and operations through various sources, including internally generated funds, commercial paper facilities and the issuance from time to time of debt and equity securities. Due to recent economic volatility, the Company in 2009 increased its focus on the use of operating cash flows to substantially fund capital expenditures. In the event that access to the commercial paper markets were to become unavailable, the Company may need to borrow under its credit agreements. For more information on the Company's net capital expenditures, see Liquidity and Capital Commitments.

The key strategies for each of the Company's business segments and certain related business challenges are summarized below. For a summary of the Company's business segments, see Item 8 – Note 15.

Key Strategies and Challenges

Electric and Natural Gas Distribution

Strategy Provide competitively priced energy to customers while working with them to ensure efficient usage. Both the electric and natural gas distribution segments continually seek opportunities for growth and expansion of their customer base through extensions of existing operations, including electric generation and transmission build-out, and through selected acquisitions of companies and properties at prices that will provide stable cash flows and an opportunity for the Company to earn a competitive return on investment.

Challenges Both segments are subject to extensive regulation in the state jurisdictions where they conduct operations with respect to costs and permitted returns on investment as well as subject to certain operational regulations at the federal level. The ability of these segments to grow through acquisitions is subject to significant competition from other energy providers. In addition, the ability of both segments to grow service territory and customer base is affected by the economic environment of the markets served and competition from other energy providers and fuels. The construction of electric generating facilities and transmission lines may be subject to increasing cost and lead time, extensive permitting procedures, and federal and state legislative and regulatory initiatives, which may necessitate increases in electric energy prices. Legislative and regulatory initiatives to increase renewable energy resources and reduce GHG emissions could increase the price and decrease the retail demand for electricity and natural gas.

Construction Services

Strategy Provide a competitive return on investment while operating in a competitive industry by: building new and strengthening existing customer relationships; effectively controlling costs; retaining, developing and recruiting talented employees; focusing business development efforts on project areas that will permit higher margins; and properly managing risk. This segment continuously seeks opportunities to expand through strategic acquisitions.

Challenges This segment operates in highly competitive markets with many jobs subject to competitive bidding. Maintenance of effective operational and cost controls, retention of key personnel, managing through downturns in the economy and effective management of working capital are ongoing challenges.

Pipeline and Energy Services

Strategy Utilize the segment's existing expertise in energy infrastructure and related services to increase market share and profitability through optimization of existing operations, internal growth, and acquisitions of energy-related assets and companies. Incremental and new growth opportunities include: access to new sources of natural gas for storage, gathering and transportation services; expansion of existing gathering, transmission and storage facilities; expansion of related energy services; and incremental expansion of pipeline capacity to allow customers access to more liquid and higher-priced markets.

Challenges Challenges for this segment include: energy price volatility; natural gas basis differentials; regulatory requirements; recruitment and retention of a skilled workforce; and competition from other natural gas pipeline and gathering companies.

Natural Gas and Oil Production

Strategy Apply technology and utilize existing exploration and production expertise, with a focus on operated properties, to increase production and reserves from existing leaseholds, and to seek additional reserves and production opportunities in new areas to further expand the segment's asset base. By optimizing existing operations and taking advantage of new and incremental growth opportunities, this segment's goal is to increase both production and reserves over the long term so as to generate competitive returns on investment.

Challenges Volatility in natural gas and oil prices; ongoing environmental litigation and administrative proceedings; timely receipt of necessary permits and approvals; recruitment and retention of a skilled workforce; availability of drilling rigs, materials, auxiliary equipment and industry-related field services, and inflationary pressure on development and operating costs, all primarily in a higher price environment; and competition from other natural gas and oil companies are ongoing challenges for this segment.

Construction Materials and Contracting

Strategy Focus on high-growth strategic markets located near major transportation corridors and desirable mid-sized metropolitan areas; strengthen long-term, strategic aggregate reserve position through purchase and/or lease opportunities; enhance profitability through cost containment, margin discipline and vertical integration of the segment's operations; and continue growth through organic and acquisition opportunities. Ongoing efforts to increase margin are being pursued through the implementation of a variety of continuous improvement programs, including corporate purchasing of equipment, parts and commodities (liquid asphalt, diesel fuel, cement and other materials), and negotiation of contract price escalation provisions. Vertical integration allows the segment to manage operations from aggregate mining to final lay-down of concrete and asphalt, with control of and access to adequate quantities of permitted aggregate reserves being significant. A key element of the Company's long-term strategy for this business is to further expand its presence, through acquisition, in the higher-margin materials business (rock, sand, gravel, liquid asphalt, ready-mixed concrete and related products), complementing and expanding on the Company's expertise.

Challenges The economic downturn has adversely impacted operations, particularly in the private market. This business unit expects to continue cost containment efforts and a greater emphasis on industrial, energy and public works projects. Significant volatility in the cost of raw materials such as diesel, gasoline, liquid asphalt, cement and steel continue to be a concern. Increased competition in certain construction markets has also lowered margins.

For further information on the risks and challenges the Company faces as it pursues its growth strategies and other factors that should be considered for a better understanding of the Company's financial condition, see Item 1A – Risk Factors. For further information on each segment's key growth strategies, projections and certain assumptions, see Prospective Information.

For information pertinent to various commitments and contingencies, see Item 8 – Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Earnings Overview

The following table summarizes the contribution to consolidated earnings (loss) by each of the Company's businesses.

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---|---------|---------|
| | (Dollars in millions, where applicable) | | |
| Electric | \$ 24.1 | \$ 18.7 | \$ 17.7 |
| Natural gas distribution | 30.8 | 34.8 | 14.0 |
| Construction services | 25.6 | 49.8 | 43.8 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 37.8 | 26.4 | 31.4 |
| Natural gas and oil production | (296.7) | 122.3 | 142.5 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 47.1 | 30.2 | 77.0 |
| Other | 7.3 | 10.8 | (4.3) |
| Earnings (loss) before discontinued operations | (124.0) | 293.0 | 322.1 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | 109.3 |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock | \$(124.0) | \$293.0 | \$431.4 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – basic: | | | |
| Earnings (loss) before discontinued operations | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.77 |
| Discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | .60 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – basic | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.60 | \$ 2.37 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – diluted: | | | |
| Earnings (loss) before discontinued operations | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ 1.76 |
| Discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | .60 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – diluted | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ 2.36 |
| Return on average common equity | (4.9)% | 11.0% | 18.5% |

2009 compared to 2008 Consolidated loss for 2009 was \$124.0 million compared to earnings of \$293.0 million in 2008. This decrease was due to:

- A noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties of \$384.4 million (after tax) as well as lower average realized natural gas and oil prices of 30 percent and 42 percent, respectively and decreased natural gas production of 13 percent, partially offset by the absence of the 2008 noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties of \$84.2 million (after tax), lower depreciation, depletion and amortization expense and lower production taxes at the natural gas and oil production business
- Lower construction workloads, partially offset by lower general and administrative expense at the construction services business

Partially offsetting these decreases were:

- Increased earnings from liquid asphalt oil and asphalt operations, as well as lower selling, general and administrative expense at the construction materials and contracting business
- Increased volumes transported to storage, higher storage services revenue and lower operation and maintenance expense at the pipeline and energy services business

2008 compared to 2007 Consolidated earnings for 2008 decreased \$138.4 million from the prior year due to:

- The absence in 2008 of income from discontinued operations, net of tax, largely related to the gain on the sale of the Company's domestic independent power production assets and earnings related to an electric generating facility construction project
- An \$84.2 million after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties as well as higher depreciation, depletion and amortization expense, production taxes and lease operating costs at the natural gas and oil production business
- Decreased earnings at the construction materials and contracting business, primarily construction workloads and margins, as well as product volumes from existing operations, that were significantly lower as a result of the economic downturn

Partially offsetting these decreases were higher average natural gas and oil prices as well as increased oil and natural gas production at the natural gas and oil production business; increased earnings at the natural gas distribution business, largely due to the July 2007 acquisition of Cascade and the October 2008 acquisition of Intermountain; and higher construction workloads at the construction services business.

Financial and Operating Data

Below are key financial and operating data for each of the Company's businesses.

Electric

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|---|---------|---------|
| | (Dollars in millions, where applicable) | | |
| Operating revenues | \$196.2 | \$208.3 | \$193.4 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Fuel and purchased power | 65.7 | 75.4 | 69.6 |
| Operation and maintenance | 60.7 | 64.8 | 61.7 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 24.7 | 24.0 | 22.5 |
| Taxes, other than income | 8.4 | 8.7 | 7.9 |
| | 159.5 | 172.9 | 161.7 |
| Operating income | 36.7 | 35.4 | 31.7 |
| Earnings | \$ 24.1 | \$ 18.7 | \$ 17.7 |
| Retail sales (million kWh) | 2,663.5 | 2,663.4 | 2,601.7 |
| Sales for resale (million kWh) | 90.8 | 223.8 | 165.6 |
| Average cost of fuel and purchased power per kWh | \$.023 | \$.025 | \$.025 |

2009 compared to 2008 Electric earnings increased \$5.4 million (28 percent) compared to the prior year due to:

- Higher other income, primarily allowance for funds used during construction of \$5.0 million (after tax)
- Lower operation and maintenance expense of \$2.3 million (after tax), largely payroll and benefit-related costs

Partially offsetting these increases were decreased sales for resale margins due to lower average rates of 31 percent and decreased volumes of 59 percent due to lower market demand and decreased plant generation.

Part II

2008 compared to 2007 Electric earnings increased \$1.0 million (6 percent) compared to the prior year due to:

- Higher retail sales margins, largely due to the implementation of higher rates in Montana, and increased retail sales volumes of 2 percent
- Increased sales for resale volumes of 35 percent, primarily due to the addition of the wind-powered electric generating station near Baker, Montana, and higher plant availability

Partially offsetting these increases were:

- Higher operation and maintenance expense of \$1.7 million (after tax), primarily higher payroll and benefit-related costs, as well as higher scheduled maintenance outage costs at electric generating facilities
- Increased interest expense of \$1.2 million (after tax)
- Higher depreciation, depletion and amortization expense of \$900,000 (after tax), largely due to higher property, plant and equipment balances

Natural Gas Distribution

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|---|-----------|---------|
| | (Dollars in millions, where applicable) | | |
| Operating revenues | \$1,072.8 | \$1,036.1 | \$533.0 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Purchased natural gas sold | 757.6 | 757.6 | 372.2 |
| Operation and maintenance | 140.5 | 123.6 | 88.5 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 42.7 | 32.6 | 19.0 |
| Taxes, other than income | 55.1 | 45.4 | 20.4 |
| | 995.9 | 959.2 | 500.1 |
| Operating income | 76.9 | 76.9 | 32.9 |
| Earnings | \$ 30.8 | \$ 34.8 | \$ 14.0 |
| Volumes (MMdk): | | | |
| Sales | 102.7 | 87.9 | 53.0 |
| Transportation | 132.7 | 103.5 | 54.7 |
| Total throughput | 235.4 | 191.4 | 107.7 |
| Degree days (% of normal)* | | | |
| Montana-Dakota | 104.4% | 102.7% | 92.9% |
| Cascade | 105.1% | 108.0% | 101.7% |
| Intermountain | 107.3% | 90.3% | – |
| Average cost of natural gas, including transportation, per dk** | \$ 7.38 | \$ 8.14 | \$ 6.53 |

* Degree days are a measure of the daily temperature-related demand for energy for heating.

** Regulated natural gas sales only.

Note: Cascade and Intermountain were acquired on July 2, 2007, and October 1, 2008, respectively. For further information, see Item 8 – Note 2.

2009 compared to 2008 The natural gas distribution business experienced a decrease in earnings of \$4.0 million (11 percent) compared to the prior year due to:

- Absence of a \$4.4 million (after tax) gain on the sale of Cascade's natural gas management service in June 2008
- Lower earnings from energy-related services of \$2.0 million (after tax)

Partially offsetting these decreases was lower operation and maintenance expense at existing operations of \$2.2 million (after tax), including lower payroll and benefit-related costs.

2008 compared to 2007 The natural gas distribution business experienced an increase in earnings of \$20.8 million (148 percent) compared to the prior year due to:

- Earnings of \$18.4 million at Cascade and Intermountain, including a \$4.4 million (after tax) gain on the sale of Cascade's natural gas management service, which were acquired on July 2, 2007, and October 1, 2008, respectively
- Increased retail sales volumes from existing operations resulting from colder weather than last year

Construction Services

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|---------|---------------|-----------|
| | | (In millions) | |
| Operating revenues | \$819.0 | \$1,257.3 | \$1,103.2 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Operation and maintenance | 736.3 | 1,122.7 | 979.7 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 12.8 | 13.4 | 14.3 |
| Taxes, other than income | 25.7 | 39.7 | 33.7 |
| | 774.8 | 1,175.8 | 1,027.7 |
| Operating income | 44.2 | 81.5 | 75.5 |
| Earnings | \$ 25.6 | \$ 49.8 | \$ 43.8 |

2009 compared to 2008 Construction services earnings decreased \$24.2 million (49 percent) compared to the prior year, primarily due to lower construction workloads, largely in the Southwest region, partially offset by lower general and administrative expense of \$6.7 million (after tax), largely payroll-related.

2008 compared to 2007 Construction services earnings increased \$6.0 million (14 percent) compared to the prior year, primarily due to higher construction workloads, largely in the Southwest region. Partially offsetting this increase were lower construction margins in certain regions.

Pipeline and Energy Services

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| | | (Dollars in millions) | |
| Operating revenues | \$307.8 | \$532.2 | \$447.1 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Purchased natural gas sold | 138.8 | 373.9 | 291.7 |
| Operation and maintenance | 63.1 | 73.8 | 65.6 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 25.5 | 23.6 | 21.7 |
| Taxes, other than income | 11.0 | 11.3 | 10.1 |
| | 238.4 | 482.6 | 389.1 |
| Operating income | 69.4 | 49.6 | 58.0 |
| Income from continuing operations | 37.8 | 26.4 | 31.4 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | .1 |
| Earnings | \$ 37.8 | \$ 26.4 | \$ 31.5 |
| Transportation volumes (MMdk): | | | |
| Montana-Dakota | 38.9 | 32.0 | 29.3 |
| Other | 124.4 | 106.0 | 111.5 |
| | 163.3 | 138.0 | 140.8 |
| Gathering volumes (MMdk) | 92.6 | 102.1 | 92.4 |

2009 compared to 2008 Pipeline and energy services earnings increased \$11.4 million (44 percent) largely due to:

- Increased transportation volumes of \$4.9 million (after tax), largely volumes transported to storage
- Lower operation and maintenance expense of \$4.5 million (after tax), largely associated with the natural gas storage litigation, which was settled in July 2009
- Higher storage services revenues of \$3.1 million (after tax)
- Higher gathering rates of \$2.2 million (after tax)

Partially offsetting the earnings improvement were decreased gathering volumes of 9 percent. Results also reflect lower operating revenues and lower purchased natural gas sold, both related to lower natural gas prices. The above table also reflects lower operation and maintenance expense and revenues related to energy-related service projects.

Part II

2008 compared to 2007 Pipeline and energy services earnings decreased \$5.1 million (16 percent) largely due to:

- Lower storage services revenue of \$3.1 million (after tax), largely related to lower storage balances and decreased volumes transported to storage of 31 percent
- Higher operation and maintenance expense, largely related to natural gas storage litigation, as previously discussed, as well as higher materials and payroll-related costs
- Higher depreciation, depletion and amortization expense of \$1.3 million (after tax), largely due to higher property, plant and equipment balances

Partially offsetting these decreases were a 10 percent increase in off-system transportation volumes and demand fees, related to an expansion of the Grasslands system, and \$3.0 million (after tax) of higher gathering volumes and rates.

Natural Gas and Oil Production

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---|---------|---------|
| | (Dollars in millions, where applicable) | | |
| Operating revenues: | | | |
| Natural gas | \$ 292.3 | \$482.8 | \$374.1 |
| Oil | 147.4 | 229.3 | 140.1 |
| Other | — | .2 | .6 |
| | 439.7 | 712.3 | 514.8 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Purchased natural gas sold | — | .1 | .3 |
| Operation and maintenance: | | | |
| Lease operating costs | 70.1 | 82.0 | 66.9 |
| Gathering and transportation | 24.0 | 24.8 | 20.4 |
| Other | 39.2 | 41.0 | 34.6 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 129.9 | 170.2 | 127.4 |
| Taxes, other than income: | | | |
| Production and property taxes | 29.1 | 54.7 | 36.7 |
| Other | .8 | .8 | .8 |
| Write-down of natural gas and oil properties | 620.0 | 135.8 | — |
| | 913.1 | 509.4 | 287.1 |
| Operating income (loss) | (473.4) | 202.9 | 227.7 |
| Earnings (loss) | \$(296.7) | \$122.3 | \$142.5 |
| Production: | | | |
| Natural gas (MMcf) | 56,632 | 65,457 | 62,798 |
| Oil (MBbls) | 3,111 | 2,808 | 2,365 |
| Total Production (MMcfe) | 75,299 | 82,303 | 76,988 |
| Average realized prices (including hedges): | | | |
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$ 5.16 | \$ 7.38 | \$ 5.96 |
| Oil (per Bbl) | \$ 47.38 | \$81.68 | \$59.26 |
| Average realized prices (excluding hedges): | | | |
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$ 2.99 | \$ 7.29 | \$ 5.37 |
| Oil (per Bbl) | \$ 49.76 | \$82.28 | \$59.53 |
| Average depreciation, depletion and amortization rate, per equivalent Mcf | \$ 1.64 | \$ 2.00 | \$ 1.59 |
| Production costs, including taxes, per equivalent Mcf: | | | |
| Lease operating costs | \$.93 | \$ 1.00 | \$.87 |
| Gathering and transportation | .32 | .30 | .26 |
| Production and property taxes | .39 | .66 | .48 |
| | \$ 1.64 | \$ 1.96 | \$ 1.61 |

2009 compared to 2008 The natural gas and oil production business experienced a loss of \$296.7 million in 2009 compared to earnings of \$122.3 million in 2008 due to:

- A noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties of \$384.4 million (after tax) in 2009, partially offset by the absence of the 2008 noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties of \$84.2 million (after tax), both discussed in Item 8 – Note 1

- Lower average realized natural gas and oil prices of 30 percent and 42 percent, respectively
- Decreased natural gas production of 13 percent, largely related to normal production declines at certain properties

Partially offsetting these decreases were:

- Lower depreciation, depletion and amortization expense of \$25.0 million (after tax), due to lower depletion rates and decreased combined production. The lower depletion rates are largely the result of the write-downs of natural gas and oil properties in December 2008 and March 2009.
- Lower production taxes of \$15.8 million (after tax) associated largely with lower average prices
- Increased oil production of 11 percent, largely related to drilling activity in the Bakken area, partially offset by normal production declines at certain properties
- Decreased lease operating expenses of \$7.3 million (after tax)

2008 compared to 2007 The natural gas and oil production business experienced a decrease in earnings of \$20.2 million (14 percent) due to:

- A noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties of \$84.2 million (after tax), as previously discussed
- Higher depreciation, depletion and amortization expense of \$26.6 million (after tax), due to higher depletion rates and increased production
- Higher production taxes of \$11.1 million (after tax), primarily due to higher average prices and increased production
- Increased lease operating costs of \$9.3 million (after tax), including the East Texas properties acquired in early 2008

Partially offsetting these decreases were:

- Higher average realized natural gas prices of 24 percent
- Higher average realized oil prices of 38 percent
- Increased oil production of 19 percent, largely related to drilling activity in the Bakken area and Paradox Basin as well as production from the East Texas properties
- Increased natural gas production of 4 percent, primarily related to the acquisition of the East Texas properties, as previously discussed

Construction Materials and Contracting

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | (Dollars in millions) | | |
| Operating revenues | \$1,515.1 | \$1,640.7 | \$1,761.5 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Operation and maintenance | 1,292.0 | 1,437.9 | 1,483.5 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 93.6 | 100.9 | 95.8 |
| Taxes, other than income | 36.2 | 39.1 | 43.6 |
| | 1,421.8 | 1,577.9 | 1,622.9 |
| Operating income | 93.3 | 62.8 | 138.6 |
| Earnings | \$ 47.1 | \$ 30.2 | \$ 77.0 |
| Sales (000's): | | | |
| Aggregates (tons) | 23,995 | 31,107 | 36,912 |
| Asphalt (tons) | 6,360 | 5,846 | 7,062 |
| Ready-mixed concrete (cubic yards) | 3,042 | 3,729 | 4,085 |

2009 compared to 2008 Earnings at the construction materials and contracting business increased \$16.9 million (56 percent) due to:

- Higher earnings of \$17.2 million (after tax) resulting from higher liquid asphalt oil and asphalt volumes and margins
- Lower selling, general and administrative expense of \$14.6 million (after tax), largely the result of cost reduction measures
- Higher aggregate margins of \$8.3 million (after tax)

Partially offsetting the increases were:

- Lower aggregate and ready-mixed concrete sales volumes as a result of the continuing economic downturn
- Lower gains on the sale of property, plant and equipment of \$5.5 million (after tax)

2008 compared to 2007 Earnings at the construction materials and contracting business decreased \$46.8 million (61 percent) due to decreased construction workloads, margins and product volumes that were significantly lower as a result of the economic downturn, primarily as it relates to the residential market, as well as higher diesel fuel costs at existing operations, which had a combined negative effect on earnings of \$53.0 million (after tax). Partially offsetting this decrease were earnings from companies acquired since the comparable prior period, which contributed approximately 8 percent of earnings for 2008.

Other and Intersegment Transactions

Amounts presented in the preceding tables will not agree with the Consolidated Statements of Income due to the Company's other operations and the elimination of intersegment transactions. The amounts relating to these items are as follows:

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|---------|---------|
| | (In millions) | | |
| Other: | | | |
| Operating revenues | \$ 9.5 | \$ 10.5 | \$ 10.0 |
| Operation and maintenance | 8.1 | 5.9 | 15.9 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Taxes, other than income | .3 | .4 | .2 |
| Intersegment transactions: | | | |
| Operating revenues | \$183.6 | \$394.1 | \$315.1 |
| Purchased natural gas sold | 156.7 | 365.7 | 286.8 |
| Operation and maintenance | 26.9 | 28.4 | 28.3 |

For further information on intersegment eliminations, see Item 8 – Note 15.

Prospective Information

The following information highlights the key growth strategies, projections and certain assumptions for the Company and its subsidiaries and other matters for certain of the Company's businesses. Many of these highlighted points are "forward-looking statements." There is no assurance that the Company's projections, including estimates for growth and changes in earnings, will in fact be achieved. Please refer to assumptions contained in this section, as well as the various important factors listed in Item 1A – Risk Factors. Changes in such assumptions and factors could cause actual future results to differ materially from the Company's growth and earnings projections.

MDU Resources Group, Inc.

- Earnings per common share for 2010, diluted, are projected in the range of \$1.10 to \$1.35.
- The Company expects the percentage of 2010 earnings per common share by quarter to be in the following approximate ranges:
 - First quarter – 15 percent to 20 percent
 - Second quarter – 20 percent to 25 percent
 - Third quarter – 30 percent to 35 percent
 - Fourth quarter – 25 percent to 30 percent
- Long-term compound annual growth goals on earnings per share from operations are in the range of 7 percent to 10 percent.
- The Company continually seeks opportunities to expand through strategic acquisitions and organic growth opportunities.

Electric

- The Company continues to realize efficiencies and enhanced service levels through its efforts to standardize operations, share services and consolidate back-office functions among its four utility companies.
- The Company is pursuing expansion opportunities.
 - In April 2009, the Company purchased a 25 MW ownership interest in the Wygen III power generation facility which is under construction near Gillette, Wyoming. This rate-based generation will replace a portion of the purchased power for the Wyoming system.

The plant is expected to be online during the second quarter of 2010. In August 2009, Montana-Dakota filed an application with the WYPSC for an electric rate increase, as discussed in Item 8 – Note 18.

- The Company is developing additional wind generation, including a 19.5 MW wind generation facility in southwest North Dakota and a 10.5 MW expansion of the Diamond Willow wind facility near Baker, Montana. Both projects are expected to be commercial midyear 2010.
- The Company is analyzing potential projects for accommodating load growth and replacing purchased power contracts with company-owned generation. The Company is reviewing the construction of natural gas-fired combustion and wind generation.
- The Company is reviewing opportunities associated with the potential development of high voltage transmission lines targeted towards delivery of renewable energy from the wind rich regions that lie within its traditional electric service territory to major metropolitan areas.

Natural gas distribution

- The Company continues to realize efficiencies and enhanced service levels through its efforts to standardize operations, share services and consolidate back-office functions among its four utility companies.

Construction services

- The Company anticipates margins in 2010 to be lower than 2009 levels.
- The Company is aggressively pursuing expansion in high voltage transmission construction, renewable resource construction and military installation services. The Company was recently awarded the engineering, procurement and construction contract to build the 214-mile Montana Alberta Tie Line between Lethbridge, Alberta and Great Falls, Montana.
- The Company continues to focus on costs and efficiencies to enhance margins. With its highly skilled technical workforce, this group is prepared to take advantage of government stimulus spending on transmission infrastructure.
- Work backlog as of December 31, 2009, was approximately \$383 million, compared to \$604 million at December 31, 2008. The December 31, 2009, backlog includes the new Montana Alberta Tie Line project, and excludes \$182 million related to the Fontainebleau project, which is proceeding through the bankruptcy process.

Pipeline and energy services

- An incremental expansion to the Grasslands Pipeline of 75,000 Mcf per day went into service August 31, 2009. The firm capacity of the Grasslands Pipeline is at its ultimate full capacity of 213,000 Mcf per day.
- The Company continues to pursue expansion of facilities and services offered to customers. Energy development within its geographic region, which includes portions of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota, is expanding, most notably the Bakken Shale of North Dakota and eastern Montana. Ongoing energy development is expected to have many direct and indirect benefits to its business.
- The Company has natural gas storage fields, including the largest storage field in North America located near Baker, Montana. Total working gas storage capacity is 193 Bcf for its three storage fields. The Company is pursuing a project to increase its firm deliverability and related transportation capacity from the Baker Storage field with a targeted in-service date in 2012.

Natural gas and oil production

- The Company expects to spend approximately \$375 million in capital expenditures for 2010 for further exploitation of its existing properties, exploratory drilling and acquisitions of properties. This includes approximately \$150 million for new growth opportunities, including acquisitions.
- The Company is also actively pursuing other potential exploratory and reserve acquisitions, which are not included in the current forecast.
- With the reduced 2009 capital expenditures and the forecasted 2010 capital expenditures, the Company expects its 2010 combined natural gas and oil production to be approximately equal to 2009 levels. The 2010 production forecast includes 3.5 Bcfe to 4 Bcfe related to growth opportunities.
- Earnings guidance reflects estimated natural gas prices for February through December as follows:

| Index* | Price Per Mcf |
|---------|------------------|
| Ventura | \$5.00 to \$5.50 |
| NYMEX | \$5.25 to \$5.75 |
| CIG | \$4.75 to \$5.25 |

* Ventura is an index pricing point related to Northern Natural Gas Co.'s system; CIG is an index pricing point related to Colorado Interstate Gas Co.'s system.

Part II

- Earnings guidance reflects estimated NYMEX crude oil prices for February through December in the range of \$70 to \$75 per barrel.
- For 2010, the Company has hedged 45 percent to 50 percent of both its estimated natural gas and oil production. For 2011, the Company has hedged 10 percent to 15 percent of both its estimated natural gas and oil production. For 2012, the Company has hedged 5 percent to 10 percent of its estimated natural gas production. The hedges that are in place as of January 29, 2010, are summarized in the following chart:

| Commodity | Type | Index* | Period Outstanding | Forward Notional Volume (MMBtu/Bbl) | Price (Per MMBtu/Bbl) |
|-------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Natural Gas | Swap | HSC | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,606,000 | \$8.08 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 3,650,000 | \$6.18 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$6.40 |
| Natural Gas | Collar | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$5.63-\$6.00 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$5.855 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$6.045 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$6.045 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | CIG | 1/10 - 12/10 | 3,650,000 | \$5.03 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | HSC | 1/10 - 10/10 | 608,000 | \$5.57 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 10/10 | 2,432,000 | \$5.645 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$5.95 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 4/10 - 12/10 | 3,025,000 | \$5.54 |
| Natural Gas | Collar | NYMEX | 1/10 - 3/11 | 2,275,000 | \$5.62-\$6.50 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | HSC | 1/11 - 12/11 | 1,350,500 | \$8.00 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/11 - 12/11 | 4,015,000 | \$6.1027 |
| Natural Gas | Swap | NYMEX | 1/12 - 12/12 | 3,477,000 | \$6.27 |
| Crude Oil | Collar | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 365,000 | \$60.00-\$75.00 |
| Crude Oil | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 365,000 | \$73.20 |
| Crude Oil | Collar | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 365,000 | \$70.00-\$86.00 |
| Crude Oil | Swap | NYMEX | 1/10 - 12/10 | 365,000 | \$83.05 |
| Crude Oil | Collar | NYMEX | 1/11 - 12/11 | 547,500 | \$80.00-\$94.00 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 3,650,000 | \$0.25 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 912,500 | \$0.245 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 4,562,500 | \$0.25 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 1,825,000 | \$0.225 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 912,500 | \$0.23 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/10 - 12/10 | 2,737,500 | \$0.23 |
| Natural Gas | Basis | NYMEX to Ventura | 1/11 - 3/11 | 450,000 | \$0.135 |

* Ventura is an index pricing point related to Northern Natural Gas Co.'s system; CIG is an index pricing point related to Colorado Interstate Gas Co.'s system; HSC is the Houston Ship Channel hub in southeast Texas which connects to several pipelines.

Construction materials and contracting

- Most of the markets served by construction materials are seeing positive impacts related to the federal stimulus spending.
- The Company is well positioned to take advantage of government stimulus spending on transportation infrastructure particularly in the asphalt paving and liquid asphalt oil product lines. Federal transportation stimulus of \$7.9 billion was directed to states where the Company operates. Of that amount, 21 percent was spent in 2009, the remainder to be spent over the next two years, with 82 percent already obligated to specific projects by the various states.
- The Company continues to pursue work related to energy projects, such as wind towers, transmission projects, geothermal and refineries. It is also pursuing opportunities for expansion of its existing business lines including initiatives aimed at capturing additional market share and expansion into new markets. The Company has planned green field expansions for its liquid asphalt oil business.
- The Company has a strong emphasis on operational efficiencies and cost reduction.
- Liquid asphalt margins are expected to be lower in 2010 than the record levels experienced in 2009.
- Work backlog as of December 31, 2009, was approximately \$459 million, compared to \$453 million at December 31, 2008. Although public project margins tend to be somewhat lower than private construction-related work, the Company anticipates significant contributions to revenue from public works volume. Ninety-four percent of its year-end backlog is related to public works projects compared to 80 percent at December 31, 2008.
- As the country's 8th largest aggregate producer, the Company will continue to strategically manage its 1.1 billion tons of aggregate reserves in all its markets, as well as take further advantage of being vertically integrated.

New Accounting Standards

For information regarding new accounting standards, see Item 8 – Note 1, which is incorporated by reference.

Critical Accounting Policies Involving Significant Estimates

The Company has prepared its financial statements in conformity with GAAP. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, at the date of the financial statements as well as the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The Company's significant accounting policies are discussed in Item 8 – Note 1.

Estimates are used for items such as impairment testing of long-lived assets, goodwill and natural gas and oil properties; fair values of acquired assets and liabilities under the purchase method of accounting; natural gas and oil reserves; aggregate reserves; property depreciable lives; tax provisions; uncollectible accounts; environmental and other loss contingencies; accumulated provision for revenues subject to refund; costs on construction contracts; unbilled revenues; actuarially determined benefit costs; asset retirement obligations; the valuation of stock-based compensation; and the fair value of derivative instruments. The Company's critical accounting policies are subject to judgments and uncertainties that affect the application of such policies. As discussed below, the Company's financial position or results of operations may be materially different when reported under different conditions or when using different assumptions in the application of such policies.

As additional information becomes available, or actual amounts are determinable, the recorded estimates are revised. Consequently, operating results can be affected by revisions to prior accounting estimates. The following critical accounting policies involve significant judgments and estimates.

Impairment of long-lived assets and intangibles

The Company reviews the carrying values of its long-lived assets and intangibles, excluding natural gas and oil properties, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such carrying values may not be recoverable and annually for goodwill. Unforeseen events and changes in circumstances and market conditions and material differences in the value of long-lived assets and intangibles due to changes in estimates of future cash flows could negatively affect the fair value of the Company's assets and result in an impairment charge. If an impairment indicator exists for tangible and intangible assets, excluding goodwill, the asset group held and used is tested for recoverability by comparing an estimate of undiscounted future cash flows attributable to the assets compared to the carrying value of the assets. If impairment has occurred, the amount of the impairment recognized is determined by estimating the fair value of the assets and recording a loss if the carrying value is greater than the fair value. In the case of goodwill, the first step, used to identify a potential impairment, compares the fair value of the reporting unit using discounted cash flows, with its carrying amount, including goodwill. The second step, used to measure the amount of the impairment loss if step one indicates a potential impairment, compares the implied fair value of the reporting unit goodwill with the carrying amount of goodwill.

Fair value is the amount at which the asset could be bought or sold in a current transaction between market participants. The Company uses critical estimates and assumptions when testing assets for impairment, including present value techniques based on estimates of cash flows, quoted market prices or valuations by third parties, or multiples of earnings or revenue performance measures. The fair value of the asset could be different using different estimates and assumptions in these valuation techniques.

There is risk involved when determining the fair value of assets, tangible and intangible, as there may be unforeseen events and changes in circumstances and market conditions and changes in estimates of future cash flows.

The Company believes its estimates used in calculating the fair value of long-lived assets, including goodwill and identifiable intangibles, are reasonable based on the information that is known when the estimates are made.

Natural gas and oil properties

The Company uses the full-cost method of accounting for its natural gas and oil production activities. Capitalized costs are subject to a "ceiling test" that limits such costs to the aggregate of the present value of future net cash flows from proved reserves discounted at 10 percent, as mandated under the rules of the SEC, plus the cost of unproved properties less applicable income taxes. Future net revenue was estimated based on end-of-quarter spot market prices adjusted for contracted price changes prior to the fourth quarter of 2009. Effective December 31, 2009, the Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting rules issued by the SEC changed the pricing used to estimate reserves and associated future cash flows to SEC Defined Prices. The Company hedges a portion of its natural gas and oil production and the effects of the cash flow hedges are used in determining the full-cost ceiling. Judgments and assumptions are made when estimating and valuing reserves. There is risk that sustained downward movements in natural gas and oil prices, changes in estimates of reserve quantities and changes in operating and development costs could result in future noncash write-downs of the Company's natural gas and oil properties.

Estimates of proved reserves were prepared in accordance with guidelines established by the industry and the SEC. The estimates are arrived at using actual historical wellhead production trends and/or standard reservoir engineering methods utilizing available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data. Other factors used in the reserve estimates are prices, estimates of well operating and future development costs, taxes, timing of operations, and the interests owned by the Company in the properties. These estimates are refined as new information becomes available.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognized when the earnings process is complete, as evidenced by an agreement between the customer and the Company, when delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, when the fee is fixed or determinable and when collection is reasonably assured. The recognition of revenue in conformity with GAAP requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenue. Critical estimates related to the recognition of revenue include the accumulated provision for revenues subject to refund and costs on construction contracts under the percentage-of-completion method.

Estimates for revenues subject to refund are established initially for each regulatory rate proceeding and are subject to change depending on the applicable regulatory agency's (Agency) approval of final rates. These estimates are based on the Company's analysis of its as-filed application compared to previous Agency decisions in prior rate filings by the Company and other regulated companies. The Company periodically reviews the status of its outstanding regulatory proceedings and liability assumptions and may from time to time change its liability estimates subject to known developments as the regulatory proceedings move through the regulatory review process. The accuracy of the estimates is ultimately determined when the Agency issues its final ruling on each regulatory proceeding for which revenues were subject to refund. Estimates have changed from time to time as additional information has become available as to what the ultimate outcome may be and will likely continue to change in the future as new information becomes available on each outstanding regulatory proceeding that is subject to refund.

The Company recognizes construction contract revenue from fixed-price and modified fixed-price construction contracts at its construction businesses using the percentage-of-completion method, measured by the percentage of costs incurred to date to estimated total costs for each contract. This method depends largely on the ability to make reasonably dependable estimates related to the extent of progress toward completion of the contract, contract revenues and contract costs. Inasmuch as contract prices are generally set before the work is performed, the estimates pertaining to every project could contain significant unknown risks such as volatile labor, material and fuel costs, weather delays, adverse project site conditions, unforeseen actions by regulatory agencies, performance by subcontractors, job management and relations with project owners.

Several factors are evaluated in determining the bid price for contract work. These include, but are not limited to, the complexities of the job, past history performing similar types of work, seasonal weather patterns, competition and market conditions, job site conditions, work force safety, reputation of the project owner, availability of labor, materials and fuel, project location and project completion dates. As a project commences, estimates are continually monitored and revised as information becomes available and actual costs and conditions surrounding the job become known.

The Company believes its estimates surrounding percentage-of-completion accounting are reasonable based on the information that is known when the estimates are made. The Company has contract administration, accounting and management control systems in place that allow its estimates to be updated and monitored on a regular basis. Because of the many factors that are evaluated in determining bid prices, it is inherent that the Company's estimates have changed in the past and will continually change in the future as new information becomes available for each job.

Purchase accounting

The Company accounts for its acquisitions under the purchase method of accounting and, accordingly, the acquired assets and liabilities assumed are recorded at their respective fair values. The excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed is recorded as goodwill. The recorded values of assets and liabilities are based in part on third-party estimates and valuations when available. The remaining values are based on management's judgments and estimates, and, accordingly, the Company's financial position or results of operations may be affected by changes in estimates and judgments.

Acquired assets and liabilities assumed by the Company that are subject to critical estimates include property, plant and equipment and intangibles.

The fair value of owned aggregate reserves is determined using qualified internal personnel as well as geologists. Reserve estimates are calculated based on the best available data. This data is collected from drill holes and other subsurface investigations as well as investigations of surface features such as mine highwalls and other exposures of the aggregate reserves. Mine plans, production history

and geologic data are also used to estimate reserve quantities. Value is assigned to the aggregate reserves based on a review of market royalty rates, expected cash flows and the number of years of aggregate reserves at owned aggregate sites.

The fair value of property, plant and equipment is based on a valuation performed either by qualified internal personnel and/or outside appraisers. Fair values assigned to plant and equipment are based on several factors, including the age and condition of the equipment, maintenance records of the equipment and auction values for equipment with similar characteristics at the time of purchase.

The fair value of leasehold rights is based on estimates including royalty rates, lease terms and other discernible factors for acquired leasehold rights, and estimated cash flows.

While the allocation of the purchase price of an acquisition is subject to a considerable degree of judgment and uncertainty, the Company does not expect the estimates to vary significantly once an acquisition has been completed. The Company believes its estimates have been reasonable in the past as there have been no significant valuation adjustments subsequent to the final allocation of the purchase price to the acquired assets and liabilities. In addition, goodwill impairment testing is performed annually.

Asset retirement obligations

Entities are required to record the fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation in the period in which it is incurred. The Company has recorded obligations related to the plugging and abandonment of natural gas and oil wells, decommissioning of certain electric generating facilities, reclamation of certain aggregate properties, special handling and disposal of hazardous materials at certain electric generating facilities, natural gas distribution and transmission facilities and buildings, and certain other obligations associated with leased properties.

The liability for future asset retirement obligations bears the risk of change as many factors go into the development of the estimate of these obligations and the likelihood that over time these factors can and will change. Factors used in the estimation of future asset retirement obligations include estimates of current retirement costs, future inflation factors, life of the asset and discount rates. These factors determine both a present value of the retirement liability and the accretion to the retirement liability in subsequent years.

Long-lived assets are reviewed to determine if a legal retirement obligation exists. If a legal retirement obligation exists, a determination of the liability is made if a reasonable estimate of the present value of the obligation can be made. The present value of the retirement obligation is calculated by inflating current estimated retirement costs of the long-lived asset over its expected life to determine the expected future cost and then discounting the expected future cost back to the present value using a discount rate equal to the credit-adjusted risk-free interest rate in effect when the liability was initially recognized.

These estimates and assumptions are subject to a number of variables and are expected to change in the future. Estimates and assumptions will change as the estimated useful lives of the assets change, the current estimated retirement costs change, new legal retirement obligations occur and/or as existing legal asset retirement obligations, for which a reasonable estimate of fair value could not initially be made because of the range of time over which the Company may settle the obligation is unknown or cannot be estimated, become less uncertain and a reasonable estimate of the future liability can be made.

Pension and other postretirement benefits

The Company has noncontributory defined benefit pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans for certain eligible employees. Various actuarial assumptions are used in calculating the benefit expense (income) and liability (asset) related to these plans. Costs of providing pension and other postretirement benefits bear the risk of change, as they are dependent upon numerous factors based on assumptions of future conditions.

The Company makes various assumptions when determining plan costs, including the current discount rates and the expected long-term return on plan assets, the rate of compensation increases and healthcare cost trend rates. In selecting the expected long-term return on plan assets, which is considered to be one of the key variables in determining benefit expense or income, the Company considers historical returns, current market conditions and expected future market trends, including changes in interest rates and equity and bond market performance. Another key variable in determining benefit expense or income is the discount rate. In selecting the discount rate, the Company matches forecasted future cash flows of the pension and postretirement plans to a yield curve which consists of a hypothetical portfolio of high-quality corporate bonds with varying maturity dates, as well as other factors, as a basis. The Company's pension and other postretirement benefit plan assets are primarily made up of equity and fixed-income investments. Fluctuations in actual equity and bond market returns as well as changes in general interest rates may result in increased or decreased pension and other postretirement benefit costs in the future. Management estimates the rate of compensation increase based on long-term assumed wage increases and the healthcare cost trend rates are determined by historical and future trends.

Part II

The Company believes the estimates made for its pension and other postretirement benefits are reasonable based on the information that is known when the estimates are made. These estimates and assumptions are subject to a number of variables and are expected to change in the future. Estimates and assumptions will be affected by changes in the discount rate, the expected long-term return on plan assets, the rate of compensation increase and healthcare cost trend rates. The Company plans to continue to use its current methodologies to determine plan costs.

Income taxes

Income taxes require significant judgments and estimates including the determination of income tax expense, deferred tax assets and liabilities and, if necessary, any valuation allowances that may be required for deferred tax assets and accruals for uncertain tax positions. The effective income tax rate is subject to variability from period to period as a result of changes in federal and state income tax rates and/or changes in tax laws. In addition, the effective tax rate may be affected by other changes including the allocation of property, payroll and revenues between states.

The Company provides deferred federal and state income taxes on all temporary differences between the book and tax basis of the Company's assets and liabilities. Excess deferred income tax balances associated with the Company's rate-regulated activities have been recorded as a regulatory liability and are included in other liabilities. These regulatory liabilities are expected to be reflected as a reduction in future rates charged to customers in accordance with applicable regulatory procedures.

The Company uses the deferral method of accounting for investment tax credits and amortizes the credits on regulated electric and natural gas distribution plant over various periods that conform to the ratemaking treatment prescribed by the applicable state public service commissions.

Tax positions taken or expected to be taken in an income tax return are evaluated for recognition using a more-likely-than-not threshold, and those tax positions requiring recognition are measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement with a taxing authority. The Company recognizes interest and penalties accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in income taxes.

The Company believes its estimates surrounding income taxes are reasonable based on the information that is known when the estimates are made.

Liquidity and Capital Commitments

Cash flows

Operating activities The changes in cash flows from operating activities generally follow the results of operations as discussed in Financial and Operating Data and also are affected by changes in working capital.

Cash flows provided by operating activities in 2009 increased \$60.5 million from the comparable prior period. Lower working capital requirements of \$263.6 million were partially offset by lower income before depreciation, depletion and amortization and before the after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties, largely the effects of lower commodity prices at the natural gas and oil production business. The lower working capital requirements were largely the result of lower receivables and lower net natural gas costs recoverable through rate adjustments at the natural gas distribution business, as well as lower working capital requirements at the other business segments.

Cash flows provided by operating activities in 2008 increased \$223.0 million from the comparable prior period, due to:

- Higher income from continuing operations before depreciation, depletion and amortization and before the after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties
- Absence of cash flows used related to discontinued operations in 2007 of \$71.4 million

Investing activities Cash flows used in investing activities in 2009 decreased \$675.2 million from the comparable prior period due to:

- Lower cash used in connection with acquisitions, net of cash acquired, of \$527.1 million, primarily due to the absence of the 2008 acquisitions of Intermountain and natural gas and oil producing properties in East Texas
- Decreased ongoing capital expenditures of \$297.8 million, primarily at the natural gas and oil production business

Partially offsetting the decrease in cash flows used in investing activities were lower proceeds from investments of \$89.5 million and decreased net proceeds from the sale or disposition of property of \$60.2 million, largely at the construction materials and contracting business.

Cash flows used in investing activities in 2008 increased \$765.1 million from the comparable prior period due to:

- Absence of cash flows provided by discontinued operations in 2007 of \$548.2 million, primarily the result of the sale of the domestic independent power production assets in the third quarter of 2007
- Increased ongoing capital expenditures of \$188.2 million, largely at the natural gas and oil production business
- Higher cash used in connection with acquisitions, net of cash acquired, of \$185.1 million, largely due to the acquisition of Intermountain and natural gas and oil producing properties in East Texas in 2008, partially offset by the absence of the 2007 acquisition of Cascade

Partially offsetting the increase in cash flows used in investing activities were higher proceeds from investments of \$85.8 million in 2008, as well as the absence of cash used for investments of \$67.1 million in 2007.

Financing activities Cash flows provided by financing activities in 2009 decreased \$559.6 million from the comparable prior period, primarily due to lower issuance of long-term debt and short-term borrowings, higher repayment of long-term debt, partially offset by increased issuance of common stock. Lower cash flows provided by financing activities in 2009 reflects lower ongoing capital expenditures and acquisitions, as well as increased cash provided by operating activities.

Cash flows provided by financing activities in 2008 increased \$456.2 million from the comparable prior period, primarily due to higher issuance of long-term debt of \$333.7 million as well as higher net short-term borrowings of \$101.7 million, largely related to higher ongoing capital expenditures and acquisitions.

Defined benefit pension plans

The Company has qualified noncontributory defined benefit pension plans (Pension Plans) for certain employees. Plan assets consist of investments in equity and fixed-income securities. Various actuarial assumptions are used in calculating the benefit expense (income) and liability (asset) related to the Pension Plans. Actuarial assumptions include assumptions about the discount rate, expected return on plan assets and rate of future compensation increases as determined by the Company within certain guidelines. At December 31, 2009, the Pension Plans' accumulated benefit obligations exceeded these plans' assets by approximately \$85.0 million. Pretax pension expense reflected in the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, was \$8.2 million, \$4.6 million and \$6.5 million, respectively. The Company's pension expense is currently projected to be approximately \$3.5 million to \$4.5 million in 2010. Funding for the Pension Plans is actuarially determined. The minimum required contributions for 2009, 2008 and 2007 were approximately \$7.3 million, \$6.8 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. For further information on the Company's Pension Plans, see Item 8 – Note 16.

Capital expenditures

The Company's capital expenditures for 2007 through 2009 and as anticipated for 2010 through 2012 are summarized in the following table, which also includes the Company's capital needs for the retirement of maturing long-term debt.

| | Actual | | | Estimated* | | |
|---|---------------|---------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (In millions) | | | | | |
| Capital expenditures: | | | | | | |
| Electric | \$ 91 | \$ 73 | \$115 | \$105 | \$ 72 | \$100 |
| Natural gas distribution | 500 | 398 | 44 | 76 | 60 | 59 |
| Construction services | 18 | 24 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 39 | 43 | 70 | 15 | 28 | 149 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 284 | 711 | 183 | 375** | 359 | 321 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 190 | 128 | 27 | 37 | 52 | 62 |
| Other | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Net proceeds from sale or disposition of property | (25) | (87) | (27) | (4) | (7) | (1) |
| Net capital expenditures before discontinued operations | 1,099 | 1,291 | 428 | 618 | 576 | 702 |
| Discontinued operations | (548) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net capital expenditures | 551 | 1,291 | 428 | 618 | 576 | 702 |
| Retirement of long-term debt | 232 | 201 | 293 | 13 | 72 | 136 |
| | \$ 783 | \$1,492 | \$721 | \$631 | \$648 | \$838 |

* The Company continues to evaluate potential future acquisitions and other growth opportunities which are dependent upon the availability of economic opportunities and, as a result, capital expenditures may vary significantly from the above estimates.

** Includes approximately \$150 million for new growth opportunities, including potential acquisitions.

Part II

Capital expenditures for 2009, 2008 and 2007 in the preceding table include noncash transactions, including the issuance of the Company's equity securities, in connection with acquisitions and the outstanding indebtedness related to the 2008 Intermountain acquisition and the 2007 Cascade acquisition. The net noncash transactions were immaterial in 2009, \$97.6 million in 2008 and \$217.3 million in 2007.

In 2009, the Company acquired a pipeline and energy services business in Montana. The total purchase consideration for this business and purchase price adjustments with respect to certain other acquisitions made prior to 2009, consisting of the Company's common stock and cash, was \$22.0 million.

The 2009 capital expenditures, including those for the previously mentioned acquisitions and retirements of long-term debt, were met from internal sources and the issuance of long-term debt and the Company's equity securities. Estimated capital expenditures for the years 2010 through 2012 include those for:

- System upgrades
- Routine replacements
- Service extensions
- Routine equipment maintenance and replacements
- Buildings, land and building improvements
- Pipeline and gathering projects
- Further development of existing properties, exploratory drilling and acquisitions at the natural gas and oil production segment
- Power generation opportunities, including certain costs for additional electric generating capacity
- Other growth opportunities

The Company continues to evaluate potential future acquisitions and other growth opportunities; however, they are dependent upon the availability of economic opportunities and, as a result, capital expenditures may vary significantly from the estimates in the preceding table. It is anticipated that all of the funds required for capital expenditures and retirement of long-term debt for the years 2010 through 2012 will be met from various sources, including internally generated funds; the Company's credit facilities, as described below; and through the issuance of long-term debt and the Company's equity securities.

Capital resources

Certain debt instruments of the Company and its subsidiaries, including those discussed below, contain restrictive covenants and cross-default provisions. In order to borrow under the respective credit agreements, the Company and its subsidiaries must be in compliance with the applicable covenants and certain other conditions, all of which the Company and its subsidiaries, as applicable, were in compliance with at December 31, 2009. In the event the Company and its subsidiaries do not comply with the applicable covenants and other conditions, alternative sources of funding may need to be pursued. For additional information on the covenants, certain other conditions and cross-default provisions, see Item 8 – Note 9.

The following table summarizes the outstanding credit facilities of the Company and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2009:

| Company | Facility | Facility Limit | Amount Outstanding | Letters of Credit | Expiration Date |
|---|--|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| (Dollars in millions) | | | | | |
| MDU Resources Group, Inc. | Commercial paper/ Revolving credit agreement (a) | \$125.0 | \$ - (b) | \$ - | 6/21/11 |
| MDU Energy Capital, LLC | Master shelf agreement | \$175.0 | \$165.0 | \$ - | 8/14/10 (c) |
| Cascade Natural Gas Corporation | Revolving credit agreement | \$ 50.0 (d) | \$ - | \$ 1.9 (e) | 12/28/12 (f) |
| Intermountain Gas Company | Revolving credit agreement | \$ 65.0 (g) | \$ 10.3 | \$ - | 8/31/10 |
| Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. | Commercial paper/ Revolving credit agreement (h) | \$400.0 | \$ - (b) | \$26.4 (e) | 12/13/12 |
| Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company | Uncommitted long-term private shelf agreement | \$125.0 | \$ 87.5 | \$ - | 12/23/10 (i) |

(a) The \$125 million commercial paper program is supported by a revolving credit agreement with various banks totaling \$125 million (provisions allow for increased borrowings, at the option of the Company on stated conditions, up to a maximum of \$150 million). There were no amounts outstanding under the credit agreement.

(b) Amount outstanding under commercial paper program.

(c) Or such time as the agreement is terminated by either of the parties thereto.

(d) Certain provisions allow for increased borrowings, up to a maximum of \$75 million.

(e) The outstanding letters of credit, as discussed in Item 8 – Note 19, reduce amounts available under the credit agreement.

(f) Provisions allow for an extension of up to two years upon consent of the banks.

(g) Certain provisions allow for increased borrowings, up to a maximum of \$70 million.

(h) The \$400 million commercial paper program is supported by a revolving credit agreement with various banks totaling \$400 million (provisions allow for increased borrowings, at the option of Centennial on stated conditions, up to a maximum of \$450 million). There were no amounts outstanding under the credit agreement.

(i) Certain provisions allow for an extension to December 23, 2011.

In order to maintain the Company's and Centennial's respective commercial paper programs in the amounts indicated above, both the Company and Centennial must have revolving credit agreements in place at least equal to the amount of their commercial paper programs. While the amount of commercial paper outstanding does not reduce available capacity under the respective revolving credit agreements, the Company and Centennial do not issue commercial paper in an aggregate amount exceeding the available capacity under their credit agreements.

The following includes information related to the above table.

MDU Resources Group, Inc. The Company's revolving credit agreement supports its commercial paper program. The commercial paper borrowings are classified as long-term debt as they are intended to be refinanced on a long-term basis through continued commercial paper borrowings. The Company's objective is to maintain acceptable credit ratings in order to access the capital markets through the issuance of commercial paper. Downgrades in the Company's credit ratings have not limited, nor are currently expected to limit, the Company's ability to access the capital markets. If the Company were to experience a further downgrade of its credit ratings, it may need to borrow under its credit agreement and may experience an increase in overall interest rates with respect to its cost of borrowings.

Prior to the maturity of the credit agreement, the Company expects that it will negotiate the extension or replacement of this agreement. If the Company is unable to successfully negotiate an extension of, or replacement for, the credit agreement, or if the fees on this facility become too expensive, which the Company does not currently anticipate, the Company would seek alternative funding.

In November 2009, the Company completed a defeasance of its outstanding 8.60% Secured Medium-Term Notes under the Mortgage and the Mortgage was discharged. For more information, see Item 8 – Note 9.

The Company's coverage of fixed charges including preferred stock dividends was 5.3 times for the 12 months ended December 31, 2008. Due to the \$384.4 million after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties in the first quarter of 2009, earnings were insufficient by \$228.7 million to cover fixed charges for the 12 months ended December 31, 2009. If the \$384.4 million after-tax noncash write-down is excluded, the coverage of fixed charges including preferred stock dividends would have been 4.6 times for the 12 months ended December 31, 2009. Common stockholders' equity as a percent of total capitalization was 63 percent and 61 percent at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

The coverage of fixed charges including preferred stock dividends, that excludes the effect of the after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties is a non-GAAP financial measure. The Company believes that this non-GAAP financial measure is useful because the write-down excluded is not indicative of the Company's cash flows available to meet its fixed charges obligations. The presentation of this additional information is not meant to be considered a substitute for financial measures prepared in accordance with GAAP.

In September 2008, the Company entered into a Sales Agency Financing Agreement with Wells Fargo Securities, LLC with respect to the issuance and sale of up to 5 million shares of the Company's common stock. The common stock may be offered for sale, from time to time, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement, which terminates on May 28, 2011. Proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock under the agreement have been and are expected to be used for corporate development purposes and other general corporate purposes. The Company issued approximately 600,000 shares of stock during the fourth quarter under the Sales Agency Financing Agreement, resulting in net proceeds of \$12.2 million, and has issued a total of approximately 3.2 million shares of stock under the Sales Agency Financing Agreement through December 31, 2009, resulting in total net proceeds of \$63.1 million.

The Company currently has authorization to issue and sell up to \$1.0 billion of securities pursuant to a registration statement on file with the SEC. The Company may sell all or a portion of such securities if warranted by market conditions and the Company's capital requirements. Any offer and sale of such securities will be made only by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. Centennial's revolving credit agreement supports its commercial paper program. The Centennial commercial paper borrowings are classified as long-term debt as Centennial intends to refinance these borrowings on a long-term basis through continued Centennial commercial paper borrowings. Centennial's objective is to maintain acceptable credit ratings in order to access the capital markets through the issuance of commercial paper. Downgrades in Centennial's credit ratings have not limited, nor are currently expected to limit, Centennial's ability to access the capital markets. If Centennial were to experience a further downgrade of its credit ratings, it may need to borrow under its credit agreement and may experience an increase in overall interest rates with respect to its cost of borrowings.

Prior to the maturity of the Centennial credit agreement, Centennial expects that it will negotiate the extension or replacement of this agreement, which provides credit support to access the capital markets. In the event Centennial is unable to successfully negotiate this agreement, or in the event the fees on this facility become too expensive, which Centennial does not currently anticipate, it would seek alternative funding.

Off balance sheet arrangements

In connection with the sale of MPX in June 2005 to Petrobras, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company has agreed to indemnify Petrobras for 49 percent of any losses that Petrobras may incur from certain contingent liabilities specified in the purchase agreement. For more information, see Item 8 – Note 19.

Centennial continues to guarantee CEM's obligations under a construction contract for a 550-MW combined-cycle electric generating facility near Hobbs, New Mexico. For more information, see Item 8 – Note 19.

Contractual obligations and commercial commitments

For more information on the Company's contractual obligations on long-term debt, operating leases, purchase commitments and uncertain tax positions, see Item 8 – Notes 9, 14 and 19. At December 31, 2009, the Company's commitments under these obligations were as follows:

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Thereafter | Total |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| | | | | (In millions) | | | |
| Long-term debt | \$ 12.6 | \$ 72.3 | \$136.3 | \$258.8 | \$ 9.1 | \$1,010.2 | \$1,499.3 |
| Estimated interest payments* | 91.9 | 87.8 | 84.0 | 69.8 | 62.3 | 342.6 | 738.4 |
| Operating leases | 25.2 | 20.3 | 15.3 | 12.6 | 6.7 | 43.9 | 124.0 |
| Purchase commitments | 507.6 | 288.3 | 192.1 | 105.7 | 90.3 | 234.9 | 1,418.9 |
| | \$637.3 | \$468.7 | \$427.7 | \$446.9 | \$168.4 | \$1,631.6 | \$3,780.6 |

* Estimated interest payments are calculated based on the applicable rates and payment dates.

Not reflected in the table above are \$6.1 million in uncertain tax positions for which the year of settlement is not reasonably possible to determine.

Effects of Inflation

Inflation did not have a significant effect on the Company's operations in 2009, 2008 or 2007.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

The Company is exposed to the impact of market fluctuations associated with commodity prices, interest rates and foreign currency. The Company has policies and procedures to assist in controlling these market risks and utilizes derivatives to manage a portion of its risk.

For more information on derivatives and the Company's derivative policies and procedures, see Item 8 – Notes 1 and 7.

Commodity price risk

Fidelity utilizes derivative instruments to manage a portion of the market risk associated with fluctuations in the price of natural gas and oil and basis differentials on forecasted sales of natural gas and oil production. Cascade and Intermountain utilize derivative instruments to manage a portion of their regulated natural gas supply portfolio in order to manage fluctuations in the price of natural gas.

The following table summarizes derivative agreements entered into by Fidelity, Cascade and Intermountain as of December 31, 2009. These agreements call for Fidelity to receive fixed prices and pay variable prices, and for Cascade and Intermountain to receive variable prices and pay fixed prices.

| (Forward notional volume and fair value in thousands) | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|
| | Weighted Average Fixed Price (Per MMBtu/Bbl) | Forward Notional Volume (MMBtu/Bbl) | Fair Value |
| Fidelity | | | |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$ 5.99 | 21,071 | \$ 5,968 |
| Natural gas swap agreement maturing in 2011 | \$ 8.00 | 1,351 | \$ 2,377 |
| Natural gas basis swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$.24 | 14,600 | \$ (4,021) |
| Natural gas basis swap agreement maturing in 2011 | \$.14 | 450 | \$ (108) |
| Oil swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$78.13 | 730 | \$ (3,043) |
| Cascade | | | |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$ 8.03 | 8,922 | \$(23,058) |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2011 | \$ 8.10 | 2,270 | \$ (4,756) |
| Intermountain | | | |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$ 6.03 | 900 | \$ (86) |
| | Weighted Average Floor/Ceiling Price (Per MMBtu/Bbl) | Forward Notional Volume (MMBtu/Bbl) | Fair Value |
| Fidelity | | | |
| Natural gas collar agreements maturing in 2010 | \$5.63/\$6.25 | 3,650 | \$ (39) |
| Natural gas collar agreement maturing in 2011 | \$5.62/\$6.50 | 450 | \$ (6) |
| Oil collar agreements maturing in 2010 | \$65.00/\$80.50 | 730 | \$ (4,867) |
| Oil collar agreement maturing in 2011 | \$80.00/\$94.00 | 548 | \$ 357 |

Part II

The following table summarizes derivative agreements entered into by Fidelity, Cascade and Intermountain as of December 31, 2008. These agreements call for Fidelity to receive fixed prices and pay variable prices, and for Cascade and Intermountain to receive variable prices and pay fixed prices.

| (Forward notional volume and fair value in thousands) | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|
| | Weighted Average Fixed Price (Per MMBtu) | Forward Notional Volume (MMBtu) | Fair Value |
| Fidelity | | | |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2009 | \$8.73 | 10,920 | \$ 33,059 |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$8.08 | 1,606 | \$ 2,011 |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2011 | \$8.00 | 1,351 | \$ 1,211 |
| Natural gas basis swap agreement maturing in 2009 | \$.61 | 3,650 | \$ (1,349) |
| Cascade | | | |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2009 | \$8.26 | 19,350 | \$(49,883) |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2010 | \$8.03 | 8,922 | \$(18,947) |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2011 | \$8.10 | 2,270 | \$ (4,587) |
| Intermountain | | | |
| Natural gas swap agreements maturing in 2009 | \$5.54 | 7,905 | \$ (5,297) |
| | Weighted Average Floor/Ceiling Price (Per MMBtu) | Forward Notional Volume (MMBtu) | Fair Value |
| Fidelity | | | |
| Natural gas collar agreements maturing in 2009 | \$8.52/\$9.56 | 14,965 | \$45,105 |

Note: The fair value of Cascade's natural gas swap agreements is presented net of the collateral provided to the counterparty of \$11.1 million.

Interest rate risk

The Company uses fixed rate long-term debt and from time to time variable rate long-term debt to partially finance capital expenditures and mandatory debt retirements. These debt agreements expose the Company to market risk related to changes in interest rates. The Company manages this risk by taking advantage of market conditions when timing the placement of long-term or permanent financing. The Company also has historically used interest rate swap agreements to manage a portion of the Company's interest rate risk and may take advantage of such agreements in the future to minimize such risk. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company had no outstanding interest rate hedges.

The following table shows the amount of debt, including current portion, and related weighted average interest rates, both by expected maturity dates, as of December 31, 2009.

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Thereafter | Total | Fair Value |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
| (Dollars in millions) | | | | | | | | |
| Long-term debt: | | | | | | | | |
| Fixed rate | \$12.6 | \$72.3 | \$136.3 | \$258.8 | \$9.1 | \$1,010.2 | \$1,499.3 | \$1,566.3 |
| Weighted average interest rate | 6.9% | 7.1% | 5.9% | 6.0% | 6.9% | 6.1% | 6.1% | - |

Foreign currency risk

MDU Brasil's equity method investments in the Brazilian Transmission Lines are exposed to market risks from changes in foreign currency exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the Brazilian Real. For further information, see Item 8 – Note 4. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company had no outstanding foreign currency hedges.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

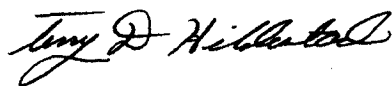
The management of MDU Resources Group, Inc. is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company's internal control system is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework*.

Based on our evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework*, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2009.

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report.



Terry D. Hildestad
President and Chief Executive Officer



Doran N. Schwartz
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

FORM 10-K

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of MDU Resources Group, Inc.:

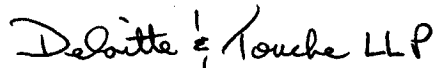
We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of MDU Resources Group, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of income, common stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, listed in the Index at Item 15. These consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of MDU Resources Group, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted the definitions and required pricing assumptions outlined in the Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting rules issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission effective as of December 31, 2009.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 17, 2010, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.



Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 17, 2010

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of MDU Resources Group, Inc.:

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of MDU Resources Group, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

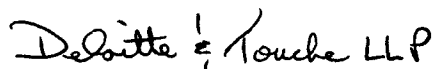
We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009 of the Company and our report February 17, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule and included an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company's adoption of the definitions and required pricing assumptions outlined in the Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting rules issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission effective as of December 31, 2009.



Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 17, 2010

FORM 10-K

Part II

Consolidated Statements of Income

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | (In thousands, except per share amounts) | | |
| Operating revenues: | | | |
| Electric, natural gas distribution and pipeline and energy services | \$1,504,269 | \$1,685,199 | \$1,095,709 |
| Construction services, natural gas and oil production, construction materials and contracting, and other | 2,672,232 | 3,318,079 | 3,152,187 |
| Total operating revenues | 4,176,501 | 5,003,278 | 4,247,896 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Fuel and purchased power | 65,717 | 75,333 | 69,616 |
| Purchased natural gas sold | 739,678 | 765,900 | 377,404 |
| Operation and maintenance: | | | |
| Electric, natural gas distribution and pipeline and energy services | 263,869 | 262,053 | 215,587 |
| Construction services, natural gas and oil production, construction materials and contracting, and other | 2,143,195 | 2,686,055 | 2,572,864 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 330,542 | 366,020 | 301,932 |
| Taxes, other than income | 166,597 | 200,080 | 153,373 |
| Write-down of natural gas and oil properties (Note 1) | 620,000 | 135,800 | - |
| Total operating expenses | 4,329,598 | 4,491,241 | 3,690,776 |
| Operating income (loss) | (153,097) | 512,037 | 557,120 |
| Earnings from equity method investments | 8,499 | 6,627 | 19,609 |
| Other income | 9,331 | 4,012 | 8,318 |
| Interest expense | 84,099 | 81,527 | 72,237 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | (219,366) | 441,149 | 512,810 |
| Income taxes | (96,092) | 147,476 | 190,024 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | (123,274) | 293,673 | 322,786 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax (Note 3) | - | - | 109,334 |
| Net income (loss) | (123,274) | 293,673 | 432,120 |
| Dividends on preferred stocks | 685 | 685 | 685 |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock | \$ (123,959) | \$ 292,988 | \$ 431,435 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – basic: | | | |
| Earnings (loss) before discontinued operations | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.77 |
| Discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | .60 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – basic | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.60 | \$ 2.37 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – diluted: | | | |
| Earnings (loss) before discontinued operations | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ 1.76 |
| Discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | .60 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share – diluted | \$ (.67) | \$ 1.59 | \$ 2.36 |
| Dividends per common share | \$.6225 | \$.6000 | \$.5600 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding – basic | 185,175 | 183,100 | 181,946 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding – diluted | 185,175 | 183,807 | 182,902 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Balance Sheets

| December 31, | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|---|--------------------|
| | (In thousands, except shares and per share amounts) | |
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 175,114 | \$ 51,714 |
| Receivables, net | 531,980 | 707,109 |
| Inventories | 249,804 | 261,524 |
| Deferred income taxes | 28,145 | - |
| Short-term investments | 2,833 | 2,467 |
| Commodity derivative instruments | 7,761 | 78,164 |
| Prepayments and other current assets | 66,021 | 171,314 |
| Total current assets | 1,061,658 | 1,272,292 |
| Investments | 145,416 | 114,290 |
| Property, plant and equipment (Note 1) | 6,766,582 | 7,062,237 |
| Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization | 2,872,465 | 2,761,319 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 3,894,117 | 4,300,918 |
| Deferred charges and other assets: | | |
| Goodwill (Note 5) | 629,463 | 615,735 |
| Other intangible assets, net (Note 5) | 28,977 | 28,392 |
| Other | 231,321 | 256,218 |
| Total deferred charges and other assets | 889,761 | 900,345 |
| Total assets | \$5,990,952 | \$6,587,845 |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Short-term borrowings (Note 9) | \$ 10,300 | \$ 105,100 |
| Long-term debt due within one year | 12,629 | 78,666 |
| Accounts payable | 281,906 | 432,358 |
| Taxes payable | 55,540 | 49,784 |
| Deferred income taxes | - | 20,344 |
| Dividends payable | 29,749 | 28,640 |
| Accrued compensation | 47,425 | 55,646 |
| Commodity derivative instruments | 36,907 | 56,529 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 192,729 | 140,408 |
| Total current liabilities | 667,185 | 967,475 |
| Long-term debt (Note 9) | 1,486,677 | 1,568,636 |
| Deferred credits and other liabilities: | | |
| Deferred income taxes | 590,968 | 727,857 |
| Other liabilities | 674,475 | 562,801 |
| Total deferred credits and other liabilities | 1,265,443 | 1,290,658 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Notes 16, 18 and 19) | | |
| Stockholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stocks (Note 11) | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Common stockholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock (Note 12) | | |
| Authorized - 500,000,000 shares, \$1.00 par value | | |
| Issued - 188,389,265 shares in 2009 and 184,208,283 shares in 2008 | 188,389 | 184,208 |
| Other paid-in capital | 1,015,678 | 938,299 |
| Retained earnings | 1,377,039 | 1,616,830 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | (20,833) | 10,365 |
| Treasury stock at cost - 538,921 shares | (3,626) | (3,626) |
| Total common stockholders' equity | 2,556,647 | 2,746,076 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 2,571,647 | 2,761,076 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$5,990,952 | \$6,587,845 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Part II

Consolidated Statements of Common Stockholders' Equity

Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007

| | Common Stock | | Other Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehen- sive Income (Loss) | Treasury Stock | | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | | | | Shares | Amount | |
| | (In thousands, except shares) | | | | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2006 | 181,557,543 | \$181,558 | \$874,253 | \$1,104,210 | \$ (6,482) | (538,921) | \$(3,626) | \$2,149,913 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | | |
| Net income | - | - | - | 432,120 | - | - | - | 432,120 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax - | | | | | | | | |
| Net unrealized loss on derivative instruments qualifying as hedges | - | - | - | - | (13,505) | - | - | (13,505) |
| Postretirement liability adjustment | - | - | - | - | 3,012 | - | - | 3,012 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | - | - | - | - | 7,177 | - | - | 7,177 |
| Net unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments | - | - | - | - | 405 | - | - | 405 |
| Total comprehensive income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 429,209 |
| Uncertain tax positions transition adjustment | - | - | - | 31 | - | - | - | 31 |
| Dividends on preferred stocks | - | - | - | (685) | - | - | - | (685) |
| Dividends on common stock | - | - | - | (102,091) | - | - | - | (102,091) |
| Tax benefit on stock-based compensation | - | - | 5,398 | - | - | - | - | 5,398 |
| Issuance of common stock | 1,388,985 | 1,389 | 33,155 | - | - | - | - | 34,544 |
| Balance at December 31, 2007 | 182,946,528 | 182,947 | 912,806 | 1,433,585 | (9,393) | (538,921) | (3,626) | 2,516,319 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | | |
| Net income | - | - | - | 293,673 | - | - | - | 293,673 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax - | | | | | | | | |
| Net unrealized gain on derivative instruments qualifying as hedges | - | - | - | - | 43,448 | - | - | 43,448 |
| Postretirement liability adjustment | - | - | - | - | (13,751) | - | - | (13,751) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | - | - | - | - | (9,534) | - | - | (9,534) |
| Total comprehensive income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 313,836 |
| Fair value option transition adjustment | - | - | - | 405 | (405) | - | - | - |
| Dividends on preferred stocks | - | - | - | (685) | - | - | - | (685) |
| Dividends on common stock | - | - | - | (110,148) | - | - | - | (110,148) |
| Tax benefit on stock-based compensation | - | - | 4,441 | - | - | - | - | 4,441 |
| Issuance of common stock | 1,261,755 | 1,261 | 21,052 | - | - | - | - | 22,313 |
| Balance at December 31, 2008 | 184,208,283 | 184,208 | 938,299 | 1,616,830 | 10,365 | (538,921) | (3,626) | 2,746,076 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | | |
| Net loss | - | - | - | (123,274) | - | - | - | (123,274) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax - | | | | | | | | |
| Net unrealized loss on derivative instruments qualifying as hedges | - | - | - | - | (51,684) | - | - | (51,684) |
| Postretirement liability adjustment | - | - | - | - | 9,918 | - | - | 9,918 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | - | - | - | - | 10,568 | - | - | 10,568 |
| Total comprehensive loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (154,472) |
| Dividends on preferred stocks | - | - | - | (685) | - | - | - | (685) |
| Dividends on common stock | - | - | - | (115,832) | - | - | - | (115,832) |
| Tax benefit on stock-based compensation | - | - | (117) | - | - | - | - | (117) |
| Issuance of common stock | 4,180,982 | 4,181 | 77,496 | - | - | - | - | 81,677 |
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | 188,389,265 | \$188,389 | \$1,015,678 | \$1,377,039 | \$(20,833) | (538,921) | \$(3,626) | \$2,556,647 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Operating activities: | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$(123,274) | \$ 293,673 | \$ 432,120 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | 109,334 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | (123,274) | 293,673 | 322,786 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 330,542 | 366,020 | 301,932 |
| Earnings, net of distributions, from equity method investments | (3,018) | 365 | (14,031) |
| Deferred income taxes | (169,764) | 64,890 | 67,272 |
| Write-down of natural gas and oil properties (Note 1) | 620,000 | 135,800 | - |
| Changes in current assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions: | | | |
| Receivables | 132,939 | 27,165 | (40,256) |
| Inventories | 13,969 | (18,574) | (7,130) |
| Other current assets | 67,803 | (64,771) | (7,356) |
| Accounts payable | (61,867) | 28,205 | 24,702 |
| Other current liabilities | 44,039 | (38,738) | (22,932) |
| Other noncurrent changes | (4,683) | (7,848) | 9,594 |
| Net cash provided by continuing operations | 846,686 | 786,187 | 634,581 |
| Net cash used in discontinued operations | - | - | (71,389) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 846,686 | 786,187 | 563,192 |
| Investing activities: | | | |
| Capital expenditures | (448,675) | (746,478) | (558,283) |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (6,410) | (533,543) | (348,490) |
| Net proceeds from sale or disposition of property | 26,679 | 86,927 | 24,983 |
| Investments | (3,740) | 85,773 | (67,140) |
| Proceeds from sale of equity method investments | - | - | 58,450 |
| Net cash used in continuing operations | (432,146) | (1,107,321) | (890,480) |
| Net cash provided by discontinued operations | - | - | 548,216 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (432,146) | (1,107,321) | (342,264) |
| Financing activities: | | | |
| Issuance of short-term borrowings | 10,300 | 216,400 | 311,700 |
| Repayment of short-term borrowings | (105,100) | (113,000) | (310,000) |
| Issuance of long-term debt | 145,000 | 453,929 | 120,250 |
| Repayment of long-term debt | (292,907) | (200,527) | (232,464) |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock | 65,207 | 15,011 | 17,263 |
| Dividends paid | (115,023) | (108,591) | (100,641) |
| Tax benefit on stock-based compensation | 601 | 4,441 | 5,398 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) continuing operations | (291,922) | 267,663 | (188,494) |
| Net cash provided by discontinued operations | - | - | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | (291,922) | 267,663 | (188,494) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | 782 | (635) | 308 |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 123,400 | (54,106) | 32,742 |
| Cash and cash equivalents – beginning of year | 51,714 | 105,820 | 73,078 |
| Cash and cash equivalents – end of year | \$ 175,114 | \$ 51,714 | \$ 105,820 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of presentation

The consolidated financial statements of the Company include the accounts of the following businesses: electric, natural gas distribution, construction services, pipeline and energy services, natural gas and oil production, construction materials and contracting, and other. The electric, natural gas distribution, and pipeline and energy services businesses are substantially all regulated. Construction services, natural gas and oil production, construction materials and contracting, and other are nonregulated. For further descriptions of the Company's businesses, see Note 15. The statements also include the ownership interests in the assets, liabilities and expenses of jointly owned electric generating facilities.

The Company's regulated businesses are subject to various state and federal agency regulations. The accounting policies followed by these businesses are generally subject to the Uniform System of Accounts of the FERC. These accounting policies differ in some respects from those used by the Company's nonregulated businesses.

The Company's regulated businesses account for certain income and expense items under the provisions of regulatory accounting, which requires these businesses to defer as regulatory assets or liabilities certain items that would have otherwise been reflected as expense or income, respectively, based on the expected regulatory treatment in future rates. The expected recovery or flowback of these deferred items generally is based on specific ratemaking decisions or precedent for each item. Regulatory assets and liabilities are being amortized consistently with the regulatory treatment established by the FERC and the applicable state public service commissions. See Note 6 for more information regarding the nature and amounts of these regulatory deferrals.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense is reported separately on the Consolidated Statements of Income and therefore is excluded from the other line items within operating expenses.

Cash and cash equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Allowance for doubtful accounts

The Company's allowance for doubtful accounts as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, was \$16.6 million and \$13.7 million, respectively.

Natural gas in storage

Natural gas in storage for the Company's regulated operations is generally carried at average cost, or cost using the last-in, first-out method. The portion of the cost of natural gas in storage expected to be used within one year was included in inventories and was \$35.6 million and \$27.6 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The remainder of natural gas in storage, which largely represents the cost of the gas required to maintain pressure levels for normal operating purposes, was included in other assets and was \$59.6 million and \$43.4 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Inventories

Inventories, other than natural gas in storage for the Company's regulated operations, consisted primarily of aggregates held for resale of \$80.1 million and \$89.1 million, materials and supplies of \$58.1 million and \$70.3 million, asphalt oil of \$23.0 million and \$22.1 million, and other inventories of \$53.0 million and \$52.4 million, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. These inventories were stated at the lower of average cost or market value.

Investments

The Company's investments include its equity method investments as discussed in Note 4, the cash surrender value of life insurance policies, investments in fixed-income and equity securities and auction rate securities. Under the equity method, investments are initially recorded at cost and adjusted for dividends and undistributed earnings and losses. On January 1, 2008, the Company elected to measure its investments in certain fixed-income and equity securities at fair value with any unrealized gains and losses recorded on the Consolidated Statements of Income. These investments had previously been accounted for as available-for-sale investments and were recorded at fair value with any unrealized gains and losses, net of income taxes, recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) on the Consolidated Balance Sheets until realized. The Company accounts for auction rate securities as available-for-sale. For more information, see Notes 8 and 16 and comprehensive income (loss) in this note.

Property, plant and equipment

Additions to property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. When regulated assets are retired, or otherwise disposed of in the ordinary course of business, the original cost of the asset is charged to accumulated depreciation. With respect to the retirement or disposal of all other assets, except for natural gas and oil production properties as described in natural gas and oil properties in this note, the resulting gains or losses are recognized as a component of income. The Company is permitted to capitalize AFUDC on regulated construction projects and to include such amounts in rate base when the related facilities are placed in service. In addition, the Company capitalizes interest, when applicable, on certain construction projects associated with its other operations. The amount of AFUDC and interest capitalized was \$11.5 million, \$9.0 million and \$7.1 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Generally, property, plant and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the average useful lives of the assets, except for depletable aggregate reserves, which are depleted based on the units-of-production method, and natural gas and oil production properties, which are amortized on the units-of-production method based on total reserves. The Company collects removal costs for plant assets in regulated utility rates. These amounts are recorded as regulatory liabilities, which are included in other liabilities.

Property, plant and equipment at December 31 was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | Weighted Average Depreciable Life in Years |
|---|-------------|-------------|---|
| (Dollars in thousands, where applicable) | | | |
| Regulated: | | | |
| Electric: | | | |
| Generation | \$ 486,710 | \$ 408,851 | 58 |
| Distribution | 230,795 | 219,501 | 36 |
| Transmission | 146,373 | 142,081 | 44 |
| Other | 77,913 | 78,292 | 12 |
| Natural gas distribution: | | | |
| Distribution | 1,218,124 | 1,260,651 | 39 |
| Other | 238,084 | 168,836 | 21 |
| Pipeline and energy services: | | | |
| Transmission | 351,019 | 322,276 | 52 |
| Gathering | 41,815 | 41,825 | 19 |
| Storage | 33,701 | 32,592 | 52 |
| Other | 33,283 | 31,925 | 27 |
| Nonregulated: | | | |
| Construction services: | | | |
| Land | 4,526 | 4,526 | – |
| Buildings and improvements | 15,110 | 12,913 | 23 |
| Machinery, vehicles and equipment | 87,462 | 84,042 | 7 |
| Other | 9,138 | 9,820 | 5 |
| Pipeline and energy services: | | | |
| Gathering | 202,467 | 201,323 | 17 |
| Other | 12,914 | 10,980 | 10 |
| Natural gas and oil production: | | | |
| Natural gas and oil properties | 1,993,594 | 2,443,946 | * |
| Other | 35,200 | 33,456 | 9 |
| Construction materials and contracting: | | | |
| Land | 127,928 | 127,279 | – |
| Buildings and improvements | 65,778 | 68,356 | 20 |
| Machinery, vehicles and equipment | 925,747 | 932,545 | 12 |
| Construction in progress | 3,733 | 11,488 | – |
| Aggregate reserves | 391,803 | 384,361 | ** |
| Other: | | | |
| Land | 2,942 | 2,942 | – |
| Other | 30,423 | 27,430 | 19 |
| Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization | 2,872,465 | 2,761,319 | |
| Net property, plant and equipment | \$3,894,117 | \$4,300,918 | |

* Amortized on the units-of-production method based on total proved reserves at an Mcf equivalent average rate of \$1.64, \$2.00 and \$1.59 for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Includes natural gas and oil production properties accounted for under the full-cost method, of which \$178.2 million and \$232.1 million were excluded from amortization at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

** Depleted on the units-of-production method.

Costs not subject to amortization as of December 31, 2009, consisted primarily of unevaluated leaseholds, drilling costs, seismic costs and capitalized interest associated primarily with natural gas and oil development in the Paradox Basin in Utah; Big Horn Basin in Wyoming; east Texas properties; and CBNG in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. The Company expects that the majority of these costs will be evaluated within the next five years and included in the amortization base as the properties are evaluated and/or developed.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognized when the earnings process is complete, as evidenced by an agreement between the customer and the Company, when delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, when the fee is fixed or determinable and when collection is reasonably assured. The Company recognizes utility revenue each month based on the services provided to all utility customers during the month. Accrued unbilled revenue which is included in receivables, net, represents revenues recognized in excess of amounts billed. Accrued unbilled revenue at Montana-Dakota, Cascade and Intermountain was \$92.6 million and \$123.2 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The Company recognizes construction contract revenue at its construction businesses using the percentage-of-completion method as discussed later. The Company recognizes revenue from natural gas and oil production properties only on that portion of production sold and allocable to the Company's ownership interest in the related well. The Company recognizes all other revenues when services are rendered or goods are delivered. The Company presents revenues net of taxes collected from customers at the time of sale to be remitted to governmental authorities, including sales and use taxes.

Percentage-of-completion method

The Company recognizes construction contract revenue from fixed-price and modified fixed-price construction contracts at its construction businesses using the percentage-of-completion method, measured by the percentage of costs incurred to date to estimated total costs for each contract. If a loss is anticipated on a contract, the loss is immediately recognized. Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts of \$28.8 million and \$40.1 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, represent revenues recognized in excess of amounts billed and were included in receivables, net. Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts of \$49.3 million and \$106.9 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, represent billings in excess of revenues recognized and were included in accounts payable. Amounts representing balances billed but not paid by customers under retainage provisions in contracts amounted to \$45.4 million and \$86.9 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The amounts expected to be paid within one year or less are included in receivables, net, and amounted to \$44.0 million and \$67.7 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The long-term retainage which was included in deferred charges and other assets – other was \$1.4 million and \$19.2 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Derivative instruments

The Company's policy allows the use of derivative instruments as part of an overall energy price, foreign currency and interest rate risk management program to efficiently manage and minimize commodity price, foreign currency and interest rate risk. The Company's policy prohibits the use of derivative instruments for speculating to take advantage of market trends and conditions, and the Company has procedures in place to monitor compliance with its policies. The Company is exposed to credit-related losses in relation to derivative instruments in the event of nonperformance by counterparties.

The Company's policy generally allows the hedging of monthly forecasted natural gas and oil production at Fidelity for a period up to 36 months from the time the Company enters into the hedge. The Company's policy requires that interest rate derivative instruments not exceed a period of 24 months and foreign currency derivative instruments not exceed a 12-month period. The Company's policy allows the hedging of monthly forecasted purchases of natural gas at Cascade and Intermountain for a period up to three years.

The Company's policy requires that each month as physical natural gas and oil production at Fidelity occurs and the commodity is sold, the related portion of the derivative agreement for that month's production must settle with its counterparties. Settlements represent the exchange of cash between the Company and its counterparties based on the notional quantities and prices for each month's physical delivery as specified within the agreements. The fair value of the remaining notional amounts on the derivative agreements is recorded on the balance sheet as an asset or liability measured at fair value, with the unrealized gains or losses recognized as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The Company's policy also requires settlement of natural gas derivative instruments at Cascade and Intermountain monthly and all interest rate derivative transactions must be settled over a period that will not exceed 90 days, and any foreign currency derivative transaction settlement periods may not exceed a 12-month period. The Company has policies and procedures that management believes minimize credit-risk exposure. Accordingly, the Company does not anticipate any material effect on its financial position or results of operations as a result of nonperformance by counterparties. For more information on derivative instruments, see Note 7.

The Company's swap and collar agreements are reflected at fair value, based upon futures prices, volatility and time to maturity, among other things.

Asset retirement obligations

The Company records the fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation in the period in which it is incurred. When the liability is initially recorded, the Company capitalizes a cost by increasing the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. Over time, the liability is accreted to its present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. Upon settlement of the liability, the Company either settles the obligation for the recorded amount or incurs a gain or loss at its nonregulated operations or incurs a regulatory asset or liability at its regulated operations. For more information on asset retirement obligations, see Note 10.

Natural gas costs recoverable or refundable through rate adjustments

Under the terms of certain orders of the applicable state public service commissions, the Company is deferring natural gas commodity, transportation and storage costs that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. Such orders generally provide that these amounts are recoverable or refundable through rate adjustments within a period ranging from 12 to 28 months from the time such costs are paid. Natural gas costs refundable through rate adjustments were \$37.4 million and \$64,000 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, which is included in other accrued liabilities. Natural gas costs recoverable through rate adjustments were \$982,000 and \$51.7 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, which is included in prepayments and other current assets.

Insurance

Certain subsidiaries of the Company are insured for workers' compensation losses, subject to deductibles ranging up to \$1 million per occurrence. Automobile liability and general liability losses are insured, subject to deductibles ranging up to \$1 million per accident or occurrence. These subsidiaries have excess coverage above the primary automobile and general liability policies on a claims first-made and reported basis beyond the deductible levels. The subsidiaries of the Company are retaining losses up to the deductible amounts accrued on the basis of estimates of liability for claims incurred and for claims incurred but not reported.

Income taxes

The Company provides deferred federal and state income taxes on all temporary differences between the book and tax basis of the Company's assets and liabilities. Excess deferred income tax balances associated with the Company's rate-regulated activities have been recorded as a regulatory liability and are included in other liabilities. These regulatory liabilities are expected to be reflected as a reduction in future rates charged to customers in accordance with applicable regulatory procedures.

The Company uses the deferral method of accounting for investment tax credits and amortizes the credits on regulated electric and natural gas distribution plant over various periods that conform to the ratemaking treatment prescribed by the applicable state public service commissions.

Tax positions taken or expected to be taken in an income tax return are evaluated for recognition using a more-likely-than-not threshold, and those tax positions requiring recognition are measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement with a taxing authority. The Company recognizes interest and penalties accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in income taxes.

Foreign currency translation adjustment

The functional currency of the Company's investment in the Brazilian Transmission Lines, as further discussed in Note 4, is the Brazilian Real. Translation from the Brazilian Real to the U.S. dollar for assets and liabilities is performed using the exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date. Revenues and expenses are translated on a year-to-date basis using weighted average daily exchange rates. Adjustments resulting from such translations are reported as a separate component of other comprehensive income (loss) in common stockholders' equity.

Transaction gains and losses resulting from the effect of exchange rate changes on transactions denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the reporting entity would be recorded in income.

Earnings (loss) per common share

Basic earnings (loss) per common share were computed by dividing earnings (loss) on common stock by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the year. Diluted earnings per common share were computed by dividing earnings on common stock by the total of the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the year, plus the effect of outstanding stock options, restricted stock grants and performance share awards. In 2008 and 2007, there were no shares excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share. Diluted loss per common share for 2009 was computed by dividing the loss on common stock by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the year. Due to the loss on common stock for 2009, the effect of outstanding stock options, restricted stock grants and performance share awards was excluded from the computation of

diluted loss per common share as their effect was antidilutive. Common stock outstanding includes issued shares less shares held in treasury.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Estimates are used for items such as impairment testing of long-lived assets, goodwill and natural gas and oil properties; fair values of acquired assets and liabilities under the purchase method of accounting; natural gas and oil reserves; aggregate reserves; property depreciable lives; tax provisions; uncollectible accounts; environmental and other loss contingencies; accumulated provision for revenues subject to refund; costs on construction contracts; unbilled revenues; actuarially determined benefit costs; asset retirement obligations; the valuation of stock-based compensation; and the fair value of derivative instruments. As additional information becomes available, or actual amounts are determinable, the recorded estimates are revised. Consequently, operating results can be affected by revisions to prior accounting estimates.

Cash flow information

Cash expenditures for interest and income taxes were as follows:

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | (In thousands) | |
| Interest, net of amount capitalized | \$81,267 | \$ 77,152 | \$ 74,404 |
| Income taxes | \$39,807 | \$113,212 | \$214,573 |

Income taxes paid for the year ended December 31, 2007, were higher than the amount paid for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, primarily due to higher estimated quarterly tax payments paid in 2007 due in large part to the gain on the sale of the domestic independent power production assets as discussed in Note 3.

New accounting standards

Codification In June 2009, the FASB established the ASC as the source of authoritative generally accepted accounting principles recognized by the FASB. The ASC is a reorganization of GAAP into a topical format. It was effective for the Company in the third quarter of 2009. The adoption of the Codification required the Company to revise its disclosures when referencing generally accepted accounting principles.

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures In September 2006, the FASB established guidance that defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The guidance applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements with certain exceptions and was effective for the Company on January 1, 2008. In February 2008, this guidance was revised to delay the effective date for certain nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities to January 1, 2009. The types of assets and liabilities that are recognized at fair value effective January 1, 2009, due to the delayed effective date, include nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities initially measured at fair value in a business combination or new basis event, certain fair value measurements associated with goodwill impairment testing, indefinite-lived intangible assets and nonfinancial long-lived assets measured at fair value for impairment assessment, and asset retirement obligations initially measured at fair value. The adoption of the fair value measurements and disclosure guidance, including the application to certain nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities with a delayed effective date of January 1, 2009, did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Business Combinations In December 2007, the FASB issued guidance related to business combinations that requires an acquirer to recognize and measure the assets acquired, liabilities assumed and any noncontrolling interests in the acquiree at the acquisition date, measured at their fair values as of that date, with limited exception. The business combination guidance also requires that acquisition-related costs will be generally expensed as incurred, and expands the disclosure requirements for business combinations. In addition, the business combination guidance was amended and clarified to address application issues raised in regard to initial recognition and measurement, subsequent measurement and accounting, and disclosure of assets and liabilities arising from contingencies in a business combination. This guidance and its amendments were effective for the Company on January 1, 2009. The adoption of the business combination guidance and its amendments did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Noncontrolling Interests In December 2007, the FASB established accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. This guidance was effective for the Company on January 1, 2009. The adoption of the noncontrolling interest guidance did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

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Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities In March 2008, the FASB released guidance related to derivative instruments and hedging activities that requires enhanced disclosures about an entity's derivative and hedging activities including how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. This guidance was effective for the Company on January 1, 2009. The adoption of the derivative instruments and hedging activities guidance requires additional disclosures regarding the Company's derivative instruments; however, it did not impact the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits In December 2008, the FASB issued guidance on an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan to provide users of financial statements with an understanding of how investment allocation decisions are made, the major categories of plan assets, the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of plan assets, the effect of fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs on changes in plan assets for the period and significant concentrations of risk within plan assets. This guidance was effective for the Company on January 1, 2009. The adoption of the pension and other postretirement benefits guidance required additional disclosures regarding the Company's defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans in the annual financial statements; however, it did not impact the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting In January 2009, the SEC adopted final rules amending its oil and gas reporting requirements. The new rules include changes to the pricing used to estimate reserves, the ability to include nontraditional resources in reserves, the use of new technology for determining reserves and permitting disclosure of probable and possible reserves. The final rules were effective on December 31, 2009. For information on the impacts of adopting the SEC's final rules for oil and gas reporting, see Supplementary Financial Information.

Financial Instruments In April 2009, the FASB issued guidance that requires disclosures about the fair value of financial instruments for interim reporting periods of publicly traded companies as well as in annual financial statements, which was effective for the Company in the second quarter of 2009. The adoption of the financial instruments guidance required additional disclosures regarding the Company's fair value of financial instruments; however, it did not impact the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Subsequent Events In May 2009, the FASB issued subsequent events guidance which establishes standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued or are available to be issued. In addition it requires disclosure of the date through which the Company has evaluated subsequent events and whether it represents the date the financial statements were issued or were available to be issued. This guidance was effective for the Company on June 30, 2009. The adoption of the subsequent events guidance did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Variable Interest Entities In June 2009, the FASB issued guidance related to variable interest entities which changes how a reporting entity determines when an entity that is insufficiently capitalized or is not controlled through voting rights should be consolidated and modifies the approach for determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. This guidance will require a reporting entity to provide additional disclosures about its involvement with variable interest entities and any significant changes in risk exposure due to that involvement. The guidance related to variable interest entities was effective for the Company on January 1, 2010. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Oil and Gas Reserve Estimation and Disclosure In January 2010, the FASB issued guidance related to oil and gas reserve estimation and disclosure requirements, which aligned the current oil and gas reserve estimation and disclosures with those of the SEC's final rule, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting, and requires disclosure in the first annual period of the estimated effect of the initial application of the guidance. The guidance related to oil and gas reserve estimation and disclosure was effective for the Company on December 31, 2009. For more information on the effects of adopting the oil and gas reserve estimation and disclosure guidance, see Supplementary Financial Information.

Improving Disclosure About Fair Value Measurements In January 2010, the FASB issued guidance related to improving disclosures about fair value measurements. The guidance requires separate disclosures of the amounts of transfers in and out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements and a description of the reason for such transfers. In the reconciliation for Level 3 fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs, information about purchases, sales, issuances and settlements shall be presented separately. These disclosures are required for interim and annual reporting periods and were effective for the Company on January 1, 2010, except for the disclosures related to the purchases, sales, issuances and settlements in the roll forward activity of Level 3 fair value measurements, which are effective on January 1, 2011. The guidance will require additional disclosures but will not impact the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Comprehensive income (loss)

Comprehensive income (loss) is the sum of net income (loss) as reported and other comprehensive income (loss). The Company's other comprehensive income (loss) resulted from gains (losses) on derivative instruments qualifying as hedges, postretirement liability adjustments, foreign currency translation adjustments and gains on available-for-sale investments. For more information on derivative instruments, see Note 7.

The components of other comprehensive income (loss), and their related tax effects for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | |
| Net unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments qualifying as hedges: | | | |
| Net unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments arising during the period, net of tax of \$(2,509), \$30,414 and \$3,989 in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively | \$ (4,094) | \$ 49,623 | \$ 6,508 |
| Less: Reclassification adjustment for gain on derivative instruments included in net income, net of tax of \$29,170, \$3,795 and \$12,504 in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively | 47,590 | 6,175 | 20,013 |
| Net unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments qualifying as hedges | (51,684) | 43,448 | (13,505) |
| Postretirement liability adjustment, net of tax of \$6,291, \$(8,750) and \$1,835 in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively | 9,918 | (13,751) | 3,012 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$6,814, \$(6,108) and \$3,606 in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively | 10,568 | (9,534) | 7,177 |
| Net unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments, net of tax of \$270 in 2007 | - | - | 405 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss) | \$ (31,198) | \$ 20,163 | \$ (2,911) |

The after-tax components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, were as follows:

| | Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivative Instruments Qualifying as Hedges | Post- retirement Liability Adjustment | Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment | Net Unrealized Gain on Available- for-sale Investments | Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| | (In thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2007 | \$ 5,938 | \$(21,330) | \$ 5,594 | \$405 | \$ (9,393) |
| Balance at December 31, 2008 | \$49,386 | \$(35,081) | \$(3,940) | \$ - | \$ 10,365 |
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | \$ (2,298) | \$(25,163) | \$ 6,628 | \$ - | \$(20,833) |

Note 2 – Acquisitions

In 2009, the Company acquired a pipeline and energy services business in Montana which was not material. The total purchase consideration for this business and purchase price adjustments with respect to certain other acquisitions made prior to 2009, consisting of the Company's common stock and cash, was \$22.0 million.

In 2008, the Company acquired a construction services business in Nevada; natural gas properties in Texas; construction materials and contracting businesses in Alaska, California, Idaho and Texas; and Intermountain, a natural gas distribution business, as discussed below. The total purchase consideration for these businesses and properties and purchase price adjustments with respect to certain other acquisitions made prior to 2008, consisting of the Company's common stock and cash and the outstanding indebtedness of Intermountain, was \$624.5 million.

On October 1, 2008, the acquisition of Intermountain was finalized and Intermountain became an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Intermountain's service area is in Idaho.

In 2007, the Company acquired construction materials and contracting businesses in North Dakota, Texas and Wyoming; a construction services business in Nevada; and Cascade, a natural gas distribution business, as discussed below. The total purchase consideration for these businesses and properties and purchase price adjustments with respect to certain other acquisitions made prior to 2007, consisting of the Company's common stock and cash and the outstanding indebtedness of Cascade, was \$526.3 million.

On July 2, 2007, the acquisition of Cascade was finalized and Cascade became an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Cascade's natural gas service areas are in Washington and Oregon.

The above acquisitions were accounted for under the purchase method of accounting and, accordingly, the acquired assets and liabilities assumed have been preliminarily recorded at their respective fair values as of the date of acquisition. On the above acquisition made in 2009, a final fair market value is pending the completion of the review of the relevant assets and liabilities as of the acquisition date. The results of operations of the acquired businesses and properties are included in the financial statements since the date of each acquisition. Pro forma financial amounts reflecting the effects of the above acquisitions are not presented, as such acquisitions were not material to the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Note 3 – Discontinued Operations

Innovatum, a component of the pipeline and energy services segment, specialized in cable and pipeline magnetization and location. During the third quarter of 2006, the Company initiated a plan to sell Innovatum because the Company determined that Innovatum is a non-strategic asset. During the fourth quarter of 2006, the stock and a portion of the assets of Innovatum were sold and the Company sold the remaining assets of Innovatum in January 2008. The loss on disposal of Innovatum was not material.

During the fourth quarter of 2006, the Company initiated a plan to sell certain of the domestic assets of Centennial Resources. The plan to sell was based on the increased market demand for independent power production assets, combined with the Company's desire to efficiently fund future capital needs. The Company subsequently committed to a plan to sell CEM due to strong interest in the operations of CEM during the bidding process for the domestic independent power production assets in the first quarter of 2007.

In July 2007, Centennial Resources sold its domestic independent power production business consisting of Centennial Power and CEM to Bicent Power LLC (formerly known as Montana Acquisition Company LLC). The transaction was valued at \$636 million, which included the assumption of approximately \$36 million of project-related debt. The gain on the sale of the assets, excluding the gain on the sale of Hartwell as discussed in Note 4, was approximately \$85.4 million (after tax).

The Company's consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes for prior periods present the results of operations of Innovatum and the domestic independent power production assets as discontinued operations. In addition, the assets and liabilities of these operations were treated as held for sale, and as a result, no depreciation, depletion and amortization expense was recorded from the time each of the assets was classified as held for sale.

Operating results related to Innovatum for the year ended December 31, 2007, were as follows:

| | 2007 |
|---|----------------|
| | (In thousands) |
| Operating revenues | \$1,748 |
| Loss from discontinued operations before income tax benefit | (210) |
| Income tax benefit | (316) |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | \$ 106 |

Operating results related to the domestic independent power production assets for the year ended December 31, 2007, were as follows:

| | 2007 |
|---|----------------|
| | (In thousands) |
| Operating revenues | \$125,867 |
| Income from discontinued operations (including gain on disposal in 2007 of \$142.4 million) before income tax expense | 177,666 |
| Income tax expense | 68,438 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | \$109,228 |

Revenues at the former independent power production operations were recognized based on electricity delivered and capacity provided, pursuant to contractual commitments and, where applicable, revenues were recognized ratably over the terms of the related contract. Arrangements with multiple revenue-generating activities were recognized with the multiple deliverables divided into separate units of accounting based on specific criteria and revenues of the arrangements allocated to the separate units based on their relative fair values.

Note 4 – Equity Method Investments

Investments in companies in which the Company has the ability to exercise significant influence over operating and financial policies are accounted for using the equity method. The Company's equity method investments at December 31, 2009 and 2008, include the Brazilian Transmission Lines.

In August 2006, MDU Brasil acquired ownership interests in companies owning the Brazilian Transmission Lines. The interests involve the ENTE (13.3-percent ownership interest), ERTE (13.3-percent ownership interest) and ECTE (25-percent ownership interest) electric transmission lines, which are primarily in northeastern and southern Brazil. The transmission contracts provide for revenues denominated in the Brazilian Real, annual inflation adjustments and change in tax law adjustments and have between 21 and 23 years remaining under the contracts. Alusa and CEMIG hold the remaining ownership interests, with CELESC also having an ownership interest in ECTE. The functional currency for the Brazilian Transmission Lines is the Brazilian Real.

In the fourth quarter of 2009, multiple sales agreements were signed with three separate parties for the Company to sell its ownership interests in the Brazilian Transmission Lines. This sale is pending regulatory approvals. One of the parties will purchase 15.6 percent of the Company's ownership interests over a four-year period. The other parties will purchase 84.4 percent of the Company's ownership interests at the financial close of the transaction.

In September 2004, Centennial Resources, through indirect wholly owned subsidiaries, acquired a 50 percent ownership interest in Hartwell, which owns a 310-MW natural gas-fired electric generating facility near Hartwell, Georgia. In July 2007, the Company sold its ownership interest in Hartwell, and realized a gain of \$10.1 million (\$6.1 million after tax) from the sale which is recorded in earnings from equity method investments on the Consolidated Statements of Income.

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the investments in which the Company held an equity method interest had total assets of \$387.0 million and \$294.7 million, respectively, and long-term debt of \$176.7 million and \$158.0 million, respectively. The Company's investment in its equity method investments was approximately \$62.4 million and \$44.4 million, including undistributed earnings of \$9.3 million and \$6.8 million, at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Note 5 – Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the year ended December 31, 2009, were as follows:

| | Balance as of January 1, 2009 | Goodwill Acquired During the Year* | Balance as of December 31, 2009 |
|--|--|---|--|
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Electric | \$ – | \$ – | \$ – |
| Natural gas distribution | 344,952 | 784 | 345,736 |
| Construction services | 95,619 | 4,508 | 100,127 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 1,159 | 6,698 | 7,857 |
| Natural gas and oil production | – | – | – |
| Construction materials and contracting | 174,005 | 1,738 | 175,743 |
| Other | – | – | – |
| Total | \$615,735 | \$13,728 | \$629,463 |

* Includes purchase price adjustments that were not material related to acquisitions in a prior period.

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Part II

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the year ended December 31, 2008, were as follows:

| | Balance as of January 1, 2008 | Goodwill Acquired During the Year* | Balance as of December 31, 2008 |
|--|--|---|--|
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Electric | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Natural gas distribution | 171,129 | 173,823 | 344,952 |
| Construction services | 91,385 | 4,234 | 95,619 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 1,159 | - | 1,159 |
| Natural gas and oil production | - | - | - |
| Construction materials and contracting | 162,025 | 11,980 | 174,005 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| Total | \$425,698 | \$190,037 | \$615,735 |

* Includes purchase price adjustments that were not material related to acquisitions in a prior period.

Other amortizable intangible assets at December 31 were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| (In thousands) | | |
| Customer relationships | \$24,942 | \$21,842 |
| Accumulated amortization | (9,500) | (6,985) |
| | 15,442 | 14,857 |
| Noncompete agreements | 12,377 | 10,080 |
| Accumulated amortization | (6,675) | (5,126) |
| | 5,702 | 4,954 |
| Other | 10,859 | 10,949 |
| Accumulated amortization | (3,026) | (2,368) |
| | 7,833 | 8,581 |
| Total | \$28,977 | \$28,392 |

Amortization expense for intangible assets for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, was \$5.0 million, \$5.1 million and \$4.4 million, respectively. Estimated amortization expense for intangible assets is \$4.5 million in 2010, \$4.0 million in 2011, \$3.9 million in 2012, \$3.4 million in 2013, \$3.0 million in 2014 and \$10.2 million thereafter.

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Note 6 – Regulatory Assets and Liabilities

The following table summarizes the individual components of unamortized regulatory assets and liabilities as of December 31:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Regulatory assets: | | |
| Pension and postretirement benefits (a) | \$ 91,078 | \$119,868 |
| Deferred income taxes* | 85,712 | 46,855 |
| Natural gas supply derivatives (a) (b) | 27,900 | 89,813 |
| Costs related to potential generation development (a) | 15,499 | – |
| Long-term debt refinancing costs (a) | 12,089 | 9,991 |
| Taxes recoverable from customers (a) | 10,102 | 4,824 |
| Plant costs (a) | 7,775 | 8,534 |
| Natural gas cost recoverable through rate adjustments (b) | 982 | 51,699 |
| Other (a) (b) | 12,242 | 7,978 |
| Total regulatory assets | 263,379 | 339,562 |
| Regulatory liabilities: | | |
| Plant removal and decommissioning costs (c) | 251,143 | 94,737 |
| Deferred income taxes* | 53,835 | 65,909 |
| Natural gas costs refundable through rate adjustments (d) | 37,356 | 64 |
| Taxes refundable to customers (c) | 34,571 | 25,642 |
| Natural gas supply derivatives (c) | – | 5,540 |
| Other (c) (d) | 17,767 | 7,460 |
| Total regulatory liabilities | 394,672 | 199,352 |
| Net regulatory position | \$(131,293) | \$140,210 |

* Represents deferred income taxes related to regulatory assets and liabilities.

(a) Included in deferred charges and other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(b) Included in prepayments and other current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(c) Included in other liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(d) Included in other accrued liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The regulatory assets are expected to be recovered in rates charged to customers. A portion of the Company's regulatory assets are not earning a return; however, these regulatory assets are expected to be recovered from customers in future rates. In 2009, the Company determined that plant removal costs related to recent acquisitions should be reclassified from accumulated depreciation to a regulatory liability. This reclassification is reflected in the preceding table.

If, for any reason, the Company's regulated businesses cease to meet the criteria for application of regulatory accounting for all or part of their operations, the regulatory assets and liabilities relating to those portions ceasing to meet such criteria would be removed from the balance sheet and included in the statement of income as an extraordinary item in the period in which the discontinuance of regulatory accounting occurs.

Note 7 – Derivative Instruments

Derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, are required to be recorded on the balance sheet as either an asset or liability measured at fair value. The Company's policy is to not offset fair value amounts for derivative instruments, and as a result the Company's derivative assets and liabilities are presented gross on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Changes in the derivative instrument's fair value are recognized currently in earnings unless specific hedge accounting criteria are met. Accounting for qualifying hedges allows derivative gains and losses to offset the related results on the hedged item in the income statement and requires that a company must formally document, designate and assess the effectiveness of transactions that receive hedge accounting treatment.

In the event a derivative instrument being accounted for as a cash flow hedge does not qualify for hedge accounting because it is no longer highly effective in offsetting changes in cash flows of a hedged item; if the derivative instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised; or if management determines that designation of the derivative instrument as a hedge instrument is no longer appropriate, hedge accounting would be discontinued and the derivative instrument would continue to be carried at fair value with changes in its fair value recognized in earnings. In these circumstances, the net gain or loss at the time of discontinuance of hedge accounting would remain in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) until the period or periods during which the hedged forecasted transaction affects earnings, at which time the net gain or loss would be reclassified into earnings. In the event a cash flow hedge is discontinued because it is

unlikely that a forecasted transaction will occur, the derivative instrument would continue to be carried on the balance sheet at its fair value, and gains and losses that had accumulated in other comprehensive income (loss) would be recognized immediately in earnings. In the event of a sale, termination or extinguishment of a foreign currency derivative, the resulting gain or loss would be recognized immediately in earnings. The Company's policy requires approval to terminate a derivative instrument prior to its original maturity. As of December 31, 2009, the Company had no outstanding foreign currency or interest rate hedges.

Cascade and Intermountain

At December 31, 2009, Cascade and Intermountain held natural gas swap agreements, with total forward notional volumes of 12.1 million MMBtu, which were not designated as hedges. Cascade and Intermountain utilize natural gas swap agreements to manage a portion of their regulated natural gas supply portfolios in order to manage fluctuations in the price of natural gas related to core customers in accordance with authority granted by the IPUC, WUTC and OPUC. Core customers consist of residential, commercial and smaller industrial customers. The fair value of the derivative instrument must be estimated as of the end of each reporting period and is recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as an asset or a liability. Cascade and Intermountain record periodic changes in the fair market value of the derivative instruments on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as a regulatory asset or a regulatory liability, and settlements of these arrangements are expected to be recovered through the purchased gas cost adjustment mechanism. Gains and losses on the settlements of these derivative instruments are recorded as a component of purchased natural gas sold on the Consolidated Statements of Income as they are recovered through the purchased gas cost adjustment mechanism. Under the terms of these arrangements, Cascade and Intermountain will either pay or receive settlement payments based on the difference between the fixed strike price and the monthly index price applicable to each contract. For the year ended December 31, 2009, Cascade and Intermountain recorded the decrease in the fair market value of the derivative instruments of \$61.9 million in regulatory assets.

Certain of Cascade's derivative instruments contain credit-risk-related contingent features that permit the counterparties to require collateralization if Cascade's derivative liability positions exceed certain dollar thresholds. The dollar thresholds in certain of Cascade's agreements are determined and may fluctuate based on Cascade's credit rating on its debt. In addition, Cascade's and Intermountain's derivative instruments contain cross-default provisions that state if the entity fails to make payment with respect to certain of its indebtedness, in excess of specified amounts, the counterparties could require early settlement or termination of such entity's derivative instruments in liability positions. The aggregate fair value of Cascade and Intermountain's derivative instruments with credit-risk-related contingent features that are in a liability position at December 31, 2009, was \$27.9 million. The aggregate fair value of assets that would have been needed to settle the instruments immediately if the credit-risk-related contingent features were triggered on December 31, 2009, was \$27.9 million.

Fidelity

At December 31, 2009, Fidelity held natural gas swaps and collar agreements with total forward notional volumes of 26.5 million MMBtu, natural gas basis swaps with total forward notional volumes of 15.1 million MMBtu, and oil swaps and collar agreements with total forward notional volumes of 2.0 million Bbl, all of which were designated as cash flow hedging instruments. Fidelity utilizes these derivative instruments to manage a portion of the market risk associated with fluctuations in the price of natural gas and oil and basis differentials on its forecasted sales of natural gas and oil production.

The fair value of the derivative instruments must be estimated as of the end of each reporting period and is recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as an asset or liability. Changes in the fair value attributable to the effective portion of hedging instruments, net of tax, are recorded in stockholders' equity as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). At the date the natural gas and oil quantities are settled, the amounts accumulated in other comprehensive income (loss) are reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income. To the extent that the hedges are not effective, the ineffective portion of the changes in fair market value is recorded directly in earnings. The proceeds received for natural gas and oil production are generally based on market prices.

For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, the amount of hedge ineffectiveness was immaterial, and there were no components of the derivative instruments' gain or loss excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness. Gains and losses must be reclassified into earnings as a result of the discontinuance of cash flow hedges if it is probable that the original forecasted transactions will not occur. There were no such reclassifications into earnings as a result of the discontinuance of hedges.

Gains and losses on derivative instruments that are reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) to current-period earnings are included in operating revenues on the Consolidated Statements of Income. For further information regarding the gains and losses on derivative instruments qualifying as cash flow hedges that were recognized in other comprehensive income (loss) and the gains and losses reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into earnings, see Note 1.

As of December 31, 2009, the maximum term of the swap and collar agreements, in which the exposure to the variability in future cash flows for forecasted transactions is being hedged, is 24 months. The Company estimates that over the next 12 months net losses of approximately \$3.8 million (after tax) will be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss into earnings, subject to changes in natural gas and oil market prices, as the hedged transactions affect earnings.

Certain of Fidelity's derivative instruments contain cross-default provisions that state if Fidelity fails to make payment with respect to certain indebtedness, in excess of specified amounts, the counterparties could require early settlement or termination of derivative instruments in liability positions. The aggregate fair value of Fidelity's derivative instruments with credit-risk-related contingent features that are in a liability position at December 31, 2009, was \$13.9 million. The aggregate fair value of assets that would have been needed to settle the instruments immediately if the credit-risk-related contingent features were triggered on December 31, 2009, was \$13.9 million.

The location and fair value of all of the Company's derivative instruments on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009, were as follows:

| Asset Derivatives | | Liability Derivatives | |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Location on Consolidated Balance Sheets | Fair Value | Location on Consolidated Balance Sheets | Fair Value |
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Commodity derivatives designated as hedges: | | | |
| Commodity derivative instruments | \$ 7,761 | Commodity derivative instruments | \$13,763 |
| Other assets – noncurrent | 2,734 | Other liabilities – noncurrent | 114 |
| Total derivatives designated as hedges | 10,495 | | 13,877 |
| Commodity derivatives not designated as hedges: | | | |
| Commodity derivative instruments | – | Commodity derivative instruments | 23,144 |
| Other assets – noncurrent | – | Other liabilities – noncurrent | 4,756 |
| Total derivatives not designated as hedges | – | | 27,900 |
| Total derivatives | \$10,495 | | \$41,777 |

Note 8 – Fair Value Measurements

On January 1, 2008, the Company elected to measure its investments in certain fixed-income and equity securities at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in income. These investments had previously been accounted for as available-for-sale investments. The Company anticipates using these investments to satisfy its obligations under its unfunded, nonqualified benefit plans for executive officers and certain key management employees, and invests in these fixed-income and equity securities for the purpose of earning investment returns and capital appreciation. These investments, which totaled \$34.8 million and \$27.7 million as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, are classified as Investments on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The increase in the fair value of these investments for the year ended December 31, 2009, was \$7.1 million (before tax). The decrease in the fair value of these investments for the year ended December 31, 2008, was \$8.6 million (before tax). The change in fair value, which is considered part of the cost of the plan, is classified in operation and maintenance expense on the Consolidated Statements of Income. The Company did not elect the fair value option for its remaining available-for-sale securities, which are auction rate securities. The Company's auction rate securities, which totaled \$11.4 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, are accounted for as available-for-sale and are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the auction rate securities approximate cost and, as a result, there are no accumulated unrealized gains or losses recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) on the Consolidated Balance Sheets related to these investments.

Part II

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The statement establishes a hierarchy for grouping assets and liabilities, based on the significance of inputs. The Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2009, Using | | | | Balance at December 31, 2009 |
|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Collateral Provided to Counterparties | |
| | (In thousands) | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Money market funds | \$ 9,124 | \$151,000 | \$ – | \$ – | \$160,124 |
| Available-for-sale securities | 9,078 | 37,141 | – | – | 46,219 |
| Commodity derivative instruments – current | – | 7,761 | – | – | 7,761 |
| Commodity derivative instruments – noncurrent | – | 2,734 | – | – | 2,734 |
| Total assets measured at fair value | \$18,202 | \$198,636 | \$ – | \$ – | \$216,838 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Commodity derivative instruments – current | \$ – | \$ 36,907 | \$ – | \$ – | \$ 36,907 |
| Commodity derivative instruments – noncurrent | – | 4,870 | – | – | 4,870 |
| Total liabilities measured at fair value | \$ – | \$ 41,777 | \$ – | \$ – | \$ 41,777 |

| | Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2008, Using | | | | Balance at December 31, 2008 |
|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Collateral Provided to Counterparties | |
| | (In thousands) | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Available-for-sale securities | \$27,725 | \$11,400 | \$ – | \$ – | \$ 39,125 |
| Commodity derivative instruments – current | – | 78,164 | – | – | 78,164 |
| Commodity derivative instruments – noncurrent | – | 3,222 | – | – | 3,222 |
| Total assets measured at fair value | \$27,725 | \$92,786 | \$ – | \$ – | \$120,511 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Commodity derivative instruments – current | \$ – | \$67,629 | \$ – | \$11,100 | \$ 56,529 |
| Commodity derivative instruments – noncurrent | – | 23,534 | – | – | 23,534 |
| Total liabilities measured at fair value | \$ – | \$91,163 | \$ – | \$11,100 | \$ 80,063 |

The estimated fair value of the Company's Level 1 money market funds is valued at the net asset value of shares held by the Company, based on published market quotations in active markets. The estimated fair value of the Company's Level 1 available-for-sale securities is based on quoted market prices in active markets for identical equity and fixed-income securities. The estimated fair value of the Company's Level 2 money market funds and available-for-sale securities is based on comparable market transactions or underlying investments. The estimated fair value of the Company's Level 2 commodity derivative instruments is based upon futures prices, volatility and time to maturity, among other things.

The Company's long-term debt is not measured at fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets and the fair value is being provided for disclosure purposes only. The estimated fair value of the Company's long-term debt was based on quoted market prices of the same or similar issues. The estimated fair value of the Company's long-term debt at December 31 was as follows:

| | 2009 | | 2008 | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Long-term debt | \$1,499,306 | \$1,566,331 | \$1,647,302 | \$1,577,907 |

The carrying amounts of the Company's remaining financial instruments included in current assets and current liabilities approximate their fair values.

Note 9 – Debt

Certain debt instruments of the Company and its subsidiaries, including those discussed below, contain restrictive covenants and cross-default provisions. In order to borrow under the respective credit agreements, the Company and its subsidiaries must be in compliance with the applicable covenants and certain other conditions, all of which the Company and its subsidiaries, as applicable, were in compliance with at December 31, 2009. In the event the Company and its subsidiaries do not comply with the applicable covenants and other conditions, alternative sources of funding may need to be pursued.

The following table summarizes the outstanding credit facilities of the Company and its subsidiaries:

| Company | Facility | Facility Limit | Amount Outstanding at December 31, 2009 | Amount Outstanding at December 31, 2008 | Letters of Credit at December 31, 2009 | Expiration Date |
|---|---|----------------|---|---|--|-----------------|
| (Dollars in millions) | | | | | | |
| MDU Resources Group, Inc. | Commercial paper/Revolving credit agreement (a) | \$125.0 | \$ – (b) | \$ 22.5 (b) | \$ – | 6/21/11 |
| MDU Energy Capital, LLC | Master shelf agreement | \$175.0 | \$165.0 | \$165.0 | \$ – | 8/14/10 (c) |
| Cascade Natural Gas Corporation | Revolving credit agreement | \$ 50.0 (d) | \$ – | \$ 48.1 | \$ 1.9 (e) | 12/28/12 (f) |
| Intermountain Gas Company | Revolving credit agreement | \$ 65.0 (g) | \$ 10.3 | \$ 36.5 | \$ – | 8/31/10 |
| Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. | Commercial paper/Revolving credit agreement (h) | \$400.0 | \$ – (b) | \$150.0 (b) | \$26.4 (e) | 12/13/12 |
| Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company | Uncommitted long-term private shelf agreement | \$125.0 | \$ 87.5 | \$ 72.5 | \$ – | 12/23/10 (i) |

(a) The \$125 million commercial paper program is supported by a revolving credit agreement with various banks totaling \$125 million (provisions allow for increased borrowings, at the option of the Company on stated conditions, up to a maximum of \$150 million). There were no amounts outstanding under the credit agreement.

(b) Amount outstanding under commercial paper program.

(c) Or such time as the agreement is terminated by either of the parties thereto.

(d) Certain provisions allow for increased borrowings, up to a maximum of \$75 million.

(e) The outstanding letters of credit, as discussed in Note 19, reduce amounts available under the credit agreement.

(f) Provisions allow for an extension of up to two years upon consent of the banks.

(g) Certain provisions allow for increased borrowings, up to a maximum of \$70 million.

(h) The \$400 million commercial paper program is supported by a revolving credit agreement with various banks totaling \$400 million (provisions allow for increased borrowings, at the option of Centennial on stated conditions, up to a maximum of \$450 million). There were no amounts outstanding under the credit agreement.

(i) Certain provisions allow for an extension to December 23, 2011.

In order to maintain the Company's and Centennial's respective commercial paper programs in the amounts indicated above, both the Company and Centennial must have revolving credit agreements in place at least equal to the amount of their commercial paper programs. While the amount of commercial paper outstanding does not reduce available capacity under the respective revolving credit agreements, the Company and Centennial do not issue commercial paper in an aggregate amount exceeding the available capacity under their credit agreements.

The following includes information related to the preceding table.

Short-term borrowings

MDU Resources Group, Inc. The Company had \$57.0 million outstanding under a \$175 million term loan agreement at December 31, 2008. This agreement expired on March 24, 2009.

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Any borrowings under the \$50 million revolving credit agreement would be classified as short-term borrowings as Cascade intends to repay the borrowings within one year.

Cascade's credit agreement contains customary covenants and provisions, including a covenant of Cascade not to permit, at any time, the ratio of total debt to total capitalization to be greater than 65 percent. Cascade's credit agreement also contains cross-default provisions. These provisions state that if Cascade fails to make any payment with respect to any indebtedness or contingent obligation, in excess of a specified amount, under any agreement that causes such indebtedness to be due prior to its stated maturity or the contingent obligation to become payable, Cascade will be in default under the credit agreement. Certain of Cascade's financing agreements and Cascade's practices limit the amount of subsidiary indebtedness.

Intermountain Gas Company The weighted average interest rate for borrowings outstanding under the credit agreement at December 31, 2009, was 3.25 percent. The credit agreement contains customary covenants and provisions, including covenants of Intermountain not to permit, as of the end of any fiscal quarter, (A) the ratio of funded debt to total capitalization (determined on a consolidated basis) to be greater than 65 percent, or (B) the ratio of Intermountain's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to interest expense (determined on a consolidated basis), for the 12-month period ended each fiscal quarter, to be less than 2 to 1. Other covenants include limitations on the sale of certain assets and on the making of certain loans and investments.

Intermountain's credit agreement contains cross-default provisions. These provisions state that if (i) Intermountain fails to make any payment with respect to any indebtedness or guarantee in excess of \$5 million, (ii) any other event occurs that would permit the holders of indebtedness or the beneficiaries of guarantees to become payable, or (iii) certain conditions result in an early termination date under any swap contract, then Intermountain shall be in default under the revolving credit agreement.

Long-term debt

MDU Resources Group, Inc. The Company's revolving credit agreement supports its commercial paper program. The commercial paper borrowings are classified as long-term debt as they are intended to be refinanced on a long-term basis through continued commercial paper borrowings.

The Company's credit agreement contains customary covenants and provisions, including covenants of the Company not to permit, as of the end of any fiscal quarter, (A) the ratio of funded debt to total capitalization (determined on a consolidated basis) to be greater than 65 percent or (B) the ratio of funded debt to capitalization (determined with respect to the Company alone, excluding its subsidiaries) to be greater than 65 percent. Also included is a covenant that does not permit the ratio of the Company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to interest expense (determined with respect to the Company alone, excluding its subsidiaries), for the 12-month period ended each fiscal quarter, to be less than 2.5 to 1. Other covenants include restrictions on the sale of certain assets and on the making of certain investments.

There are no credit facilities that contain cross-default provisions between the Company and any of its subsidiaries.

In November 2009, the Company completed a defeasance of its outstanding 8.60% Secured Medium-Term Notes, Series A, due April 1, 2012 (8.60% Notes), by depositing approximately \$5.5 million with the Mortgage trustee. The \$5.5 million deposit will be used solely to satisfy the principal and remaining interest obligations on the 8.60% Notes. These securities are the only remaining first mortgage bonds outstanding under the Mortgage, other than \$30.0 million of first mortgage bonds which were held by the Indenture trustee for the benefit of the senior note holders. In connection with the defeasance of the 8.60% Notes, the Mortgage was discharged and the lien of the Indenture was discharged so that the Company's 5.98% Senior Notes due 2033 are now unsecured.

MDU Energy Capital, LLC The master shelf agreement contains customary covenants and provisions, including covenants of MDU Energy Capital not to permit (A) the ratio of its total debt (on a consolidated basis) to adjusted total capitalization to be greater than 70 percent, or (B) the ratio of subsidiary debt to subsidiary capitalization to be greater than 65 percent, or (C) the ratio of Intermountain's total debt (determined on a consolidated basis) to total capitalization to be greater than 65 percent. The agreement also includes a covenant requiring the ratio of MDU Energy Capital earnings before interest and taxes to interest expense (on a consolidated basis), for the 12-month period ended each fiscal quarter, to be greater than 1.5 to 1. In addition, payment obligations under the master shelf agreement may be accelerated upon the occurrence of an event of default (as described in the agreement).

Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. Centennial's revolving credit agreement supports its commercial paper program. The Centennial commercial paper borrowings are classified as long-term debt as Centennial intends to refinance these borrowings on a long-term basis through continued Centennial commercial paper borrowings.

Centennial's credit agreement and the Centennial uncommitted long-term master shelf agreement contain customary covenants and provisions, including a covenant of Centennial and certain of its subsidiaries, not to permit, as of the end of any fiscal quarter, the ratio of total debt to total capitalization to be greater than 65 percent (for the \$400 million credit agreement) and 60 percent (for the master shelf agreement). The master shelf agreement also includes a covenant that does not permit the ratio of Centennial's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to interest expense, for the 12-month period ended each fiscal quarter, to be less than 1.75 to 1. Other covenants include minimum consolidated net worth, limitation on priority debt and restrictions on the sale of certain assets and on the making of certain loans and investments.

Pursuant to a covenant under the credit agreement, Centennial may only make distributions to the Company in an amount up to 100 percent of Centennial's consolidated net income after taxes for the immediately preceding fiscal year. The write-down of the natural gas and oil properties in 2009 would have negatively affected Centennial's ability to make distributions to the Company in 2010, however, in November 2009, the lenders under the credit agreement consented to permit Centennial to make distributions during 2010 in an aggregate amount up to 100 percent of its consolidated net income after taxes during fiscal year 2009 without giving effect to the write-down.

Certain of Centennial's financing agreements contain cross-default provisions. These provisions state that if Centennial or any subsidiary of Centennial fails to make any payment with respect to any indebtedness or contingent obligation, in excess of a specified amount, under any agreement that causes such indebtedness to be due prior to its stated maturity or the contingent obligation to become payable, the applicable agreements will be in default. Certain of Centennial's financing agreements and Centennial's practices limit the amount of subsidiary indebtedness.

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company The uncommitted long-term private shelf agreement contains customary covenants and provisions, including a covenant of Williston Basin not to permit, as of the end of any fiscal quarter, the ratio of total debt to total capitalization to be greater than 55 percent. Other covenants include limitation on priority debt and some restrictions on the sale of certain assets and the making of certain investments.

Long-term Debt Outstanding Long-term debt outstanding at December 31 was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| First mortgage bonds and notes: | | |
| Secured Medium-Term Notes, Series A, 8.60% | \$ - | \$ 5,500 |
| Senior Notes, 5.98%, due December 15, 2033 | - | 30,000 (a) |
| Total first mortgage bonds and notes | - | 35,500 |
| Senior Notes at a weighted average rate of 6.07%, due on dates ranging from October 30, 2010 to March 8, 2037 | 1,370,455 | 1,271,227 |
| Commercial paper supported by revolving credit agreements | - | 172,500 |
| Medium-Term Notes at a weighted average rate of 7.72%, due on dates ranging from September 4, 2012 to March 16, 2029 | 81,000 | 81,000 |
| Other notes at a weighted average rate of 5.24%, due on dates ranging from September 1, 2020 to February 1, 2035 | 42,070 | 42,971 |
| Credit agreements at a weighted average rate of 5.67%, due on dates ranging from April 1, 2010 to November 30, 2038 | 5,781 | 44,205 |
| Discount | - | (101) |
| Total long-term debt | 1,499,306 | 1,647,302 |
| Less current maturities | 12,629 | 78,666 |
| Net long-term debt | \$1,486,677 | \$1,568,636 |

(a) The \$30.0 million of 5.98% Senior Notes became unsecured upon the defeasance of the outstanding 8.60% Notes, as previously discussed.

The amounts of scheduled long-term debt maturities for the five years and thereafter following December 31, 2009, aggregate \$12.6 million in 2010; \$72.3 million in 2011; \$136.3 million in 2012; \$258.8 million in 2013; \$9.1 million in 2014 and \$1,010.2 million thereafter.

Note 10 – Asset Retirement Obligations

The Company records obligations related to the plugging and abandonment of natural gas and oil wells, decommissioning of certain electric generating facilities, reclamation of certain aggregate properties, special handling and disposal of hazardous materials at certain electric generating facilities, natural gas distribution and transmission facilities and buildings, and certain other obligations associated with leased properties.

A reconciliation of the Company's liability, which is included in other liabilities, for the years ended December 31 was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Balance at beginning of year | \$70,147 | \$64,453 |
| Liabilities incurred | 2,418 | 2,943 |
| Liabilities acquired | – | 2,369 |
| Liabilities settled | (9,319) | (3,188) |
| Accretion expense | 3,385 | 3,191 |
| Revisions in estimates | 9,548 | 207 |
| Other | 180 | 172 |
| Balance at end of year | \$76,359 | \$70,147 |

The Company believes that any expenses related to asset retirement obligations at the Company's regulated operations will be recovered in rates over time and, accordingly, defers such expenses as regulatory assets.

The fair value of assets that are legally restricted for purposes of settling asset retirement obligations at December 31, 2009 and 2008, was \$5.9 million.

Note 11 – Preferred Stocks

Preferred stocks at December 31 were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|------------------------|----------|
| | (Dollars In thousands) | |
| Authorized: | | |
| Preferred – | | |
| 500,000 shares, cumulative, par value \$100, issuable in series | | |
| Preferred stock A – | | |
| 1,000,000 shares, cumulative, without par value, issuable in series | | |
| (none outstanding) | | |
| Preference – | | |
| 500,000 shares, cumulative, without par value, issuable in series | | |
| (none outstanding) | | |
| Outstanding: | | |
| 4.50% Series – 100,000 shares | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| 4.70% Series – 50,000 shares | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Total preferred stocks | \$15,000 | \$15,000 |

The 4.50% Series and 4.70% Series preferred stocks outstanding are subject to redemption, in whole or in part, at the option of the Company with certain limitations on 30 days notice on any quarterly dividend date at a redemption price, plus accrued dividends, of \$105 per share and \$102 per share, respectively.

In the event of a voluntary or involuntary liquidation, all preferred stock series holders are entitled to \$100 per share, plus accrued dividends.

The affirmative vote of two-thirds of a series of the Company's outstanding preferred stock is necessary for amendments to the Company's charter or bylaws that adversely affect that series; creation of or increase in the amount of authorized stock ranking senior to that series (or an affirmative majority vote where the authorization relates to a new class of stock that ranks on parity with such series); a voluntary liquidation or sale of substantially all of the Company's assets; a merger or consolidation, with certain exceptions; or the partial retirement of that series of preferred stock when all dividends on that series of preferred stock have not been paid. The consent of the holders of a particular series is not required for such corporate actions if the equivalent vote of all outstanding series of preferred stock voting together has consented to the given action and no particular series is affected differently than any other series.

Subject to the foregoing, the holders of common stock exclusively possess all voting power. However, if cumulative dividends on preferred stock are in arrears, in whole or in part, for one year, the holders of preferred stock would obtain the right to one vote per share until all dividends in arrears have been paid and current dividends have been declared and set aside.

Note 12 – Common Stock

The Stock Purchase Plan provides interested investors the opportunity to make optional cash investments and to reinvest all or a percentage of their cash dividends in shares of the Company's common stock. The K-Plan is partially funded with the Company's common stock. From January 2007 through March 2007 and October 1, 2008 through October 21, 2008, the Stock Purchase Plan and K-Plan, with respect to Company stock, were funded with shares of authorized but unissued common stock. From April 2007 through September 30, 2008, and October 22, 2008 through December 2009, purchases of shares of common stock on the open market were used to fund the Stock Purchase Plan and K-Plan. At December 31, 2009, there were 23.2 million shares of common stock reserved for original issuance under the Stock Purchase Plan and K-Plan.

The Company depends on earnings from its divisions and dividends from its subsidiaries to pay dividends on common stock. The declaration and payment of dividends is at the sole discretion of the board of directors, subject to limitations imposed by state laws, applicable regulatory limitations, and compliance with the requirements of the Company's credit agreements. These requirements are not expected to affect the Company's ability to pay dividends in the near term.

Note 13 – Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has several stock-based compensation plans and is authorized to grant options, restricted stock and stock for up to 16.9 million shares of common stock and has granted options, restricted stock and stock of 7.3 million shares through December 31, 2009. The Company generally issues new shares of common stock to satisfy stock option exercises, restricted stock, stock and performance share awards.

Total stock-based compensation expense was \$3.4 million, net of income taxes of \$2.2 million in 2009; \$3.7 million, net of income taxes of \$2.3 million in 2008; and \$4.7 million, net of income taxes of \$3.1 million in 2007.

As of December 31, 2009, total remaining unrecognized compensation expense related to stock-based compensation was approximately \$5.6 million (before income taxes) which will be amortized over a weighted average period of 1.5 years.

Stock options

The Company has stock option plans for directors, key employees and employees. The Company has not granted stock options since 2003. Options granted to key employees automatically vest after nine years, but the plan provides for accelerated vesting based on the attainment of certain performance goals or upon a change in control of the Company, and expire 10 years after the date of grant. Options granted to directors and employees vest at the date of grant and three years after the date of grant, respectively, and expire 10 years after the date of grant.

The fair value of each option outstanding was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model.

A summary of the status of the stock option plans at December 31, 2009, and changes during the year then ended was as follows:

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Balance at beginning of year | 1,003,824 | \$13.39 |
| Forfeited | (24,188) | 13.22 |
| Exercised | (154,765) | 13.23 |
| Balance at end of year | 824,871 | 13.42 |
| Exercisable at end of year | 799,703 | \$13.41 |

Part II

Summarized information about stock options outstanding and exercisable as of December 31, 2009, was as follows:

| Range of Exercisable Prices | Options Outstanding | | | Options Exercisable | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Number Outstanding | Remaining Contractual Life in Years | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Aggregate Intrinsic Value (000's) | Number Exercisable | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Aggregate Intrinsic Value (000's) |
| \$ 9.61 – 12.00 | 12,131 | .5 | \$ 9.93 | \$ 166 | 12,131 | \$ 9.93 | \$ 166 |
| 12.01 – 14.50 | 745,970 | 1.2 | 13.21 | 7,751 | 726,235 | 13.21 | 7,545 |
| 14.51 – 17.13 | 66,770 | 1.2 | 16.48 | 475 | 61,337 | 16.51 | 435 |
| Balance at end of year | 824,871 | 1.2 | \$13.42 | \$8,392 | 799,703 | \$13.41 | \$8,146 |

The aggregate intrinsic value in the preceding table represents the total intrinsic value (before income taxes), based on the Company's stock price on December 31, 2009, which would have been received by the option holders had all option holders exercised their options as of that date.

The weighted average remaining contractual life of options exercisable was 1.2 years at December 31, 2009.

The Company received cash of \$2.1 million, \$5.9 million and \$10.2 million from the exercise of stock options for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The aggregate intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, was \$1.3 million, \$8.1 million and \$11.2 million, respectively.

Restricted stock awards

Prior to 2002, the Company granted restricted stock awards under a long-term incentive plan. The restricted stock awards granted vest at various times ranging from one year to nine years from the date of issuance, but certain grants may vest early based upon the attainment of certain performance goals or upon a change in control of the Company. The grant-date fair value is the market price of the Company's stock on the grant date.

A summary of the status of the restricted stock awards for the year ended December 31, 2009, was as follows:

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Nonvested at beginning of period | 20,606 | \$13.22 |
| Vested | — | — |
| Forfeited | (2,970) | 13.22 |
| Nonvested at end of period | 17,636 | \$13.22 |

Stock awards

Nonemployee directors may receive shares of common stock instead of cash in payment for directors' fees under the nonemployee director stock compensation plan. There were 49,649 shares with a fair value of \$879,000, 45,675 shares with a fair value of \$1.2 million and 48,228 shares with a fair value of \$1.5 million issued under this plan during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Performance share awards

Since 2003, key employees of the Company have been awarded performance share awards each year. Entitlement to performance shares is based on the Company's total shareholder return over designated performance periods as measured against a selected peer group.

Target grants of performance shares outstanding at December 31, 2009, were as follows:

| Grant Date | Performance Period | Target Grant of Shares |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| February 2007 | 2007-2009 | 175,596 |
| February 2008 | 2008-2010 | 183,102 |
| February 2009 | 2009-2011 | 275,807 |

Participants may earn from zero to 200 percent of the target grant of shares based on the Company's total shareholder return relative to that of the selected peer group. Compensation expense is based on the grant-date fair value. The grant-date fair value of performance share awards granted during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, was \$20.39, \$30.71 and \$23.55, per share, respectively. The grant-date fair value for the performance shares was determined by Monte Carlo simulation using a blended volatility term structure in the range of 40.40 percent to 50.98 percent in 2009, 21.54 percent to 22.97 percent in 2008 and 18.17 percent to 18.73 percent in 2007 comprised of 50 percent historical volatility and 50 percent implied volatility and a risk-free interest rate term structure in the range of .30 percent to 1.36 percent in 2009, 1.87 percent to 2.23 percent in 2008 and 4.75 percent to 5.21 percent in 2007 based on U.S. Treasury security rates in effect as of the grant date. In addition, the mean over all simulation paths of the discounted dividends expected to be earned in the performance period used in the valuation was \$1.79, \$1.64 and \$1.25 per target share for the 2009, 2008 and 2007 awards, respectively. The fair value of performance share awards that vested during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, was \$2.8 million, \$8.5 million and \$6.0 million, respectively.

A summary of the status of the performance share awards for the year ended December 31, 2009, was as follows:

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Nonvested at beginning of period | 546,867 | \$26.55 |
| Granted | 278,178 | 20.39 |
| Vested | (151,848) | 25.22 |
| Forfeited | (38,692) | 25.35 |
| Nonvested at end of period | 634,505 | \$24.24 |

Note 14 – Income Taxes

The components of income (loss) before income taxes for each of the years ended December 31 were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | (In thousands) | |
| United States | \$(227,021) | \$436,029 | \$508,210 |
| Foreign | 7,655 | 5,120 | 4,600 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | \$(219,366) | \$441,149 | \$512,810 |

Income tax expense (benefit) for the years ended December 31 was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | (In thousands) | |
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 64,389 | \$ 82,279 | \$106,399 |
| State | 8,284 | (184) | 15,135 |
| Foreign | 254 | (104) | 235 |
| | 72,927 | 81,991 | 121,769 |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Income taxes – | | | |
| Federal | (147,607) | 59,963 | 58,030 |
| State | (22,370) | 5,332 | 9,656 |
| Investment tax credit – net | 213 | (405) | (414) |
| | (169,764) | 64,890 | 67,272 |
| Change in uncertain tax benefits | 562 | 422 | 869 |
| Change in accrued interest | 183 | 173 | 114 |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) | \$ (96,092) | \$147,476 | \$190,024 |

Part II

Components of deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities recognized at December 31 were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Regulatory matters | \$ 85,712 | \$ 46,855 |
| Accrued pension costs | 79,052 | 93,371 |
| Asset retirement obligations | 24,091 | 22,707 |
| Deferred compensation | 11,411 | 12,015 |
| Other | 59,763 | 62,456 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 260,029 | 237,404 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Depreciation and basis differences on property, plant and equipment | 601,426 | 562,326 |
| Basis differences on natural gas and oil producing properties | 116,521 | 284,231 |
| Regulatory matters | 53,835 | 65,909 |
| Natural gas and oil price swap and collar agreements | - | 30,414 |
| Other | 51,070 | 42,725 |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | 822,852 | 985,605 |
| Net deferred income tax liability | \$(562,823) | \$(748,201) |

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, no valuation allowance has been recorded associated with the above deferred tax assets.

The following table reconciles the change in the net deferred income tax liability from December 31, 2008, to December 31, 2009, to deferred income tax benefit:

| | 2009 |
|--|--------------------|
| | (In thousands) |
| Change in net deferred income tax liability from the preceding table | \$(185,378) |
| Deferred taxes associated with other comprehensive loss | 18,574 |
| Deferred taxes associated with acquisitions | 762 |
| Other | (3,722) |
| Deferred income tax benefit for the period | \$(169,764) |

Total income tax expense (benefit) differs from the amount computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate to income (loss) before taxes. The reasons for this difference were as follows:

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|--|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|-----------|------|
| | Amount | % | Amount | % | Amount | % |
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Computed tax at federal statutory rate | \$(76,778) | 35.0 | \$154,402 | 35.0 | \$179,484 | 35.0 |
| Increases (reductions) resulting from: | | | | | | |
| State income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit (expense) | (7,280) | 3.3 | 10,709 | 2.4 | 17,121 | 3.3 |
| Deductible K-Plan dividends | (2,369) | 1.1 | (2,144) | (.5) | (2,134) | (.4) |
| Depletion allowance | (2,320) | 1.0 | (2,932) | (.7) | (4,073) | (.8) |
| Federal renewable energy credit | (1,452) | .7 | (1,235) | (.3) | - | - |
| Foreign operations | (1,148) | .5 | 423 | .1 | 9,603 | 1.8 |
| Domestic production activities deduction | (856) | .4 | (3,031) | (.7) | (4,787) | (.9) |
| Resolution of tax matters and uncertain tax positions | 881 | (.4) | 595 | .1 | 208 | - |
| Other | (4,770) | 2.2 | (9,311) | (2.0) | (5,398) | (.9) |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) | \$(96,092) | 43.8 | \$147,476 | 33.4 | \$190,024 | 37.1 |

The income tax benefit in 2009 resulted largely from the Company's write-down of natural gas and oil properties, as discussed in Note 1.

Prior to the sale of the domestic independent power production assets on July 10, 2007, as discussed in Note 3, the Company considered earnings (including the gain from the sale of its foreign equity method investment in a natural gas-fired electric generating facility in Brazil in 2005) to be reinvested indefinitely outside of the United States and, accordingly, no U.S. deferred income taxes were recorded with respect to such earnings. Following the sale of these assets, the Company reconsidered its long-term plans for future development and expansion of its foreign investment and has determined that it has no immediate plans to explore or invest in additional foreign investments at this time. Therefore in the third quarter of 2007, deferred income taxes were accrued with respect to the temporary differences which had not been previously recorded. The amount of cumulative undistributed earnings for which there are temporary differences is approximately \$36.8 million at December 31, 2009. The amount of deferred tax liability, net of allowable foreign tax credits, associated with the undistributed earnings at December 31, 2009, was approximately \$10.5 million, which was largely recognized in 2007. Future earnings will also be subject to additional U.S. taxes, net of allowable foreign tax credits.

The Company and its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and various state, local and foreign jurisdictions. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations by tax authorities for years ending prior to 2004.

On January 1, 2007, upon the adoption of accounting guidance related to uncertain tax positions, the Company recognized a decrease in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits, which was not material and was accounted for as an increase to the January 1, 2007, balance of retained earnings. At the date of adoption, the amount of unrecognized tax benefits was \$4.5 million, including interest.

A reconciliation of the unrecognized tax benefits (excluding interest) for the years ended December 31, was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|----------|----------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Balance at beginning of year | \$5,586 | \$ 3,735 | \$ 4,241 |
| Additions based on tax positions related to the current year | - | 1,102 | 373 |
| Additions for tax positions of prior years | 562 | 1,811 | 588 |
| Reductions for tax positions of prior years | - | (1,062) | - |
| Lapse of statute of limitations | - | - | (1,467) |
| Balance at end of year | \$6,148 | \$ 5,586 | \$ 3,735 |

Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2009, were \$540,000 of tax positions for which the ultimate deductibility is highly certain but for which there is uncertainty about the timing of such deductibility. Because of the impact of deferred tax accounting, other than interest and penalties, the disallowance of the shorter deductibility period would not affect the annual effective tax rate but would accelerate the payment of cash to the taxing authority to an earlier period. The amount of unrecognized tax benefits that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate at December 31, 2009, was \$6.4 million, including approximately \$804,000 for the payment of interest and penalties.

The Company does not anticipate the amount of unrecognized tax benefits to significantly increase or decrease within the next 12 months.

For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, the Company recognized approximately \$190,000, \$819,000 and \$680,000, respectively, in interest expense. Penalties were not material in 2009, 2008 and 2007. The Company recognized interest income of approximately \$165,000, \$223,000 and \$480,000 for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The Company had accrued liabilities of approximately \$1.6 million, \$1.4 million and \$718,000 at December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, for the payment of interest.

Note 15 – Business Segment Data

The Company's reportable segments are those that are based on the Company's method of internal reporting, which generally segregates the strategic business units due to differences in products, services and regulation. The vast majority of the Company's operations are located within the United States. The Company also has investments in foreign countries, which largely consist of Centennial Resources' equity method investment in the Brazilian Transmission Lines.

The electric segment generates, transmits and distributes electricity in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The natural gas distribution segment distributes natural gas in those states as well as in Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington. These operations also supply related value-added products and services.

The construction services segment specializes in constructing and maintaining electric and communication lines, gas pipelines, fire suppression systems, and external lighting and traffic signalization equipment. This segment also provides utility excavation services and inside electrical wiring, cabling and mechanical services, sells and distributes electrical materials, and manufactures and distributes specialty equipment.

The pipeline and energy services segment provides natural gas transportation, underground storage and gathering services through regulated and nonregulated pipeline systems primarily in the Rocky Mountain and northern Great Plains regions of the United States. This segment also provides cathodic protection and energy-related services.

The natural gas and oil production segment is engaged in natural gas and oil acquisition, exploration, development and production activities in the Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent regions of the United States and in and around the Gulf of Mexico.

The construction materials and contracting segment mines aggregates and markets crushed stone, sand, gravel and related construction materials, including ready-mixed concrete, cement, asphalt, liquid asphalt and other value-added products. It also performs integrated contracting services. This segment operates in the central, southern and western United States and Alaska and Hawaii.

The Other category includes the activities of Centennial Capital, which insures various types of risks as a captive insurer for certain of the Company's subsidiaries. The function of the captive insurer is to fund the deductible layers of the insured companies' general liability and automobile liability coverages. Centennial Capital also owns certain real and personal property. The Other category also includes Centennial Resources' equity method investment in the Brazilian Transmission Lines.

The information below follows the same accounting policies as described in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Information on the Company's businesses as of December 31 and for the years then ended was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| External operating revenues: | | | |
| Electric | \$ 196,171 | \$ 208,326 | \$ 193,367 |
| Natural gas distribution | 1,072,776 | 1,036,109 | 532,997 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 235,322 | 440,764 | 369,345 |
| | 1,504,269 | 1,685,199 | 1,095,709 |
| Construction services | 818,685 | 1,256,759 | 1,102,566 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 338,425 | 420,637 | 288,148 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 1,515,122 | 1,640,683 | 1,761,473 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| | 2,672,232 | 3,318,079 | 3,152,187 |
| Total external operating revenues | \$4,176,501 | \$5,003,278 | \$4,247,896 |
| Intersegment operating revenues: | | | |
| Electric | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Natural gas distribution | - | - | - |
| Construction services | 379 | 560 | 649 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 72,505 | 91,389 | 77,718 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 101,230 | 291,642 | 226,706 |
| Construction materials and contracting | - | - | - |
| Other | 9,487 | 10,501 | 10,061 |
| Intersegment eliminations | (183,601) | (394,092) | (315,134) |
| Total intersegment operating revenues | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization: | | | |
| Electric | \$ 24,637 | \$ 24,030 | \$ 22,549 |
| Natural gas distribution | 42,723 | 32,566 | 19,054 |
| Construction services | 12,760 | 13,398 | 14,314 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 25,581 | 23,654 | 21,631 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 129,922 | 170,236 | 127,408 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 93,615 | 100,853 | 95,732 |
| Other | 1,304 | 1,283 | 1,244 |
| Total depreciation, depletion and amortization | \$ 330,542 | \$ 366,020 | \$ 301,932 |

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Interest expense: | | | |
| Electric | \$ 9,577 | \$ 8,674 | \$ 6,737 |
| Natural gas distribution | 30,656 | 24,004 | 13,566 |
| Construction services | 4,490 | 4,893 | 4,878 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 8,896 | 8,314 | 8,769 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 10,621 | 12,428 | 8,394 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 20,495 | 24,291 | 23,997 |
| Other | 43 | 374 | 10,717 |
| Intersegment eliminations | (679) | (1,451) | (4,821) |
| Total interest expense | \$ 84,099 | \$ 81,527 | \$ 72,237 |
| Income taxes: | | | |
| Electric | \$ 8,205 | \$ 8,225 | \$ 8,528 |
| Natural gas distribution | 16,331 | 18,827 | 6,477 |
| Construction services | 15,189 | 26,952 | 26,829 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 22,982 | 15,427 | 18,524 |
| Natural gas and oil production | (187,000) | 68,701 | 78,348 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 25,940 | 8,947 | 39,045 |
| Other | 2,261 | 397 | 12,273 |
| Total income taxes | \$ (96,092) | \$ 147,476 | \$ 190,024 |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock: | | | |
| Electric | \$ 24,099 | \$ 18,755 | \$ 17,700 |
| Natural gas distribution | 30,796 | 34,774 | 14,044 |
| Construction services | 25,589 | 49,782 | 43,843 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 37,845 | 26,367 | 31,408 |
| Natural gas and oil production | (296,730) | 122,326 | 142,485 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 47,085 | 30,172 | 77,001 |
| Other | 7,357 | 10,812 | (4,380) |
| Earnings (loss) on common stock before income from discontinued operations | (123,959) | 292,988 | 322,101 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | - | - | 109,334 |
| Total earnings (loss) on common stock | \$ (123,959) | \$ 292,988 | \$ 431,435 |
| Capital expenditures: | | | |
| Electric | \$ 115,240 | \$ 72,989 | \$ 91,548 |
| Natural gas distribution | 43,820 | 398,116 | 500,178 |
| Construction services | 12,814 | 24,506 | 18,241 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 70,168 | 42,960 | 39,162 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 183,140 | 710,742 | 283,589 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 26,313 | 127,578 | 189,727 |
| Other | 3,196 | 774 | 1,621 |
| Net proceeds from sale or disposition of property | (26,679) | (86,927) | (24,983) |
| Net capital expenditures before discontinued operations | 428,012 | 1,290,738 | 1,099,083 |
| Discontinued operations | - | - | (548,216) |
| Total net capital expenditures | \$ 428,012 | \$ 1,290,738 | \$ 550,867 |
| Assets: | | | |
| Electric* | \$ 569,666 | \$ 479,639 | \$ 428,200 |
| Natural gas distribution* | 1,588,144 | 1,548,005 | 942,454 |
| Construction services | 328,895 | 476,092 | 456,564 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 538,230 | 506,872 | 500,755 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 1,137,628 | 1,792,792 | 1,299,406 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 1,449,469 | 1,552,296 | 1,642,729 |
| Other** | 378,920 | 232,149 | 322,326 |
| Total assets | \$5,990,952 | \$6,587,845 | \$5,592,434 |

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Property, plant and equipment: | | | |
| Electric* | \$ 941,791 | \$ 848,725 | \$ 784,705 |
| Natural gas distribution* | 1,456,208 | 1,429,487 | 948,446 |
| Construction services | 116,236 | 111,301 | 101,935 |
| Pipeline and energy services | 675,199 | 640,921 | 600,712 |
| Natural gas and oil production | 2,028,794 | 2,477,402 | 1,923,899 |
| Construction materials and contracting | 1,514,989 | 1,524,029 | 1,538,716 |
| Other | 33,365 | 30,372 | 31,833 |
| Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization | 2,872,465 | 2,761,319 | 2,270,691 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | \$3,894,117 | \$4,300,918 | \$3,659,555 |

* Includes allocations of common utility property.

** Includes assets not directly assignable to a business (i.e. cash and cash equivalents, certain accounts receivable, certain investments and other miscellaneous current and deferred assets).

Note: The results reflect a \$620.0 million (\$384.4 million after tax) and \$135.8 million (\$84.2 million after tax) noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties in 2009 and 2008, respectively.

The pipeline and energy services segment and the Other category recognized income from discontinued operations, net of tax, of \$106,000 and \$109.2 million, respectively for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Excluding income from discontinued operations at pipeline and energy services, earnings from electric, natural gas distribution and pipeline and energy services are substantially all from regulated operations. Earnings from construction services, natural gas and oil production, construction materials and contracting, and other are all from nonregulated operations.

Capital expenditures for 2009, 2008 and 2007 include noncash transactions, including the issuance of the Company's equity securities, in connection with acquisitions and the outstanding indebtedness related to the 2008 Intermountain acquisition and the 2007 Cascade acquisition. The net noncash transactions were immaterial in 2009, \$97.6 million in 2008 and \$217.3 million in 2007.

Note 16 – Employee Benefit Plans

The Company has noncontributory defined benefit pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans for certain eligible employees. The Company uses a measurement date of December 31 for all of its pension and postretirement benefit plans.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Company discontinued defined pension plan benefits to all nonunion and certain union employees hired after December 31, 2005. These employees that would have been eligible for defined pension plan benefits are eligible to receive additional defined contribution plan benefits. In 2009, the Company evaluated several provisions of its employee defined benefit plans for nonunion and certain union employees. As a result of this evaluation, the Company determined that, effective January 1, 2010, all benefit and service accruals of these plans were frozen. These employees will be eligible to receive additional defined contribution plan benefits.

Effective January 1, 2010, eligibility to receive retiree medical benefits was modified at certain of the Company's businesses. Current employees who attain age 55 with 10 years of continuous service by December 31, 2010, will be provided the current retiree medical insurance benefits or can elect the new benefit, if desired, regardless of when they retire. All other current employees must meet the new eligibility criteria of age 60 and 10 years of continuous service at the time they retire. These employees will be eligible for a specified company funded Retiree Reimbursement Account. Employees hired after December 31, 2009, will not be eligible for retiree medical benefits.

Changes in benefit obligation and plan assets for the year ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2009 and 2008, were as follows:

| | Pension Benefits | | Other Postretirement Benefits | |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Change in benefit obligation: | | | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$358,525 | \$ 359,923 | \$ 94,325 | \$ 81,581 |
| Service cost | 8,127 | 8,812 | 2,206 | 1,977 |
| Interest cost | 21,919 | 21,264 | 5,465 | 5,079 |
| Plan participants' contributions | - | - | 2,369 | 2,120 |
| Amendments | - | - | (9,319) | (382) |
| Actuarial (gain) loss | 26,188 | (8,336) | 813 | 763 |
| Curtailment gain | (38,166) | - | - | - |
| Acquisition | - | - | - | 9,872 |
| Benefits paid | (23,678) | (23,138) | (7,708) | (6,685) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | 352,915 | 358,525 | 88,151 | 94,325 |
| Change in net plan assets: | | | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year | 226,214 | 330,966 | 60,085 | 73,684 |
| Actual gain (loss) on plan assets | 42,084 | (83,960) | 8,600 | (20,058) |
| Employer contribution | 10,707 | 2,346 | 3,638 | 3,212 |
| Plan participants' contributions | - | - | 2,369 | 2,120 |
| Acquisition | - | - | - | 7,812 |
| Benefits paid | (23,678) | (23,138) | (7,708) | (6,685) |
| Fair value of net plan assets at end of year | 255,327 | 226,214 | 66,984 | 60,085 |
| Funded status – under | \$ (97,588) | \$(132,311) | \$(21,167) | \$(34,240) |
| Amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31: | | | | |
| Other accrued liabilities (current) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (459) | \$ (407) |
| Other liabilities (noncurrent) | (97,588) | (132,311) | (20,708) | (33,833) |
| Net amount recognized | \$ (97,588) | \$(132,311) | \$(21,167) | \$(34,240) |
| Amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss consist of: | | | | |
| Actuarial loss | \$ 99,985 | \$ 131,081 | \$ 20,134 | \$ 23,418 |
| Prior service cost (credit) | 430 | 2,685 | (14,716) | (8,151) |
| Transition obligation | - | - | 6,378 | 8,503 |
| Total | \$100,415 | \$ 133,766 | \$ 11,796 | \$ 23,770 |

Employer contributions and benefits paid in the preceding table include only those amounts contributed directly to, or paid directly from, plan assets. Accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss in the above table includes amounts related to regulated operations, which are recorded as regulatory assets (liabilities) and are expected to be reflected in rates charged to customers over time.

Unrecognized pension actuarial losses in excess of 10 percent of the greater of the projected benefit obligation or the market-related value of assets is amortized on a straight-line basis over the expected average remaining service lives of active participants. The market-related value of assets is determined using a five-year average of assets. Unrecognized postretirement net transition obligation is amortized over a 20-year period ending 2012.

The accumulated benefit obligation for the defined benefit pension plans reflected above was \$340.3 million and \$312.1 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Part II

The projected benefit obligation, accumulated benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets for the pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets at December 31 were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Projected benefit obligation | \$352,915 | \$358,525 |
| Accumulated benefit obligation | \$340,341 | \$312,110 |
| Fair value of plan assets | \$255,327 | \$226,214 |

Components of net periodic benefit cost for the Company's pension and other postretirement benefit plans for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

| | Pension Benefits | | | Other Postretirement Benefits | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (In thousands) | | | | | |
| Components of net periodic benefit cost: | | | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 8,127 | \$ 8,812 | \$ 9,098 | \$ 2,206 | \$ 1,977 | \$ 1,865 |
| Interest cost | 21,919 | 21,264 | 18,591 | 5,465 | 5,079 | 4,212 |
| Expected return on assets | (25,062) | (26,501) | (22,524) | (5,471) | (5,657) | (4,776) |
| Amortization of prior service cost (credit) | 605 | 665 | 756 | (2,756) | (2,755) | (1,300) |
| Recognized net actuarial loss | 2,096 | 1,050 | 1,605 | 970 | 594 | 73 |
| Curtailment loss | 1,650 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Amortization of net transition obligation | - | - | - | 2,125 | 2,125 | 2,125 |
| Net periodic benefit cost, including amount capitalized | 9,335 | 5,290 | 7,526 | 2,539 | 1,363 | 2,199 |
| Less amount capitalized | 1,127 | 642 | 991 | 330 | 307 | 373 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | 8,208 | 4,648 | 6,535 | 2,209 | 1,056 | 1,826 |
| Other changes in plan assets and benefit obligations recognized in accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss: | | | | | | |
| Net (gain) loss | (29,000) | 102,125 | (11,095) | (2,314) | 26,478 | 1,507 |
| Acquisition-related actuarial loss | - | - | 12,291 | - | - | 9,818 |
| Prior service credit | - | - | - | (9,321) | (382) | - |
| Acquisition-related prior service credit | - | - | (1,842) | - | - | (12,472) |
| Amortization of actuarial loss | (2,096) | (1,050) | (1,605) | (970) | (594) | (73) |
| Amortization of prior service (cost) credit | (2,255) | (665) | (756) | 2,756 | 2,755 | 1,300 |
| Amortization of net transition obligation | - | - | - | (2,125) | (2,125) | (2,125) |
| Total recognized in accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss | (33,351) | 100,410 | (3,007) | (11,974) | 26,132 | (2,045) |
| Total recognized in net periodic benefit cost and accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss | \$(25,143) | \$105,058 | \$ 3,528 | \$ (9,765) | \$27,188 | \$ (219) |

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive loss into net periodic benefit cost in 2010 are \$2.4 million and \$152,000, respectively. The estimated net loss, prior service credit and transition obligation for the other postretirement benefit plans that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive loss into net periodic benefit cost in 2010 are \$1.0 million, \$3.5 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31 were as follows:

| | Pension Benefits | | Other Postretirement Benefits | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Discount rate | 5.75% | 6.25% | 5.75% | 6.25% |
| Rate of compensation increase | 4.00% | 4.00% | 4.00% | 4.00% |

Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

| | Pension Benefits | | Other Postretirement Benefits | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Discount rate | 6.25% | 6.00% | 6.25% | 6.00% |
| Expected return on plan assets | 8.50% | 8.50% | 7.50% | 7.50% |
| Rate of compensation increase | 4.00% | 4.20% | 4.00% | 4.50% |

The expected rate of return on plan assets is based on the targeted asset allocation of 70 percent equity securities and 30 percent fixed-income securities and the expected rate of return from these asset categories. The expected return on plan assets for other postretirement benefits reflects insurance-related investment costs.

Health care rate assumptions for the Company's other postretirement benefit plans as of December 31 were as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Health care trend rate assumed for next year | 6.0%-9.0% | 6.0%-9.0% |
| Health care cost trend rate – ultimate | 5.0%-6.0% | 5.0%-6.0% |
| Year in which ultimate trend rate achieved | 1999-2017 | 1999-2017 |

The Company's other postretirement benefit plans include health care and life insurance benefits for certain employees. The plans underlying these benefits may require contributions by the employee depending on such employee's age and years of service at retirement or the date of retirement. The accounting for the health care plans anticipates future cost-sharing changes that are consistent with the Company's expressed intent to generally increase retiree contributions each year by the excess of the expected health care cost trend rate over 6 percent.

Assumed health care cost trend rates may have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plans. A one percentage point change in the assumed health care cost trend rates would have had the following effects at December 31, 2009:

| | 1 Percentage Point Increase | 1 Percentage Point Decrease |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Effect on total of service and interest cost components | \$ 91 | \$ (922) |
| Effect on postretirement benefit obligation | \$2,435 | \$(9,679) |

The Company's pension assets are managed by 12 outside investment managers. The Company's other postretirement assets are managed by one outside investment manager. The Company's investment policy with respect to pension and other postretirement assets is to make investments solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries of the plans and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits accrued and defraying the reasonable expenses of administration. The Company strives to maintain investment diversification to assist in minimizing the risk of large losses. The Company's policy guidelines allow for investment of funds in cash equivalents, fixed-income securities and equity securities. The guidelines prohibit investment in commodities and future contracts, equity private placement, employer securities, leveraged or derivative securities, options, direct real estate investments, precious metals, venture capital and limited partnerships. The guidelines also prohibit short selling and margin transactions. The Company's practice is to periodically review and rebalance asset categories based on its targeted asset allocation percentage policy.

The fair value of the Company's pension net plan assets by category is as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2009, Using | | | Balance at December 31, 2009 |
|--|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | |
| (In thousands) | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Common stocks (a) | \$133,989 | \$ - | \$ - | \$133,989 |
| Collective and mutual funds (b) | 39,234 | 10,379 | - | 49,613 |
| U.S. government and U.S. government-sponsored securities (c) | - | 28,091 | - | 28,091 |
| Corporate and municipal bonds (d) | - | 27,968 | - | 27,968 |
| Collateral held on loaned securities (e) | - | 21,597 | 937 | 22,534 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 17,958 | - | - | 17,958 |
| Total assets measured at fair value | 191,181 | 88,035 | 937 | 280,153 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Obligation for collateral received | 24,826 | - | - | 24,826 |
| Net assets measured at fair value | \$166,355 | \$88,035 | \$937 | \$255,327 |

(a) This category includes approximately 75 percent U.S. common stocks and 25 percent non-U.S. common stocks.

(b) Collective and mutual funds invest approximately 43 percent in common stock of large-cap U.S. companies, 21 percent in asset-backed securities, 17 percent in cash and cash equivalents, 8 percent in small-cap U.S. companies and 11 percent in other investments.

(c) This category includes approximately 69 percent U.S. government-sponsored securities (asset-backed securities) and 31 percent U.S. government securities.

(d) This category includes approximately 78 percent corporate bonds and 22 percent municipal bonds.

(e) This category includes collateral held at December 31, 2009, as a result of participation in a securities lending program. Cash collateral is invested by the trustee primarily in repurchase agreements, money market funds, corporate bonds, commercial paper, asset-backed securities and certificates of deposit.

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the pension plan's Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2009:

| | Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
|--|--|
| | Collateral Held on Loaned Securities |
| (In thousands) | |
| Balance at beginning of year | \$573 |
| Total realized/unrealized losses | 80 |
| Purchases, issuances and settlements (net) | 284 |
| Balance at end of year | \$937 |

The fair value of the Company's other postretirement benefit plan assets by asset category is as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2009, Using | | | Balance at December 31, 2009 |
|--|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | |
| (In thousands) | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Money market funds | \$1,469 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,469 |
| Common stock | 2,897 | - | - | 2,897 |
| Insurance investment contract* | - | 62,618 | - | 62,618 |
| Total assets measured at fair value | \$4,366 | \$62,618 | \$ - | \$66,984 |

* Invested in mutual funds.

The Company expects to contribute approximately \$10.2 million to its defined benefit pension plans and approximately \$4.1 million to its postretirement benefit plans in 2010.

The following benefit payments, which reflect future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

| Years | Pension | Other |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| | Benefits | Postretirement Benefits |
| (In thousands) | | |
| 2010 | \$ 20,431 | \$ 6,027 |
| 2011 | 20,744 | 6,244 |
| 2012 | 21,496 | 6,431 |
| 2013 | 22,151 | 6,686 |
| 2014 | 22,640 | 6,905 |
| 2015 - 2019 | 122,347 | 37,504 |

The following Medicare Part D subsidies are expected: \$637,000 in 2010; \$675,000 in 2011; \$725,000 in 2012; \$765,000 in 2013; \$807,000 in 2014; and \$4.7 million during the years 2015 through 2019.

In addition to company-sponsored plans, certain employees are covered under multi-employer pension plans administered by a union. Amounts contributed in 2009 to defined benefit and defined contribution multi-employer plans were \$32.5 million and \$16.4 million, respectively. Amounts contributed to the multi-employer plans were \$73.1 million and \$51.5 million in 2008 and 2007, respectively.

In addition to the qualified plan defined pension benefits reflected in the table at the beginning of this note, the Company also has unfunded, nonqualified benefit plans for executive officers and certain key management employees that generally provide for defined benefit payments at age 65 following the employee's retirement or to their beneficiaries upon death for a 15-year period. The Company had investments of \$67.9 million at December 31, 2009, consisting of equity securities of \$32.1 million, life insurance carried on plan participants (payable upon the employee's death) of \$29.8 million, fixed-income securities of \$2.7 million and other investments of \$3.3 million, which the Company anticipates using to satisfy obligations under these plans. The Company's net periodic benefit cost for these plans was \$8.8 million, \$9.0 million and \$7.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The total projected benefit obligation for these plans was \$93.0 million and \$87.2 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The accumulated benefit obligation for these plans was \$84.8 million and \$77.3 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. A discount rate of 5.75 percent and 6.25 percent at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, and a rate of compensation increase of 4.00 percent at December 31, 2009 and 2008, were used to determine benefit obligations. A discount rate of 6.25 percent and 6.00 percent at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, and a rate of compensation increase of 4.00 percent and 4.25 percent at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, were used to determine net periodic benefit cost.

The amount of benefit payments for the unfunded, nonqualified benefit plans, as appropriate, are expected to aggregate \$4.6 million in 2010; \$5.0 million in 2011; \$5.3 million in 2012; \$5.9 million in 2013; \$5.9 million in 2014; and \$36.3 million for the years 2015 through 2019.

The Company sponsors various defined contribution plans for eligible employees. Costs incurred by the Company under these plans were \$20.5 million in 2009, \$23.8 million in 2008 and \$21.1 million in 2007.

Note 17 – Jointly Owned Facilities

The consolidated financial statements include the Company's 22.7 percent and 25.0 percent ownership interests in the assets, liabilities and expenses of the Big Stone Station and the Coyote Station, respectively. Each owner of the Big Stone and Coyote stations is responsible for financing its investment in the jointly owned facilities.

The Company's share of the Big Stone Station and Coyote Station operating expenses was reflected in the appropriate categories of operating expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

At December 31, the Company's share of the cost of utility plant in service and related accumulated depreciation for the stations was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Big Stone Station: | | |
| Utility plant in service | \$ 60,220 | \$ 61,030 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 39,940 | 39,473 |
| | \$ 20,280 | \$ 21,557 |
| Coyote Station: | | |
| Utility plant in service | \$131,042 | \$127,151 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 82,402 | 82,018 |
| | \$ 48,640 | \$ 45,133 |

In April 2009, the Company purchased a 25 MW ownership interest in the Wygen III electric generation facility, which is under construction near Gillette, Wyoming, and is expected to be online in the second quarter of 2010. The Company's balance of construction work in progress related to this facility that is included in property, plant and equipment on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2009, is \$56.1 million.

Note 18 – Regulatory Matters and Revenues Subject to Refund

In November 2006, Montana-Dakota filed an application with the NDPSC requesting an advance determination of prudence of Montana-Dakota's ownership interest in Big Stone Station II. In August 2008, the NDPSC approved Montana-Dakota's request for advance determination of prudence for ownership in the proposed Big Stone Station II for a minimum of 121.8 MW up to a maximum of 133 MW and a proportionate ownership share of the associated transmission electric resources. The intervenors in the proceeding appealed the NDPSC order to the North Dakota District Court which affirmed the order of the NDPSC. The intervenors then appealed the North Dakota District Court order to the North Dakota Supreme Court. The Big Stone Station II participants subsequently decided not to proceed with the project and on December 2, 2009, Montana-Dakota filed an application with the NDPSC for a determination that Montana-Dakota's continued participation in the Big Stone Station II is no longer prudent. The parties have stipulated that the intervenors will move to dismiss their appeal to the North Dakota Supreme Court if the NDPSC grants Montana-Dakota's pending application for a determination that its participation in the Big Stone Station II is no longer prudent. On December 4, 17, and 23, 2009, Montana-Dakota filed an application with the NDPSC, SDPUC, and MTPSC, respectively, for authority to defer the costs incurred for securing new electric generation, primarily Big Stone Station II, until the next general rate case.

On August 14, 2009, Montana-Dakota filed an application with the WYPSC for an electric rate increase. Montana-Dakota requested a total increase of \$6.2 million annually or approximately 31 percent above current rates. The rate increase request was necessitated by the Company's 25 MW ownership interest in the Wygen III power generation facility currently under construction near Gillette, Wyoming. The generation will replace a portion of the purchased power currently used to serve its Wyoming system. On January 14, 2010, Montana-Dakota filed a supplement to the application to reflect the inclusion of bonus tax depreciation on the Wygen III plant, reducing its request to a \$5.1 million annual increase or approximately 25 percent above current rates. A hearing has been set for February 23, 2010.

In December 1999, Williston Basin filed a general natural gas rate change application with the FERC. Williston Basin began collecting such rates effective June 1, 2000, subject to refund. There had been one remaining issue outstanding related to this rate change application regarding certain service restrictions. After various steps in this proceeding, including a Williston Basin Request for Rehearing, an appeal to the D.C. Appeals Court, and a remand to FERC, the FERC, on October 30, 2009, issued its Order on Remand in which it upheld its previous decision. No party requested rehearing of the order, which is now final, and no issue is outstanding in this application.

Note 19 – Commitments and Contingencies

Litigation

Coalbed Natural Gas Operations Fidelity's CBNG operations are and have been the subject of numerous lawsuits in Montana and Wyoming. The current cases involve the permitting and use of water produced in connection with Fidelity's CBNG development in the Powder River Basin. Some of these cases challenge the issuance of discharge permits by the Montana DEQ and approval of other water management tools by the MBOGC.

In April 2006, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe filed a complaint in Montana Twenty-Second Judicial District Court against the Montana DEQ seeking to set aside Fidelity's renewed direct discharge and treatment permits. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe claimed the Montana DEQ

violated the Clean Water Act and the Montana Water Quality Act by failing to include in the permits conditions requiring application of the best practicable control technology currently available and by failing to impose a nondegradation policy like the one the BER adopted soon after the permit was issued. In addition, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe claimed that the actions of the Montana DEQ violated the Montana State Constitution's guarantee of a clean and healthful environment, that the Montana DEQ's related environmental assessment was invalid, that the Montana DEQ was required, but failed, to prepare an EIS and that the Montana DEQ failed to consider other alternatives to the issuance of the permits. Fidelity, the NRC, and the TRWUA were granted leave to intervene in this proceeding. On January 12, 2009, the Montana Twenty-Second Judicial District Court decided the case in favor of Fidelity and the Montana DEQ in all respects, denying the motions of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, TRWUA, and NRC, and granting the cross-motions of the Montana DEQ and Fidelity in their entirety. As a result, Fidelity may continue to utilize its direct discharge and treatment permits. The NRC, the TRWUA and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe appealed the decision to the Montana Supreme Court on March 9, 11, and 13, 2009, respectively.

Fidelity's discharge of water pursuant to its two permits is its primary means for managing CBNG-produced water. Fidelity believes that its discharge permits should, assuming normal operating conditions, allow Fidelity to continue its existing CBNG operations through the expiration of the permits in March 2011. If its permits are set aside, Fidelity's CBNG operations in Montana could be significantly and adversely affected.

In October 2003, Tongue & Yellowstone Irrigation District, NRC and MEIC filed a lawsuit in Montana First Judicial District Court challenging the MBOGC's ROD adopting the 2003 Final EIS which analyzed CBNG development in the State of Montana. Through the amendment of the plaintiffs' pleadings and as a result of discovery, the defendants have now determined that the primary legal issue before the Court is whether the ROD authorizes the "wasting" of ground water in violation of the Montana State Constitution and the public trust doctrine. Specifically, the plaintiffs contend that various water management tools, including Fidelity's direct discharge permits, allow for the waste of water. Should the Montana First Judicial District Court determine that Fidelity's direct discharge permits violate the Montana State Constitution, Fidelity's Montana CBNG operations could be significantly and adversely affected.

Fidelity will continue to vigorously defend its interests in all CBNG-related litigation in which it is involved. If the plaintiffs are successful in these lawsuits, the ultimate outcome of the actions could adversely impact Fidelity's existing CBNG operations and/or the future development of this resource in the affected regions.

Electric Operations In June 2008, the Sierra Club filed a complaint in the South Dakota Federal District Court against Montana-Dakota and the two other co-owners of the Big Stone Station. The complaint alleged certain violations of the PSD and NSPS provisions of the Clean Air Act and certain violation of the South Dakota SIP. The action further alleged that the Big Stone Station was modified and operated without obtaining the appropriate permits, without meeting certain emissions limits and NSPS requirements and without installing appropriate emission control technology, all allegedly in violation of the Clean Air Act and the South Dakota SIP. The Sierra Club alleged that these actions contributed to air pollution and visibility impairment and have increased the risk of adverse health effects and environmental damage. The Sierra Club sought declaratory and injunctive relief to bring the co-owners of the Big Stone Station into compliance with the Clean Air Act and the South Dakota SIP and to require them to remedy the alleged violations. The Sierra Club also sought unspecified civil penalties, including a beneficial mitigation project. The Company believes the claims are without merit and that Big Stone Station has been and is being operated in compliance with the Clean Air Act and the South Dakota SIP. On March 31, 2009, the District Court granted the motion of the co-owners to dismiss the complaint. The Sierra Club filed a motion requesting the District Court to reconsider its ruling on a portion of the order dismissing the complaint which was denied on July 22, 2009. On July 30, 2009, the Sierra Club appealed from the orders dismissing the case and denying the motion for reconsideration to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. The United States has filed a brief as amicus curiae supporting the Sierra Club's position in the appeal and the State of South Dakota filed a brief as amicus curiae supporting the Big Stone Station owners' position in the appeal.

Construction Materials LTM is a third-party defendant in litigation pending in Oregon Circuit Court regarding the concrete floors in an industrial food processing facility located in Jackson County, Oregon. The complaint against the facility construction contractor alleges the concrete floors of the facility are defective and must be removed and replaced for suitable repair. Damages, including disruption of the food processing operations, have been estimated by the plaintiff to be in excess of \$32 million. The construction contractor's answer and third-party complaint alleges the owner and third-party defendants, including LTM which supplied the concrete, are primarily responsible for any defects in the concrete surfaces. Discovery is currently being conducted by the parties. A trial date has not been set.

The Company also is involved in other legal actions in the ordinary course of its business. Although the outcomes of any such legal actions cannot be predicted, management believes that the outcomes with respect to these other legal proceedings will not have a material adverse effect upon the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Environmental matters

Portland Harbor Site In December 2000, MBI was named by the EPA as a PRP in connection with the cleanup of a riverbed site adjacent to a commercial property site acquired by MBI from Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. in 1999. The riverbed site is part of the Portland, Oregon, Harbor Superfund Site. The EPA wants responsible parties to share in the cleanup of sediment contamination in the Willamette River. To date, costs of the overall remedial investigation and feasibility study of the harbor site are being recorded, and initially paid, through an administrative consent order by the LWG, a group of several entities, which does not include MBI or Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. Investigative costs are indicated to be in excess of \$70 million. It is not possible to estimate the cost of a corrective action plan until the remedial investigation and feasibility study have been completed, the EPA has decided on a strategy and a ROD has been published. Corrective action will be taken after the development of a proposed plan and ROD on the harbor site is issued. MBI also received notice in January 2008 that the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council intends to perform an injury assessment to natural resources resulting from the release of hazardous substances at the Harbor Superfund Site. The Trustee Council indicates the injury determination is appropriate to facilitate early settlement of damages and restoration for natural resource injuries. It is not possible to estimate the costs of natural resource damages until an assessment is completed and allocations are undertaken.

Based upon a review of the Portland Harbor sediment contamination evaluation by the Oregon DEQ and other information available, MBI does not believe it is a Responsible Party. In addition, MBI has notified Georgia-Pacific West, Inc., that it intends to seek indemnity for liabilities incurred in relation to the above matters pursuant to the terms of their sale agreement. MBI has entered into an agreement tolling the statute of limitations in connection with the LWG's potential claim for contribution to the costs of the remedial investigation and feasibility study. By letter of March 2, 2009, LWG stated its intent to file suit against MBI and others to recover LWG's investigation costs to the extent MBI cannot demonstrate its non-liability for the contamination or is unwilling to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process that has been established to address the matter. At this time, MBI has agreed to participate in the alternative dispute resolution process.

The Company believes it is not probable that it will incur any material environmental remediation costs or damages in relation to the above referenced administrative action.

Manufactured Gas Plant Sites There are three claims against Cascade for cleanup of environmental contamination at manufactured gas plant sites operated by Cascade's predecessors.

The first claim is for soil and groundwater contamination at a site in Oregon and was received in 1995. There are PRPs in addition to Cascade that may be liable for cleanup of the contamination. Some of these PRPs have shared in the investigation costs. It is expected that these and other PRPs will share in the cleanup costs. Several alternatives for cleanup have been identified, with preliminary cost estimates ranging from approximately \$500,000 to \$11.0 million. An ecological risk assessment draft report was submitted to the Oregon DEQ in June 2009. The assessment showed no unacceptable risk to the aquatic ecological receptors present in the shoreline along the site and concluded that no further ecological investigation is necessary. The report is being reviewed by the Oregon DEQ. It is anticipated the Oregon DEQ will recommend a cleanup alternative for the site after it completes its review of the report. It is not known at this time what share of the cleanup costs will actually be borne by Cascade.

The second claim is for contamination at a site in Washington and was received in 1997. A preliminary investigation has found soil and groundwater at the site contain contaminants requiring further investigation and cleanup. EPA conducted a Targeted Brownfields Assessment of the site and released a report summarizing the results of that assessment in August 2009. The assessment confirms that contaminants have affected soil and groundwater at the site, as well as sediments in the adjacent Port Washington Narrows. Alternative remediation options have been identified with preliminary cost estimates ranging from \$340,000 to \$6.4 million. Data developed through the assessment and previous investigations indicates the contamination likely derived from multiple, different sources and multiple current and former owners of properties and businesses in the vicinity of the site may be responsible for the contamination. There is currently not enough information to estimate the potential liability to Cascade associated with this claim.

The third claim is also for contamination at a site in Washington. Cascade received notice from a party in May 2008 that Cascade may be a PRP, along with other parties, for contamination from a manufactured gas plant owned by Cascade's predecessor from about 1946 to 1962. The notice indicates that current estimates to complete investigation and cleanup of the site exceed \$8.0 million. There is currently not enough information available to estimate the potential liability to Cascade associated with this claim.

To the extent these claims are not covered by insurance, Cascade will seek recovery through the OPUC and WUTC of remediation costs in its natural gas rates charged to customers.

Operating leases

The Company leases certain equipment, facilities and land under operating lease agreements. The amounts of annual minimum lease payments due under these leases as of December 31, 2009, were \$25.2 million in 2010, \$20.3 million in 2011, \$15.3 million in 2012, \$12.6 million in 2013, \$6.7 million in 2014 and \$43.9 million thereafter. Rent expense was \$43.4 million, \$35.3 million and \$35.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Purchase commitments

The Company has entered into various commitments, largely natural gas and coal supply, purchased power, natural gas transportation and storage and construction materials supply contracts. These commitments range from 1 to 51 years. The commitments under these contracts as of December 31, 2009, were \$507.6 million in 2010, \$288.3 million in 2011, \$192.1 million in 2012, \$105.7 million in 2013, \$90.3 million in 2014 and \$234.9 million thereafter. These commitments were not reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements. Amounts purchased under various commitments for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, were \$723.1 million, approximately \$1.0 billion (including the acquisition of Intermountain as discussed in Note 2) and \$857.0 million (including the acquisition of Cascade as discussed in Note 2), respectively.

Guarantees

In connection with the sale of MPX in June 2005 to Petrobras, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company has agreed to indemnify Petrobras for 49 percent of any losses that Petrobras may incur from certain contingent liabilities specified in the purchase agreement. Centennial has agreed to unconditionally guarantee payment of the indemnity obligations to Petrobras for periods ranging up to five and a half years from the date of sale. The guarantee was required by Petrobras as a condition to closing the sale of MPX.

Centennial guaranteed CEM's obligations under a construction contract with LPP for a 550-MW combined-cycle electric generating facility near Hobbs, New Mexico. Centennial Resources sold CEM in July 2007 to Bicent Power LLC, which provided a \$10 million bank letter of credit to Centennial in support of the guarantee obligation. On February 27, 2009, Centennial received a Notice and Demand from LPP under the guaranty agreement alleging that CEM did not meet certain of its obligations under the construction contract and demanding that Centennial indemnify LPP against all losses, damages, claims, costs, charges and expenses arising from CEM's alleged failures. On December 4, 2009, LPP submitted a demand for arbitration of its dispute with CEM to the American Arbitration Association. The demand seeks compensatory damages of \$146 million plus damages for increased operating, capital and construction costs related to a water treatment facility for the generating facility. LPP's notice of demand for arbitration also demanded performance of the guarantee by Centennial. The Company believes the indemnification claims against Centennial are without merit and intends to vigorously defend against such claims.

In connection with the pending sale of the Brazilian Transmission Lines, as discussed in Note 4, Centennial has agreed to guarantee the performance of certain of the Company's indirect wholly owned subsidiaries in three purchase and sale agreements. Centennial has agreed to unconditionally guarantee payment of the indemnity obligations of the wholly owned subsidiary sellers for periods ranging up to 10 years from the date of sale. The guarantees were required by the buyers as a condition to the sale of the Brazilian Transmission Lines.

In addition, WBI Holdings has guaranteed certain of Fidelity's natural gas swap and collar agreement obligations. There is no fixed maximum amount guaranteed in relation to the natural gas swap and collar agreements as the amount of the obligation is dependent upon natural gas commodity prices. The amount of hedging activity entered into by the subsidiary is limited by corporate policy. The guarantees of the natural gas swap and collar agreements at December 31, 2009, expire in 2010 and 2011; however, Fidelity continues to enter into additional hedging activities and, as a result, WBI Holdings from time to time may issue additional guarantees on these hedging obligations. There were no amounts outstanding by Fidelity at December 31, 2009. In the event Fidelity defaults under its obligations, WBI Holdings would be required to make payments under its guarantees.

Certain subsidiaries of the Company have outstanding guarantees to third parties that guarantee the performance of other subsidiaries of the Company. These guarantees are related to construction contracts, natural gas transportation and sales agreements, gathering contracts, a conditional purchase agreement and certain other guarantees. At December 31, 2009, the fixed maximum amounts guaranteed under these agreements aggregated \$234.4 million. The amounts of scheduled expiration of the maximum amounts guaranteed under these agreements aggregate \$65.3 million in 2010; \$141.8 million in 2011; \$16.7 million in 2012; \$1.8 million in 2013; \$200,000 in 2014; \$1.0 million in 2018; \$300,000 in 2019; \$3.3 million, which is subject to expiration on a specified number of days after the receipt of written notice; and \$4.0 million, which has no scheduled maturity date. The amount outstanding by subsidiaries of the Company under the above guarantees was \$570,000 and was reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2009. In the event of default under these guarantee obligations, the subsidiary issuing the guarantee for that particular obligation would be required to make payments under its guarantee.

Certain subsidiaries have outstanding letters of credit to third parties related to insurance policies, materials obligations, natural gas transportation agreements and other agreements that guarantee the performance of other subsidiaries of the Company. At December 31, 2009, the fixed maximum amounts guaranteed under these letters of credit, aggregated \$37.1 million, which are scheduled to expire in 2010. There were no amounts outstanding under the above letters of credit at December 31, 2009.

WBI Holdings has an outstanding guarantee to Williston Basin. This guarantee is related to a natural gas transportation and storage agreement that guarantees the performance of Prairielands. At December 31, 2009, the fixed maximum amount guaranteed under this agreement was \$5.0 million and is scheduled to expire in 2011. In the event of Prairielands' default in its payment obligations, WBI Holdings would be required to make payment under its guarantee. The amount outstanding by Prairielands under the above guarantee was \$870,000. Prairielands also had \$650,000 outstanding under a guarantee with Fidelity that will expire when paid. The amounts outstanding under these guarantees were not reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2009, because these intercompany transactions are eliminated in consolidation.

In addition, Centennial and Knife River have issued guarantees to third parties related to the Company's routine purchase of maintenance items, materials and lease obligations for which no fixed maximum amounts have been specified. These guarantees have no scheduled maturity date. In the event a subsidiary of the Company defaults under its obligation in relation to the purchase of certain maintenance items, materials or lease obligations, Centennial or Knife River would be required to make payments under these guarantees. Any amounts outstanding by subsidiaries of the Company for these maintenance items and materials were reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2009.

In the normal course of business, Centennial has purchased surety bonds related to construction contracts and reclamation obligations of its subsidiaries. In the event a subsidiary of Centennial does not fulfill a bonded obligation, Centennial would be responsible to the surety bond company for completion of the bonded contract or obligation. A large portion of the surety bonds is expected to expire within the next 12 months; however, Centennial will likely continue to enter into surety bonds for its subsidiaries in the future. As of December 31, 2009, approximately \$532 million of surety bonds were outstanding, which were not reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Note 20 – Subsequent Events

The Company evaluated for events or transactions between the balance sheet date and February 17, 2010, the date of the issuance of the financial statements, that would require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

Supplementary Financial Information

Quarterly Data (Unaudited)

The following unaudited information shows selected items by quarter for the years 2009 and 2008:

| | First Quarter* | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter** |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | | | | |
| 2009 | | | | |
| Operating revenues | \$1,094,005 | \$ 958,040 | \$1,107,927 | \$1,016,529 |
| Operating expenses | 1,634,924 | 857,975 | 947,654 | 889,045 |
| Operating income (loss) | (540,919) | 100,065 | 160,273 | 127,484 |
| Net income (loss) | (343,803) | 55,311 | 92,584 | 72,634 |
| Earnings (loss) per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | (1.87) | .30 | .50 | .39 |
| Diluted | (1.87) | .30 | .50 | .38 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | | | |
| Basic | 183,787 | 183,964 | 185,160 | 187,748 |
| Diluted | 183,787 | 184,398 | 185,425 | 188,373 |
| 2008 | | | | |
| Operating revenues | \$1,121,907 | \$1,251,772 | \$1,333,834 | \$1,295,765 |
| Operating expenses | 994,335 | 1,053,281 | 1,130,537 | 1,313,088 |
| Operating income (loss) | 127,572 | 198,491 | 203,297 | (17,323) |
| Net income (loss) | 71,051 | 115,507 | 118,382 | (11,267) |
| Earnings (loss) per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | .39 | .63 | .65 | (.06) |
| Diluted | .39 | .63 | .64 | (.06) |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | | | |
| Basic | 182,599 | 182,972 | 183,219 | 183,603 |
| Diluted | 183,130 | 183,727 | 184,081 | 183,603 |

* 2009 reflects a \$384.4 million after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties.

** 2008 reflects an \$84.2 million after-tax noncash write-down of natural gas and oil properties.

Certain Company operations are highly seasonal and revenues from and certain expenses for such operations may fluctuate significantly among quarterly periods. Accordingly, quarterly financial information may not be indicative of results for a full year.

Natural Gas and Oil Activities (Unaudited)

Fidelity is involved in the acquisition, exploration, development and production of natural gas and oil resources. Fidelity's activities include the acquisition of producing properties with potential development opportunities, exploratory drilling and the operation and development of production properties. Fidelity shares revenues and expenses from the development of specified properties in the Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent regions of the United States and in and around the Gulf of Mexico in proportion to its ownership interests.

Fidelity owns in fee or holds natural gas leases for the properties it operates in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. These rights are in the Bonny Field in eastern Colorado, the Baker Field in southeastern Montana and southwestern North Dakota, the Bowdoin area in north-central Montana, the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming, the Bakken area in North Dakota, the Paradox Basin of Utah, the Tabasco and Texan Gardens fields of Texas and the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. In 2008, Fidelity acquired and became the operator of natural gas properties in Rusk County in eastern Texas.

The information that follows includes Fidelity's proportionate share of all its natural gas and oil interests.

The following table sets forth capitalized costs and accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization related to natural gas and oil producing activities at December 31:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Subject to amortization | \$1,815,380 | \$2,211,865 | \$1,750,233 |
| Not subject to amortization | 178,214 | 232,081 | 142,524 |
| Total capitalized costs | 1,993,594 | 2,443,946 | 1,892,757 |
| Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization | 969,630 | 846,074 | 681,101 |
| Net capitalized costs | \$1,023,964 | \$1,597,872 | \$1,211,656 |

Note: Net capitalized costs as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, reflect noncash write-downs of the Company's natural gas and oil properties, as discussed in Note 1.

Capital expenditures, including those not subject to amortization, related to natural gas and oil producing activities were as follows:

| Years ended December 31, | 2009* | 2008* | 2007* |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Acquisitions: | | | |
| Proved properties | \$ 3,879 | \$225,610 | \$ 426 |
| Unproved properties | 8,771 | 107,419 | 17,731 |
| Exploration | 33,123 | 109,828 | 48,744 |
| Development** | 135,202 | 260,098 | 214,433 |
| Total capital expenditures | \$180,975 | \$702,955 | \$281,334 |

* Excludes net additions to property, plant and equipment related to the recognition of future liabilities for asset retirement obligations associated with the plugging and abandonment of natural gas and oil wells, as discussed in Note 10, of \$2.0 million, \$3.0 million and \$5.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

** Includes expenditures for proved undeveloped reserves of \$32.5 million, \$46.7 million and \$74.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Part II

The following summary reflects income resulting from the Company's operations of natural gas and oil producing activities, excluding corporate overhead and financing costs:

| Years ended December 31, | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Revenues: | | | |
| Sales to affiliates | \$ 101,230 | \$291,642 | \$226,706 |
| Sales to external customers | 338,425 | 420,488 | 287,557 |
| Production costs | 123,148 | 161,401 | 123,924 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization* | 126,278 | 167,427 | 124,599 |
| Write-down of natural gas and oil properties | 620,000 | 135,800 | - |
| Pretax income | (429,771) | 247,502 | 265,740 |
| Income tax expense | (164,216) | 91,593 | 98,729 |
| Results of operations for producing activities | \$(265,555) | \$155,909 | \$167,011 |

* Includes accretion of discount for asset retirement obligations of \$2.7 million, \$2.5 million and \$2.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, as discussed in Note 10.

The following table summarizes the Company's estimated quantities of proved natural gas and oil reserves at December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, and reconciles the changes between these dates. Estimates of proved reserves were prepared in accordance with guidelines established by the industry and the SEC. The estimates are arrived at using actual historical wellhead production trends and/or standard reservoir engineering methods utilizing available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data. Other factors used in the reserve estimates are natural gas and oil prices, current estimates of well operating and future development costs, taxes, timing of operations, and the interests owned by the Company in the properties. These estimates are refined as new information becomes available.

The reserve estimates as of December 31, 2009, were calculated using SEC Defined Prices and prior to that time, reserve estimates were calculated using spot market prices that existed at the end of the applicable period. SEC Defined Prices used for the December 31, 2009, reserve estimates for natural gas were significantly lower than December 31, 2008, spot market prices. As a result, the Company had significant negative revisions of previous estimates to its reserves. Because SEC rules require proved reserves to be economically producible, the price used is inherent in that determination. If the rules regarding the prices used to calculate reserves had not been changed, the Company believes it would not have had significant negative revisions to its reserves due to pricing, as spot market prices on December 31, 2009, were higher than December 31, 2008, spot market prices.

The reserve estimates are prepared by internal engineers assigned to an asset team by geographic area and are reviewed and approved by management. In addition, the Company engages an independent third party to audit its proved reserves. Ryder Scott Company, L.P. reviewed the Company's proved reserve quantity estimates as of December 31, 2009.

Estimates of economically recoverable natural gas and oil reserves and future net revenues therefrom are based upon a number of variable factors and assumptions. For these reasons, estimates of economically recoverable reserves and future net revenues may vary from actual results.

| | 2009 | | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | Natural Gas | Oil | Natural Gas | Oil | Natural Gas | Oil |
| | (MMcf/MBbls) | | | | | |
| Proved developed and undeveloped reserves: | | | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of year | 604,282 | 34,348 | 523,737 | 30,612 | 538,100 | 27,100 |
| Production | (56,632) | (3,111) | (65,457) | (2,808) | (62,798) | (2,365) |
| Extensions and discoveries | 26,882 | 2,569 | 78,338 | 4,941 | 77,701 | 3,772 |
| Improved recovery | - | - | - | - | 444 | 1,614 |
| Purchases of proved reserves | - | - | 92,564 | 834 | 2 | 6 |
| Sales of reserves in place | (22) | (248) | - | - | (6) | (42) |
| Revisions of previous estimates | (126,085) | 658 | (24,900) | 769 | (29,706) | 527 |
| Balance at end of year | 448,425 | 34,216 | 604,282 | 34,348 | 523,737 | 30,612 |
| Proved reserves: | | | | | | |
| Developed | 321,561 | 26,794 | 431,180 | 26,862 | 420,137 | 25,658 |
| Undeveloped | 126,864 | 7,422 | 173,102 | 7,486 | 103,600 | 4,954 |
| Balance at end of year | 448,425 | 34,216 | 604,282 | 34,348 | 523,737 | 30,612 |

The level of proved undeveloped reserves converted to developed in 2009 was less than anticipated as the Company's drilling plans were modified due to the lower price environment experienced in 2009 and the Company's focus to preserve capital. The Company did not have any material proved undeveloped locations that remained undeveloped for five years or more as of December 31, 2009.

The Company's interests in natural gas and oil reserves are located in the United States and in and around the Gulf of Mexico.

The standardized measure of the Company's estimated discounted future net cash flows of total proved reserves associated with its various natural gas and oil interests at December 31 was as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | (In thousands) | |
| Future cash inflows | \$2,991,200 | \$3,970,000 | \$5,302,300 |
| Future production costs | 1,095,600 | 1,325,600 | 1,415,700 |
| Future development costs | 315,000 | 377,300 | 237,600 |
| Future net cash flows before income taxes | 1,580,600 | 2,267,100 | 3,649,000 |
| Future income tax expense | 291,000 | 501,200 | 1,179,900 |
| Future net cash flows | 1,289,600 | 1,765,900 | 2,469,100 |
| 10% annual discount for estimated timing of cash flows | 630,800 | 796,100 | 1,107,200 |
| Discounted future net cash flows relating to proved natural gas and oil reserves | \$ 658,800 | \$ 969,800 | \$1,361,900 |

The following are the sources of change in the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows by year:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | (In thousands) | |
| Beginning of year | \$ 969,800 | \$1,361,900 | \$1,003,500 |
| Net revenues from production | (200,900) | (547,000) | (354,100) |
| Change in net realization | (364,800) | (687,100) | 527,900 |
| Extensions and discoveries, net of future production-related costs | 70,500 | 209,600 | 310,300 |
| Improved recovery, net of future production-related costs | - | - | 38,100 |
| Purchases of proved reserves, net of future production-related costs | - | 138,100 | 200 |
| Sales of reserves in place | (1,100) | - | (1,300) |
| Changes in estimated future development costs | 43,600 | 11,000 | (22,600) |
| Development costs incurred during the current year | 46,400 | 66,300 | 103,000 |
| Accretion of discount | 115,900 | 183,800 | 133,700 |
| Net change in income taxes | 142,800 | 372,300 | (212,500) |
| Revisions of previous estimates | (155,500) | (132,200) | (163,700) |
| Other | (7,900) | (6,900) | (600) |
| Net change | (311,000) | (392,100) | 358,400 |
| End of year | \$ 658,800 | \$ 969,800 | \$1,361,900 |

The estimated discounted future cash inflows from estimated future production of proved reserves were computed using prices as previously discussed. Future development and production costs attributable to proved reserves were computed by applying year-end costs to be incurred in producing and further developing the proved reserves. Future development costs estimated to be spent in each of the next three years to develop proved undeveloped reserves as of December 31, 2009, are \$88.9 million in 2010, \$69.1 million in 2011 and \$41.8 million in 2012. Future income tax expenses were computed by applying statutory tax rates, adjusted for permanent differences and tax credits, to estimated net future pretax cash flows.

The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows does not purport to represent the fair market value of natural gas and oil properties. There are significant uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved reserves and in projecting rates of production and the timing and amount of future costs. In addition, future realization of natural gas and oil prices over the remaining reserve lives may vary significantly from SEC Defined Prices.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

The following information includes the evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures by the Company's chief executive officer and the chief financial officer, along with any significant changes in internal controls of the Company.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The term "disclosure controls and procedures" is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act. The Company's controls and other procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Company files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. The Company's disclosure controls and procedures include controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. The Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer have evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and they have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, such controls and procedures were effective at a reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Controls

The Company maintains a system of internal accounting controls that is designed to provide reasonable assurance that the Company's transactions are properly authorized, the Company's assets are safeguarded against unauthorized or improper use, and the Company's transactions are properly recorded and reported to permit preparation of the Company's financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America. There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2009, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The information required by this item is included in this Form 10-K at Item 8 – Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm

The information required by this item is included in this Form 10-K at Item 8 – Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information required by this item is included in the last sentence of the third paragraph under the caption "Item 1. Election of Directors" and under the captions "Item 1. Election of Directors – Director Nominees," "Information Concerning Executive Officers," the first paragraph and the second, third and fourth sentences of the second paragraph under "Corporate Governance – Audit Committee," "Corporate Governance – Code of Conduct," the second sentence of the last paragraph under "Corporate Governance – Board Meetings and Committees" and "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this item is included under the caption "Executive Compensation" in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table includes information as of December 31, 2009, with respect to the Company's equity compensation plans:

| Plan Category | (a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights | (b) Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights | (c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) |
|--|--|---|---|
| Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders (1) | 1,087,973 (2) | \$19.80 | 7,262,380 (3)(4) |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders (5) | 371,403 | 13.22 | 2,361,073 (6) |
| Total | 1,459,376 | \$18.13 | 9,623,453 |

(1) Consists of the 1992 Key Employee Stock Option Plan, the Non-Employee Director Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan, the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan and the Non-Employee Director Stock Compensation Plan.

(2) Includes 634,505 performance shares.

(3) In addition to being available for future issuance upon exercise of options, 357,757 shares under the Non-Employee Director Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan may instead be issued in connection with stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, performance units, performance shares or other equity-based awards, and 5,861,739 shares under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan may instead be issued in connection with stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, performance units, performance shares or other equity-based awards.

(4) This amount also includes 364,628 shares available for issuance under the Non-Employee Director Stock Compensation Plan. Under this plan, in addition to a cash retainer, nonemployee Directors are awarded 4,050 shares following the Company's annual meeting of stockholders. Prior to January 1, 2009, the Company's Chairman of the Board of Directors received an additional \$50,000 in stock under the plan each December as part of his retainer. A non-employee Director may acquire additional shares under the plan in lieu of receiving the cash portion of the Director's retainer or fees.

(5) Consists of the 1998 Option Award Program and the Group Genius Innovation Plan.

(6) In addition to being available for future issuance upon exercise of options, 219,050 shares under the Group Genius Innovation Plan may instead be issued in connection with stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance units, performance stock or other equity-based awards.

The following equity compensation plans have not been approved by the Company's stockholders.

The 1998 Option Award Program

The 1998 Option Award Program is a broad-based plan adopted by the Board of Directors, effective February 12, 1998. The plan permits the grant of nonqualified stock options to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. The maximum number of shares that may be issued under the plan is 3,795,330. Shares granted may be authorized but unissued shares, treasury shares, or shares purchased on the open market. Option exercise prices are equal to the market value of the Company's shares on the date of the option grant. Optionees receive dividend equivalents on their options, with any credited dividends paid in cash to the optionee if the option vests, or forfeited if the option is forfeited. Vested options remain exercisable for one year following termination of employment due to death or disability and for three months following termination of employment for any other reason.

Unvested options are forfeited upon termination of employment. Subject to the terms and conditions of the plan, the plan's administrative committee determines the number of shares subject to options granted to each participant and the other terms and conditions pertaining to such options, including vesting provisions. All options become immediately exercisable in the event of a change in control of the Company.

In 2001, 450 options (adjusted for the three-for-two stock splits in October 2005 and July 2006) were granted to each of approximately 5,900 employees. No officers received grants. These options vested on February 13, 2004. As of December 31, 2009, options covering 371,403 shares of common stock were outstanding under the plan and 2,142,023 shares remained available for future grant. Options covering 1,281,904 shares had been exercised.

The Group Genius Innovation Plan

The Group Genius Innovation Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors, effective May 17, 2001, to encourage employees to share ideas for new business directions for the Company and to reward them when the idea becomes profitable. Employees of the Company and its subsidiaries who are selected by the plan's administrative committee are eligible to participate in the plan. Officers and Directors are not eligible to participate. The plan permits the granting of nonqualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance units, performance stock and other awards. The maximum number of shares that may be issued under the plan is 223,150. Shares granted under the plan may be authorized but unissued shares, treasury shares or shares purchased on the open market. Restricted stockholders have voting rights and, unless determined otherwise by the plan's administrative committee, receive dividends paid on the restricted stock. Dividend equivalents payable in cash may be granted with respect to options and performance shares. The plan's administrative committee determines the number of shares or units subject to awards, and the other terms and conditions of the awards, including vesting provisions and the effect of employment termination. Upon a change in control of the Company, all options and stock appreciation rights become immediately vested and exercisable, all restricted stock becomes immediately vested, all restricted stock units become immediately vested and are paid out in cash, and target payout opportunities under all performance units, performance stock, and other awards are deemed to be fully earned, with awards denominated in stock paid out in shares and awards denominated in units paid out in cash. As of December 31, 2009, 4,100 shares of stock had been granted to 73 employees.

The remaining information required by this item is included under the caption "Security Ownership" in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information required by this item is included under the captions "Related Person Transaction Disclosure," "Corporate Governance – Director Independence" and the second sentence of the third paragraph under "Corporate Governance – Board Meetings and Committees" in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information required by this item is included under the caption "Accounting and Auditing Matters" in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a) Financial Statements, Financial Statement Schedules and Exhibits

Index to Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules

1. Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements required under this item are included under Item 8 – Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Consolidated Statements of Income for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 | 50 |
| Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2009 and 2008 | 51 |
| Consolidated Statements of Common Stockholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 | 52 |
| Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 | 53 |
| Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | 54 |

2. Financial Statement Schedules

MDU Resources Group, Inc.
Schedule II - Consolidated Valuation and Qualifying Accounts
Years Ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Year | Additions | | Deductions** | Balance at End of Year |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Other* | | |
| (In thousands) | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts: | | | | | |
| 2009 | \$13,691 | \$12,152 | \$1,412 | \$10,606 | \$16,649 |
| 2008 | 14,635 | 12,191 | 2,115 | 15,250 | 13,691 |
| 2007 | 7,725 | 8,799 | 5,533 | 7,422 | 14,635 |

* Allowance for doubtful accounts for companies acquired and recoveries.

** Uncollectible accounts written off.

All other schedules are omitted because of the absence of the conditions under which they are required, or because the information required is included in the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto.

3. Exhibits

- 3(a) Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended, dated May 17, 2007, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Form 8-A/A, filed on June 27, 2007, in File No. 1-3480*
- 3(b) Company Bylaws, as amended and restated, on November 12, 2009**
- 4(a) Indenture of Mortgage, dated as of May 1, 1939, as restated in the Forty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 21, 1992, and the Forty-Sixth through Fiftieth Supplements thereto between the Company and the New York Trust Company (The Bank of New York, successor Corporate Trustee) and A. C. Downing (Douglas J. MacInnes, successor Co-Trustee), filed as Exhibit 4(a) to Form S-3, in Registration No. 33-66682; and Exhibits 4(e), 4(f) and 4(g) to Form S-8, in Registration No. 33-53896; and Exhibit 4(c)(i) to Form S-3, in Registration No. 333-49472; and Exhibit 4(e) to Form S-8, in Registration No. 333-112035*
- 4(b) Indenture, dated as of December 15, 2003, between the Company and The Bank of New York, as trustee, filed as Exhibit 4(f) to Form S-8 on January 21, 2004, in Registration No. 333-112035*
- 4(c) First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 17, 2009, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee**

- 4(d) Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. Master Shelf Agreement, dated April 29, 2005, among Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. and the Prudential Insurance Company of America, filed as Exhibit 4(a) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2005, filed on August 3, 2005, in File No. 1-3480*
- 4(e) Letter Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Master Shelf Agreement, dated May 17, 2006, among Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc., The Prudential Insurance Company of America, and certain investors described in the Letter Amendment filed as Exhibit 4(a) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, filed on August 4, 2006, in File No. 1-3480*
- 4(f) MDU Resources Group, Inc. Credit Agreement, dated June 21, 2005, among MDU Resources Group, Inc., Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent, and The Other Financial Institutions Party thereto, filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2005, filed on August 3, 2005, in File No. 1-3480*
- 4(g) First Amendment, dated June 30, 2006, to Credit Agreement, dated June 21, 2005, among MDU Resources Group, Inc., Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and certain lenders described in the credit agreement, filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, filed on August 4, 2006, in File No. 1-3480*
- 4(h) Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. Credit Agreement, dated December 13, 2007, among Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc., U.S. Bank National Association, as Administrative Agent, and The Other Financial Institutions party thereto, filed as Exhibit 4(j) to Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed on February 20, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- 4(i) Consent dated November 9, 2009, under Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc. Credit Agreement, among Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc., U.S. Bank National Association, as Administrative Agent, and The Other Financial Institutions party thereto**
- 4(j) MDU Energy Capital, LLC Master Shelf Agreement, dated as of August 9, 2007, among MDU Energy Capital, LLC and the Prudential Insurance Company of America, filed as Exhibit 4 to Form 8-K dated August 16, 2007, filed on August 16, 2007, in File No. 1-3480*
- 4(k) Indenture dated as of August 1, 1992, between Cascade Natural Gas Corporation and The Bank of New York relating to Medium-Term Notes, filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation as Exhibit 4 to Form 8-K dated August 12, 1992, in File No. 1-7196*
- 4(l) First Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 25, 1993, between Cascade Natural Gas Corporation and The Bank of New York relating to Medium-Term Notes and the 7.5% Notes due November 15, 2031, filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation as Exhibit 4 to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1993, in File No. 1-7196*
- 4(m) Second Supplemental Indenture, dated January 25, 2005, between Cascade Natural Gas Corporation and The Bank of New York, as trustee, filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation as Exhibit 4.1 to Form 8-K dated January 25, 2005, filed on January 26, 2005, in File No. 1-7196*
- 4(n) Third Supplemental Indenture dated as of March 8, 2007, between Cascade Natural Gas Corporation and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee, filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation as Exhibit 4.1 to Form 8-K dated March 8, 2007, filed on March 8, 2007, in File No. 1-7196*
- 4(o) Amendment No. 1 to Master Shelf Agreement, dated October 1, 2008, among MDU Energy Capital, LLC, Prudential Investment Management, Inc., The Prudential Insurance Company of America, and the holders of the notes thereunder, filed as Exhibit 4(b) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, filed on November 5, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(a) 1992 Key Employee Stock Option Plan, as revised, filed as Exhibit 10(a) to Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, filed on February 21, 2007, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(b) Supplemental Income Security Plan, as amended and restated November 12, 2009**
- +10(c) Directors' Compensation Policy, as amended May 14, 2009, filed as Exhibit 10(a) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2009, filed on August 7, 2009, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(d) Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors, as amended May 15, 2008, filed as Exhibit 10(a) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, filed on August 7, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(e) Non-Employee Director Stock Compensation Plan, as amended May 15, 2008, filed as Exhibit 10(d) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, filed on August 7, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(f) Non-Employee Director Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended November 12, 2009**
- +10(g) 1998 Option Award Program, as amended November 12, 2009**
- +10(h) Group Genius Innovation Plan, as amended November 12, 2009**
- +10(i) WBI Holdings, Inc. Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended January 31, 2008, and Rules and Regulations, as amended November 11, 2009**
- +10(j) Knife River Corporation Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended January 31, 2008, and Rules and Regulations, as amended November 16, 2009**
- +10(k) Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, as amended November 12, 2009**

- +10(l) MDU Resources Group, Inc. Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended November 15, 2007, and Rules and Regulations, as amended November 11, 2009**
- +10(m) Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended November 15, 2007, and Rules and Regulations, as amended November 11, 2009**
- +10(n) Form of Change of Control Employment Agreement, as amended May 15, 2008, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Form 8-K dated May 15, 2008, filed on May 20, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(o) MDU Resources Group, Inc. Executive Officers with Change of Control Employment Agreements Chart, as of December 31, 2008, filed as Exhibit 10(p) to Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed on February 13, 2009, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(p) Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan for John G. Harp, dated December 4, 2006, filed as Exhibit 10(ag) to Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, filed on February 21, 2007, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(q) Employment Letter for John G. Harp, dated July 20, 2005, filed as Exhibit 10(ah) to Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, filed on February 21, 2007, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(r) Form of Performance Share Award Agreement under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, as amended August 13, 2008, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Form 8-K dated August 13, 2008, filed on August 19, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(s) MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended January 31, 2008, and Rules and Regulations, as amended February 16, 2009, filed as Exhibit 10(c) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, filed on May 6, 2009, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(t) John G. Harp 2009 additional incentive opportunity, filed as Exhibit 10(f) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, filed on May 6, 2009, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(u) Form of 2009 Annual Incentive Award Agreement under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit 10(g) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, filed on May 6, 2009, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(v) MDU Resources Group, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan, as restated June 1, 2009, filed as Exhibit 10(b) to Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2009, filed on August 7, 2009, in File No. 1-3480*
- +10(w) Instrument of Amendment to the MDU Resources Group, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan, dated December 2, 2009**
- +10(x) Instrument of Amendment to the MDU Resources Group, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan, dated December 30, 2009**
 - 12 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends**
 - 21 Subsidiaries of MDU Resources Group, Inc.**
 - 23(a) Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**
 - 23(b) Consent of Ryder Scott Company, L.P.**
 - 31(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**
 - 31(b) Certification of Chief Financial Officer filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**
 - 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer furnished pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**
- 99(a) Sales Agency Financing Agreement entered into between MDU Resources Group, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, filed as Exhibit 1 to Form 8-K dated September 5, 2008, filed on September 5, 2008, in File No. 1-3480*
- 99(b) Ryder Scott Company, L.P. report dated January 22, 2010**
 - 101 The following materials from MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Consolidated Statements of Income, (ii) the Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Common Stockholders' Equity, (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, (v) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text and (vi) Schedule II – Consolidated Valuation and Qualifying Accounts, tagged as a block of text

* Incorporated herein by reference as indicated.

** Filed herewith.

+ Management contract, compensatory plan or arrangement.

MDU Resources Group, Inc. agrees to furnish to the SEC upon request any instrument with respect to long-term debt that MDU Resources Group, Inc. has not filed as an exhibit pursuant to the exemption provided by Item 601(b)(4)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K.

Part IV

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Date: February 17, 2010

By: /s/ Terry D. Hildestad

Terry D. Hildestad
(President and Chief Executive Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant in the capacities and on the date indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>/s/ Terry D. Hildestad</u> Terry D. Hildestad (President and Chief Executive Officer) | Chief Executive Officer and Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Doran N. Schwartz</u> Doran N. Schwartz (Vice President and Chief Financial Officer) | Chief Financial Officer | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Nicole A. Kivisto</u> Nicole A. Kivisto (Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer) | Chief Accounting Officer | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Harry J. Pearce</u> Harry J. Pearce (Chairman of the Board) | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Thomas Everist</u> Thomas Everist | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Karen B. Fagg</u> Karen B. Fagg | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ A. Bart Holaday</u> A. Bart Holaday | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Dennis W. Johnson</u> Dennis W. Johnson | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Thomas C. Knudson</u> Thomas C. Knudson | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Richard H. Lewis</u> Richard H. Lewis | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Patricia L. Moss</u> Patricia L. Moss | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ Sister Thomas Welder</u> Sister Thomas Welder | Director | February 17, 2010 |
| <u>/s/ John K. Wilson</u> John K. Wilson | Director | February 17, 2010 |



1200 West Century Avenue

Terry D. Hildestad
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650
(701) 530-1000

March 12, 2010

To Our Stockholders:

Please join us for the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at 11:00 a.m., Central Daylight Saving Time, at 909 Airport Road, Bismarck, North Dakota.

The formal matters are described in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement. We also will have a brief report on current matters of interest. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

We were pleased with the stockholder response for the 2009 Annual Meeting at which 88.77 percent of the common stock was represented in person or by proxy. We hope for an even greater representation at the 2010 meeting.

You may vote your shares by telephone, by the Internet, or by returning the enclosed proxy card. Representation of your shares at the meeting is very important. We urge you to submit your proxy promptly.

Please note that the New York Stock Exchange rules have changed. Brokers may not vote your shares on the election of directors if you have not given your broker specific instructions as to how to vote. Please be sure to give specific voting instructions to your broker so that your vote can be counted.

All stockholders who find it convenient to do so are cordially invited and urged to attend the meeting in person. Registered stockholders will receive a request for admission ticket(s) with their proxy card that can be completed and returned to us postage-free. Stockholders whose shares are held in the name of a bank or broker will not receive a request for admission ticket(s). They should, instead, (1) call (701) 530-1000 to request an admission ticket(s), (2) bring a statement from their bank or broker showing proof of stock ownership as of February 26, 2010 to the annual meeting, and (3) present their admission ticket(s) and photo identification, such as a driver's license. Directions to the meeting will be included with your admission ticket.

I hope you will find it possible to attend the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Terry D. Hildestad

PROXY

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MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.
1200 West Century Avenue

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5650
(701) 530-1000

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD APRIL 27, 2010**

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the
Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on April 27, 2010**

**The 2010 Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement and 2009 Annual Report
to Stockholders are available at www.mdu.com/proxymaterials.**

March 12, 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of MDU Resources Group, Inc. will be held at 909 Airport Road, Bismarck, North Dakota, on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at 11:00 a.m., Central Daylight Saving Time, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect ten directors nominated by the board of directors to one-year terms;
- (2) To repeal Article TWELFTH of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which contains provisions relating to business combinations with interested stockholders, and make related amendments to Articles THIRTEENTH and FOURTEENTH;
- (3) To repeal Article FIFTEENTH of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which contains supermajority vote requirements for amendments to certain articles of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation;
- (4) To repeal section (c) of Article THIRTEENTH of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which provides that directors may be removed by stockholders only for cause, and make technical amendments to section (a) of Article THIRTEENTH;
- (5) To ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for 2010;
- (6) To act upon a stockholder proposal requesting a report on coal combustion waste; and
- (7) To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

The board of directors has set the close of business on February 26, 2010 as the record date for the determination of common stockholders who will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting.

All stockholders who find it convenient to do so are cordially invited and urged to attend the meeting in person. Registered stockholders will receive a request for admission ticket(s) with their proxy card that can be completed and returned to us postage-free. Stockholders whose shares are held in the name of a bank or broker will not receive a request for admission ticket(s). They should, instead, (1) call (701) 530-1000 to request an admission ticket(s), (2) bring a statement from their bank or broker showing proof of stock ownership as of February 26, 2010 to the annual meeting, and (3) present their admission ticket(s) and photo identification, such as a driver's license. Directions to the meeting will be included with your admission ticket. We look forward to seeing you.

By order of the Board of Directors,



Paul K. Sandness
Secretary

Proxy Statement

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PROXY

PROXY STATEMENT

The board of directors of MDU Resources Group, Inc. is furnishing this proxy statement beginning March 12, 2010 to solicit your proxy for use at our annual meeting of stockholders on April 27, 2010.

We will pay the cost of soliciting your proxy and reimburse brokers and others for forwarding proxy material to you. Georgeson Inc. additionally will solicit proxies for approximately \$8,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses.

The Securities and Exchange Commission's e-proxy rules allow companies to post their proxy materials on the Internet and provide only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders as an alternative to mailing full sets of proxy materials except upon request. For 2010, we have elected to use the Securities and Exchange Commission's full set delivery option, which means that while we are posting our proxy materials online, we are also mailing a full set of our proxy materials to our stockholders. We believe that mailing a full set of proxy materials will help ensure that a majority of outstanding shares of our common stock are present in person or represented by proxy at our meeting. We also hope to help maximize stockholder participation. Therefore, even if you previously consented to receiving your proxy materials electronically, you will receive a full set of proxy materials in the mail for this year's annual meeting. However, we will continue to evaluate the option of providing only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to some or all of our stockholders in the future.

VOTING INFORMATION

Who may vote? You may vote if you owned shares of our common stock at the close of business on February 26, 2010. You may vote each share that you owned on that date on each matter presented at the meeting. As of February 26, 2010, we had 188,053,936 shares of common stock outstanding entitled to one vote per share.

What am I voting on? You are voting on:

- the election of ten directors nominated by the board of directors for one-year terms
- the repeal of article TWELFTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which contains provisions relating to business combinations with interested stockholders, and related amendments to articles THIRTEENTH and FOURTEENTH
- the repeal of article FIFTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which contains supermajority vote requirements for amendments to certain articles of our restated certificate of incorporation
- the repeal of section (c) of article THIRTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which provides that directors may be removed by stockholders only for cause, and technical amendments to section (a) of article THIRTEENTH
- the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for 2010
- a stockholder proposal requesting a report on coal combustion waste and
- any other business that is properly brought before the meeting.

What vote is required to pass an item of business? A majority of our outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote must be present in person or represented by proxy to hold the meeting.

If you hold shares through an account with a bank or broker, the bank or broker may vote your shares on some matters even if you do not provide voting instructions. Brokerage firms have the authority under the New York Stock Exchange rules to vote shares on certain matters when their customers do not provide voting instructions. However, on other matters, when the brokerage firm has not received voting instructions from its customers, the brokerage firm cannot vote the shares on that matter and a "broker non-vote" occurs. **Please note that the New York Stock Exchange rules have changed and an uncontested election of directors is no longer considered a routine matter. This means that brokers may not vote your shares on the election of directors if you have not given your broker specific instructions as to how to vote. Please be sure to give specific voting instructions to your broker so that your vote can be counted.**

Proxy Statement

Item 1 – Election of Directors

A majority of votes cast is required to elect a director in an uncontested election. A majority of votes cast means the number of votes cast “for” a director’s election must exceed the number of votes cast “against” the director’s election. “Abstentions” and “broker non-votes” do not count as votes cast “for” or “against” the director’s election. In a contested election, which is an election in which the number of nominees for director exceeds the number of directors to be elected, directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. If a nominee becomes unavailable for any reason or if a vacancy should occur before the election, which we do not anticipate, the proxies will vote your shares in their discretion for another person nominated by the board.

Our policy on majority voting for directors and our corporate governance guidelines require any nominee for re-election as a director to tender to the board, prior to nomination, his or her irrevocable resignation from the board that will be effective, in an uncontested election of directors only, upon

- receipt of a greater number of votes “against” than votes “for” election at our annual meeting of stockholders and
- acceptance of such resignation by the board of directors.

Following certification of the stockholder vote, the nominating and governance committee will promptly recommend to the board whether or not to accept the tendered resignation. The board will act on the nominating and governance committee’s recommendation no later than 90 days following the date of the annual meeting.

Item 2 – Repeal of Article TWELFTH of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which Contains Provisions Relating to Business Combinations with Interested Stockholders, and Related Amendments to Articles THIRTEENTH and FOURTEENTH

Approval of Item 2 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock. Abstentions will count as votes “against” the proposal.

Item 3 – Repeal of Article FIFTEENTH of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which Contains Supermajority Vote Requirements for Amendments to Certain Articles of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation

Approval of Item 3 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock. Abstentions will count as votes “against” the proposal.

Item 4 – Repeal of Section (c) of Article THIRTEENTH of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which Provides That Directors May Be Removed by Stockholders Only for Cause, and Technical Amendments to Section (a) of Article THIRTEENTH

Approval of Item 4 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock. Abstentions will count as votes “against” the proposal.

Item 5 – Ratification of the Appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our Independent Auditors for 2010

Approval of Item 5 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions will count as votes “against” the proposal.

Item 6 – Stockholder Proposal Requesting a Report on Coal Combustion Waste

Approval of Item 6 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions will count as votes “against” the proposal. Broker non-votes are not counted as voting power present and, therefore, are not counted in the vote.

Unless you specify otherwise when you submit your proxy, the proxies will vote your shares of common stock “for” all directors nominated by the board of directors, “for” proposals 2, 3, 4 and 5 and “against” proposal 6.

How do I vote? There are three ways to vote by proxy:

- by calling the toll free telephone number on the enclosed proxy card
- by using the Internet as described on the enclosed proxy card or
- by returning the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided.

You may be able to vote by telephone or the Internet if your shares are held in the name of a bank or broker. Follow their instructions.

Can I revoke my proxy? Yes. You can revoke your proxy by:

- filing written revocation with the corporate secretary before the meeting
- filing a proxy bearing a later date with the corporate secretary before the meeting or
- revoking your proxy at the meeting and voting in person.

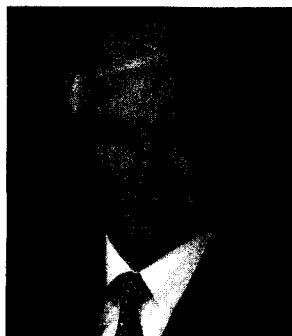
ITEM 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At our 2007 annual meeting of stockholders, our board of directors proposed and our stockholders approved the declassification of our board of directors. The declassification was phased in over a three-year period from 2008 - 2010. Directors elected at our 2007 annual meeting comprise the last class elected to serve a three-year term, and their terms will expire at this year's annual meeting. As a result, commencing with this year's annual meeting, our board will be completely declassified. All nominees for director are nominated to serve one-year terms, until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2011 and until their respective successors are elected and qualified, or until their earlier resignation, removal from office, or death. Effective as of the date of this year's annual meeting, the board of directors has set the number of directors at ten.

The board of directors expresses its thanks to John L. Olson and Sister Thomas Welder, O.S.B. Mr. Olson retired from the board effective August 13, 2009 after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70 for outside directors. Mr. Olson served on the board for 24 years and on the audit committee for 23 years. He also served on the compensation and nominating and governance committees during his tenure. Sister Welder chose not to seek re-election at this annual meeting because, pursuant to our bylaws' mandatory retirement policy, she would be required to retire on May 13, 2010, which is the first regular meeting of the board after she attains the mandatory retirement age. Sister Welder served on the board for 22 years and on the nominating and governance committee for 21 years. She also served on the finance and audit committees during her tenure. Their dedicated service and expertise will be missed.

We have provided information below about our nominees, all of whom are incumbent directors, including their ages, years of service as directors, business experience, and service on other boards of directors, including any other directorships held during the past five years. We have also included information about each nominee's specific experience, qualifications, attributes, or skills that led the board to conclude that he or she should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc. at the time we file our proxy statement, in light of our business and structure. Unless we specifically note below, no corporation or organization referred to below is a subsidiary or other affiliate of ours.

Director Nominees



Thomas Everist

Age 60

Director Since 1995

Compensation Committee

Mr. Everist has served as president and chairman of The Everist Company, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, an aggregate, concrete, and asphalt production company, since April 15, 2002. He was previously president and chairman of L.G. Everist, Inc., Sioux Falls, South Dakota, an aggregate production company, from 1987 to April 15, 2002. He held a number of positions in the aggregate and construction industries prior to assuming his current position with The Everist Company. He is a director of Showplace Wood Products, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a custom cabinets manufacturer, and has been a director of Raven Industries, Inc., Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a general manufacturer of electronics, flow controls, and engineered films since 1996, and its chairman of the board since April 1, 2009.

Mr. Everist attended Stanford University where he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in construction management. He is active in the Sioux Falls community and currently serves as a director on the Sanford Health Foundation, a non-profit charitable health services organization. From July 2001 to June 2006, he served on the South Dakota Investment Council, the state agency responsible for prudently investing state funds.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Everist should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. A significant portion of MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s earnings is derived from its construction services and aggregate mining businesses. Mr. Everist has considerable business experience in this area, with more than 36 years in the aggregate and construction materials industry. He has also demonstrated success in his business and leadership roles, serving as president and chairman of his companies for over 22 years. We value other public company board service. Mr. Everist has

Proxy Statement

experience serving as a director and now chairman of another public company, which enhances his contributions to our board. His leadership skills and experience with his own companies and on other boards enable him to be an effective board member and compensation committee chairman. With the retirement of John L. Olson and Sister Thomas Welder, Mr. Everist becomes our longest serving board member, providing 15 years of board experience as well as extensive knowledge of our business.



Karen B. Fagg

Age 56

Director Since 2005

Nominating and Governance Committee

Compensation Committee

Ms. Fagg has served as vice president of DOWL LLC, d/b/a DOWL HKM, an engineering and design firm, since April 2008. Ms. Fagg was president from April 1, 1995 through March 2008, and chairman and majority owner from June 2000 through March 2008 of HKM Engineering, Inc., Billings, Montana, an engineering and physical science services firm. HKM Engineering, Inc. merged with DOWL LLC on April 1, 2008. Ms. Fagg was employed with MSE, Inc., Butte, Montana, an energy research and development company, from 1976 through 1988 and served as vice president of operations and corporate development director. Ms. Fagg served a four-year term as director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Helena, Montana, the state agency charged with promoting stewardship of Montana's water, soil, energy, and rangeland resources; regulating oil and gas exploration and production; and administering several grant and loan programs from 1989 through 1992.

Ms. Fagg has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Carroll College in Helena, Montana. She served on the board for St. Vincent's Healthcare from October 2003 until October 2009, including a term as board chair and on the board of Deaconess Billings Clinic Health System from 1994 to 2003. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Carroll College, the Board of Advisors of the Charles M. Bair Family Trust, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Billings Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Montana State University Engineering Advisory Council, whose responsibilities include evaluating the mission and goals of the College of Engineering and assisting in the development and implementation of the college's strategic plan. From 2002 through 2006, she served on the Montana Board of Investments, the state agency responsible for prudently investing state funds. From 2001 to 2005, she served on the board of Montana State University's Advanced Technology Park. From 2000 to 2007, she served on the ZooMontana Board and as vice chair from 2006 to 2007.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Ms. Fagg should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. Construction and engineering, energy, and the responsible development of natural resources are all important aspects of our business. Ms. Fagg has business experience in all these areas, including 15 years of construction and engineering experience at DOWL HKM and its predecessor, HKM Engineering, Inc., where she has served as vice president, president, and chairman. Ms. Fagg has also had 12 years of experience in energy research and development at MSE, Inc., where she served as vice president of operations and corporate development director, and four years focusing on stewardship of natural resources as director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. In addition to her industry experience, Ms. Fagg brings to our board 12 years of business leadership and management experience as president and chairman of her own company, as well as knowledge and experience acquired through her service on a number of Montana state and community boards.



Terry D. Hildestad

Age 60

Director Since 2006

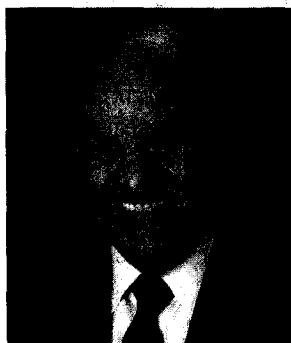
President and Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Hildestad was elected president and chief executive officer and a director of the company effective August 17, 2006. He had served as president and chief operating officer from May 1, 2005 until August 17, 2006. Prior to that, he served as president and chief executive officer of our subsidiary, Knife River Corporation, from 1993 until May 1, 2005. He began his career with the company in 1974 at Knife River Corporation, where he served in several operating positions before becoming its president. He additionally serves as an executive officer and as chairman of the company's principal subsidiaries and of the managing committees of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Great Plains Natural Gas Co.

Mr. Hildestad has a bachelor's degree from Dickinson State University and has completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard School of Business. Mr. Hildestad is a member of the U.S. Bancorp Western North Dakota Advisory Board of Directors.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Hildestad should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. As chief executive officer of MDU Resources Group, Inc., Mr. Hildestad is

the only officer of the company to sit on our board, consistent with our past practice. With over 35 years of experience at our company, Mr. Hildestad has a deep knowledge and understanding of MDU Resources Group, Inc., its operating companies and its lines of business. Mr. Hildestad has demonstrated his leadership abilities and his commitment to our company since he was elected president and chief executive officer and a director in 2006 and prior to that time through his long service as chief operating officer of the company and as president and chief executive officer at Knife River Corporation, our construction materials and contracting subsidiary. The board also believes that Mr. Hildestad's integrity, values, and good judgment make him well-suited to serve on our board.



A. Bart Holaday

Age 67

Director Since 2008
 Audit Committee
 Nominating and Governance Committee

Mr. Holaday headed the Private Markets Group of UBS Asset Management and its predecessor entities for 15 years prior to his retirement in 2001, during which time he managed more than \$19 billion in investments. Prior to that he was vice president and principal of the InnoVen Venture Capital Group. He was founder and president of Tenax Oil and Gas Corporation, an onshore Gulf Coast exploration and production company, from 1980 through 1982. He has four years of senior management experience with Gulf Oil Corporation, a global energy and petrochemical company, and eight years of senior management with the federal government, including the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, and the Federal Energy Administration. He is currently the president and owner of Dakota Renewable Energy Fund, LLC, which invests in small companies in North Dakota. He is a member of the investment advisory board of Commons Capital LLC, a venture capital firm; a member of the board of directors of Adams Street Partners, LLC, a private equity investment firm; Alerus Financial, a financial services company; Jamestown College; the United States Air Force Academy Endowment (chairman); the Falcon Foundation (vice president), which provides scholarships to Air Force Academy applicants; the Center for Innovation Foundation at the University of North Dakota (chairman and trustee) and the University of North Dakota Foundation; and is chairman and CEO of the Dakota Foundation. He is a past member of the board of directors of the National Venture Capital Association, Walden University, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission advisory committee on the regulation of capital markets.

Mr. Holaday has a bachelor's degree in engineering sciences from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was a Rhodes Scholar, earning a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in politics, philosophy, and economics from Oxford University. He also earned a law degree from George Washington Law School and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. In 2005, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of North Dakota.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Holaday should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. MDU Resources Group, Inc. has significant operations in the natural gas and oil industry. Mr. Holaday has knowledge and experience in this industry. He founded and served as president of Tenax Oil and Gas Corporation. He has four years experience in senior management with Gulf Oil Corporation and 15 years of experience managing private equity investments, including investments in oil and gas, as the head of the Private Markets Group of UBS Asset Management and its predecessor organizations. This business experience demonstrates his leadership skills and success in the oil and gas industry. Mr. Holaday brings to the board his extensive finance and investment experience as well as his business development skills acquired through his work at UBS Asset Management, Tenax Oil and Gas Corporation, Gulf Oil Corporation, and several private equity investment firms. This will enhance the knowledge of the board and provide useful insights to management in connection not only with our natural gas and oil business, but with all of our businesses.



Dennis W. Johnson

Age 60

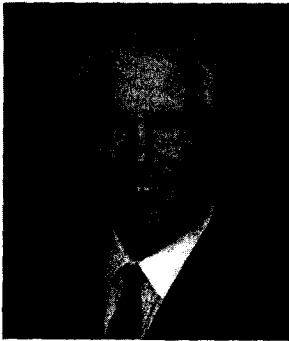
Director Since 2001
 Audit Committee

Mr. Johnson is chairman, chief executive officer and president of TMI Corporation, and chairman and chief executive officer of TMI Systems Design Corporation, TMI Transport Corporation and TMI Storage Systems Corporation, all of Dickinson, North Dakota, manufacturers of casework and architectural woodwork. He has been employed at TMI since 1974 serving as president or chief executive officer since 1982 and has been the majority stockholder since 1985. Mr. Johnson is serving his ninth year as president of the Dickinson City Commission. He previously was a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He is a past member and chairman of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

Proxy Statement

Mr. Johnson has a bachelor of science degree in electrical and electronics engineering as well as a master of science degree in industrial engineering from North Dakota State University. He has served on numerous industry, state, and community boards, including the North Dakota Workforce Development Council (chairperson), the Decorative Laminate Products Association, the North Dakota Technology Corporation, St. Joseph Hospital Life Care Foundation, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dickinson State University, the executive operations committee of the University of Mary Harold Shafer Leadership Center, and the Dickinson United Way. He also served on North Dakota Governor Sinner's Education Action Commission, the North Dakota Job Service Advisory Council, the North Dakota State University President's Advisory Council, North Dakota Governor Schafer's Transition Team, and chaired North Dakota Governor Hoeven's Transition Team. He has received numerous awards including the 1991 Regional Small Business Person of the Year Award and the Greater North Dakotan Award.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Johnson should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. Mr. Johnson has over 27 years of experience in business management, manufacturing, and finance, and has demonstrated his success in these areas, through his positions as chairman, president, and CEO of TMI, as well as through his prior service as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. His finance experience and leadership skills enable him to make valuable contributions to our audit committee, which he has chaired for six years. As a result of his service on a number of state and local organizations in North Dakota, Mr. Johnson has significant knowledge of local, state, and regional issues involving North Dakota, a state where we have significant operations and assets.



Thomas C. Knudson

Age 63

Director Since 2008

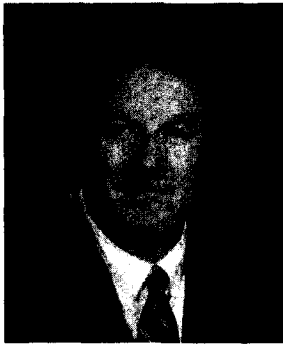
Compensation Committee

Mr. Knudson has been president of Tom Knudson Interests, LLC, since its formation on January 14, 2004. Tom Knudson Interests, LLC, provides consulting services in energy, sustainable development, and leadership. Mr. Knudson began employment with Conoco Oil Company (Conoco) in May 1975 and retired in 2004 from Conoco's successor, ConocoPhillips, as senior vice president of human resources, government affairs and communications, and information technology. Mr. Knudson served as a member of ConocoPhillips' management committee. His diverse career at Conoco and ConocoPhillips included engineering, operations, business development, and commercial assignments. He was the founding chairman of the Business Council for Sustainable Development in both the United States and the United

Kingdom. He has been a director of Bristow Group Inc. since June 2004 and its chairman of the board of directors since August 2006, and was a director of Natco Group Inc. from April 2005 to November 2009 and Williams Partners LP from November 2005 to September 2007. Bristow Group Inc. is a leading provider of helicopter services to the offshore oil industry. Natco Group Inc. is a leading manufacturer of oil and gas processing equipment. Williams Partners LP owns natural gas gathering, transportation, processing, and treating assets, and also has natural gas liquids fractionating and storage assets.

Mr. Knudson has a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. He served as a naval aviator, flying combat missions in Vietnam, and was a lieutenant commander in 1974 when he was honorably discharged. Mr. Knudson has served on the boards of a number of petroleum industry associations, Covenant House Texas, The Houston Museum of Natural Science, and Alpha USA/Houston. He has served as an adjunct professor at the Jones Graduate School of Management at Rice University.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Knudson should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. A significant portion of our earnings is derived from natural gas and oil production and the transportation, storage, and gathering of natural gas. Mr. Knudson has extensive knowledge and experience in this industry as a result of his prior employment with Conoco and ConocoPhillips, as well as through his service on the boards of Natco Group, Inc. and Williams Partners LP. Mr. Knudson has a broad background in engineering, operations, and business development, as well as service on the management committee at Conoco and ConocoPhillips, which bring additional experience and perspective to our board. His service as senior vice president of human resources at ConocoPhillips makes him an excellent fit for our compensation committee. Sustainable business development is also an important aspect of our business, and Mr. Knudson, as the founding chairman of the Business Council for Sustainable Development, brings to our board significant experience and knowledge in this area. Mr. Knudson also has significant knowledge of local, state, and regional issues involving Texas, a state where we have important operations and assets.



Richard H. Lewis

Age 60

Director Since 2005

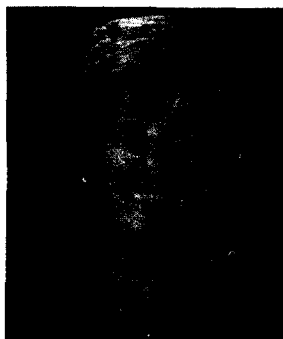
Audit Committee

Nominating and Governance Committee

Mr. Lewis has been the managing general partner of Brakemaka LLLP, a private investment partnership for managing family investments, and president of the Lewis Family Foundation since August 2004. Mr. Lewis serves as chairman of the board of Entre Pure Industries, Inc., a privately held company involved in the purified water and ice business. He serves as a director of Colorado State Bank and Trust and on the senior advisory board of TPH Partners, L.P., a private equity fund with an energy-only focus. Mr. Lewis founded Prima Energy Corporation, a natural gas and oil exploration and production company in 1980, and served as chairman and chief executive officer of the company until its sale in July 2004. During his tenure, Prima Energy was named to Forbes Magazine's 200 Best Small Companies in America list seven times and was ranked the No. 1 Colorado public company for the decade of the 1990's in terms of market return. Mr. Lewis represented natural gas producers on a panel that studied electric restructuring in Colorado and has testified before Congressional committees on industry matters. He worked in private practice as a certified public accountant for eight years prior to founding Prima Energy.

Mr. Lewis has a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from the University of Colorado. He served as a board member on the Colorado Oil and Gas Association from November 1999 to November 2009, including a term as its president. In 2000, Mr. Lewis was inducted into the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Hall of Fame and in 2004 was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Hall of Fame. Mr. Lewis serves as the chairman of the Development Board of Colorado Uplift, a non-profit organization whose mission is to build long-term, life-changing relationships with urban youth. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Alliance for Choice in Education, which provides scholarships to inner city youth. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Metro Denver YMCA, the Advisory Council to the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, and as a director for the Partnership for the West.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Lewis should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. MDU Resources Group, Inc. derives a significant portion of its earnings from natural gas and oil production, one of our business segments. Mr. Lewis has extensive business experience, recognized excellence, and demonstrated success in this industry through almost 25 years at his company, Prima Energy Corporation, and ten years on the board of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association. In addition to his industry experience, he brings investment experience to our board through his service on the senior advisory board of TPH Partners, L.P., an energy-only private equity fund. As a certified public accountant and a director of Colorado State Bank and Trust, Mr. Lewis also contributes significant finance and accounting knowledge to our board and audit committee. Mr. Lewis also brings to the board his knowledge of local, state, and regional issues involving Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region, where we have important operations.



Patricia L. Moss

Age 56

Director Since 2003

Compensation Committee

Ms. Moss has served as the president and chief executive officer of Cascade Bancorp, a financial holding company in Bend, Oregon, since 1998, chief executive officer of Cascade Bancorp's principal subsidiary, Bank of the Cascades, since 1993, serving also as president from 1993 to 2003, and a director of Cascade Bancorp since 1993. She also serves as a director of the Oregon Investment Fund Advisory Council, a state-sponsored program to encourage the growth of small businesses within Oregon, and a director of Clear Choice Health Plans Inc., a multi-state insurance company.

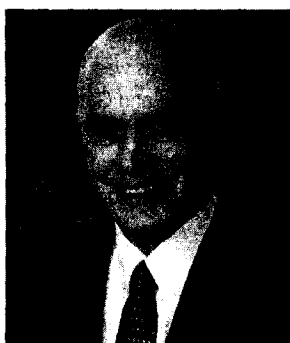
Ms. Moss graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Linfield College in Oregon and did master's studies at Portland State University. She received commercial banking school certification at the ABA Commercial Banking School at the University of Oklahoma. She served as a director of the Oregon Business Council, whose mission is to mobilize business leaders to contribute to Oregon's quality of life and economic prosperity; the Cascades Campus Advisory Board of the Oregon State University; the North Pacific Group, Inc., a wholesale distributor of building materials, industrial and hardwood products, and other specialty products; the Aquila Tax Free Trust of Oregon, a mutual fund created especially for the benefit of Oregon residents; and as a director and chair of the St. Charles Medical Center.

In August 2009, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Oregon Division of Finance and Corporate Securities entered into a consent agreement with Bank of the Cascades that requires the bank to develop and adopt a plan to maintain the capital necessary for it to be "well-capitalized," to improve its lending policies and its allowance for loan losses, to increase its liquidity, to retain qualified

PROXY

management, and to increase the participation of its board of directors in the affairs of the bank. In October 2009, the bank's parent, Cascade Bancorp, entered into a written agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the Oregon Division relating largely to improving the financial condition of Cascade Bancorp and the Bank of the Cascades.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Ms. Moss should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. A significant portion of MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s utility, construction services, and contracting operations are located in the Pacific Northwest. Ms. Moss has first-hand business experience and knowledge of the Pacific Northwest economy and local, state, and regional issues through her position as president, chief executive officer, and a director at Cascade Bancorp and Bank of the Cascades, where she has over 28 years of experience. Ms. Moss provides to our board her experience in finance and banking as well as her experience in business development through her work at Cascade Bancorp and on the Oregon Investment Advisory Council and the Oregon Business Council. Ms. Moss is also certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources, which makes her well-suited for our compensation committee. In deciding that Ms. Moss should be renominated as a director, the board was mindful of the consent agreement with Bank of the Cascades, but concluded that Ms. Moss brought the many skills and experiences discussed above to our board and had proved herself to be a dedicated and hard-working director.



Harry J. Pearce

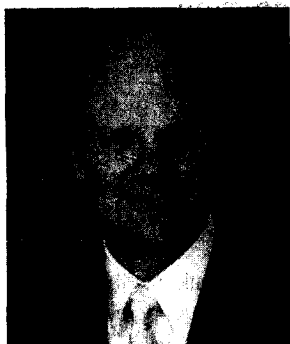
Age 67

Director Since 1997

Chairman of the Board

Mr. Pearce was elected chairman of the board of the company on August 17, 2006. Prior to that, he served as lead director effective February 15, 2001 and was vice chairman of the board from November 16, 2000 until February 15, 2001. Mr. Pearce has been a director of Marriott International, Inc., a major hotel chain, since 1995. He was a director of Nortel Networks Corporation, a global telecommunications company, from January 11, 2005 to August 10, 2009, serving as chairman of the board from June 29, 2005. He retired on December 19, 2003, as chairman of Hughes Electronics Corporation, a General Motors Corporation subsidiary and provider of digital television entertainment, broadband satellite network, and global video and data broadcasting. He had served as chairman since June 1, 2001. Mr. Pearce was vice chairman and a director of General Motors Corporation, one of the world's largest automakers, from January 1, 1996 to May 31, 2001. He served on the President's Council on Sustainable Development and co-chaired the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service. Prior to joining General Motors, he was a senior partner in the Pearce & Durick law firm in Bismarck, North Dakota. Mr. Pearce is a director of the United States Air Force Academy Endowment, and a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Michigan Cancer Center. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the International Society of Barristers. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University. He has served as a chairman or director on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including as chairman of the board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy, chairman of the National Defense University Foundation, and chairman of the Marrow Foundation. He currently serves as a director of the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link and New York Marrow Foundation. Mr. Pearce received a bachelor's degree in engineering sciences from the U.S. Air Force Academy and his law degree from Northwestern University's School of Law.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Pearce should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. MDU Resources Group, Inc. values public company leadership and the experience directors gain through such leadership. Mr. Pearce is recognized nationally as well as in the State of North Dakota as a business leader and for his business acumen. He has multinational business management experience and proven leadership skills through his position as vice chairman at General Motors Corporation, as well as through his extensive service on the boards of large public companies, including Marriott International Inc.; Hughes Electronics Corporation, where he was chairman; and Nortel Networks Corporation, where he also was chairman. He also brings to our board his long experience as a practicing attorney. In addition, Mr. Pearce is focused on corporate governance issues and is the founding chair of the Chairmen's Forum, an organization comprised of non-executive chairmen of publicly-traded companies. Participants in the Chairmen's Forum discuss ways to enhance the accountability of corporations to owners and promote a deeper understanding of independent board leadership and effective practices of board chairmanship. The board also believes that Mr. Pearce's values and commitment to excellence make him well-suited to serve as chairman of our board.



John K. Wilson

Age 55

Director Since 2003

Audit Committee

Mr. Wilson was president of Durham Resources, LLC, a privately held financial management company, in Omaha, Nebraska, from 1994 to December 31, 2008. He previously was president of Great Plains Energy Corp., a public utility holding company and an affiliate of Durham Resources, LLC, from 1994 to July 1, 2000. He was vice president of Great Plains Natural Gas Co., an affiliate company of Durham Resources, LLC, until July 1, 2000. The company bought Great Plains Energy Corp. and Great Plains Natural Gas Co. on July 1, 2000. Mr. Wilson also served as president of the Durham Foundation and was a director of Bridges Investment Fund, a mutual fund, and the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. He is presently a director of HDR, Inc., an international architecture and engineering firm based in Omaha, and serves on

the advisory boards of US Bank NA Omaha and Duncan Aviation, an aircraft service provider, headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska. He also serves as deputy director of the Robert B. Daugherty Charitable Foundation.

Mr. Wilson is a certified public accountant. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration, cum laude, from the University of Nebraska – Omaha. During his career, he was a member of the audit staff and an audit manager at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell (now known as KPMG), controller for Great Plains Natural Gas Co., and chief financial officer and treasurer for all Durham Resources entities.

For the following reasons, the board concluded that Mr. Wilson should serve as a director of MDU Resources Group, Inc., in light of our business and structure, at the time we file our proxy statement. Mr. Wilson has an extensive background in finance and accounting as well as extensive experience with mergers and acquisitions through his education and work experience at a major accounting firm and his later positions as controller and vice president of Great Plains Natural Gas Co.; president of Great Plains Energy Corp.; and president, chief financial officer, and treasurer for Durham Resources, LLC and all Durham Resources entities. The electric and natural gas utility business was our core business when our company was founded in 1924. That business now operates through four utilities: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Great Plains Natural Gas Co., Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, and Intermountain Gas Company. Mr. Wilson is our only non-employee director with direct experience in this area through his prior positions at Great Plains Natural Gas Co. and Great Plains Energy Corp. In addition, Mr. Wilson's extensive finance and accounting experience make him well-suited for our audit committee.

The board of directors recommends a vote "for" each nominee.

A majority of votes cast is required to elect a director in an uncontested election. A majority of votes cast means the number of votes cast "for" a director's election must exceed the number of votes cast "against" the director's election. "Abstentions" and "broker non-votes" do not count as votes cast "for" or "against" the director's election. In a contested election, which is an election in which the number of nominees for director exceeds the number of directors to be elected and which we do not anticipate, directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast.

Unless you specify otherwise when you submit your proxy, the proxies will vote your shares of common stock "for" all directors nominated by the board of directors. If a nominee becomes unavailable for any reason or if a vacancy should occur before the election, which we do not anticipate, the proxies will vote your shares in their discretion for another person nominated by the board.

Our policy on majority voting for directors and our corporate governance guidelines require any nominee for re-election as a director to tender to the board, prior to nomination, his or her irrevocable resignation from the board that will be effective, in an uncontested election of directors only, upon:

- receipt of a greater number of votes "against" than votes "for" election at our annual meeting of stockholders and
- acceptance of such resignation by the board of directors.

Following certification of the stockholder vote, the nominating and governance committee will promptly recommend to the board whether or not to accept the tendered resignation. The board will act on the nominating and governance committee's recommendation no later than 90 days following the date of the annual meeting.

Please note that the New York Stock Exchange rules have changed. Brokers may not vote your shares on the election of directors if you have not given your broker specific instructions as to how to vote. Please be sure to give specific voting instructions to your broker so that your vote can be counted.

ITEM 2. REPEAL OF ARTICLE TWELFTH OF OUR RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, WHICH CONTAINS PROVISIONS RELATING TO BUSINESS COMBINATIONS WITH INTERESTED STOCKHOLDERS, AND RELATED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH

In November 2009, we received a stockholder proposal requesting that the board of directors take the steps necessary to change the stockholder vote requirements that call for a greater than simple majority vote in our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, and bylaws to a majority of votes cast for or against any proposal.

Article TWELFTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which has “fair price” provisions relating to business combinations with interested stockholders, contains a supermajority vote requirement. Article TWELFTH provides that, unless the transaction is approved by two-thirds of the continuing directors, the fair price and procedural requirements of article TWELFTH will apply to the business combination, and the business combination must be approved by at least 80% of the voting power of the outstanding voting stock. In this proxy statement, we sometimes refer to the provisions of article TWELFTH as the “fair price” provisions.

Article TWELFTH requires the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock to approve certain transactions involving an “interested stockholder,” which is a person or group that beneficially owns more than 10% of our outstanding voting stock.

The supermajority vote requirement applies to the following transactions:

- a merger or consolidation with an interested stockholder
- a sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of assets of the company with an aggregate fair market value of \$5 million or more to an interested stockholder
- the issuance of securities by the company with an aggregate fair market value of \$5 million or more to an interested stockholder
- a voluntary plan of liquidation or dissolution proposed by an interested stockholder and
- a reclassification, recapitalization, merger or any other transaction that increases the proportionate share of outstanding shares of the company owned by an interested stockholder.

The supermajority vote requirement does not apply to transactions that have been approved by two-thirds of the continuing directors. Continuing directors are members of the board who are unaffiliated with, and not nominees of, an interested stockholder and who were members of the board prior to the time the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder. Continuing directors also include directors designated to succeed continuing directors.

We added article TWELFTH to our restated certificate of incorporation in 1985. As we discussed in our proxy statement at that time, there had been a number of instances in which an unsolicited bidder had acquired control of a company over the objections of management and, after acquiring control, had compelled a merger, consolidation or sale of assets without an arm's length negotiation of the terms. While tender offers or other takeover attempts could be made at a price substantially above the market price of a company's common stock, they frequently were made for less than all of the outstanding shares of a target company. Such partial offers could present stockholders with the alternative of either partially liquidating their investment at a time when that may be disadvantageous or retaining an investment in an enterprise under new management whose objectives may differ from those of the remaining stockholders. Article TWELFTH was designed to deal with then recently-developed takeover strategies such as two-tiered transactions that often resulted in inequitable treatment of long-term stockholders. Article TWELFTH was designed to encourage a person making an unsolicited bid for the company to negotiate with our board of directors to reach terms that were fair and in the best interests of the stockholders.

In more recent years, however, some investors have viewed fair price provisions as inconsistent with principles of good corporate governance and believe that these provisions make it more difficult for stockholders to effect change and participate in important decisions affecting the company. These investors believe that the supermajority vote requirement that is part of the fair price provisions limits the ability of a majority of stockholders to effect change by providing a veto right to a large minority stockholder or group of stockholders. They also assert that supermajority vote provisions cause boards and management to be less responsive or accountable to stockholders. Others have argued that supermajority vote requirements not only offer little, if any, protection to minority stockholders, but also have the effect of discouraging legitimate offers for a company by making them more expensive.

After receiving the stockholder proposal, the board of directors reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the provisions contained in article TWELFTH and after this review decided to propose the repeal of article TWELFTH to further our goal of ensuring that our corporate governance policies maximize our accountability to stockholders.

The company will continue to be subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, whether or not the proposed amendments are approved. With some exceptions, Section 203 provides that a business combination, as defined in Section 203, with an interested stockholder, which is a person owning 15% or more of a company's outstanding voting stock, cannot be completed for a three-year period after the date the person became an interested stockholder, unless

- prior to the time the person became an interested stockholder, the board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the person becoming an interested stockholder
- upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the person becoming an interested stockholder, that person owned at least 85% of the outstanding voting stock, excluding certain shares or
- the business combination was approved by the board of directors and by at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder.

In addition to the deletion of article TWELFTH, the board of directors has proposed related amendments to articles THIRTEENTH and FOURTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation. These amendments add to article THIRTEENTH some definitions of terms currently included in article TWELFTH that are relevant to other articles of our restated certificate of incorporation. These definitions of terms have been modified to reflect the repeal of article TWELFTH. In addition, in article FOURTEENTH, the amendments substitute the term "business combination" that was previously defined in article TWELFTH with a description of the term's meaning, which is no longer limited to transactions with "interested stockholders."

The board of directors has approved the proposed amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation described above. The board resolution setting forth the proposed amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation is included in Exhibit A to this proxy statement and shows the changes that would result from the amendments. If approved by our stockholders, the amendments will become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, which filing we would make promptly after the annual meeting.

The board of directors recommends a vote "for" the proposal to repeal article TWELFTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which contains provisions relating to business combinations with interested stockholders, and related amendments to articles THIRTEENTH and FOURTEENTH.

Approval requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock. Abstentions will count as votes against this proposal.

ITEM 3. REPEAL OF ARTICLE FIFTEENTH OF OUR RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, WHICH CONTAINS SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENTS FOR AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN ARTICLES OF OUR RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

As discussed above under Item 2, in November 2009, we received a stockholder proposal requesting that the board of directors take the steps necessary to change the stockholder vote requirements that call for a greater than simple majority vote in our restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws to a majority of votes cast for or against any proposal.

Article FIFTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, requires the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the voting power of the outstanding voting stock to amend, alter, change or repeal, or to adopt any provision inconsistent with, the following provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation:

- article TWELFTH, which contains provisions relating to business combinations with interested stockholders and includes a supermajority vote requirement. As described under Item 2 above, article TWELFTH is proposed to be deleted.
 - article THIRTEENTH, which contains provisions relating to the board of directors and establishes the range for the number of directors on the board, the authority of the board to fix the exact number of directors within the range, the provisions for annual election of directors, and the authority of the board to fill vacancies or newly created directorships
 - article FOURTEENTH, which sets forth a list of factors for the board of directors to consider in evaluating a proposal by another party to make a tender or exchange offer for securities of the company or to effect a merger, consolidation or other business combination with the company
 - article FIFTEENTH itself and
- article SIXTEENTH, which contains provisions setting forth how stockholder action must be effected and who is entitled to call special meetings of stockholders.

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The supermajority vote requirement does not apply to amendments that are recommended to stockholders by two-thirds of the continuing directors.

We added article FIFTEENTH to our restated certificate of incorporation in 1985. The supermajority vote requirement was intended to prevent one or more stockholders controlling a simple majority of our voting stock from repealing the fair price and other provisions referred to in article FIFTEENTH and to give minority stockholders holding in the aggregate in excess of 20% of the voting power the ability to prevent amendments to the fair price and other provisions referred to in article FIFTEENTH.

However, as with fair price provisions, in more recent years, some investors have viewed supermajority vote requirements as inconsistent with principles of good corporate governance and argue that such provisions make it more difficult for stockholders to effect change and participate in important decisions affecting the company. These investors believe that supermajority vote requirements limit the ability of a majority of stockholders to effect change by providing a veto right to a large minority stockholder or group of stockholders. They also assert that supermajority vote provisions cause boards and management to be less responsive or accountable to stockholders. Others have argued that supermajority vote requirements not only offer little, if any, protection to minority stockholders, but also have the effect of discouraging legitimate offers for the company by making them more expensive. A number of major corporations have determined that, regardless of the merits of supermajority vote provisions, principles of good corporate governance dictate that such requirements be eliminated.

After receiving the stockholder proposal, the board of directors reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of supermajority vote requirements contained in article FIFTEENTH and, after this review, decided to propose the repeal of article FIFTEENTH to further our goal of ensuring that our corporate governance policies maximize our accountability to stockholders.

If article FIFTEENTH is repealed, the stockholder vote required to approve amendments to the provisions of our restated articles of incorporation identified in article FIFTEENTH that are not recommended to stockholders by two-thirds of our continuing directors would be reduced from an 80% supermajority vote to a majority of our outstanding voting stock. Section 242(b) of the Delaware General Corporation Law would apply to all amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation and require that charter amendments be approved by a majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote thereon and by a majority of the outstanding stock of each class entitled to vote thereon as a class, unless the Delaware General Corporation Law or our restated certificate of incorporation specifically provides for a greater than majority vote.

The board of directors has approved the proposed amendment as described above. The board resolution setting forth the proposed amendment to our restated certificate of incorporation is included in Exhibit A to this proxy statement and shows the changes that would result from the amendment. If approved by our stockholders, the amendment will become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, which filing we would make promptly after the annual meeting.

The board of directors recommends a vote “for” the proposal to repeal article FIFTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which contains supermajority vote requirements for amendments to certain articles of our restated certificate of incorporation.

Approval requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock. Abstentions will count as votes against this proposal.

ITEM 4. REPEAL OF SECTION (c) OF ARTICLE THIRTEENTH OF OUR RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, WHICH PROVIDES THAT DIRECTORS MAY BE REMOVED BY STOCKHOLDERS ONLY FOR CAUSE, AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO SECTION (a) OF ARTICLE THIRTEENTH

Section (c) of article THIRTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides that any director or the entire board of directors may be removed by stockholders only for cause and sets forth the requirements for such removal.

In 2007, our board of directors proposed and our stockholders approved the declassification of our board. The declassification has been phased in over a three-year period from 2008 to 2010. Directors elected at our 2007 annual meeting comprise the last class of directors elected to serve a three-year term, and their terms will expire with this year's annual meeting. As a result, commencing with this year's annual meeting, our board will be completely declassified, and all directors at this year's annual meeting will be elected to serve one-year terms.

With the completion of the declassification of our board, section (c) of article THIRTEENTH will not be consistent with Section 141(k) of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which provides that the right of stockholders to remove directors may not be limited to removal for cause unless the board is classified.

The board of directors has therefore proposed to repeal section (c) of article THIRTEENTH and to make technical amendments to section (a) of article THIRTEENTH.

The board of directors has approved the proposed amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation described above. The board resolution setting forth the proposed amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation is included in Exhibit A to this proxy statement and shows the changes that would result from the amendments. If approved by our stockholders, the amendments will become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, which filing we would make promptly after the annual meeting. However, even if our stockholders do not approve the repeal of section (c), it will no longer have any effect because its provisions will be inconsistent with the Delaware General Corporation Law.

The board of directors recommends a vote “for” the proposal to repeal section (c) of article THIRTEENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, which provides that directors may be removed by stockholders only for cause, and technical amendments to section (a) of article THIRTEENTH.

Approval requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock. Abstentions will count as votes against this proposal.

ITEM 5. RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The audit committee at its February 2010 meeting appointed Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for fiscal year 2010. The board of directors concurred with the audit committee's decision. Deloitte & Touche LLP has served as our independent auditors since fiscal year 2002.

Although your ratification vote will not affect the appointment or retention of Deloitte & Touche LLP for 2010, the audit committee will consider your vote in determining its appointment of our independent auditors for the next fiscal year. The audit committee, in appointing our independent auditors, reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to change an appointment at any time during a fiscal year if it determines that such a change would be in our best interests.

A representative of Deloitte & Touche LLP will be present at the annual meeting and will be available to respond to appropriate questions. We do not anticipate that the representative will make a prepared statement at the meeting; however, he or she will be free to do so if he or she chooses.

The board of directors recommends a vote “for” the ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for 2010.

Ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for 2010 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions will count as votes against this proposal.

In connection with the audit of our financial statements for 2010, the parties have drafted an agreement for audit committee approval that contains provisions for alternative dispute resolution and for the exclusion of punitive damages. The agreement provides that disputes arising out of our engagement of Deloitte & Touche LLP are resolved through mediation or arbitration, commonly referred to as alternative dispute resolution procedures, and that the company's and Deloitte & Touche LLP's rights to pursue punitive damages or other forms of relief not based upon actual damages are waived. The alternative dispute resolution provisions do not apply to claims by third parties, such as our stockholders or creditors.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING MATTERS

Fees

The following table summarizes the aggregate fees that our independent auditors, Deloitte & Touche LLP, billed or are expected to bill us for professional services rendered for 2009 and 2008:

| | 2009 | 2008* |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Audit Fees(a) | \$2,393,800 | \$2,535,253 |
| Audit-Related Fees(b) | 52,292 | 78,511 |
| Tax Fees(c) | 17,600 | 33,653 |
| All Other Fees(d) | 130,016 | 0 |
| Total Fees(e) | \$2,593,708 | \$2,647,417 |
| Ratio of Tax and All Other Fees to Audit and Audit-Related Fees | 6.03% | 1.29% |

* The 2008 amounts were adjusted from amounts shown in the 2009 proxy statement to reflect actual amounts.

- (a) Audit fees for both 2009 and 2008 consisted of services rendered for the audit of our annual financial statements; reviews of our quarterly financial statements; comfort letters; statutory and regulatory audits and consents and other services related to Securities and Exchange Commission matters.
- (b) Audit-related fees for 2009 are associated with the audit of the Intermountain Gas Company's benefit plans and accounting research assistance. Audit-related fees for 2008 are associated with accounting research assistance; consultation on accounting process improvements, including recommended practices and opportunities for control improvement; and assistance in the transition of benefit plan audits to another accounting firm.
- (c) Tax fees for 2009 include support services associated with the Cascade Natural Gas Corporation IRS audit. Tax fees for 2008 are associated with tax planning, compliance, and support services.
- (d) All other fees for 2009 are for services provided by Deloitte FAS, LLP in connection with the review of accounting practices and procedures at one of the company's operating locations. No fees under the category of all other fees were incurred during 2008.
- (e) Total fees reported above include out-of-pocket expenses related to the services provided of \$267,708 for 2009 and \$269,618 for 2008.

Pre-Approval Policy

The audit committee pre-approved all services Deloitte & Touche LLP performed in 2009 in accordance with the pre-approval policy and procedures the audit committee adopted at its August 12, 2003 meeting. This policy is designed to achieve the continued independence of Deloitte & Touche LLP and to assist in our compliance with Sections 201 and 202 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The policy defines the permitted services in each of the audit, audit-related, tax and all other services categories as well as prohibited services. The pre-approval policy requires management to submit annually for approval to the audit committee a service plan describing the scope of work and anticipated cost associated with each category of service. At each regular audit committee meeting, management reports on services performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP and the fees paid or accrued through the end of the quarter preceding the meeting. Management may submit requests for additional permitted services before the next scheduled audit committee meeting to the designated member of the audit committee, Dennis W. Johnson, for approval. The designated member updates the audit committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting regarding any services that he approved during the interim period. At each regular audit committee meeting, management may submit to the audit committee for approval a supplement to the service plan containing any request for additional permitted services.

In addition, prior to approving any request for audit-related, tax or all other services of more than \$50,000, Deloitte & Touche LLP will provide a statement setting forth the reasons why rendering of the proposed services does not compromise Deloitte & Touche LLP's independence. This description and statement by Deloitte & Touche LLP may be incorporated into the service plan or as an exhibit thereto or may be delivered in a separate written statement.

ITEM 6. STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REQUESTING A REPORT ON COAL COMBUSTION WASTE

A stockholder has notified us that it intends to present a resolution for action by the stockholders at the annual meeting. We will provide the name, address and stock ownership of the proponent to stockholders promptly after receiving an oral or written request. The text of the resolution and the supporting statement submitted by the proponent are as follows.

PROXY

Stockholder Proposal

Report On Risks Associated With Coal Combustion Waste

WHEREAS: Coal combustion waste (CCW) is a by-product of burning coal that contains high concentrations of arsenic, mercury, heavy metals and other toxins that pollution control equipment filters out of smokestacks. Across the country, over 130 million tons of CCW are being stored in surface waste ponds, impoundments and abandoned mines.

Our company's electricity generation mix is 54% coal, 17% Gas, 4% Renewables, and 26% Purchased power/capacity agreements.

According to the company, our company operates CCW impoundment sites. CCW is therefore a significant issue for our company.

In 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a draft risk assessment that found extremely high risks to human health from the disposal of CCW in waste ponds and landfills. EPA's analyses of the behavior of CCW in unlined disposal sites predict that some metals will migrate and contaminate nearby groundwater to levels extremely dangerous to people.

The EPA has found ample evidence at over 60 sites in the U.S. that CCW has polluted ground and surface waters.

EPA has identified over 580 CCW impoundment facilities around the country. At least 49 of these have been labeled "high hazard potential" sites where a dam breach and subsequent spill of CCW material would likely result in a loss of human life and significant environmental consequences.

Recent reports by the New York Times and others have drawn attention to the impactful presence of CCW in the nation's air and waterways, through leakage from CCW impoundments and through direct discharge to surrounding rivers and streams.

The Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) 1.1 billion gallon CCW spill in December 2008 that covered over 300 acres in eastern Tennessee with toxic sludge highlights the serious environmental risks associated with storing CCW. TVA estimates a total cleanup cost of \$1.2 billion. This figure does not contain the extensive litigation costs that ensued, including the large class action lawsuit filed against TVA in February 2009.

EPA officials have indicated that the agency will determine by the end of 2009 whether certain power plant by-products such as coal ash should be treated as hazardous waste, which would subject CCW to stricter regulations.

RESOLVED: Shareholders request that the board prepare a report, at reasonable cost and omitting proprietary information, on the company's efforts, above and beyond legal compliance, to reduce environmental and health hazards associated with coal combustion waste ponds, impoundments and mines, and how those efforts reduce risks to the company's finance and operations. This report should be available to shareholders by August 2010.

Company Response

The board of directors recommends a vote "against" this proposal.

Our company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a division of our company ("Montana-Dakota"), are committed to environmental stewardship and compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Our company has three primary environmental goals:

- minimize waste and maximize resources
- support environmental laws and regulations that are based on sound science and cost-effective technology and
- comply with or exceed all applicable environmental laws, regulations and permit requirements.

Montana-Dakota's electric operations are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations providing for air, water and solid waste pollution control; federal health and safety regulations; and state hazard communication standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has previously determined that fossil fuel combustion wastes, including coal combustion waste ("CCW"), did not warrant regulation as a hazardous waste and exempted them from regulation under Subtitle C (hazardous waste) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"). However, CCW disposed of in landfills and surface impoundments is regulated under Subtitle D (solid waste regulations) of the RCRA, and CCW used as minefill is regulated under Subtitle D and/or under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The EPA announced its intention to propose new regulations in December 2009 governing management and storage of CCW in landfills and surface impoundments and to determine whether to continue to regulate CCW as a non-hazardous solid waste under Subtitle D or to designate it as hazardous and regulate it under Subtitle C of the RCRA. In December 2009, however, the EPA announced that it was deferring taking action on this for a short period of time due to the complexity of the analysis. The EPA has also announced its intention to revise existing standards under the Clean Water Act, which would include discharge from CCW ponds.

Four of Montana-Dakota's nine existing electric generating stations have steam turbines using coal for fuel. Montana-Dakota will also obtain electricity from Wygen III, a coal-fired electric generating station, when it becomes operational in spring 2010. Two stations, Coyote and Heskett, are located in North Dakota; Big Stone is located in South Dakota; Lewis & Clark is located in Montana; and Wygen III is located in Wyoming. Montana-Dakota is the owner and operator of Heskett and Lewis & Clark and has a 25 percent interest in Coyote, a 22.7 percent ownership interest in Big Stone and a 25 percent interest in Wygen III. CCW at these facilities is managed either in a wet state in ponds with dry disposal, or entirely in a dry state.

The states of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming have regulations relating to CCW that far exceed any current federal regulations. North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming require facilities located within each state - Coyote and Heskett in North Dakota, Big Stone in South Dakota, and Wygen III in Wyoming - to obtain permits for managing CCW impoundments and for long-term CCW disposal. The permits for each facility require that impoundments for CCW be appropriately designed and that ground water be monitored. Site staff and state environmental agency staff routinely inspect each site. Annual reports for these facilities, summarizing ground water results and activities conducted at these sites, are submitted to each respective regulatory agency: North Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

While the state of Montana has no requirements at this time for managing CCW, Montana-Dakota has adopted what it considers to be "best practices" at the Lewis & Clark Station, where it manages CCW in ponds and dewateres the waste prior to ultimate dry disposal at a naturally clay lined disposal area adjacent to the mine from which the plant receives its coal.

The ponds were designed and constructed under the supervision of a consulting professional engineer, requiring liners (clay or high density polyethylene), and appropriate stability and erosion prevention measures. There are ground water monitoring wells, which are sampled semiannually.

There are also weekly visual inspections of the ponds by plant technicians and a biennial visual inspection by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Water Protection Bureau. The yard crews inspect the ash handling system daily, and in winter, the inspections are conducted twice daily.

The board of directors respects our stockholders' interest in environmental and health matters. However, the board believes that Montana-Dakota has already taken appropriate actions to manage its CCW and that the investment of human and financial resources that would be required to produce such a report would not be a necessary or prudent use of stockholder assets.

Therefore, the board of directors recommends a vote "against" this proposal.

Approval requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions will count as votes against this proposal. Broker non-votes are not counted as voting power present and, therefore, are not counted in the vote.

PROXY

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

The following compensation discussion and analysis may contain statements regarding corporate performance targets and goals. These targets and goals are disclosed in the limited context of our compensation programs and should not be understood to be statements of management's expectations or estimates of results or other guidance. We specifically caution investors not to apply these statements to other contexts.

Introduction

In this compensation discussion and analysis, we discuss our compensation objectives, our decisions, and the reasons for our decisions relating to 2009 compensation for our named executive officers.

For 2009, our named executive officers were Terry D. Hildestad, Vernon A. Raile, John G. Harp, William E. Schneider, and Steven L. Bietz. Mr. Bietz, president and chief executive officer of WBI Holdings, Inc., is a named executive officer for the first time.

Each year we conduct a strategic analysis to identify opportunities and challenges associated with the operating environments in which we do business. Our strategy is to apply our expertise in three core lines of business – energy, construction materials, and utility resources – to increase market share, increase profitability, and enhance stockholder value through:

- organic growth as well as a continued disciplined approach to the acquisition of well-managed companies and properties
- the elimination of system-wide cost redundancies through increased focus on integration of operations and standardization and consolidation of various support services and functions across companies within the organization and
- the development of projects that are accretive to earnings per share and return on invested capital.

Objectives of our Compensation Program

We structure our compensation program to help retain and reward the executive officers who we believe are critical to our long-term success. We have a written executive compensation policy for our Section 16 officers, including all our named executive officers. Our policy has the following stated objectives:

- recruit, motivate, reward, and retain the high performing executive talent required to create superior long-term total stockholder return in comparison to our peer group
- reward executives for short-term performance as well as the growth in enterprise value over the long-term
- provide a competitive package relative to industry-specific and general industry comparisons and internal equity, as appropriate, and
- ensure effective utilization and development of talent by working in concert with other management processes – for example, performance appraisal, succession planning, and management development.

We pay/grant:

- base salaries in order to provide executive officers with sufficient, regularly-paid income and attract, recruit, and retain executives with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to successfully execute their job duties and responsibilities
- annual incentives in order to be competitive from a total remuneration standpoint and ensure focus on annual financial and operating results and
- long-term incentives in order to be competitive from a total remuneration standpoint and ensure focus on stockholder return.

If earned, incentive compensation, which consists of annual cash incentive awards and three-year performance share awards under our Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, makes up the greatest portion of our named executive officers' total compensation. The compensation committee believes incentive compensation that comprised approximately 61% to 71% of total target compensation for the named executive officers for 2009 is appropriate because:

- our named executive officers are in positions to drive, and therefore bear high levels of responsibility for, our corporate performance
- incentive compensation is more variable than base salary and dependent upon our performance

Proxy Statement

- variable compensation helps ensure focus on the goals that are aligned with our overall strategy and
- the interests of our named executive officers will be aligned with those of our stockholders by making a majority of the named executive officers' target compensation contingent upon results that are beneficial to stockholders.

The following table shows the allocation of total target compensation for 2009 among the individual components of base salary, annual incentive, and long-term incentive:

| Name | % of Total Target Compensation Allocated to Base Salary (%) | % of Total Target Compensation Allocated to Incentives | | |
|----------------------|---|--|---------------|------------------------|
| | | Annual (%) | Long-Term (%) | Annual + Long-Term (%) |
| Terry D. Hildestad | 28.6 | 28.6 | 42.8 | 71.4 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 39.2 | 25.5 | 35.3 | 60.8 |
| John G. Harp * | 39.2 | 25.5 | 35.3 | 60.8 |
| William E. Schneider | 39.2 | 25.5 | 35.3 | 60.8 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 39.2 | 25.5 | 35.3 | 60.8 |

* The percentages listed for Mr. Harp exclude the additional incentive opportunity of \$200,000 in 2009, which is discussed in greater detail under the heading "John G. Harp's Additional 2009 Incentive." Including the additional incentive opportunity would yield the following percentages: Base Salary, 33.4%; Annual Incentive, 36.5%; Long-Term Incentive, 30.1%; and Annual + Long-Term, 66.6%.

In order to reward long-term growth as well as short-term results, the compensation committee establishes incentive targets that emphasize long-term compensation as much as or more than short-term compensation for all Section 16 officers. The annual incentive targets for 2009 range from 30% to 100% of base salary and the long-term incentive targets range from 30% to 150% of base salary, depending on the executive's salary grade. Generally, our approach is to allocate a higher percentage of total target compensation to the long-term incentive than to the short-term incentive for our higher level executives, since they are in a better position to influence our long-term performance.

Additionally, the long-term incentive, if earned, is paid in company common stock. These awards, combined with our stock ownership guidelines, promote ownership of our stock by the named executive officers. The compensation committee believes that, as stockholders, the named executive officers will be motivated to consistently deliver financial results that build wealth for all stockholders over the long-term.

We also offer our Section 16 officers, including all of our named executive officers, benefits under our pension plans and our nonqualified defined benefit retirement plan, which we refer to as the Supplemental Income Security Plan or SISP. Historically, we have provided these programs because they have been instrumental in retaining executive talent; both have vesting requirements which call for minimum lengths of service to earn the full benefits. However, legislative changes relating to pension plans and cost reduction initiatives led to changes in both the pension plans and the SISP. The SISP was also changed to ensure the reductions in defined benefit retirement plans were consistent between executive and non-executive employees. Specifically, benefit accruals under our pension plans ceased after December 31, 2009. We discuss the modifications to both the pension plans and the SISP in the narrative following the "Pension Benefits for 2009" table.

All of our named executive officers have change of control employment agreements. The change of control employment agreements define "change of control" to include consummation of a merger or similar transaction rather than merely stockholder approval of the merger.

We believe it is important to encourage our executive officers to continue working for us during any change of control transaction periods and to provide severance payments and benefits if employment is terminated for no fault of the officer following a change of control. These agreements provide a measure of job and financial security so that potentially disruptive transactions do not affect the officers' judgment when working on behalf of the company and its stockholders prior to and after a change of control. We do not view the change of control agreements as additional compensation and do not take them into account when determining the amount of compensation provided because the events required to trigger these payments and benefits may never occur.

In addition to these agreements, the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan provides for accelerated vesting and payment of performance awards at the time of a change of control. In 2009, we amended the plan's "change of control" definition so that vesting and payment of awards are not triggered prematurely. The compensation committee believes that these protections are necessary to reassure the officers that they will not lose prior incentive awards or otherwise be adversely affected by a change of control. We discuss the amendments to the plan's change of control definition in "Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control."

PROXY

Role of Compensation Consultants and Management

Role of Compensation Consultants

In 2008, the compensation committee retained Towers Perrin, a nationally recognized consulting firm, to assess the competitive pay levels for base salary and incentive compensation for each Section 16 officer position and to assist the compensation committee in establishing competitive 2009 compensation targets for our Section 16 officers. The assessment included identifying material changes to the positions analyzed, updating competitive compensation information, gathering and analyzing relevant general and industry-specific survey data, and updating the base salary structure. Towers Perrin assessed competitive pay levels for base salary, total annual cash, which is base salary plus annual incentives, and total direct compensation, which is the sum of total annual cash and the expected value of long-term incentives. They compared our positions to like positions contained in general industry compensation surveys, industry-specific compensation surveys and, for our chief executive officer, the chief executive officers in our performance graph peer group. The compensation surveys used by Towers Perrin were:

| Survey* | Number of Companies Participating (#) | Median Number of Employees (#) | Number of Publicly- Traded Companies (#)(1) | Median Revenue (000s) (\$) |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Towers Perrin's Executive Compensation Database | 395 | 18,529 | 283 | 5,730,000 |
| Towers Perrin's Energy Services Industry Executive Compensation Database | 91 | 3,300 | 63 | 2,960,000 |
| Effective Compensation, Inc.'s Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Survey | 119 | 140 | 69 | 247,000 |
| Mercer's Energy Compensation Survey | 217 | 610 | 173 | 774,172 |
| Watson Wyatt's Report on Top Management Compensation | 2,309 | -(2) | -(2) | -(2) |

(1) For the Towers Perrin Executive Compensation Database, the number listed in the table is the number of companies reporting market capitalization. For the Towers Perrin Energy Services Industry Executive Compensation Database, the number listed in the table is the number of companies reporting three-year stockholder return.

(2) The 2,309 organizations participating in the 2007/2008 Watson Wyatt Report included 368 organizations with 2,000 to 4,999 employees; 298 organizations with 5,000 to 9,999 employees; 309 organizations with 10,000 to 19,999 employees; and 372 organizations with 20,000 or more employees. Watson Wyatt did not provide a revenue breakdown or the number of publicly-traded companies participating in its survey. Towers Perrin utilized the 2007/2008 survey and aged the data to January 1, 2009.

* The information in the table is based solely upon information provided by the publishers of the surveys and is not deemed filed or a part of this compensation discussion and analysis for certification purposes.

Our revenues for 2007, 2008, and 2009 were approximately \$4.2 billion, \$5.0 billion, and \$4.2 billion, respectively.

In addition to the above compensation surveys, for the chief executive officer comparison, Towers Perrin used information for the chief executive officers at the following companies, which comprised our performance graph peer group in July of 2007:

- Alliant Energy Corporation
- Berry Petroleum Company
- Black Hills Corporation
- Comstock Resources, Inc.
- Dycom Industries, Inc.
- EMCOR Group, Inc.
- Encore Acquisition Company
- EQT Corporation (formerly Equitable Resources, Inc.)
- Florida Rock Industries, Inc.
- Granite Construction Inc.
- Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.
- National Fuel Gas Co.
- Northwest Natural Gas Company
- NSTAR
- OGE Energy Corp.
- ONEOK, Inc.
- Quanta Services, Inc.
- Questar Corporation
- SCANA Corporation
- Southwest Gas Corporation
- St. Mary Land & Exploration Company
- Swift Energy Company
- U.S. Concrete, Inc.
- Vectren Corporation
- Vulcan Materials Company
- Whiting Petroleum Corporation

Role of Management

The chief executive officer played an important role in recommending 2009 compensation to the committee for the other named executive officers. The chief executive officer attended compensation committee meetings; however, he was not present during discussions regarding his compensation. In addition, he assessed the performance of the named executive officers and worked with the human resources department and compensation consultants to recommend:

- base salary grades and individual salaries
- annual and long-term incentive targets and increases in the level of the SISP benefits to current participants.

Our human resources personnel also supported the chief executive officer and the compensation committee by:

- working with the outside compensation consultants and the chief executive officer on the determination of recommended salary grades, which have associated annual base salary ranges and incentive targets
- reviewing recommended salary increases and incentive targets submitted by executive officers for officers reporting to them for reasonableness and alignment with company or business unit objectives and to help ensure internal equity and
- designing and updating annual and long-term incentive programs.

Once performance goals are approved by the compensation committee, the committee generally does not modify the goals. However, if major unforeseen changes in economic and environmental conditions or other significant factors beyond the control of management substantially affected their ability to achieve the specified performance goals, the compensation committee, in consultation with the chief executive officer, may modify the performance goals. Such goal modifications will only be considered in years of unusually adverse or favorable external conditions.

Internal Equity – Relative Value of Named Executive Officer Positions

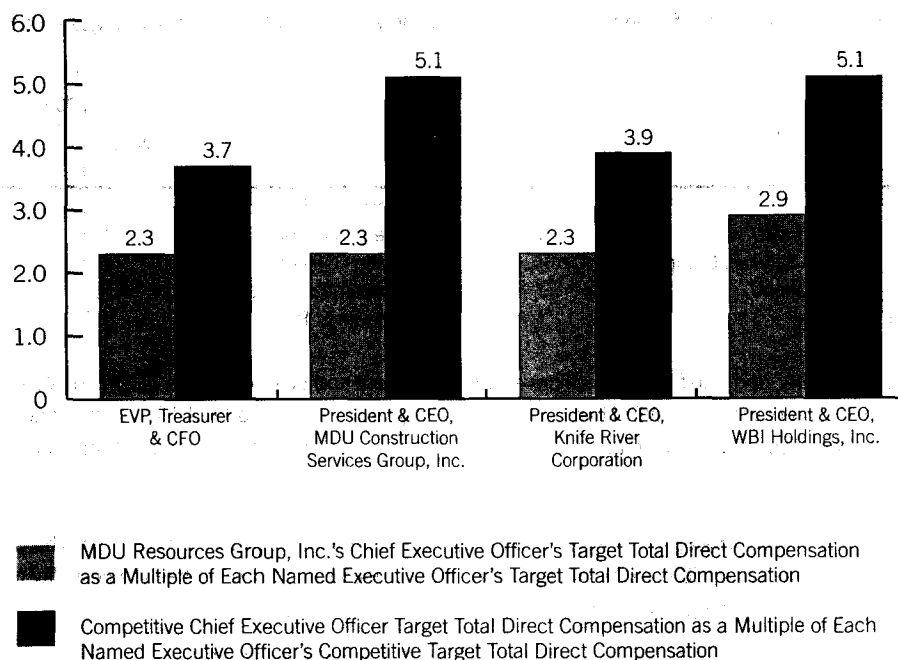
From an internal equity standpoint, the compensation committee considers, upon recommendation of the chief executive officer, the relative value of each named executive officer position when making compensation decisions. A position's relative value is determined by considering:

- participation on our management policy committee, which is the entity responsible for setting corporate-wide operating and management policies and procedures as well as our strategic direction
- the position's responsibilities relative to our total earnings, use of invested capital, and the stable generation of earnings and cash flow and
- the position's impact on key strategic initiatives.

This consideration impacts the assignment of a salary grade, short-term incentive targets, and long-term incentive targets. The compensation committee may make adjustments from competitive data in one or more of these items to ensure the pay differences between the chief executive officer and the other named executive officers are reasonable in their judgment in light of the internal equity factors described above. For example, the compensation committee has historically assigned a long-term incentive target percentage to the chief executive officer position that is lower than the competitive level indicated through market data. The committee's rationale is to have the chief executive officer's compensation closer to the compensation of his direct reports than what the market data would otherwise indicate.

To test the reasonableness of the company's approach on pay equity, the compensation committee measured the chief executive officer's compensation as a multiple of the compensation paid to our other four named executives, then compared these multiples to competitive pay information provided by Towers Perrin. The chart below shows the company's pay multiples and the competitive pay multiples.

We calculated the four multiples in the chart by dividing our chief executive officer's target total direct compensation by the target total direct compensation of each of our four named executives. We calculated the four competitive pay multiples by dividing the target total direct compensation for the chief executive officer position, as provided by Towers Perrin, by the target total direct compensation of each position similar to each of our four named executives, as provided by Towers Perrin. For purposes of this comparison, target total direct compensation consists of base salary plus target annual incentive plus target long-term incentive.



The company's chief executive officer multiples are less than chief executive officer pay multiples as calculated with competitive data.* The compensation committee views the lower multiples as support for the belief that compensation targets among the named executives are equitably distributed.

* The information in the chart showing chief executive officer pay multiples from competitive data is based solely upon information provided by the publishers of the compensation surveys discussed earlier and is not deemed filed or a part of this compensation discussion and analysis for certification purposes.

Decisions for 2009

The compensation committee, in conjunction with the board of directors, determined all compensation for each named executive officer for 2009 and set overall and individual compensation targets for the three components of compensation – base salary, annual incentive, and long-term incentive. The compensation committee made recommendations to the board of directors regarding compensation of all Section 16 officers, and the board of directors then approved the recommendations.

The compensation committee reviewed competitive executive compensation data from Towers Perrin and established salary grades at its August 2008 meeting. At the November 2008 meeting, it established individual base salaries, target annual incentive award levels, and target long-term incentive award levels for 2009. At the February meetings of the compensation committee and the board of directors, annual and long-term incentive awards were determined, along with the payouts based on performance from the recently completed performance period for prior annual and long-term awards. The February meetings occur after the release of earnings for the prior year.

Salary Grades for 2009

The compensation committee determines the named executive officers' base salaries and annual and long-term incentive targets by reference to salary grades. Each salary grade has a minimum, midpoint, and maximum annual salary level with the midpoint targeted at approximately the 50th percentile of data provided by Towers Perrin for positions in the salary grade. The compensation committee may adjust the salary grades away from the 50th percentile in order to balance the external market data with internal equity. The salary grades also have annual and long-term incentive target levels, which are expressed as a percentage of the individual's actual annual salary. We generally place named executive officers into a salary grade based on historical classification of their positions; however, the compensation committee, at its August meeting, reviews each classification and may place a position into a different salary grade if it determines that the targeted competitive compensation for the position changes significantly or the executive's responsibilities and/or performance warrants a different salary grade. The committee also considers, upon recommendation from the chief executive officer, a position's relative value as discussed above.

Proxy Statement

Our named executive officers' salary grade classifications are listed below along with the 2009 base salary ranges associated with each classification:

| Position | Grade | Name | 2009 Base Salary (000s) | | |
|--|-------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | Minimum (\$) | Midpoint (\$) | Maximum (\$) |
| President and CEO | K | Terry D. Hildestad | 620 | 775 | 930 |
| Executive Vice President, Treasurer and CFO | J | Vernon A. Raile | 312 | 390 | 468 |
| President and CEO, MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. | J | John G. Harp | 312 | 390 | 468 |
| President and CEO, Knife River Corporation | J | William E. Schneider | 312 | 390 | 468 |
| President and CEO, WBI Holdings, Inc. | J | Steven L. Bietz | 312 | 390 | 468 |

The executive vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer and the president and chief executive officers of MDU Construction Services Group, Inc., Knife River Corporation, and WBI Holdings, Inc. are assigned to salary grade "J." The committee believes that from an internal equity standpoint, these positions should carry the same salary grade. The salary grades for our named executive officers remained unchanged for 2009.

The compensation committee determines where, within each salary grade, an individual's base salary should be. The compensation committee believes that having a range of possible salaries within each salary grade gives the committee the flexibility to assign different salaries to individual executives within a salary grade to reflect one or more of the following:

- our performance on financial measurements as compared to our performance graph peer group
- executive's performance on financial goals
- executive's performance on non-financial goals, including the results of the performance assessment program
- executive's experience, tenure, and future potential
- position's relative value compared to other positions within the company
- relationship of the salary to the competitive salary market value
- internal equity with other executives and
- economic environment of the corporation or executive's business unit.

Our performance assessment program rates performance in the following areas, which help determine actual salaries within the range of salaries associated with the executive's salary grade:

- visionary leadership
- strategic thinking
- leading with integrity
- managing customer focus
- financial responsibility
- achievement focus
- judgment
- planning and organization
- leadership
- mentoring
- relationship building
- conflict resolution
- organizational savvy
- safety
- Great Place to Work®

An executive's overall performance in our performance assessment program is rated on a scale of one to five, with five as the highest rating denoting distinguished performance. An overall performance above 3.75 is considered commendable performance.

The chief executive officer assessed each named executive officer's performance under the performance assessment program, and the compensation committee, as well as the full board of directors, assessed the chief executive officer's performance.

Base Salaries of the Named Executive Officers for 2009

Terry D. Hildestad

Mr. Hildestad has served as chief executive officer since August 2006. For 2009, the committee increased his salary by 7.1%, from \$700,000 to \$750,000. The reasons for Mr. Hildestad's 2009 increase were:

- the company's 2008 forecasted financial results (based on 9 months' actual plus 3 months' estimate) on earnings per share (EPS) and return on invested capital (ROIC) were higher than 2008 targets by 12.4% and 6.6%, respectively
- the company's ROIC for the twelve months ended June 30, 2008 was 19.1% higher than the median ROIC for the performance graph peer companies over the same time period on a continuing operations basis
- the board recognized Mr. Hildestad's strong leadership during difficult economic times, as well as fostering a culture of integrity throughout the organization, and
- moving Mr. Hildestad's salary closer to the 2009 salary grade midpoint of \$775,000.

Vernon A. Raile

Mr. Raile has served as executive vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer since January 2006. Mr. Raile's 2009 base salary was set at \$450,000, representing an increase of 12.5% over his 2008 base salary of \$400,000. The committee set his 2009 base salary at \$450,000, above the midpoint of his salary grade, due to his commendable performance assessment rating, his years of service, and the results associated with these key achievements:

- the company's 2008 forecasted financial results (based on 9 months' actual plus 3 months' estimate) on EPS and ROIC were higher than 2008 targets by 12.4% and 6.6%, respectively
- the company's ROIC for the twelve months ended June 30, 2008 was 19.1% higher than the median ROIC for the performance graph peer companies over the same time period on a continuing operations basis, and
- key financing initiatives that were undertaken utilizing Mr. Raile's experience and skill.

John G. Harp

Mr. Harp has served as president and chief executive officer of MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. since September 2004. For 2009, his base salary was set at \$450,000, representing an increase of 12.5% over his 2008 base salary of \$400,000. The committee set his 2009 base salary at \$450,000, above the midpoint of his salary grade, due to his commendable performance assessment rating and due to results associated with these key achievements:

- MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2008 forecasted financial results (based on 9 months' actual plus 3 months' estimate) on EPS and ROIC were higher than 2008 targets by 74.0% and 59.1%, respectively
- MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s ROIC for the twelve months ended June 30, 2008 was 115.9% higher than the median ROIC of construction services companies in our performance graph peer group, and
- Mr. Harp's strong grasp of all aspects of MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s business, including operations, collections, bidding, and personnel.

William E. Schneider

Mr. Schneider has served as president and chief executive officer of Knife River Corporation since May 2005. Mr. Schneider's 2009 base salary was maintained at \$447,400, representing no increase from 2008. The committee did not grant Mr. Schneider a base salary increase because Knife River Corporation's 2008 nine-month financial results were less than target and because the committee wished to be consistent with the overall wage freeze imposed across Knife River Corporation.

Steven L. Bietz

Mr. Bietz has served as president and chief executive officer of WBI Holdings, Inc. since March 2006. For 2009, his base salary was set at \$350,000, representing an increase of 11.8% over his 2008 base salary of \$313,100. The committee set his 2009 base salary at \$350,000, below the midpoint of his salary grade, due to his commendable performance assessment rating and due to results associated with these key achievements:

- WBI Holdings, Inc.'s 2008 forecasted financial results (based on 9 months' actual plus 3 months' estimate) on EPS and ROIC were higher than 2008 targets by 37.1% and 30.9%, respectively

Proxy Statement

- The ROIC associated with the oil and natural gas exploration and production unit of WBI Holdings, Inc. for the twelve month period ended June 30, 2008 was 58.4% higher than the median ROIC of oil and natural gas exploration and production companies in our performance graph peer group, and
- Mr. Bietz's leadership in the large-scale development of the Bakken Field.

The following table shows each named executive officer's base salary for 2008 and 2009 and the percentage change.

| Name | Base Salary for 2008 (000s) (\$) | Base Salary for 2009 (000s) (\$) | % Change (%) |
|----------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 700.0 | 750.0 | 7.1 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 400.0 | 450.0 | 12.5 |
| John G. Harp | 400.0 | 450.0 | 12.5 |
| William E. Schneider | 447.4 | 447.4 | 0.0 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 313.1 | 350.0 | 11.8 |

2009 Annual Incentives

What the Performance Measures Are and Why We Chose Them

The compensation committee develops and reviews financial and other corporate performance measures to help ensure that compensation to the executives reflects the success of their respective business unit and/or the corporation, as well as the value provided to our stockholders. For Messrs. Hildestad and Raile, the performance measures for annual incentive awards are our annual return on invested capital results compared to target and our annual earnings per share results compared to target. For Messrs. Schneider, Harp, and Bietz, the performance measures for annual incentive awards are their respective business unit's annual return on invested capital results compared to target and their respective business unit's allocated earnings per share results compared to target. The 2009 safety results of WBI Holdings, Inc. was also a measure for Mr. Bietz's 2009 annual incentive.

The compensation committee believes earnings per share and return on invested capital are very good measurements in assessing company performance from a financial standpoint. Earnings per share is a generally accepted accounting principle measurement and is a key driver of stockholder return over the long-term. Return on invested capital measures how efficiently and effectively management deploys its capital. Sustained returns on invested capital in excess of our cost of capital create wealth for our stockholders.

Allocated earnings per share for a business unit is calculated by dividing that business unit's earnings by the business unit's portion of the total company weighted average shares outstanding. Return on invested capital for the company is calculated by dividing our earnings, without regard to after tax interest expense and preferred stock dividends, by our average capitalization for the calendar year. Return on invested capital for a business unit is calculated by dividing the business unit's earnings, without regard to after tax interest expense and preferred stock dividends, by the business unit's average capitalization for the calendar year.

The compensation committee determines the weighting of the performance measures each year based upon recommendations from the chief executive officer. The compensation committee weighted the 2009 performance measures for return on invested capital compared to targeted results and allocated earnings per share compared to targeted results each at 50%. The compensation committee believes both measures are equally important in driving stockholder value in the short term and over time.

We limit the after-tax annual incentive compensation we will pay above the target amount to 20% of earnings in excess of planned earnings. We calculate the earnings in excess of planned earnings without regard to the after-tax annual incentive amounts above target. We measure the 20% limitation at the major business unit level for business unit executives, which include Messrs. Harp, Schneider and Bietz, and at the corporate level for corporate executives, which include Messrs. Hildestad and Raile. In 2009, the 20% limitation was calculated without regard to the noncash ceiling test impairment charge that we discuss later and an associated depletion, depreciation and amortization benefit.

We establish our incentive plan performance targets in connection with our annual financial planning process, where we assess the economic environment, competitive outlook, industry trends, and company specific conditions to set projections of results. The committee evaluates the projected results and uses this evaluation to establish the incentive plan performance targets. The committee also considers annual improvement in the return on invested capital measure for incentive purposes to help ensure that return on invested capital will equal or exceed the weighted average cost of capital. Historically, this consideration took the form of a minimum annual increase in a business unit's and/or the company's return on invested capital incentive plan performance target(s). For 2009, the committee chose to

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use the stretch return on invested capital target approved by the board in the 2009 business plan rather than the required annual minimum increase in recognition of the soft economic environment and depressed commodity prices. In the committee's discretion, it may establish incentive plan performance targets higher, lower, or at the same level as the prior year's target and/or results.

What the Incentive Targets Are and Why We Chose Them

The compensation committee established the annual incentive targets as a percentage of the individual's actual base salary.

The chief executive officer's target annual incentive was 100% of his base salary. Messrs. Raile, Harp, Schneider, and Bietz's target annual incentives were 65% of their base salaries. These incentive targets were derived in part from competitive data provided by Towers Perrin and in part by the compensation committee's desire, based on internal equity, to have a uniform annual incentive target for the business unit president and chief executive officer positions and the executive vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer position. The target annual incentives for the named executives did not change in 2009 from 2008. The award opportunities available to each named executive officer ranged from no payment if the goals were met below the 85% level to a 200% payout if the goals were met at or above the 115% level. In 2009, Mr. Bietz also had five individual goals relating to WBI Holdings, Inc.'s safety results, and each goal that was not met reduced his annual incentive award by 1%.

The table below lists each named executive officer's 2009 base salary, the 2009 annual incentive target percentage, the officer's 2009 incentive plan performance targets, the 2009 incentive plan results, and the annual incentive earned for 2009.

| Name | 2009 Base Salary (000s) (\$) | 2009 Annual Incentive Target (%) | 2009 Incentive Plan Performance Targets | | 2009 Incentive Plan Results | | 2009 Annual Incentive Earned (000s) (\$) |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|------|-----------------------------------|------|---|
| | | | EPS | ROIC | EPS | ROIC | |
| | | | (\$) | (%) | (\$) | (%) | |
| Terry D. Hildestad (1) | 750.0 | 100 | 1.09 | 5.7 | 1.30 | 6.6 | 1,500.00 |
| Vernon A. Raile (1) | 450.0 | 65 | 1.09 | 5.7 | 1.30 | 6.6 | 585.00 |
| John G. Harp (2) | 450.0 | 65 | 3.17 | 10.2 | 3.21 | 10.4 | 392.50 |
| William E. Schneider (3) | 447.4 | 65 | 0.52 | 4.3 | 0.68 | 5.3 | 581.62 |
| Steven L. Bietz (4) | 350.0 | 65 | 1.69 | 5.6 | 2.22 | 7.1 | 450.45 |

- (1) Based on earnings per share and return on invested capital for MDU Resources Group, Inc. The 2009 incentive plan results were adjusted to exclude the 2009 noncash impairment charge as discussed below.
- (2) Based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. The amount for Mr. Harp includes an additional \$100,000 incentive as described below.
- (3) Based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for Knife River Corporation.
- (4) Based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for WBI Holdings, Inc. The 2009 incentive plan results were adjusted to exclude the 2009 noncash impairment charge as discussed below. Also in 2009, WBI Holdings, Inc. met four of five safety goals, and therefore Mr. Bietz's 2009 Annual Incentive Earned reflects a reduction of 1% or \$4,550.00.

The following table shows the changes in our performance targets and achievements for both 2008 and 2009.

| Name | 2008 Incentive Plan Performance Targets | | 2008 Incentive Plan Results | | 2009 Incentive Plan Performance Targets | | 2009 Incentive Plan Results | |
|--------------------------|--|------|-----------------------------------|------|--|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| | EPS | ROIC | EPS | ROIC | EPS | ROIC | EPS | ROIC |
| | (\$) | (%) | (\$) | (%) | (\$) | (%) | (\$) | (%) |
| Terry D. Hildestad (1) | 1.77 | 9.1 | 1.59 | 8.0 | 1.09 | 5.7 | 1.30 | 6.6 |
| Vernon A. Raile (1) | 1.77 | 9.1 | 1.59 | 8.0 | 1.09 | 5.7 | 1.30 | 6.6 |
| John G. Harp (2) | 2.73 | 10.5 | 5.03 | 17.7 | 3.17 | 10.2 | 3.21 | 10.4 |
| William E. Schneider (3) | 1.03 | 7.5 | 0.42 | 3.5 | 0.52 | 4.3 | 0.68 | 5.3 |
| Steven L. Bietz (4) | - | - | - | - | 1.69 | 5.6 | 2.22 | 7.1 |

- (1) Based on earnings per share and return on invested capital for MDU Resources Group, Inc. The 2009 incentive plan results were adjusted to exclude the 2009 noncash impairment charge as discussed below.
- (2) Based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.
- (3) Based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for Knife River Corporation.
- (4) Based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for WBI Holdings, Inc. The 2009 incentive plan results were adjusted to exclude the 2009 noncash impairment charge as discussed below.

2009 Annual Incentive Results and the Impact of the 2009 Noncash Impairment Charges

The company uses the full-cost method of accounting for its natural gas and oil activities. Under this method, the company is required to perform quarterly "ceiling tests" to compare the present value of the future net cash flow from proven reserves to the book value of those reserves at the balance sheet date.

Proxy Statement

Due to the low energy prices at the beginning of 2009, the compensation committee, upon recommendation of the chief executive officer, at the February 2009 meeting decided to disregard, for purposes of calculating 2009 annual incentives, the effects of any potential noncash ceiling test impairment charges related to the company's natural gas and oil properties. Consistent with this determination, no associated earnings benefit resulting from lower depletion, depreciation and amortization expenses would be considered in the calculation. The committee's rationale for the decision was:

- operating cash flows are not affected by a ceiling test charge
- the underlying value of the business is not affected by a ceiling test charge
- the ceiling test charge would be driven by a single day point in time price to value natural gas and oil reserves, which may not be reflective of the underlying long-term value of the assets, and
- recognition of the Securities and Exchange Commission's decision to change the "ceiling test" rules from using prices from the last day of the reporting period to a 12-month average of prices on the first day of the month during the reporting period effective December 31, 2009.

On March 31, 2009, the company recorded a \$384.4 million after-tax noncash charge in response to the natural gas and oil prices at that time. If the committee had not excluded the noncash charge, our named executives would not have received an incentive payment for 2009.

Terry D. Hildestad's 2009 Annual Incentive Award

As president and chief executive officer of MDU Resources Group, Inc., Mr. Hildestad's 2009 incentive plan performance targets were based on our earnings per share and return on invested capital. We set his 2009 earnings per share target level and return on invested capital below his 2008 targets and actual results to reflect significantly lower commodity prices and the continued effects of the soft economic activity in the construction industries.

For 2009 incentive plan results, the company's 2009 earnings per share and return on invested capital results were 119.3% and 115.8% of their respective 2009 targets. Therefore, we paid \$1,500,000 to Mr. Hildestad as a 2009 incentive.

Vernon A. Raile's 2009 Annual Incentive Award

As executive vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer of MDU Resources Group, Inc., Mr. Raile's 2009 incentive plan performance targets were based on our earnings per share and return on invested capital. As discussed above for Mr. Hildestad, we set his 2009 earnings per share target level and return on invested capital below his 2008 targets and actual results to reflect significantly lower commodity prices and the continued effects of the soft economic activity in the construction industries.

For 2009 incentive plan results, the company's 2009 earnings per share and return on invested capital results were 119.3% and 115.8% of their respective 2009 targets. Therefore, we paid \$585,000 to Mr. Raile as a 2009 incentive.

John G. Harp's 2009 Annual Incentive Award

As president and chief executive officer of MDU Construction Services Group, Inc., we based Mr. Harp's 2009 incentive plan performance targets on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. We set his 2009 earnings per share target level above his 2008 earnings per share target level to reflect the 2009 planned dividend to MDU Resources Group, Inc., which we projected would reduce the allocated shares for MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. and therefore increase its allocated earnings per share. We set the 2009 return on invested capital target slightly lower than the 2008 return on invested capital target to reflect lower anticipated earnings. The 2009 earnings per share and return on invested capital targets were lower than the actual results for 2008 to reflect the downturn in the Las Vegas construction market.

For 2009 incentive plan results, MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 earnings per share results and return on invested capital results were 101.3% and 102.0% of their respective 2009 targets. These results would normally equate to an incentive payment of \$323,798. However, as discussed earlier, we limit incentive payments above target to 20% of after-tax earnings above planned earnings. Since MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 actual earnings were below 2009 planned earnings, we limited Mr. Harp's 2009 actual incentive to his 2009 target incentive amount of \$292,500. Therefore, we paid \$292,500 to Mr. Harp as a 2009 incentive.

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John G. Harp's Additional 2009 Incentive

In addition to the 2009 annual incentive award, Mr. Harp had the opportunity to earn an additional incentive, which the compensation committee structured as follows:

| MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 Return on Invested Capital (ROIC) as compared to MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) | Additional Incentive Amount |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 2009 ROIC is less than 100 basis points above 2009 WACC | \$0 |
| 2009 ROIC is 100 to 199 basis points above 2009 WACC | \$100,000 |
| 2009 ROIC is 200 basis points or more above 2009 WACC | \$200,000 |

Throughout 2009, MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. accumulated significant amounts of cash through effective working capital management. These amounts exceeded the amounts anticipated at the beginning of 2009, resulting in the reduction of all of its commercial paper and more dividends to MDU Resources Group, Inc. than originally projected. In addition, MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. was able to lend the remaining excess cash to other MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s subsidiaries, reducing debt at the MDU Resources Group, Inc. level. Although the remaining excess cash did not lower the invested capital at MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. on a standalone basis, it did lower the overall invested capital of MDU Resources Group, Inc. Therefore, the compensation committee, upon recommendation from the chief executive officer, approved calculating MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 return on invested capital to reflect the excess cash accumulated. The compensation committee's rationale for this decision was:

- recognition of, and rewarding for, effectively managing accounts receivable through timely collections, and
- MDU Resources Group, Inc. benefited from the excess cash through lower average commercial paper balances in 2009.

MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 return on invested capital, as adjusted for the excess cash, was 12.5% compared to its 2009 weighted average cost of capital of 11.1%. Because the 2009 return on invested capital of 12.5% was higher than the reported 2009 weighted average cost of capital of 11.1%, Mr. Harp received \$100,000 in additional incentive for 2009.

William E. Schneider's 2009 Annual Incentive Award

As president and chief executive officer of Knife River Corporation, Mr. Schneider's 2009 incentive plan performance targets were based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for Knife River Corporation. We set his 2009 targets for allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital lower than his 2008 targets and higher than 2008 actual results. The compensation committee arrived at these targets based on the current economic softness in the construction markets, partially offset by a significant reduction in Knife River Corporation's cost structure.

For 2009, Knife River Corporation's 2009 earnings per share and return on invested capital results were 130.8% and 123.3% of their respective 2009 targets. Therefore, we paid \$581,620 to Mr. Schneider as a 2009 incentive.

Steven L. Bietz's 2009 Annual Incentive Award

As president and chief executive officer of WBI Holdings, Inc., Mr. Bietz's 2009 incentive plan performance targets were based on allocated earnings per share and return on invested capital for WBI Holdings, Inc. We set his 2009 earnings per share and return on invested capital target levels below his 2008 target and 2008 actual results largely to reflect lower commodity prices and lower anticipated production due to reduced capital expenditures.

For 2009 incentive plan results, the company's 2009 earnings per share and return on invested capital results were 131.4% and 126.8% of their respective 2009 targets. These results equated to an incentive of \$455,000, which was reduced by \$4,550 or 1% due to not achieving one of the five 2009 safety goals. Therefore, we paid \$450,450 to Mr. Bietz as a 2009 incentive.

Deferral of Annual Incentive Compensation

We provide executives the opportunity to defer receipt of earned annual incentives. If an executive chooses to defer his or her annual incentive, we will credit the deferral with interest at a rate determined by the compensation committee. For 2009, the committee discontinued using the prime rate in favor of using Moody's U.S. Long-Term Corporate Bond Yield Average for "A" rated companies. The committee's reasons for using this approach recognized:

- incentive deferrals are a low-cost source of capital for the company, and
- incentive deferrals are unsecured obligations and therefore carry a higher risk to the executives.

2009 Long-Term Incentives

Awards Granted in 2009 under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan

We use the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, which is an omnibus plan and has been approved by our stockholders, for long-term incentive compensation. We discontinued the use of stock options in 2003 and now use performance shares as the only form of long-term incentive compensation.

The compensation committee uses the performance graph peer group as the comparator group to determine relative stockholder return and potential payments under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan for its 2009-2011 performance share award cycle. The companies comprising our performance graph peer group are the same companies listed above under the heading "Role of Compensation Consultants" with the exception of Florida Rock Industries, which was acquired in late 2007.

The performance measure is our total stockholder return over a three-year measurement period as compared to the total stockholder returns of the companies in our performance graph peer group over the same three-year period. The compensation committee selected this goal because it believes executive pay under a long-term, capital accumulation program such as this should mirror our long-term performance in stockholder return as compared to other public companies in our industries. Payments are made in company stock; dividend equivalents are paid in cash.

Total stockholder return is the percentage change in the value of an investment in the common stock of a company, from the closing price on the last trading day in the calendar year preceding the beginning of the performance period, through the last trading day in the final year of the performance period. It is assumed that dividends are reinvested in additional shares of common stock at the frequency paid.

As with the annual incentive target, we determined the long-term incentive target for a given position by reference to the salary grade. We derived these incentive targets in part from competitive data provided by Towers Perrin and in part by the committee's judgment on the impact each position has on our total stockholder return. The committee also believed consistency across positions in the same salary grades and keeping the chief executive officer's long-term incentive target below a level indicated by competitive data were important from an internal equity standpoint. The 2009 long-term incentive targets for each named executive were unchanged from 2008.

On February 12, 2009, the board of directors, upon recommendation of the compensation committee, made performance share grants to the named executive officers. The compensation committee determined the target number of performance shares granted to each named executive officer by multiplying the named executive officer's 2009 base salary by his or her long-term incentive target and then dividing this product by the average of the closing prices of our stock from January 2, 2009 through January 22, 2009, as shown in the following table:

| Name | 2009 Base Salary to Determine Target (\$) | 2009 Long-Term Incentive Target at Time of Grant (%) | 2009 Long-Term Incentive Target at Time of Grant (\$) | Average Closing Price of Our Stock From January 2 Through January 22 (\$) | Resulting Number of Performance Shares Granted on February 12 (#) |
|----------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 750,000 | 150 | 1,125,000 | 20.52 | 54,824 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 450,000 | 90 | 405,000 | 20.52 | 19,736 |
| John G. Harp | 450,000 | 90 | 405,000 | 20.52 | 19,736 |
| William E. Schneider | 447,400 | 90 | 402,660 | 20.52 | 19,622 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 350,000 | 90 | 315,000 | 20.52 | 15,350 |

From 0% to 200% of the target grant will be paid out in February 2012 depending on our three-year 2009-2011 total stockholder return compared to the total three-year stockholder returns of companies in our performance graph peer group. The payout percentage will be a function of our rank against our performance graph peer group as follows:

| The Company's Percentile Rank | Payout Percentage of February 12, 2009 Grant |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 100th | 200% |
| 75th | 150% |
| 50th | 100% |
| 40th | 10% |
| Less than 40th | 0% |

Payouts for percentile ranks falling between the intervals will be interpolated. We also will pay dividend equivalents in cash on the number of shares actually earned for the performance period. The dividend equivalents will be paid in 2012 at the same time as the performance awards are paid.

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Awards Paid on February 12, 2009 under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan

We granted performance shares to our named executive officers under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan on February 16, 2006 for the 2006 through 2008 performance period. Our total stockholder return for the 2006 through 2008 performance period was 5.46%, which corresponded to a percentile rank of 48% against our performance graph peer group. The percentile rank of 48% corresponded to a payout percentage of 82%, meaning 82% of the target shares originally granted plus dividend equivalents were paid to the named executive officers. The table below lists the shares granted on February 16, 2006, the shares paid on February 12, 2009 based on the payout percentage, and the dividend equivalents earned.

| Name | Shares Granted on February 16, 2006(1) (#) | Payout Percentage (%) | Shares Paid on February 12, 2009(1) (#) | Dividend Equivalents (\$) |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 23,883 | 82 | 19,584 | 32,968 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 12,429 | 82 | 10,192 | 17,157 |
| John G. Harp | 10,072 | 82 | 8,259 | 13,903 |
| William E. Schneider | 15,285 | 82 | 12,534 | 21,100 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 7,018 | 82 | 5,755 | 9,688 |

(1) Shares are adjusted for the 3-for-2 stock split effective July 26, 2006.

PEER4 Analysis: Comparison of Pay for Performance Ratios

Each year we compare our named executive officers' pay for performance ratios to the pay for performance ratios of the named executive officers in the performance graph peer group. This analysis looks at the relationship between our compensation levels and our average annual total stockholder return in comparison to the peer group over a five-year period. All data used in the analysis, including the valuation of long-term incentives and calculation of stockholder return, were compiled by Equilar, Inc., an independent service provider, which uses each company's annual filings as a basis of its data collection.

This analysis consisted of dividing what we paid our named executive officers for the years 2004 through 2008 by our average annual total stockholder return for the same five-year period to yield our pay ratio. Our pay ratio was then compared to the pay ratio of the companies in the performance graph peer group, which was calculated by dividing total direct compensation for all the proxy group executives by the sum of each company's average annual total stockholder return for the same five-year period. The results are shown in the following chart.

5 Year Total Direct Compensation to 5 Year Total Stockholder Return*

| | MDU Resources Group, Inc. (\$) | Performance Graph Peer Group (\$) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Dollars of Total Direct Compensation (1) per Point of Total Stockholder Return | 5,489,386 | 5,390,223 |

(1) Total direct compensation is the sum of annual base salaries, annual incentives, the value of long-term incentives at grant and all other compensation as reported in the proxy statements. For 2006, 2007 and 2008, total direct compensation also includes the change in pension values and nonqualified deferred compensation earnings as reported in the proxy statements.

* The chart is not deemed filed or a part of this compensation discussion and analysis for certification purposes.

The results of the analysis showed that we paid our named executive officers slightly more than what the performance graph peer group companies paid their named executive officers for comparable levels of stockholder return over the five-year period. Specifically, as indicated in the chart, the data shows that we paid our named executive officers approximately \$99,000 more per point of stockholder return than our performance graph peer group. We have been conducting our PEER4 Analysis since 2004.

Post-Termination Compensation and Benefits**Pension Plans**

Effective 2006, we no longer offer defined benefit pension plans to new non-bargaining unit employees. The defined benefit plans available to employees hired before 2006 were amended to cease benefit accruals as of December 31, 2009. The frozen benefit provided through our qualified defined benefit pension plans is determined by years of service and base salary. Effective 2010, for those employees who were participants in defined benefit pension plans and for executives and other employees hired after 2006, the company offers increased company contributions to our 401(k) plan.

Supplemental Income Security Plan

Benefits Offered

We offer certain key managers and executives, including all of our named executive officers, benefits under our nonqualified retirement plan, which we refer to as the Supplemental Income Security Plan or SISP. The SISP has a ten-year vesting schedule and was amended to add an additional vesting requirement for benefit level increases occurring on or after January 1, 2010. The SISP provides participants with additional retirement income and death benefits. The additional retirement income may take two forms:

- a supplemental retirement benefit payable for fifteen years beginning at the later of age 65 or after employment ends. The company amended this portion of the benefit to reflect a 20% reduction in future benefit levels for employees who join the plan on or after January 1, 2010 and for current participants who receive benefit level increases on or after January 1, 2010.
- an additional retirement benefit to offset the Internal Revenue Code limitations placed on benefits payable under our qualified defined benefit pension plans. The company amended the additional retirement benefit to no longer allow new participants and to cease benefit accruals for existing participants as of December 31, 2009. If eligible, the participants receive this retirement benefit after they separate from the company and until they reach age 65. In order to be eligible to receive the additional retirement benefit, participants must vest in their pension benefit, which requires five years of service, and their pension must be limited by the Internal Revenue Code. Mr. Harp has an additional qualification in that he must remain employed until age 60 in order to receive this additional retirement benefit.

A death benefit is provided if SISP participants die before their supplemental retirement benefits commence or if they elect to receive death benefits in lieu of all or a part of their supplemental retirement benefits. The death benefit is payable for 15 years.

We believe the SISP is critical in retaining the talent necessary to drive long-term stockholder value. In addition, we believe that the ten-year vesting provision of the SISP, augmented by an additional three years of vesting for benefit level increases occurring on or after January 1, 2010, helps promote retention of key executive officers.

Benefit Level Increases

The chief executive officer recommends benefit level increases to the compensation committee for participants except himself. The chief executive officer considers, among other things, the participant's salary in relation to the salary ranges that correspond with the SISP benefit levels, the participant's performance, the performance of the applicable business unit or the company, and the cost associated with the benefit level increase.

Each November, the compensation committee considers SISP benefit level increases for the upcoming year as recommended by the chief executive officer and also considers benefit level increases for the chief executive officer. In November 2008, Messrs. Raile, Harp, and Bietz each received an increase in their SISP benefit levels, which were effective on January 1, 2009. The benefit level increases recognized each named executive's contribution to the success of the company and individual business unit, where applicable. The committee, however, approved the chief executive officer's recommendation to limit the benefit increases for Messrs. Harp and Bietz to a level below the levels that corresponded to each named executive's base salary. The chief executive officer's rationale was to limit additional costs associated with the benefit level increases in light of the uncertain economic times. The committee believed Mr. Hildestad's benefit level was appropriate and therefore did not grant him an increase.

In November 2009, Messrs. Harp, Schneider, and Bietz each received an increase in their SISP benefit levels which was effective on December 1, 2009. The committee's rationale for Messrs. Harp and Bietz's benefit level increases was recognition of their continued contribution to the financial success of the company and to bring their SISP benefit levels in line with their current salary. Mr. Schneider was awarded a benefit level increase to one level above the level corresponding to his current base salary in recognition of his leadership in the financial turnaround of Knife River Corporation. The following table reflects our named executive officers' SISP levels, including the changes effective December 1, 2009:

| Name | January 1, 2009 Annual SISP Benefits | | December 31, 2009 Annual SISP Benefits | |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Survivors (\$) | Retirement (\$) | Survivors (\$) | Retirement (\$) |
| Terry D. Hildestad | 1,025,040 | 512,520 | 1,025,040 | 512,520 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 548,400 | 274,200 | 548,400 | 274,200 |
| John G. Harp | 468,600 | 234,300 | 548,400 | 274,200 |
| William E. Schneider | 468,600 | 234,300 | 548,400 | 274,200 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 328,080 | 164,040 | 386,640 | 193,320 |

Clawback

In November 2005, we implemented a guideline for repayment of incentives due to accounting restatements, commonly referred to as a clawback policy, whereby the compensation committee may seek repayment of annual and long-term incentives paid to executives if accounting restatements occur within three years after the payment of incentives under the annual and long-term plans. Under our clawback policy, the compensation committee may require employees to forfeit awards and may rescind vesting, or the acceleration of vesting, of an award.

Impact of Tax and Accounting Treatment

The compensation committee may consider the impact of tax and/or accounting treatment in determining compensation. Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code places a limit of \$1 million on the amount of compensation paid to certain officers that we may deduct as a business expense in any tax year unless, among other things, the compensation qualifies as performance-based compensation, as that term is used in Section 162(m). Generally, long-term incentive compensation and annual incentive awards for our chief executive officer and those executive officers whose overall compensation is likely to exceed \$1 million are structured to be deductible for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, but we may pay compensation to an executive officer that is not deductible. All annual or long-term incentive compensation paid to our named executive officers for 2009 satisfied the requirements for deductibility.

Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code imposes additional income taxes on executive officers for certain types of deferred compensation if the deferral does not comply with Section 409A. We have amended our compensation plans and arrangements affected by Section 409A with the objective of not triggering any additional income taxes under Section 409A.

Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code imposes an excise tax on payments to executives and others of amounts that are considered to be related to a change of control if they exceed levels specified in Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code. The potential impact of the Section 4999 excise tax is addressed with the modified tax payment provisions in the change of control employment agreements, which are described earlier in this compensation discussion and analysis and later in the proxy statement under the heading "Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control." We do not consider the potential impact of Section 4999 or 280G when designing our compensation programs.

The compensation committee also considers the accounting and cash flow implications of various forms of executive compensation. In our financial statements, we record salaries and annual incentive compensation as expenses in the amount paid, or to be paid, to the named executive officers. For our equity awards, accounting rules also require that we record an expense in our financial statements. We calculate the accounting expense of equity awards to employees in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

We instituted stock ownership guidelines on May 5, 1993, which we revised in February 2003, to encourage executives to own a multiple of their base salary in our common stock. All officers who participate in our Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan are subject to the guidelines. The guidelines call for the executive to reach the multiple within five years. Unvested performance shares and other unvested equity awards do not count towards the guidelines. In 2009, the compensation committee reviewed these guidelines against the performance graph peer companies that published ownership guidelines, and determined no change was necessary. Each February, the compensation committee receives a report on the status of stock holdings by executives. The table shows the named executive officers' holdings as of December 31, 2009:

| Name | Assigned Guideline Multiple of Base Salary | Actual Holdings as a Multiple of Base Salary | Number of Years at Guideline Multiple (#) |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 4X | 5.79 | 4.67 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 3X | 2.96 | 4.00 |
| John G. Harp | 3X | 4.06 | 5.25 |
| William E. Schneider | 3X | 5.43 | 8.00 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 3X | 3.95 | 7.33 |

The compensation committee may consider the guidelines and the executive's stock ownership in determining compensation. The committee, however, did not do so with respect to 2009 compensation.

Proxy Statement

Policy Regarding Hedging Stock Ownership

In our Executive Compensation Policy, we adopted a policy that prohibits executives from hedging their ownership of company common stock. Executives may not enter into transactions that allow the executive to benefit from devaluation of our stock or otherwise own stock technically but without the full benefits and risks of such ownership.

Compensation Committee Report

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Reg. S-K, Item 402(b), with management. Based on the review and discussions referred to in the preceding sentence, the compensation committee recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in our proxy statement on Schedule 14A.

Thomas Everist, Chairman

Karen B. Fagg

Thomas C. Knudson

Patricia L. Moss

Summary Compensation Table for 2009

| Name and Principal Position (a) | Year (b) | Salary (\$) (c) | Bonus (\$) (d) | Stock Awards (\$) (e)(1) | Option Awards (\$) (f) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (g) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$) (h)(2) | All Other Compensation (\$) (i) | Total (\$) (j) |
|--|----------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Terry D. Hildestad President and CEO | 2009 | 750,000 | - | 1,117,861 | - | 1,500,000 | 825,319 | 9,824 (3) | 4,203,004 |
| | 2008 | 700,000 | - | 1,200,485 | - | 310,800 | 898,941 | 9,476 | 3,119,702 |
| | 2007 | 625,000 | - | 779,293 | - | 1,250,000 | 1,362,413 | 7,026 | 4,023,732 |
| Vernon A. Raile Executive Vice President, Treasurer and CFO | 2009 | 450,000 | - | 402,417 | - | 585,000 | 695,177 | 8,124 (3) | 2,140,718 |
| | 2008 | 400,000 | - | 411,575 | - | 115,440 | 498,210 | 7,176 | 1,432,401 |
| | 2007 | 350,700 | - | 295,882 | - | 350,700 | 555,248 | 7,026 | 1,559,556 |
| John G. Harp President and CEO of MDU Construction Services Group, Inc. | 2009 | 450,000 | - | 402,417 | - | 392,500 (4) | 761,670 (6) | 23,272 (7) | 2,029,859 |
| | 2008 | 400,000 | - | 411,575 | - | 720,000 (5) | 338,774 (6) | 23,230 (7) | 1,893,579 |
| | 2007 | 341,000 | - | 239,763 | - | 341,000 | 47,334 (6) | 23,080 (7) | 992,177 |
| William E. Schneider President and CEO of Knife River Corporation | 2009 | 447,400 | - | 400,093 | - | 581,620 | 726,646 | 9,324 (3) | 2,165,083 |
| | 2008 | 447,400 | - | 460,374 | - | - | 180,801 | 8,976 | 1,097,551 |
| | 2007 | 422,000 | - | 356,052 | - | 206,780 | 450,347 | 7,026 | 1,442,205 |
| Steven L. Bietz President and CEO of WBI Holdings, Inc. | 2009 | 350,000 | - | 312,987 | - | 450,450 | 475,985 | 8,084 (3) | 1,597,506 |
| | 2008 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2007 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

(1) Amounts in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the performance share awards calculated in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 – Share-Based Payment. Amounts for 2008 and 2007 have been recalculated to comply with the new requirements. This column was prepared assuming none of the awards will be forfeited. The amounts were calculated using a Monte Carlo simulation, as described in Note 13 of our audited financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

(2) Amounts shown represent the change in the actuarial present value for years ended December 31, 2007, 2008, and 2009 for the named executive officers' accumulated benefits under the pension plan, excess SISP, and SISP and, for Mr. Harp, the additional retirement benefit, collectively referred to as the "accumulated pension change," plus above market earnings on deferred annual incentives, if any. The amounts shown are based on accumulated pension change and above market earnings as of December 31, 2007, 2008, and 2009, as follows:

| Name | Accumulated Pension Change | | | Above Market Earnings | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 12/31/2007 (\$) | 12/31/2008 (\$) | 12/31/2009 (\$) | 12/31/2007 (\$) | 12/31/2008 (\$) | 12/31/2009 (\$) |
| Terry D. Hildestad | 1,336,815 | 883,351 | 806,554 | 25,598 | 15,590 | 18,765 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 508,987 | 469,755 | 661,243 | 46,261 | 28,455 | 33,934 |
| John G. Harp | 38,498 | 331,558 | 743,334 | - | - | - |
| Additional Retirement (John G. Harp)* | 8,836 | 7,216 | 18,336 | - | - | - |
| William E. Schneider | 411,123 | 155,816 | 696,572 | 39,224 | 24,985 | 30,074 |
| Steven L. Bietz | - | - | 475,985 | - | - | - |

* See footnote 6.

(3) Includes company contributions to the 401(k), payment of a life insurance premium, and matching contributions to charitable organizations.

(4) Includes one-time incentive payment of \$100,000 in addition to his annual incentive compensation.

(5) Includes one-time incentive payment of \$200,000 in addition to his executive incentive compensation plan payment.

(6) In addition to the change in the actuarial present value of Mr. Harp's accumulated benefit under the pension plan, excess SISP, and SISP, this amount also includes the following amounts attributable to Mr. Harp's additional retirement benefit:

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---------|---------|----------|
| Change in present value of additional years of service for pension plan | \$6,033 | \$3,570 | \$13,077 |
| Change in present value of additional years of service for excess SISP | 2,803 | 3,646 | 5,259 |
| Change in present value of additional years of service for SISP | - | - | - |

Mr. Harp's additional retirement benefit is described in the narrative that follows the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The additional retirement benefit provides Mr. Harp with additional retirement benefits equal to the additional benefit he would earn under the pension plan, excess SISP, and the SISP if he had three additional years of service. The amounts in the table above reflect the change in present value of this additional benefit in 2007, 2008, and 2009. The additional retirement benefit was determined by calculating the actuarial present values of the accumulated benefits under the pension plan, excess SISP, and SISP, with and without the three additional years of service, using the same assumptions used to determine the amounts disclosed in the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. Because Mr. Harp would be fully vested in his SISP benefit if he retired at age 65, the assumed retirement age of these calculations, the additional years of service provided by the additional retirement agreement would not increase that benefit. If Mr. Harp retires before becoming 100% vested in his SISP benefit, his SISP benefit would be less than the amount shown in the Pension Benefits for 2009 table, but the payments he would receive under the additional retirement benefit arrangement would increase, as would the amounts reflected in the table above and in the Summary Compensation Table.

(7) Includes a company contribution to Mr. Harp's 401(k), a matching contribution to a charity, payment of a life insurance premium, an additional premium for Mr. Harp's long-term disability insurance, and Mr. Harp's office and automobile allowance.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2009

| Name (a) | Grant Date (b) | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares or Units (i) | All Other Option Awards: Number of Underlying Options (j) | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh) (k) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$) (l) |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | Threshold (\$) (c) | Target (\$) (d) | Maximum (\$) (e) | Threshold (#) (f) | Target (#) (g) | Maximum (#) (h) | | | | |
| Terry D. Hildestad | 2/12/09(1) | 187,500 | 750,000 | 1,500,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2/12/09(2) | - | - | - | 5,482 | 54,824 | 109,648 | - | - | - | 1,117,861 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 2/12/09(1) | 73,125 | 292,500 | 585,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2/12/09(2) | - | - | - | 1,973 | 19,736 | 39,472 | - | - | - | 402,417 |
| John G. Harp | 2/12/09(1) | 73,125 | 292,500 | 585,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2/12/09(2) | - | - | - | 1,973 | 19,736 | 39,472 | - | - | - | 402,417 |
| William E. Schneider | 2/12/09(3) | 100,000 | 200,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2/12/09(1) | 72,703 | 290,810 | 581,620 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2/12/09(2) | - | - | - | 1,962 | 19,622 | 39,244 | - | - | - | 400,093 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 2/12/09(4) | 56,875 | 227,500 | 455,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 2/12/09(2) | - | - | - | 1,535 | 15,350 | 30,700 | - | - | - | 312,987 |

(1) Annual incentive for 2009 granted pursuant to the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan.

(2) Performance shares for the 2009-2011 performance period granted pursuant to the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan.

(3) Mr. Harp's additional 2009 incentive opportunity.

(4) Annual incentive for 2009 granted pursuant to the WBI Holdings Inc. Executive Incentive Compensation Plan.

Narrative Discussion Relating to the Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

Incentive Awards

Annual Incentive

On February 11, 2009, the compensation committee recommended the 2009 annual incentive award opportunities for our named executive officers, and the board approved these opportunities at its meeting on February 12, 2009. These award opportunities are reflected in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table at grant on February 12, 2009 in columns (c), (d), and (e) and in the Summary Compensation Table as earned with respect to 2009 in column (g).

Executive officers may receive annual cash incentive awards based upon achievement of annual performance measures with a threshold, target, and maximum level. A target incentive award is established based on a percent of the executive's base salary. Actual payment may range from zero to 200% of the target based upon achievement of corporate goals.

In order to be eligible to receive an annual incentive award under the Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, Messrs. Hildestad, Raile, Schneider, and Harp must have remained employed by the company through December 31, 2009, unless the compensation committee determines otherwise. The committee has full discretion to determine the extent to which goals have been achieved, the payment level, whether any final payment will be made, and whether to adjust awards downward based upon individual performance. Unless the committee determines otherwise, performance measure targets shall be adjusted to take into account unusual or nonrecurring events affecting the company, a subsidiary or a division or business unit, or any of their financial statements, or changes in applicable laws, regulations or accounting principles to the extent such unusual or nonrecurring events or changes in applicable laws, regulations or accounting principles otherwise would result in dilution or enlargement of the annual incentive award intended to be provided. Such adjustments are made in a manner that will not cause the award to fail to qualify as performance-based compensation for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

With respect to annual incentive awards granted pursuant to the WBI Holdings, Inc. Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, which includes Mr. Bietz, participants who retire at age 65 during the year remain eligible to receive an award. Subject to the compensation committee's discretion, executives who terminate employment for other reasons are not eligible for an award.

The committee has full discretion to determine the extent to which goals have been achieved, the payment level, and whether any final payment will be made. Once performance goals are approved by the committee for executive incentive compensation plan awards, the committee generally does not modify the goals. However, if major unforeseen changes in economic and environmental conditions or other significant factors beyond the control of management substantially affected management's ability to achieve the specified performance goals, the committee, in consultation with the chief executive officer, may modify the performance goals. Such goal modifications will only be considered in years of unusually adverse or favorable external conditions.

For Messrs. Hildestad and Raile, the performance measures for annual incentive awards are our annual return on invested capital achieved compared to target and our annual earnings per share achieved compared to target. For Messrs. Schneider, Harp, and Bietz, the performance measures for annual incentive awards are their respective business unit's annual return on invested capital achieved compared to target and their respective business unit's allocated earnings per share achieved compared to target. In 2009, Mr. Bietz had five individual goals relating to WBI Holdings Inc.'s safety results, and each goal that was not met reduced his annual incentive award by 1%.

For 2009, the compensation committee weighted the goals for annual return on invested capital compared to target and allocated earnings per share compared to target each at 50%.

We limit the after-tax annual incentive compensation we will pay above the target amount to 20% of earnings in excess of planned earnings. We calculate the earnings in excess of planned earnings without regard to the after-tax annual incentive amounts above target. We measure the 20% limitation at the major business unit level for business unit and operating company executives, which include Messrs. Harp, Schneider, and Bietz, and at the corporate level for corporate executives, which include Messrs. Hildestad and Raile. In 2009, the 20% limitation was calculated without regard to the noncash ceiling test impairment charge and an associated depletion, depreciation and amortization benefit as discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

The award opportunities available to each named executive officer were:

| 2009 earnings per share results as a % of 2009 target | Corresponding payment of annual incentive target based on earnings per share |
|---|--|
| Less than 85% | 0% |
| 85% | 25% |
| 90% | 50% |
| 95% | 75% |
| 100% | 100% |
| 103% | 120% |
| 106% | 140% |
| 109% | 160% |
| 112% | 180% |
| 115% | 200% |

| 2009 return on invested capital results as a % of 2009 target | Corresponding payment of annual incentive target based on return on invested capital |
|---|--|
| Less than 85% | 0% |
| 85% | 25% |
| 90% | 50% |
| 95% | 75% |
| 100% | 100% |
| 103% | 120% |
| 106% | 140% |
| 109% | 160% |
| 112% | 180% |
| 115% | 200% |

For discussion of the specific incentive plan performance targets and results, please see the Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

In addition to his 2009 annual incentive award opportunity under our Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan, Mr. Harp had an opportunity to earn an additional incentive, which was structured as follows:

| MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 Return on Invested Capital (ROIC) as compared to MDU Construction Services Group, Inc.'s 2009 Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) | Additional Incentive Amount |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 2009 ROIC is less than 100 basis points above 2009 WACC | \$0 |
| 2009 ROIC is 100 to 199 basis points above 2009 WACC | \$100,000 |
| 2009 ROIC is 200 basis points or more above 2009 WACC | \$200,000 |

For a specific discussion of this additional incentive opportunity and the compensation committee's determination with respect to payment, please refer to the Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Long-Term Incentive

On February 11, 2009, the compensation committee recommended long-term incentive grants to the named executive officers in the form of performance shares, and the board approved these grants at its meeting on February 12, 2009. These grants are reflected in columns (f), (g), (h), and (i) of the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table and in column (e) of the Summary Compensation Table.

From 0% to 200% of the target grant will be paid out in February 2012, depending on our 2009-2011 total stockholder return compared to the total three-year stockholder returns of companies in our performance graph peer group. The payout percentage is determined as follows:

| The Company's Percentile Rank | Payout Percentage of February 12, 2009 Grant |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 100th | 200% |
| 75th | 150% |
| 50th | 100% |
| 40th | 10% |
| Less than 40th | 0% |

Payouts for percentile ranks falling between the intervals will be interpolated. We also will pay dividend equivalents in cash on the number of shares actually earned for the performance period. The dividend equivalents will be paid in 2012 at the same time as the performance awards are paid.

Proxy Statement

Salary and Bonus in Proportion to Total Compensation

The following table shows the proportion of salary to total compensation. We paid no bonuses to our named executive officers in 2009.

| Name | Salary (\$) | Total Compensation (\$) | Salary as % of Total Compensation |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 750,000 | 4,203,004 | 17.8 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 450,000 | 2,140,718 | 21.0 |
| John G. Harp | 450,000 | 2,029,859 | 22.2 |
| William E. Schneider | 447,400 | 2,165,083 | 20.7 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 350,000 | 1,597,506 | 21.9 |

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2009

| Name | Option Awards | | | | | Stock Awards | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (g)(1,2) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g)(1,2) | (h) | (i)(3) | (j)(4) |
| Terry D. Hildestad | - | - | - | - | - | 3,712 | 87,603 | 181,830 | 4,291,188 |
| Vernon A. Raile | - | - | - | - | - | 1,114 | 26,290 | 65,438 | 1,544,337 |
| John G. Harp | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 63,055 | 1,488,098 |
| William E. Schneider | - | - | - | - | - | 2,970 | 70,092 | 69,354 | 1,636,754 |
| Steven L. Bietz | - | - | - | - | - | 558 | 13,169 | 51,545 | 1,216,462 |

(1) Adjusted for the 3-for-2 stock split effective July 26, 2006.

(2) These shares of restricted stock were granted in 2001 and vest automatically on February 15, 2010. Vesting of some or all shares may be accelerated upon change of control or if the total stockholder return equals or exceeds the 50th percentile of the performance graph peer group during the final three-year performance cycle 2007-2009. Non-preferential dividends are paid on these shares.

(3) Below is a breakdown by year of the plan awards:

| Named Executive Officer | Award | Shares | End of Performance Period |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|---------------------------|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 2007 | 33,091 | 12/31/09 |
| | 2008 | 39,091 | 12/31/10 |
| | 2009 | 109,648 | 12/31/11 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 2007 | 12,564 | 12/31/09 |
| | 2008 | 13,402 | 12/31/10 |
| | 2009 | 39,472 | 12/31/11 |
| John G. Harp | 2007 | 10,181 | 12/31/09 |
| | 2008 | 13,402 | 12/31/10 |
| | 2009 | 39,472 | 12/31/11 |
| William E. Schneider | 2007 | 15,119 | 12/31/09 |
| | 2008 | 14,991 | 12/31/10 |
| | 2009 | 39,244 | 12/31/11 |
| Steven L. Bietz | 2007 | 10,354 | 12/31/09 |
| | 2008 | 10,491 | 12/31/10 |
| | 2009 | 30,700 | 12/31/11 |

Shares for the 2007 award are shown at the target level (100%) based on results for the 2007-2009 performance cycle at target.

Shares for the 2008 award are shown at the target level (100%) based on results for the first two years of the 2008-2010 performance cycle at target.

Shares for the 2009 award are shown at the maximum level (200%) based on results for the first year of the 2009-2011 performance cycle above target.

(4) Value based on the number of performance shares reflected in column (i) multiplied by \$23.60, the year-end closing price for 2009.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested during 2009

| Name (a) | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|----------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) (b) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) (c) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) (d)(1,2) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) (e)(3) |
| Terry D. Hildestad | — | — | 19,584 | 397,426 |
| Vernon A. Raile | — | — | 10,192 | 206,830 |
| John G. Harp | — | — | 8,259 | 167,603 |
| William E. Schneider | — | — | 12,534 | 254,358 |
| Steven L. Bietz | — | — | 5,755 | 116,789 |

(1) Adjusted for the 3-for-2 stock split effective July 26, 2006.

(2) Reflects performance shares for the 2006-2008 performance period that vested on February 12, 2009.

(3) Reflects the value of performance shares based on our stock price of \$18.61 on February 12, 2009, and the dividend equivalents that were paid on the vested shares.

Pension Benefits for 2009

| Name (a) | Plan Name (b) | Number of Years Credited Service (#) (c) | Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$) (d) | Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$) (e) |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Terry D. Hildestad | Pension Plan | 35 | 1,369,893 | — |
| | SISP I(1) | 27 | 1,487,740 | — |
| | SISP II(2) | 27 | 2,456,479 | — |
| | SISP Excess | 27 | 842,854 | — |
| Vernon A. Raile | Pension Plan | 30 | 1,033,470 | — |
| | SISP I(1) | 27 | 891,572 | — |
| | SISP II(2) | 27 | 1,899,169 | — |
| | SISP Excess | 27 | — | — |
| John G. Harp | Pension Plan | 5 | 172,100 | — |
| | SISP I(1) | 4 | — | — |
| | SISP II(2) | 4 | 1,784,336 | — |
| | SISP Excess | 4 | 33,837 | — |
| | Harp Additional Retirement Benefit | 4 | 120,136 | — |
| William E. Schneider | Pension Plan | 16 | 667,138 | — |
| | SISP I(1) | 15 | 1,081,798 | — |
| | SISP II(2) | 15 | 1,278,020 | — |
| | SISP Excess | 15 | 128,798 | — |
| Steven L. Bietz | Pension Plan | 28 | 675,382 | — |
| | SISP I(1) | 15 | 458,686 | — |
| | SISP II(2) | 15 | 440,819 | — |
| | SISP Excess | 15 | 72,082 | — |

(1) Grandfathered under Section 409A.

(2) Not grandfathered under Section 409A.

The amounts shown for the pension plan and excess SISP represent the actuarial present values of the executives' accumulated benefits accrued as of December 31, 2009, calculated using a 5.75% discount rate, the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table for post-retirement mortality, and no recognition of future salary increases or pre-retirement mortality. The assumed retirement ages for these benefits was age 60 for Messrs. Harp and Bietz and age 62 for Mr. Schneider. These are the earliest ages at which the executives could begin receiving unreduced benefits. Retirement on December 31, 2009, was assumed for Messrs. Hildestad and Raile, who were age 60 and 64, respectively, on that date. The amounts shown for the SISP I and SISP II were determined using a 5.75% discount rate and assume benefits commenced at age 65. The assumptions used to calculate Mr. Harp's additional retirement benefit are described below.

Pension Plans

Messrs. Hildestad, Raile, and Harp participate in the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Pension Plan for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees, which we refer to as our pension plan. Mr. Schneider participates in the Knife River Corporation Salaried Employees' Pension Plan, which we refer to as the KR pension plan. Mr. Bietz participates in the Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company Pension Plan, which we refer to

as the WBI pension plan. Pension benefits under our pension plan and the WBI pension plan are based on the participant's average annual salary over the 60 consecutive month period in which the participant received the highest annual salary during the participant's final 10 years of service. For this purpose, only a participant's salary is considered; incentives and other forms of compensation are not included. Benefits are determined by multiplying (1) the participant's years of credited service by (2) the sum of (a) the average annual salary up to the social security integration level times 1.1% and (b) the average annual salary over the social security integration level times 1.45%. The KR pension plan uses the same formula except that 1.2% and 1.6% are used instead of 1.1% and 1.45%. The maximum years of service recognized when determining benefits under each of the pension plans is 35. Pension plan benefits are not reduced for social security benefits.

Each of the pension plans was amended to cease benefit accruals as of December 31, 2009, meaning the normal retirement benefit will not change.

To receive unreduced retirement benefits under our pension plan and the WBI pension plan, participants must either remain employed until age 60 or elect to defer commencement of benefits until age 60. Under the KR pension plan, participants must remain employed until age 62 or elect to defer commencement of benefits until age 62 to receive unreduced benefits. Messrs. Hildestad and Raile were eligible for unreduced retirement benefits under our pension plan on December 31, 2009. Participants whose employment terminates between the ages of 55 and 60, with 5 years of service, in our pension plan or the WBI pension plan and between the ages of 55 and 62, with 5 years of service, in the KR pension plan are eligible for early retirement benefits. Early retirement benefits are determined by reducing the normal retirement benefit by 0.25% per month for each month before age 60 in our pension plan and the WBI pension plan and age 62 in the KR pension plan. If a participant's employment terminates before age 55, the same reduction applies for each month the termination occurs before age 62, with the reduction capped at 21%. Messrs. Harp and Schneider are currently eligible for early retirement benefits.

Benefits for single participants under the pension plans are paid as straight life amounts and benefits for married participants are paid as actuarially reduced pensions with a survivor benefit for spouses, unless participants choose otherwise. Participants who terminate employment before age 55 may elect to receive their benefits in a lump sum. Mr. Bietz is currently eligible for a lump sum.

The Internal Revenue Code places limitations on benefit amounts that may be paid under the pension plans and on the amount of compensation that may be recognized when determining benefits. In 2009, the maximum annual benefit payable under the pension plans was \$195,000 and the maximum amount of compensation that could be recognized when determining benefits was \$245,000.

Supplemental Income Security Plan

We also offer key managers and executives, including all of our named executive officers, benefits under our nonqualified retirement plan, which we refer to as the Supplemental Income Security Plan or SISP. Benefits under the SISP consist of:

- a supplemental retirement benefit intended to augment the retirement income provided under our qualified pension plans – we refer to this benefit as the regular SISP benefit
- an excess retirement benefit relating to Internal Revenue Code limitations on retirement benefits provided under our qualified pension plans - we refer to this benefit as the excess SISP benefit, and
- death benefits – we refer to these benefits as the SISP death benefit.

Effective January 1, 2010, we amended the SISP to:

- reduce by 20% the regular SISP and death benefit levels in the benefit schedule used to determine regular SISP and death benefits for new participants and participants whose benefit levels increase on or after January 1, 2010
- impose an additional vesting period applicable to any increased regular SISP benefit and SISP death benefit occurring on or after January 1, 2010
- eliminate the excess SISP benefit for new participants and current participants who were not already eligible for the excess SISP benefit, and
- freeze excess SISP benefit accruals.

SISP benefits are forfeited if the participant's employment is terminated for cause.

Regular SISP Benefits and Death Benefits

Regular SISP benefits and death benefits are determined by reference to one of two schedules attached to the SISP - the original schedule or the amended schedule. Our compensation committee, after receiving recommendations from our chief executive officer, determines the level at which participants are placed in the schedules. A participant's placement is generally, but not always, determined by reference to the participant's annual base salary. Benefit levels in the amended schedule which became effective on January 1, 2010, are 20% lower than the benefit levels in the original schedule. The amended schedule applies to new participants and participants who receive a benefit level increase on or after January 1, 2010.

Participants can elect to receive (1) the regular SISP benefit only, (2) the SISP death benefit only, or (3) a combination of both. Regardless of the participant's election, if the participant dies before the regular SISP benefit would commence, only the SISP death benefit is provided. If the participant elects to receive both a regular SISP benefit and a SISP death benefit, each of the benefits is reduced proportionately.

The regular SISP benefits reflected in the table above are based on the assumption that the participant elects to receive only the regular SISP benefit. The present values of the SISP death benefits that would be provided if the named executive officers were to die prior to the commencement of regular SISP benefits are reflected in the table that appears in the section entitled "Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control."

The SISP was amended to address changes in applicable tax laws resulting from the enactment of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code. Regular SISP benefits that were vested as of December 31, 2004 and were thereby grandfathered under section 409A remain subject to SISP provisions then in effect, which we refer to as SISP I benefits. Regular SISP benefits that are subject to section 409A, which we refer to as SISP II benefits, are governed by amended provisions intended to comply with section 409A. Participants generally have more discretion with respect to the distributions of their SISP I benefits.

The time and manner in which the regular SISP benefits are paid depend on a variety of factors, including the time and form of benefit elected by the participant and whether the benefits are SISP I or SISP II benefits. Unless the participant elects otherwise, the SISP I benefits are paid over 180 months, with benefits commencing when the participant attains age 65 or, if later, when the participant retires. The SISP II benefits commence when the participant attains age 65 or, if later, when the participant retires, subject to a six-month delay if the participant is subject to the provisions of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code that require delayed commencement of these types of retirement benefits. The SISP II benefits are paid over 180 months or, if commencement of payments is delayed for six months, 173 months. If the commencement of benefits is delayed for six months, the first payment includes the payments that would have been paid during the six-month period. If the participant dies after the regular SISP benefits have begun but before receipt of all of the regular SISP benefits, the remaining payments are made to the participant's designated beneficiary.

Rather than receiving their regular SISP I benefits in equal monthly installments over 15 years commencing at age 65, participants can elect a different form and time of commencement of their SISP I benefits. Participants can elect to defer commencement of the regular SISP I benefits. If this is elected, the participant retains the right to receive a monthly SISP death benefit if death occurs prior to the commencement of the regular SISP I benefit.

Participants also can elect to receive their SISP I benefits in one of three actuarially equivalent forms – a life annuity, 100% joint and survivor annuity, or a joint and two-thirds joint and survivor annuity, provided that the cost of providing these actuarial equivalent forms of benefits does not exceed the cost of providing the normal form of benefit. Neither the election to receive an actuarial equivalent benefit nor the administrator's right to pay the regular SISP benefit in the form of an actuarially equivalent lump sum are available with respect to SISP II benefits.

To promote retention, the regular SISP benefits are subject to the following ten-year vesting schedule:

- 0% vesting for less than 3 years of participation
- 20% vesting for 3 years of participation
- 40% vesting for 4 years of participation, and
- an additional 10% vesting for each additional year of participation up to 100% vesting for 10 years of participation.

In 2009, the plan was amended to impose an additional vesting requirement on benefit level increases for the regular SISP benefit granted on or after January 1, 2010. The requirement applies only to the increased benefit level. The increased benefit vests after the later of three additional years of participation in the SISP or the end of the regular vesting schedule described above. The additional three-year vesting

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requirement for benefit level increases is pro-rated for participants who are officers, attain age 65, and are required to retire, pursuant to the company's bylaws, prior to the end of the additional vesting period as follows:

- 33% of the increase vests for participants required to retire at least one year but less than two years after the increase is granted, and
- 66% of the increase vests for participants required to retire at least two years but less than three years after the increase is granted.

The benefit level increases of participants who attain age 65 and are required to retire pursuant to the company's bylaws will be further reduced to the extent the participants are not fully vested in their regular SISP benefit under the 10-year vesting schedule described above. The additional vesting period associated with a benefit level increase may be waived by the compensation committee.

SISP death benefits become fully vested if the participant dies while actively employed. Otherwise, the SISP death benefits are subject to the same vesting schedules as the regular SISP benefits.

Excess SISP Benefits

Excess SISP benefits are equal to the difference between (1) the monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable to the participant under the qualified pension plans absent the limitations under the Internal Revenue Code and (2) the actual benefits payable to the participant under the qualified pension plan. Participants are only eligible for the excess SISP benefits if (1) the participant is fully vested under the qualified pension plan, (2) the participant's employment terminates prior to age 65, and (3) benefits under the qualified pension plan are reduced due to limitations under the Internal Revenue Code on plan compensation. Effective January 1, 2005, participants who were not then vested in the excess SISP benefits were also required to remain actively employed by the company until age 60. In 2009, the plan was amended to limit eligibility of the excess SISP benefit to current SISP participants (1) who are already vested in the excess SISP benefit or (2) who will become vested in the excess SISP benefits if they remain employed with the company until age 60. The plan was further amended to freeze the excess SISP benefits to a maximum of the benefit level payable based on the participant's years of service and compensation level as of December 31, 2009. With the exception of Mr. Harp, each of the named executive officers would be entitled to the excess SISP benefit if they were to terminate employment prior to age 65. Mr. Harp must remain employed until age 60 to become entitled to his excess SISP benefit.

Benefits generally commence six months after the participant's employment terminates and continue to age 65 or until the death of the participant, if prior to age 65. If a participant who dies prior to age 65 elected a joint and survivor benefit, the survivor's excess SISP benefit is paid until the date the participant would have attained age 65.

Mr. Harp's Additional Retirement Benefit

To encourage Mr. Harp to remain with the company, on November 16, 2006, upon recommendation of our chief executive officer and the compensation committee, our board of directors approved an additional retirement benefit for Mr. Harp. The benefit provides for Mr. Harp to receive payments that represent the equivalent of an additional three years of service under our pension plan, the excess SISP, and the SISP. The additional three years of service recognize Mr. Harp's previous employment with a subsidiary of the company. To calculate payments Mr. Harp could receive due to his additional retirement benefit, we applied the additional years of service to each of the retirement arrangements and assumed he remained employed until age 60, for purposes of calculating the additional benefit under the pension plan and excess SISP, and age 65, for purposes of calculating the additional benefit under the SISP II. Because Mr. Harp would be fully vested in the SISP II benefit if he retired at age 65, the additional years of service provided by the agreement would not increase his SISP II benefit. Consequently, the amount shown in the table does not include any additional benefit attributable to the SISP II. If Mr. Harp were to retire before achieving 10 years of service and becoming fully vested in his SISP II benefit, the additional years of service provided by the additional retirement benefit would increase his vesting percentage under the SISP II and therefore would result in an additional payment. For a description of the payments that could be provided under the additional retirement benefit if Mr. Harp's employment were to be terminated on December 31, 2009, refer to the table and related notes in "Potential Payment upon Termination or Change of Control" below.

The SISP also provides that if a participant becomes totally disabled, the participant will continue to receive credit for up to two additional years under the SISP as long as the participant is totally disabled during such time. Since the named executive officers other than Mr. Harp are fully vested in their SISP benefits, this would not result in any incremental benefit for the named executive officers other than Mr. Harp. The present value of these two additional years of service for Mr. Harp is reflected in the table that appears in the section entitled "Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control."

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for 2009

| Name (a) | Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$) (b) | Registrant Contributions in Last FY (\$) (c) | Earnings in Aggregate Last FY (\$) (d) | Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$) (e) | Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$) (f) |
|----------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| Terry D. Hildestad | — | — | 52,314 | — | 835,932 |
| Vernon A. Raile | — | — | 94,556 | — | 1,510,791 |
| John G. Harp | — | — | — | — | — |
| William E. Schneider | — | — | 83,840 | — | 1,339,689(1) |
| Steven L. Bietz | — | — | — | — | — |

(1) Includes \$392,000, which was reported in the Summary Compensation Table for 2006 in column (g).

Participants in the executive incentive compensation plans may elect to defer up to 100% of their annual incentive awards. Deferred amounts accrue interest at a rate determined annually by the compensation committee. The interest rate in effect for 2009 was 6.48% or the "Moody's Rate," which was defined by reference to the U.S. Long-Term Corporate Bond Yield Average for "A" rated companies. Effective January 1, 2009, "Moody's Rate" is the number that results from adding the daily Moody's U.S. Long-Term Corporate Bond Yield Average for "A" rated companies as of the last business day of each month for the 12-month period ending October 31, 2008, and dividing by 12. The deferred amount will be paid in accordance with the participant's election, following termination of employment or beginning in the fifth year following the year the award was granted. The amounts will be paid in accordance with the participant's election in a lump sum or in monthly installments not to exceed 120 months. In the event of a change of control, all amounts become immediately payable.

A change of control is defined as

- an acquisition during a 12-month period of 30% or more of the total voting power of our stock
- an acquisition of our stock that, together with stock already held by the acquirer, constitutes more than 50% of the total fair market value or total voting power of our stock
- replacement of a majority of the members of our board of directors during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of our board of directors or
- acquisition of our assets having a gross fair market value at least equal to 40% of the total gross fair market value of all of our assets.

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control

The following tables show the payments and benefits our named executive officers would receive in connection with a variety of employment termination scenarios and upon a change of control. The information assumes the terminations and the change of control occurred on December 31, 2009. All of the payments and benefits described below would be provided by the company or its subsidiaries.

The tables exclude base salary, 2009 annual incentives, stock awards the named executive officers earned due to employment through December 31, 2009, and compensation and benefits provided under plans or arrangements that do not discriminate in favor of the named executive officers and that are generally available to all salaried employees, such as benefits under our qualified defined benefit pension plan, accrued vacation pay, continuation of health care benefits, and life insurance benefits. The tables also do not include the named executive officers' benefits under our nonqualified deferred compensation plans that are reported in the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for 2009 table. See the Pension Benefits for 2009 table and the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for 2009 table, and accompanying narratives, for a description of the named executive officers' accumulated benefits under our qualified defined benefit pension plans and our nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

We provide disability benefits to some of our salaried employees equal to 60% of their base salary, subject to a cap on the amount of base salary taken into account when calculating benefits. For officers, the limit on base salary is \$200,000. For other salaried employees, the limit is \$100,000. For all salaried employees, disability payments continue until age 65 if disability occurs at or before age 60 and for 5 years if disability occurs between the ages of 60 and 65. Disability benefits are reduced for amounts paid as retirement benefits. The amounts in the tables reflect the present value of the disability benefits attributable to the additional \$100,000 of base salary recognized for executives under our disability program, subject to the 60% limitation, after reduction for amounts that would be paid as retirement benefits. The present value of the disability benefits was determined using a discount rate of 5.75%. As the tables reflect, with the exception of Mr. Harp, the reduction for amounts paid as retirement benefits would eliminate disability benefits assuming a termination of employment on December 31, 2009.

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Upon a change of control, share-based awards granted under our Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan vest and non-share-based awards are paid in cash. All shares of restricted stock would vest in full upon a change of control. All performance share awards would vest at their target levels. For this purpose, the term change of control is defined as:

- the acquisition by an individual, entity, or group of 20% or more of our outstanding voting securities
- a turnover in a majority of our board of directors without the approval of a majority of the members of the board who were members of the board as of the plan's effective date or whose election was approved by such board members
- consummation of a merger or consolidation or sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the company's assets, unless the company's stockholders immediately prior to the transaction beneficially own more than 60% of the outstanding shares and voting power of the resulting corporation after the merger or the corporation that acquires the company's assets, as the case may be or
- stockholder approval of the company's liquidation or dissolution.

Shares of restricted stock and associated dividends are forfeited upon termination of employment. Performance shares are forfeited if termination of employment occurs during the first year of the performance period. If a termination of employment occurs for a reason other than cause, performance share awards granted prior to 2009 are prorated as follows:

- if the termination of employment occurs during the second year of the performance period, the executive receives a prorated portion of any performance shares earned based on the number of months employed during the performance period and
- if the termination of employment occurs during the third year of the performance period, the executive receives the full amount of any performance shares earned.

Beginning with performance share awards granted in 2009, these awards will be forfeited if the participant's employment terminates for any reason before the participant has reached age 55 and completed 10 years of service. Performance shares and related dividend equivalents for those participants whose employment is terminated after the participant has reached age 55 and completed 10 years of service will be prorated as described above.

Accordingly, if a December 31, 2009 termination is assumed, the named executive officers' 2009-2011 performance share awards would be forfeited, any amounts earned under the 2008-2010 performance share awards would be reduced by one-third, and any amounts earned under the 2007-2009 performance share awards would not be reduced. The number of performance shares earned depends on actual performance through the full performance period. As actual performance for the 2007-2009 performance share awards has been determined, the amounts for these awards in the event of a non-change of control termination were based on actual performance, which resulted in vesting of 100% of the target award. Amounts for the 2008-2010 performance share awards are also shown at target, based upon assumed target performance. No amounts are shown for the 2009-2011 performance share awards because such awards would be forfeited. Although vesting would only occur after completion of the performance period, the amounts shown in the tables were not reduced to reflect the present value of the performance shares that could vest. Dividend equivalents attributable to earned performance shares would also be paid. Dividend equivalents accrued through December 31, 2009 are included in the amounts shown.

The value of the vesting of shares of restricted stock and performance shares shown in the tables was determined by multiplying the number of shares of restricted stock or performance shares that would vest upon termination or a change of control by the closing price of our stock on December 31, 2009.

We also have change of control employment agreements with our named executive officers and other executives, which provide certain protections to the executives in the event there is a change of control of the company.

For these purposes, we define "change of control" as:

- the acquisition by an individual, entity, or group of 20% or more of our voting securities
- a turnover in a majority of our board of directors without the approval of a majority of the members of the board who were members of the board as of the agreement date or whose election was approved by such board members
- consummation of a merger or consolidation, unless our stockholders immediately prior to the merger beneficially own more than 60% of the outstanding shares and voting power of the resulting corporation after the merger or
- stockholder approval of our liquidation or dissolution.

If a change of control occurs, the agreements provide for a three-year employment period from the date of the change of control, during which the named executive officer is entitled to receive:

- a base salary of not less than twelve times the highest monthly salary paid within the preceding twelve months
- annual incentive opportunity of not less than the highest annual incentive paid in any of the three years before the change of control
- participation in our incentive, savings, retirement, and welfare benefit plans
- reasonable vehicle allowance, home office allowance, and subsidized annual physical examinations and
- office and support staff, vacation, and expense reimbursement consistent with such benefits as they were provided before the change of control.

Assuming a change of control occurred on December 31, 2009, the guaranteed minimum level of base salary provided over the three-year employment period would not result in an increase in any of the named executive officers' base salaries. The minimum annual incentive amounts Messrs. Hildestad, Raile, Harp, Schneider, and Bietz would be entitled to over the three-year employment period would be \$1,500,000, \$585,000, \$720,000, \$581,620, and \$450,450, respectively. The agreements also provide that severance payments and benefits will be provided:

- if we terminate the named executive officer's employment during the employment period, other than for cause or disability, or
- the named executive officer resigns for good reason.

"Cause" means the named executive officer's willful and continued failure to substantially perform his duties or willfully engaging in illegal conduct or gross misconduct materially injurious to the company. "Good reason" includes:

- a material diminution of the named executive officer's authority, duties, or responsibilities
- a material change in the named executive officer's work location and
- our material breach of the agreement.

In such event, the named executive officer would receive:

- accrued but unpaid base salary and accrued but unused vacation
- a lump sum payment equal to three times his (a) annual salary using the higher of the then current annual salary or twelve times the highest monthly salary paid within the twelve months before the change of control and (b) annual incentive using the highest annual incentive paid in any of the three years before the change of control or, if higher, the annual incentive for the most recently completed fiscal year
- a pro-rated annual incentive for the year of termination
- an amount equal to the actuarial equivalent of the additional benefit the named executive officer would receive under the SISF and any other supplemental or excess retirement plan if employment continued for an additional three years
- outplacement benefits and
- a payment equal to any federal excise tax on excess parachute payments if the total parachute payments exceed 110% of the safe harbor amount for that tax. If this 110% threshold is not exceeded, the named executive officer's payments and benefits would be reduced to avoid the tax. The named executive officers are not reimbursed for any taxes imposed on this tax reimbursement payment.

This description of severance payments and benefits reflects the terms of the agreements as in effect on December 31, 2009.

The compensation committee may also consider providing severance benefits on a case-by-case basis for employment terminations not related to a change of control. The compensation committee adopted a checklist of factors in February 2005 to consider when determining whether any such severance benefits should be paid. The tables do not reflect any such severance benefits, as these benefits are made in the discretion of the committee on a case-by-case basis and it is not possible to estimate the severance benefits, if any, that would be paid.

Proxy Statement

Terry D. Hildestad

| Executive Benefits and Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control | Voluntary Termination (\$) | Not for Cause Termination (\$) | For Cause Termination (\$) | Death (\$) | Disability (\$) | Not for Cause or Good Reason Termination Following Change of Control (\$) | Change of Control (Without Termination) (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Compensation: | | | | | | | |
| Base Salary | | | | | | 2,250,000 | |
| Short-term Incentive(1) | | | | | | 6,000,000 | |
| 2007-2009 Performance Shares | 836,653 | 836,653 | | 836,653 | 836,653 | 836,653 | 836,653 |
| 2008-2010 Performance Shares | 645,270 | 645,270 | | 645,270 | 645,270 | 967,893 | 967,893 |
| 2009-2011 Performance Shares | | | | | | 1,326,741 | 1,326,741 |
| Restricted Stock | | | | | | 87,603 | 87,603 |
| Benefits and Perquisites: | | | | | | | |
| Regular SISP(2) | 3,944,219 | 3,944,219 | | | 3,944,219 | 3,944,219 | |
| Excess SISP(3) | 842,838 | 842,838 | | | 842,838 | 842,838 | |
| SISP Death Benefits(4) | | | | 10,335,773 | | | |
| Disability Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Outplacement Services | | | | | | 50,000 | |
| 280G Tax(5) | | | | | | 1,940,878 | |
| Total | 6,268,980 | 6,268,980 | | 11,817,696 | 6,268,980 | 18,246,825 | 3,218,890 |

- (1) Includes the prorated annual incentive for the year of termination, which is the full annual incentive since we assume termination occurred on December 31, 2009, and the additional severance payment of three times the annual incentive. For each of these, we used the higher of (1) the annual incentive earned in 2009 or (2) the highest annual incentive paid in 2007, 2008, and 2009.
- (2) Represents the present value of Mr. Hildestad's vested regular SISP benefit as of December 31, 2009, which was \$42,710 per month for 15 years, commencing at age 65. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the regular SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The three additional years of vesting credit assumed for purposes of calculating the additional SISP benefit under Mr. Hildestad's change of control agreement would not increase the actuarial present value of his SISP amount.
- (3) Represents the present value of all excess SISP benefits Mr. Hildestad would be entitled to upon termination of employment under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the excess SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The three additional years of employment assumed for purposes of calculating the additional retirement plan payment under Mr. Hildestad's change of control agreement would not increase the actuarial present value of his excess SISP benefits.
- (4) Represents the present value of 180 monthly payments of \$85,420 per month, which would be paid as a SISP death benefit under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the SISP death benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.
- (5) Determined applying the Internal Revenue Code section 4999 excise tax of 20% only if 110% threshold is exceeded.

PROXY

Vernon A. Raile

| Executive Benefits and Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control | Voluntary Termination (\$) | Not for Cause Termination (\$) | For Cause Termination (\$) | Death (\$) | Disability (\$) | Not for Cause or Good Reason Termination Following Change of Control (\$) | Change of Control (Without Termination) (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Compensation: | | | | | | | |
| Base Salary | | | | | | 1,350,000 | |
| Short-term Incentive(1) | | | | | | 2,340,000 | |
| 2007-2009 Performance Shares | 317,661 | 317,661 | | 317,661 | 317,661 | 317,661 | 317,661 |
| 2008-2010 Performance Shares | 221,231 | 221,231 | | 221,231 | 221,231 | 331,834 | 331,834 |
| 2009-2011 Performance Shares | | | | | | 477,611 | 477,611 |
| Restricted Stock | | | | | | 26,290 | 26,290 |
| Benefits and Perquisites: | | | | | | | |
| Regular SISP(2) | 2,790,741 | 2,790,741 | | | 2,790,741 | 2,790,741 | |
| SISP Death Benefits(3) | | | | 5,529,675 | | | |
| Disability Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Outplacement Services | | | | | | 50,000 | |
| 280G Tax(4) | | | | | | 856,992 | |
| Total | 3,329,633 | 3,329,633 | | 6,068,567 | 3,329,633 | 8,541,129 | 1,153,396 |

(1) Includes the prorated annual incentive for the year of termination, which is the full annual incentive since we assume termination occurred on December 31, 2009, and the additional severance payment of three times the annual incentive. For each of these, we used the higher of (1) the annual incentive earned in 2009 or (2) the highest annual incentive paid in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

(2) Represents the present value of Mr. Raile's vested regular SISP benefit as of December 31, 2009, which was \$22,850 per month for 15 years, commencing at age 65. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the regular SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The three additional years of vesting credit assumed for purposes of calculating the additional SISP benefit under Mr. Raile's change of control agreement would not increase the actuarial present value of his SISP amount.

(3) Represents the present value of 180 monthly payments of \$45,700 per month, which would be paid as a SISP death benefit under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the SISP death benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(4) Determined applying the Internal Revenue Code section 4999 excise tax of 20% only if 110% threshold is exceeded.

Proxy Statement

John G. Harp

| Executive Benefits and Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control | Voluntary Termination (\$) | Not for Cause Termination (\$) | For Cause Termination (\$) | Death (\$) | Disability (\$) | Not for Cause or Good Reason Termination Following Change of Control (\$) | Change of Control (Without Termination) (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Compensation: | | | | | | | |
| Base Salary | | | | | | 1,350,000 | |
| Short-term Incentive(1) | | | | | | 2,880,000 | |
| 2007-2009 Performance Shares | 257,410 | 257,410 | | 257,410 | 257,410 | 257,410 | 257,410 |
| 2008-2010 Performance Shares | 221,231 | 221,231 | | 221,231 | 221,231 | 331,834 | 331,834 |
| 2009-2011 Performance Shares | | | | | | 477,611 | 477,611 |
| Restricted Stock | | | | | | | |
| Benefits and Perquisites: | | | | | | | |
| Incremental Pension(2) | 107,307 | 107,307 | | | 107,307 | 107,307 | |
| Regular SISP | 1,249,035(3) | 1,249,035(3) | | | 1,603,546(4) | 1,784,336(5) | |
| Excess SISP(6) | | | | | | 193,615 | |
| SISP Death Benefits(7) | | | | 5,529,675 | | | |
| Disability Benefits(8) | | | | | 227,839 | | |
| Outplacement Services | | | | | | 50,000 | |
| 280G Tax(9) | | | | | | 1,068,156 | |
| Total | 1,834,983 | 1,834,983 | | 6,008,316 | 2,417,333 | 8,500,269 | 1,066,855 |

(1) Includes the prorated annual incentive for the year of termination, which is the full annual incentive since we assume termination occurred on December 31, 2009, and the additional severance payment of three times the annual incentive. For each of these, we used the higher of (1) the annual incentive earned in 2009 or (2) the highest annual incentive paid in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

(2) Represents the equivalent of three additional years of service that would be provided under the Harp additional retirement benefit described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate.

(3) Represents the present value of Mr. Harp's vested regular SISP benefit as of December 31, 2009, which was \$15,995 per month for 15 years, commencing at age 65. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the regular SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. Also includes the additional benefit attributable to three additional years of service that would be provided under the retirement benefit agreement described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(4) Represents the present value of Mr. Harp's vested SISP benefit described in footnote 3, adjusted to reflect the increase in the present value of his regular SISP benefit that would result from an additional two years of vesting under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate.

(5) Represents the present value of Mr. Harp's vested SISP benefit described in footnote 3, adjusted to reflect the increase in the present value of his regular SISP benefit that would result if he continued employment for an additional three years. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate.

(6) Represents the present value of all excess SISP benefits Mr. Harp would be entitled to, calculated with the assumption of three additional years of employment, as provided under Mr. Harp's change of control agreement. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the excess SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(7) Represents the present value of 180 monthly payments of \$45,700 per month, which would be paid as a SISP death benefit under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the SISP death benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(8) Represents the present value of the disability benefit after reduction for amounts that would be paid as retirement benefits. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate.

(9) Determined applying the Internal Revenue Code section 4999 excise tax of 20% only if 110% threshold is exceeded.

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William E. Schneider

| Executive Benefits and Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control | Voluntary Termination (\$) | Not for Cause Termination (\$) | For Cause Termination (\$) | Death (\$) | Disability (\$) | Not for Cause or Good Reason Termination Following Change of Control (\$) | Change of Control (Without Termination) (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Compensation: | | | | | | | |
| Base Salary | | | | | | 1,342,200 | |
| Short-term Incentive(1) | | | | | | 2,326,480 | |
| 2007-2009 Performance Shares | 382,260 | 382,260 | | 382,260 | 382,260 | 382,260 | 382,260 |
| 2008-2010 Performance Shares | 247,451 | 247,451 | | 247,451 | 247,451 | 371,177 | 371,177 |
| 2009-2011 Performance Shares | | | | | | 474,852 | 474,852 |
| Restricted Stock | | | | | | 70,092 | 70,092 |
| Benefits and Perquisites: | | | | | | | |
| Regular SISP(2) | 2,359,818 | 2,359,818 | | | 2,359,818 | 2,359,818 | |
| Excess SISP(3) | 126,868 | 126,868 | | | 126,868 | 126,868 | |
| SISP Death Benefits(4) | | | | 5,529,675 | | | |
| Disability Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Outplacement Services | | | | | | 50,000 | |
| 280G Tax(5) | | | | | | 808,830 | |
| Total | 3,116,397 | 3,116,397 | | 6,159,386 | 3,116,397 | 8,312,577 | 1,298,381 |

- (1) Includes the prorated annual incentive for the year of termination, which is the full annual incentive since we assume termination occurred on December 31, 2009, and the additional severance payment of three times the annual incentive. For each of these, we used the higher of (1) the annual incentive earned in 2009 or (2) the highest annual incentive paid in 2007, 2008, and 2009.
- (2) Represents the present value of Mr. Schneider's vested regular SISP benefit as of December 31, 2009, which was \$22,850 per month for 15 years, commencing at age 65. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the regular SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The three additional years of vesting credit assumed for purposes of calculating the additional SISP benefit under Mr. Schneider's change of control agreement would not increase the actuarial present value of his SISP amount.
- (3) Represents the present value of all excess SISP benefits Mr. Schneider would be entitled to upon termination of employment under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the excess SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The three additional years of employment assumed for purposes of calculating the additional retirement plan payment under Mr. Schneider's change of control agreement would not increase the actuarial present value of his excess SISP benefits.
- (4) Represents the present value of 180 monthly payments of \$45,700 per month, which would be paid as a SISP death benefit under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the SISP death benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.
- (5) Determined applying the Internal Revenue Code section 4999 excise tax of 20% only if 110% threshold is exceeded.

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Proxy Statement

Steven L. Bietz

| Executive Benefits and Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control | Voluntary Termination (\$) | Not for Cause Termination (\$) | For Cause Termination (\$) | Death (\$) | Disability (\$) | Not for Cause or Good Reason Termination Following Change of Control (\$) | Change of Control (Without Termination) (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Compensation: | | | | | | | |
| Base Salary | | | | | | 1,050,000 | |
| Short-term Incentive(1) | | | | | | 1,801,800 | |
| 2007-2009 Performance Shares | 261,784 | 261,784 | | 261,784 | 261,784 | 261,784 | 261,784 |
| 2008-2010 Performance Shares | 173,171 | 173,171 | | 173,171 | 173,171 | 259,757 | 259,757 |
| 2009-2011 Performance Shares | | | | | | 371,470 | 371,470 |
| Restricted Stock | | | | | | 13,169 | 13,169 |
| Benefits and Perquisites: | | | | | | | |
| Regular SISP(2) | 899,505 | 899,505 | | | 899,505 | 899,505 | |
| Excess SISP | 146,033(3) | 146,033(3) | | | 146,033(3) | 388,504(4) | |
| SISP Death Benefits(5) | | | | 3,898,602 | | | |
| Disability Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Outplacement Services | | | | | | 50,000 | |
| 280G Tax(6) | | | | | | 671,881 | |
| Total | 1,480,493 | 1,480,493 | | 4,333,557 | 1,480,493 | 5,767,870 | 906,180 |

(1) Includes the prorated annual incentive for the year of termination, which is the full annual incentive since we assume termination occurred on December 31, 2009, and the additional severance payment of three times the annual incentive. For each of these, we used the higher of (1) the annual incentive earned in 2009 or (2) the highest annual incentive paid in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

(2) Represents the present value of Mr. Bietz's vested regular SISP benefit as of December 31, 2009, which was \$16,110 per month for 15 years, commencing at age 65. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the regular SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table. The three additional years of vesting credit assumed for purposes of calculating the additional SISP benefit under Mr. Bietz's change of control agreement would not increase the actuarial present value of his SISP amount.

(3) Represents the present value of all excess SISP benefits Mr. Bietz would be entitled to upon termination of employment under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the excess SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(4) Represents the present value of all excess SISP benefits Mr. Bietz would be entitled to, calculated with the assumption of three additional years of employment, as provided under Mr. Bietz's change of control agreement. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the excess SISP benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(5) Represents the present value of 180 monthly payments of \$32,220 per month, which would be paid as a SISP death benefit under the SISP. Present value was determined using a 5.75% discount rate. The terms of the SISP death benefit are described following the Pension Benefits for 2009 table.

(6) Determined applying the Internal Revenue Code section 4999 excise tax of 20% only if 110% threshold is exceeded.

PROXY

Director Compensation for 2009

| Name (a) | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) (b) | Stock Awards (\$) (c)(1) | Option Awards (\$) (d) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (e) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$) (f) | All Other Compensation (\$) (g)(2) | Total (\$) (h) |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| Thomas Everist | 57,083 | 69,445 | -(3) | - | - | 174 | 126,702 |
| Karen B. Fagg | 55,250(4) | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 124,869 |
| A. Bart Holaday | 50,583 | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 120,202 |
| Dennis W. Johnson | 59,083 | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 128,702 |
| Thomas C. Knudson | 52,083 | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 121,702 |
| Richard H. Lewis | 55,083 | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 124,702 |
| Patricia L. Moss | 52,083(5) | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 121,702 |
| John L. Olson | 40,083(6) | 69,445 | -(7) | - | - | 563,060(9) | 672,588 |
| Harry J. Pearce | 130,000 | 69,445 | -(8) | - | - | 174 | 199,619 |
| Sister Thomas Welder | 50,583 | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 120,202 |
| John K. Wilson | 53,583(10) | 69,445 | - | - | - | 174 | 123,202 |

(1) Valued based on \$17.147, the purchase price of the stock on the date of grant, May 18, 2009, which is the grant date fair value.

(2) Group life insurance premiums, except for Mr. Olson.

(3) Mr. Everist had 18,562 stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2009.

(4) Includes \$17,984 that Ms. Fagg received in our common stock in lieu of cash.

(5) Includes \$52,064 that Ms. Moss received in our common stock in lieu of cash.

(6) Mr. Olson retired on August 13, 2009.

(7) Mr. Olson had 18,562 stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2009.

(8) Mr. Pearce had 13,500 stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2009.

(9) Comprised of a group life insurance premium of \$116 and the value of Mr. Olson's deferred compensation at December 31, 2009, which is payable over five years in monthly installments.

(10) Includes \$44,578 that Mr. Wilson received in our common stock in lieu of cash.

Effective June 1, 2009, the board approved changes to the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Directors' Compensation Policy, and the following table shows the cash and stock retainers payable to our non-employee directors.

| | Effective June 1, 2009 | Prior to June 1, 2009 |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Base Retainer | \$55,000 | \$ 30,000 |
| Additional Retainers: | | |
| Non-Executive Chairman | 75,000(2) | 100,000(1)(2) |
| Lead Director, if any | 33,000 | 33,000 |
| Audit Committee Chairman | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Compensation Committee Chairman | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Nominating and Governance Committee Chairman | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Meeting Fees: | | |
| Board Meeting | - | 1,500 |
| Committee Meeting | - | 1,500 |
| Annual Stock Retainer | 4,050 shares | 4,050 shares |

(1) \$50,000 of this amount was paid in company common stock prior to January 1, 2009.

(2) The Non-Executive Chairman does not receive board or committee meeting fees.

In addition to liability insurance, we maintain group life insurance in the amount of \$100,000 on each non-employee director for the benefit of each director's beneficiaries during the time each director serves on the board. The annual cost per director is \$174.

Directors may defer all or any portion of the annual cash retainer, meeting fees, if any, and any other cash compensation paid for service as a director pursuant to the Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors. Deferred amounts are held as phantom stock with dividend accruals and are paid out in cash over a five-year period after the director leaves the board.

Directors are reimbursed for all reasonable travel expenses including spousal expenses in connection with attendance at meetings of the board and its committees. All amounts together with any other perquisites were below the disclosure threshold for 2009.

Our post-retirement income plan for directors was terminated in May 2001 for current and future directors. The net present value of each director's benefit was calculated and converted into phantom stock. Payment is deferred pursuant to the Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and will be made in cash over a five-year period after the director's retirement from the board.

The board adopted stock ownership guidelines for directors in November 2005. Each director is expected to own our common stock equal in value to five times the director's base retainer. A director, with good cause and with the knowledge of the board, may donate or assign all of the director's company common stock to a charitable, religious, or non-profit organization in lieu of ownership. Shares acquired through purchases on the open market and participation in our director stock plans will be considered in ownership calculations as will ownership of our common stock by a spouse. A director is allowed five years commencing January 1 of the year following the year of that director's initial election to the board to meet the guideline requirements. The level of common stock ownership is monitored with an annual report made to the compensation committee of the board. For stock ownership, please see "Security Ownership."

In our Director Compensation Policy, we prohibit our directors from hedging their ownership of company common stock. Directors may not enter into transactions that allow the director to benefit from devaluation of our stock or otherwise own stock technically but without the full benefits and risks of such ownership.

Narrative Disclosure of our Compensation Policies and Practices as They Relate to Risk Management

We have reviewed our compensation policies and practices for all employees and concluded that any risks arising from our policies and programs are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company.

INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

At the first annual meeting of the board after the annual meeting of stockholders, our board of directors elects our executive officers, who serve until their successors are chosen and qualify. A majority of our board of directors may remove any executive officer at any time.

Information concerning our executive officers, including their ages, present corporate positions, and business experience, is as follows:

| Name | Age | Present Corporate Position and Business Experience |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| Terry D. Hildestad | 60 | President and Chief Executive Officer. For information about Mr. Hildestad, see "Election of Directors." |
| Steven L. Bietz | 51 | Mr. Bietz was elected president and chief executive officer of WBI Holdings, Inc. effective March 4, 2006; president effective January 2, 2006; executive vice president and chief operating officer effective September 1, 2002; vice president-administration and chief accounting officer effective November 3, 1999; vice president-administration effective February 1997; and controller effective January 1994. |
| William R. Connors | 48 | Mr. Connors was elected vice president-renewable resources of MDU Resources Group, Inc., effective September 1, 2008. Prior to that, he was vice president-business development of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation effective November 2007; vice president-origination, contracts & regulatory of Centennial Energy Resources, LLC, effective January 2007; vice president-origination, contracts & regulatory of Centennial Power, Inc., effective July 2005; and, was first employed as vice president-contracts & regulatory of Centennial Power, Inc., effective July 2004. Prior to that Mr. Connors was of counsel to Miller Nash, LLP, a law firm in Seattle, Washington. |
| Mark A. Del Vecchio | 50 | Mr. Del Vecchio was elected vice president-human resources on October 1, 2007. From November 3, 2003 to October 1, 2007, Mr. Del Vecchio was director of executive programs and compensation. From April 1996 to October 31, 2003, Mr. Del Vecchio was vice president and member of The Carter Group, LLC, an executive search and management consulting company. |
| David L. Goodin | 48 | Mr. Goodin was elected president and chief executive officer of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Great Plains Natural Gas Co., and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation effective June 6, 2008, and president and chief executive officer of Intermountain Gas Company effective October 1, 2008. Prior to that, he was president of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Great Plains Natural Gas Co. effective March 1, 2008; president of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation effective July 2, 2007; executive vice president-operations and acquisitions of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. effective January 2007; vice president-operations effective January 2000; electric systems manager effective April 1999; electric systems supervisor effective August 1993; division electric superintendent effective February 1989; and division electrical engineer effective May 1983. |
| John G. Harp | 57 | Mr. Harp was elected president and chief executive officer of Utility Services Inc., which is now MDU Construction Services Group, Inc., effective September 29, 2004. From May 2004 to September 29, 2004, Mr. Harp was vice president of Ledcor Technical Services Inc., a provider of fiber optic cable maintenance services. From April 2001 to May 2004, he was president of JODE CORP., a broadband maintenance company. Mr. Harp sold JODE CORP. to Ledcor Construction in May 2004. Prior to that, he was president of Harp Line Constructors Co. and Harp Engineering, Inc. from July 1998, when they were bought by Utility Services Inc., to April 2001. |
| Nicole A. Kivisto | 36 | Ms. Kivisto was elected vice president, controller and chief accounting officer effective February 17, 2010. Prior to that she was controller effective December 1, 2005; a financial analyst IV in the Corporate Planning Department effective May 2003; a financial and investor relations analyst in the Investor Relations Department effective May 2000; and a financial analyst in the Corporate Accounting Department effective July 1995. |
| Douglass A. Mahowald | 60 | Mr. Mahowald was elected treasurer and assistant secretary effective February 17, 2010. Prior to that he was the assistant treasurer and assistant secretary effective August 1992; treasury services manager effective November 1982; and budget statistician effective February 1982. |
| Cynthia J. Norland | 55 | Ms. Norland was elected vice president-administration effective July 16, 2007. Prior to that she was the assistant vice president-administration effective January 17, 2007; associate general counsel in the Legal Department effective March 6, 2004; and senior attorney in the Legal Department effective June 1, 1995. |
| Vernon A. Raile | 65 | Mr. Raile retired on February 16, 2010. He served as executive vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer effective March 1, 2006; executive vice president and chief financial officer effective January 3, 2006; and senior vice president, controller and chief accounting officer effective November 2002. He served as controller until May 2003. He was vice president, controller and chief accounting officer from August 1992 until November 2002. |

Proxy Statement

| | | |
|----------------------|----|---|
| Paul K. Sandness | 55 | Mr. Sandness was elected general counsel and secretary of the company, its divisions and major subsidiaries effective April 6, 2004. He also was elected a director of the company's principal subsidiaries and was appointed to the Managing Committees of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Great Plains Natural Gas Co. Prior to that he served as a senior attorney effective 1987 and as an assistant secretary of several subsidiary companies. |
| William E. Schneider | 61 | Mr. Schneider was elected president and chief executive officer of Knife River Corporation effective May 1, 2005; and senior vice president-construction materials effective from September 15, 1999 to April 30, 2005. |
| Doran N. Schwartz | 40 | Mr. Schwartz was elected vice president and chief financial officer effective February 17, 2010. Prior to that, he was vice president and chief accounting officer effective March 1, 2006; and assistant vice president-special projects effective September 6, 2005. He was director of membership rewards for American Express, a financial services company, from November 2004 to August 1, 2005; audit manager for Deloitte & Touche, an audit and professional services company, from June 2002 to November 2004; and audit manager/senior for Arthur Andersen, an audit and professional services company, from December 1997 to June 2002. |
| John P. Stumpf | 50 | Mr. Stumpf was elected vice president-strategic planning effective December 1, 2006. Mr. Stumpf was vice president-corporate development for Knife River Corporation from July 1, 2002 to November 30, 2006 and director of corporate development of Knife River Corporation from January 14, 2002 to June 30, 2002. Prior to that, he was special projects manager for Knife River Corporation from May 1, 2000 to January 13, 2002. |

SECURITY OWNERSHIP

The table below sets forth the number of shares of our capital stock that each director and each nominee for director, each named executive officer and all directors and executive officers as a group owned beneficially as of December 31, 2009.

| Name | Common Shares Beneficially Owned Include: | | | Percent of Class | Deferred Director Fees Held as Phantom Stock(4) |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| | Common Shares Beneficially Owned(1) | Shares Individuals Have Rights to Acquire Within 60 Days(2) | Shares Held By Family Members(3) | | |
| Steven L. Bietz | 58,516(5) | | | * | |
| Thomas Everist | 1,870,623(6) | 18,562 | | 1.0 | 26,642 |
| Karen B. Fagg | 19,381 | | | * | |
| John G. Harp | 77,356(5) | | | * | |
| Terry D. Hildestad | 184,043(5) | | | * | |
| A. Bart Holaday | 14,050 | | | * | |
| Dennis W. Johnson | 67,506(7) | | 4,560 | * | |
| Thomas C. Knudson | 9,500 | | | * | |
| Richard H. Lewis | 16,200 | | | * | 10,152 |
| Patricia L. Moss | 42,276 | | | * | |
| Harry J. Pearce | 158,850 | 13,500 | | * | 43,806 |
| Vernon A. Raile | 56,426(5) | | | * | |
| William E. Schneider | 102,898(5) | | | * | |
| Sister Thomas Welder | 46,942(8) | | | * | 20,271 |
| John K. Wilson | 67,578 | | | * | |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (23 in number) | 2,929,144 | 42,512 | 14,146 | 1.6 | 100,871 |

* Less than one percent of the class.

- (1) "Beneficial ownership" means the sole or shared power to vote, or to direct the voting of, a security, or investment power with respect to a security.
- (2) Indicates shares of our stock that executive officers and directors have the right to acquire within 60 days pursuant to stock options. These shares are included in the "Common Shares Beneficially Owned" column.
- (3) These shares are included in the "Common Shares Beneficially Owned" column.
- (4) These shares are not included in the "Common Shares Beneficially Owned" column. Directors may defer all or a portion of their cash compensation pursuant to the Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors. Deferred amounts are held as phantom stock with dividend accruals and are paid out in cash over a five-year period after the director leaves the board.
- (5) Includes full shares allocated to the officer's account in our 401(k) retirement plan.
- (6) Includes 1,820,000 shares of common stock acquired through the sale of Connolly-Pacific to us.
- (7) Mr. Johnson disclaims all beneficial ownership of the 4,560 shares owned by his wife.
- (8) The total includes shares held by the Annunciation Monastery, of which community Sister Welder is a member, and by the University of Mary, of which Sister Welder is the president emerita. The monastery owns 33,260 shares. Sister Welder disclaims all beneficial ownership of the shares owned by the monastery and the university.

The table below sets forth information with respect to any person we know to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of any class of our voting securities.

| Title of Class | Name and Address of Beneficial Owner | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percent of Class |
|----------------|--|---|------------------|
| Common Stock | New York Life Trust Company 51 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10010 | 10,494,741(1) | 5.59% |
| Common Stock | BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10022 | 10,863,566(2) | 5.79% |

(1) In a Schedule 13G/A, Amendment No. 10, filed on February 12, 2010, New York Life Trust Company indicates that it holds these shares as directed trustee of our 401(k) plan and has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares.

(2) In a Schedule 13G, filed on January 29, 2010, BlackRock, Inc. reports that it completed its acquisition of Barclays Global Investors on December 1, 2009 and amends the most recent Schedule 13G filing made by Barclays Global Investors, NA and certain of its affiliates with respect to our common stock. BlackRock, Inc. reports sole voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares as the parent holding company or control person of BlackRock Asset Management Japan Limited, BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, BlackRock Asset Management Australia Limited, BlackRock Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Capital Management, Inc., BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A., BlackRock Fund Managers Ltd, BlackRock International Ltd and BlackRock Investment Management UK Ltd.

RELATED PERSON TRANSACTION DISCLOSURE

The board of directors has adopted a policy for the review of related person transactions. This policy is contained in our corporate governance guidelines, which are posted on our website at www.mdu.com.

The audit committee reviews related person transactions in which we are or will be a participant to determine if they are in the best interests of our stockholders and the company. Financial transactions, arrangements, relationships, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements, or relationships in which a related person had or will have a material interest and that exceed \$120,000 are subject to the committee's review.

Related persons are directors, director nominees, executive officers, holders of 5% or more of our voting stock, and their immediate family members. Immediate family members are spouses, parents, stepparents, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, siblings, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, children, stepchildren, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, and any person, other than a tenant or domestic employee, who shares in the household of a director, director nominee, executive officer, or holder of 5% or more of our voting stock.

After its review, the committee makes a determination or a recommendation to the board and officers of the company with respect to the related person transaction. Upon receipt of the committee's recommendation, the board of directors or officers, as the case may be, takes such action as they deem appropriate in light of their responsibilities under applicable laws and regulations.

The audit committee and the board of directors reviewed two leases between an indirect subsidiary of the company and a Montana partnership, Mojo, owned by John G. Harp, President and Chief Executive Officer of MDU Construction Services Group, Inc., and his brother, Michael D. Harp. The properties described in these two leases are located in Kalispell and Billings, Montana and have been leased since 1998. In November 2007, the audit committee determined that renewing these leases was in the company's best interests after it reviewed 2004 third party appraisals for the properties and a 2007 appraisal of the Kalispell property and considered the consumer price index and our operating companies' knowledge of local property markets. The audit committee recommended and the board approved three-year leases for these properties that provide for our indirect subsidiary to pay a combined monthly rent of \$10,100 to Mojo, a Montana partnership.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Director Independence

The board of directors has adopted guidelines on director independence that are included in our corporate governance guidelines, which are available for review on our corporate website at http://www.mdu.com/Documents/Governance/2010_02_GovGuidelines.pdf. The board of directors has determined that Thomas Everist, Karen B. Fagg, A. Bart Holaday, Dennis W. Johnson, Thomas C. Knudson, Richard H. Lewis, Patricia L. Moss, John L. Olson (until he retired August 13, 2009), Harry J. Pearce, Sister Thomas Welder, and John K. Wilson:

- have no material relationship with us and
- are independent in accordance with our director independence guidelines and the New York Stock Exchange listing standards.

In determining director independence for 2009, the board of directors considered the following transactions or relationships:

- Mr. Everist's ownership at that time of approximately 1.8 million shares of our common stock
- charitable contributions to the City of Dickinson in the amount of \$20,000 – Mr. Johnson was president of the City of Dickinson board of commissioners; payment to the company for utility line relocation done by our division, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., in the regular course of business at the request of TMI Systems Design Corporation in the amount of \$71,530 – Mr. Johnson was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TMI Systems Design Corporation
- charitable contributions to Colorado UpLift in the amount of \$25,000 – Mr. Lewis was a director and member of Colorado UpLift's executive committee
- charitable contributions to St. Alexius Medical Center in the amount of \$6,000 – Sister Welder was a director of St. Alexius; payment of our employees' tuition and education-related expenses and charitable contributions in the amount of \$62,500 to the University of Mary – Sister Welder was the president of the University of Mary in 2008; and charitable contributions to Missouri Slope Areawide United Way in the amount of \$20,500 – Sister Welder was a director of the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way and
- public utility services provided by our utility operations to entities with which directors are affiliated at rates fixed by the regulatory bodies having jurisdiction.

Director Resignation Upon Change of Job Responsibility

Our corporate governance guidelines require a director to tender his or her resignation after a material change in job responsibility. In 2009, no directors submitted resignations under this requirement.

Code of Conduct

We have a code of conduct and ethics, which we refer to as the Leading With Integrity Guide, which applies to all employees, directors, and officers.

We intend to satisfy our disclosure obligations regarding:

- amendments to, or waivers of, any provision of the code of conduct that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, and principal accounting officer and that relates to any element of the code of ethics definition in Regulation S-K, Item 406(b) and
- waivers of the code of conduct for our directors or executive officers, as required by New York Stock Exchange listing standards

by posting such information on our website at <http://www.mdu.com/Documents/Governance/IntegrityGuide.pdf>.

Board Leadership Structure and Board's Role in Risk Oversight

The board separated the positions of chairman of the board and chief executive officer in 2006 and elected Harry J. Pearce, a non-employee independent director, as our chairman, and Terry D. Hildestad as our president and chief executive officer. Separating these positions allows our chief executive officer to focus on our day-to-day business, while allowing the chairman of the board to lead the board in its fundamental role of providing advice to and independent oversight of management. The board recognizes the time, effort, and energy that the chief executive officer is required to devote to his position in the current business environment, as well as the commitment required to serve as our chairman, particularly as the board's oversight responsibilities continue to grow. While our bylaws and corporate governance guidelines do not require that our chairman and chief executive officer positions be separate, the board believes that having separate positions and having an independent outside director serve as chairman is the appropriate leadership structure for the company at this time and demonstrates our commitment to good corporate governance.

Risk is inherent with every business, and how well a business manages risk can ultimately determine its success. We face a number of risks, including economic risks, environmental and regulatory risks, and others, such as the impact of competition and weather conditions. Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks the company faces, while the board, as a whole and through its committees, has responsibility for the oversight of risk management. In its risk oversight role, the board of directors has the responsibility to satisfy itself that the risk management processes designed and implemented by management are adequate and functioning as designed.

The board believes that establishing the right "tone at the top" and that full and open communication between management and the board of directors are essential for effective risk management and oversight. Our chairman meets regularly with our president and chief executive officer and other senior officers to discuss strategy and risks facing the company. Senior management attends the quarterly board meetings and is available to address any questions or concerns raised by the board on risk management-related and any other

matters. Each quarter, the board of directors receives presentations from senior management on strategic matters involving our operations. The board holds strategic planning sessions with senior management to discuss strategies, key challenges, and risks and opportunities for the company.

While the board is ultimately responsible for risk oversight at our company, our three board committees assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in certain areas of risk. The audit committee assists the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to risk management in the areas of financial reporting, internal controls and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and, in accordance with New York Stock Exchange requirements, discusses policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessment reports are regularly provided by management to the audit committee. The compensation committee assists the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks arising from our compensation policies and programs. The nominating and governance committee assists the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks associated with board organization, membership and structure, succession planning for our directors and executive officers, and corporate governance.

Board Meetings and Committees

During 2009, the board of directors held five meetings. Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the combined total meetings of the board and the committees on which the director served during 2009. Director attendance at our annual meeting of stockholders is left to the discretion of each director. Four directors attended our 2009 annual meeting of stockholders.

Harry J. Pearce was elected non-employee chairman of the board on August 17, 2006. Mr. Pearce served as lead director from February 15, 2001 to August 17, 2006. He presides at the executive session of the non-employee directors held in connection with each regularly scheduled quarterly board of directors meeting. The non-employee directors also meet in executive session with the chief executive officer at each regularly scheduled quarterly board of directors meeting. All of our non-employee directors are independent directors.

The board has a standing audit committee, compensation committee, and nominating and governance committee. These committees are composed entirely of independent directors.

The audit, compensation, and nominating and governance committees have charters, which are available for review on our website at <http://www.mdu.com/Governance/Pages/BoardChartersandCommittees.aspx>. Our corporate governance guidelines are available at http://www.mdu.com/Documents/Governance/2010_02_GovGuidelines.pdf, and our Leading With Integrity Guide is also on our website at <http://www.mdu.com/Documents/Governance/IntegrityGuide.pdf>.

Nominating and Governance Committee

The nominating and governance committee met three times during 2009. The committee members were John L. Olson, chairman, Karen B. Fagg, Richard H. Lewis, and Sister Thomas Welder. John L. Olson served as chairman of the committee until he retired from the board on August 13, 2009, and Karen B. Fagg became chairman. A. Bart Holaday joined the committee effective February 11, 2010.

The nominating and governance committee provides recommendations to the board with respect to:

- board organization, membership, and function
- committee structure and membership
- succession planning for our executive management and directors and
- corporate governance guidelines applicable to us.

The nominating and governance committee assists the board in overseeing the management of risks in the committee's areas of responsibility.

The committee identifies individuals qualified to become directors and recommends to the board the nominees for director for the next annual meeting of stockholders. The committee also identifies and recommends to the board individuals qualified to become our principal officers and the nominees for membership on each board committee. The committee oversees the evaluation of the board and management.

In identifying nominees for director, the committee consults with board members, our management, consultants, and other individuals likely to possess an understanding of our business and knowledge concerning suitable director candidates.

Proxy Statement

Our corporate governance guidelines include our policy on consideration of director candidates recommended to us. We will consider candidates that our stockholders recommend. In November 2008, we amended our policy to include additional information stockholders must provide regarding their recommended candidates. Stockholders may submit director candidate recommendations to the nominating and governance committee chairman in care of the secretary at MDU Resources Group, Inc., P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, ND 58506-5650. Please include the following information:

- the candidate's name, age, business address, residence address, and telephone number
- the candidate's principal occupation
- the class and number of shares of our stock owned by the candidate
- a description of the candidate's qualifications to be a director
- whether the candidate would be an independent director and
- any other information you believe is relevant with respect to the recommendation.

These guidelines provide information to stockholders who wish to recommend candidates for director for consideration by the nominating and governance committee. Stockholders who wish to actually nominate persons for election to our board at an annual meeting of stockholders must follow the procedures set forth in section 2.08 of our bylaws. You may obtain a copy of the bylaws by writing to the secretary of MDU Resources Group, Inc. at the address above. Our bylaws are also available on our website at <http://www.mdu.com/Documents/Governance/MDU%20ResourcesBylaws.pdf>. See also the section entitled "2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders" later in the proxy statement.

There are no differences in the manner by which the committee evaluates director candidates recommended by stockholders and those recommended by other sources.

In evaluating director candidates, the committee considers an individual's:

- background, character, and experience
- skills and experience which complement the skills and experience of current board members
- success in the individual's chosen field of endeavor
- skill in the areas of accounting and financial management, banking, general management, human resources, marketing, operations, public affairs, law, and operations abroad
- background in publicly traded companies
- geographic area of residence
- independence, including affiliations or relationships with other groups, organizations, or entities and
- prior and future compliance with applicable law and all applicable corporate governance, code of conduct and ethics, conflict of interest, corporate opportunities, confidentiality, stock ownership and trading policies, and our other policies and guidelines.

On February 11, 2010, the board, upon recommendation of the nominating and governance committee, amended our corporate governance guidelines to include diversity as a consideration in identifying nominees for director. When identifying nominees to serve as director, the nominating and governance committee will consider candidates with diverse business and professional experience, skills, gender, and ethnic background, as appropriate, in light of the current composition and needs of the board. The nominating and governance committee will assess the effectiveness of this policy annually in connection with the nomination of directors for election at the annual meeting of stockholders. The composition of the current board reflects diversity in business and professional experience, skills, and gender.

The committee generally will hire an outside firm to perform a background check on potential nominees.

Audit Committee

The audit committee is a separately-designated standing committee established in accordance with section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The audit committee met seven times during 2009. The audit committee members are Dennis W. Johnson, chairman, A. Bart Holaday, Richard H. Lewis, and John K. Wilson. John L. Olson served on the committee until he retired from the board on August 13, 2009. The

board of directors has determined that Messrs. Johnson, Holaday, Lewis, Olson (until he retired), and Wilson are "audit committee financial experts" as defined by Securities and Exchange Commission regulations and Messrs. Johnson, Holaday, Lewis, Olson (until he retired), and Wilson meet the independence standard for audit committee members under our director independence guidelines and the New York Stock Exchange listing standards, including the Securities and Exchange Commission's audit committee member independence requirements.

The audit committee assists the board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities to the stockholders and serves as a communication link among the board, management, the independent auditors, and the internal auditors. The audit committee:

- assists the board's oversight of
 - the integrity of our financial statements and system of internal controls
 - our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements
 - the independent auditors' qualifications and independence
 - the performance of our internal audit function and independent auditors and
 - risk management in the audit committee's areas of responsibility and
- prepares the report that Securities and Exchange Commission rules require we include in our annual proxy statement.

Audit Committee Report

In connection with our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009, the audit committee has (1) reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management; (2) discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1, AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T; (3) received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountants required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and discussed with the independent accountant the independent accountant's independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to in items (1) through (3) of the above paragraph, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Dennis W. Johnson, Chairman
A. Bart Holaday
Richard H. Lewis
John K. Wilson

Compensation Committee

The compensation committee met four times during 2009. The compensation committee members are Thomas Everist, chairman, Karen B. Fagg, Thomas C. Knudson, and Patricia L. Moss.

The compensation committee's responsibilities, as set forth in its charter, include:

- review and recommend changes to the board regarding our executive compensation policies for directors and executives
- evaluate the chief executive officer's performance and, either as a committee or together with other independent directors as directed by the board, determine his or her compensation
- recommend to the board the compensation of our other Section 16 officers and directors
- establish goals, make awards, review performance and determine, or recommend to the board, awards earned under our annual and long-term incentive compensation plans
- review and discuss with management the compensation discussion and analysis and based upon such review and discussion, determine whether to recommend to the board that the compensation discussion and analysis be included in our proxy statement and/or our Annual Report on Form 10-K
- arrange for the preparation of and approve the compensation committee report to be included in our proxy statement and/or Annual Report on Form 10-K and
- assist the board in overseeing the management of risk in the committee's areas of responsibility.

Proxy Statement

The compensation committee and the board of directors have sole and direct responsibility for determining compensation for our Section 16 officers and directors. The compensation committee makes recommendations to the board regarding compensation of all Section 16 officers, and the board then approves the recommendations. The compensation committee and the board may not delegate their authority. They may, however, use recommendations from outside consultants, the chief executive officer, and the human resources department. The chief executive officer, the chief financial officer, the vice president-human resources, and general counsel regularly attend compensation committee meetings. The committee meets in executive session as needed.

We discuss our processes and procedures for consideration and determination of compensation of our Section 16 officers in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis. We also discuss in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis the role of our executive officers and compensation consultants in determining or recommending compensation for our Section 16 officers.

The compensation committee has sole authority to retain, discharge, and approve fees and other terms and conditions for retention of compensation consultants to assist in consideration of the compensation of the chief executive officer, the other Section 16 officers, and the board of directors. The compensation committee charter requires the committee's pre-approval of the engagement of the committee's compensation consultants by the company for any other purpose.

In February 2009, the compensation committee approved the retention of Towers Perrin as its compensation consultant for 2009 to perform duties to be identified in an engagement letter. In an engagement letter dated March 3, 2009 and signed by the chairman of the compensation committee, the compensation committee requested Towers Perrin to provide an executive compensation review similar to those prepared in prior years.

The review was to:

- match company positions to survey data
- develop 2010 competitive estimates on base salaries and targeted short-term and long-term incentives
- compare company base salaries and targeted short-term and long-term incentives, by position, to market estimates
- construct a recommended 2010 salary grade structure, salary grade changes, and changes in base salaries and incentive targets based on competitive data and
- address general trends in executive compensation, such as overall salary movement and the recession's impact on executive compensation.

In May 2009, upon recommendation of the chairman, the committee decided not to continue the consultant's engagement for 2009 due to budget concerns and the company's ability to access data through other sources.

The compensation committee did authorize the company to participate in compensation and employee benefits surveys sponsored by Towers Perrin.

The board of directors determines compensation for our non-employee directors based upon recommendations from the compensation committee. In February 2009, the compensation committee decided that the compensation review for the board of directors would be undertaken internally by the company, rather than by an outside consultant. At its May 2009 meeting, the committee reviewed the analysis of competitive data and recent trends in director compensation prepared by the company. The company's analysis was based on proxy data from our performance graph peer group companies compiled by Equilar and on data from the National Association of Corporate Directors 2008/2009 Director Compensation Report. The committee compared this data to our directors' compensation and each of its components. After review and discussion of the market data, which indicated that aggregate director compensation was at the median of the National Association of Corporate Directors 2008/2009 Director Compensation Report companies and above the median – 65th percentile – of the peer group companies, the compensation committee recommended, and the board approved, that the annual retainer be increased by \$25,000 to \$55,000 and that the monthly fees be eliminated, effective June 1, 2009.

Stockholder Communications

Stockholders and other interested parties who wish to contact the board of directors or an individual director, including our non-employee chairman or non-employee directors as a group, should address a communication in care of the secretary at MDU Resources Group, Inc., P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, ND 58506-5650. The secretary will forward all communications.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires that officers, directors, and holders of more than 10% of our common stock file reports of their trading in our equity securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based solely on a review of Forms 3, 4, and 5 and any amendments to these forms furnished to us during and with respect to 2009 or written representations that no Forms 5 were required, we believe that all such reports were timely filed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Neither the board of directors nor management intends to bring before the meeting any business other than the matters referred to in the notice of annual meeting and this proxy statement. In addition, other than as described under Item 6 above and in the following sentences, we have not been informed that any other matter will be presented to the meeting by others. One stockholder proposal was submitted for inclusion in the proxy statement, which we have omitted pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Securities and Exchange Commission's proxy rules. If this stockholder complies with our advance notice bylaw provisions and properly presents the proposal at the annual meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the proxy to vote against this proposal. If any other matter requiring a vote of the stockholders should arise, the persons named in the enclosed proxy will vote in accordance with their best judgment.

SHARED ADDRESS STOCKHOLDERS

In accordance with a notice sent to eligible stockholders who share a single address, we are sending only one annual report to stockholders and one proxy statement to that address unless we received instructions to the contrary from any stockholder at that address. This practice, known as "householding," is designed to reduce our printing and postage costs. However, if a stockholder of record wishes to receive a separate annual report to stockholders and proxy statement in the future, he or she may contact the office of the treasurer at MDU Resources Group, Inc., P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, ND 58506-5650, Telephone Number: (701) 530-1000. Eligible stockholders of record who receive multiple copies of our annual report to stockholders and proxy statement can request householding by contacting us in the same manner. Stockholders who own shares through a bank, broker, or other nominee can request householding by contacting the nominee.

We hereby undertake to deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, a separate copy of the annual report to stockholders and proxy statement to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the document was delivered.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Director Nominations: Our bylaws provide that director nominations may be made only by (i) the board at any meeting of stockholders or (ii) at an annual meeting by a stockholder entitled to vote for the election of directors and who has complied with the procedures established by the bylaws. For a nomination to be properly brought before an annual meeting by a stockholder, the stockholder intending to make the nomination must have given timely and proper notice of the nomination in writing to the corporate secretary in accordance with and containing all information and the completed questionnaire provided for in the bylaws. To be timely, such notice must be delivered to or mailed to the corporate secretary and received at our principal executive offices not later than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting of stockholders. For purposes of our annual meeting of stockholders expected to be held April 26, 2011, any stockholder who wishes to submit a nomination must submit the required notice to the corporate secretary on or before January 27, 2011.

Other Meeting Business: Our bylaws also provide that no business may be brought before an annual meeting except (i) as specified in the meeting notice given by or at the direction of the board, (ii) as otherwise properly brought before the meeting by or at the direction of the board or (iii) properly brought before the meeting by a stockholder entitled to vote who has complied with the procedures established by the bylaws. For business to be properly brought before an annual meeting by a stockholder (other than nomination of a person for election as a director which is described above) the stockholder must have given timely and proper notice of such business in writing to the corporate secretary, in accordance with, and containing all information provided for in the bylaws and such business must be a proper matter for stockholder action under the General Corporation Law of Delaware. To be timely, such notice must be delivered or mailed to the corporate secretary and received at our principal offices not later than the close of business 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting of stockholders. For purposes of our annual meeting expected to be held April 26, 2011, any stockholder who wishes to bring business before the meeting (other than nomination of a person for election as a director which is described above) must submit the required notice to the corporate secretary on or before January 27, 2011.

Discretionary Voting: Rule 14a-4 of the Securities and Exchange Commission's proxy rules allows us to use discretionary voting authority to vote on matters coming before an annual stockholders' meeting if we do not have notice of the matter at least 45 days before the anniversary date on which we first mailed our proxy materials for the prior year's annual stockholders' meeting or the date specified by an advance notice provision in our bylaws. Our bylaws contain an advance notice provision that we have described above. For our annual meeting of stockholders expected to be held on April 26, 2011, stockholders must submit such written notice to the corporate secretary on or before January 27, 2011.

Proxy Statement

Stockholder Proposals: The requirements we describe above are separate from and in addition to the Securities and Exchange Commission's requirements that a stockholder must meet to have a stockholder proposal included in our proxy statement under Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act. For purposes of our annual meeting of stockholders expected to be held on April 26, 2011, any stockholder who wishes to submit a proposal for inclusion in our proxy materials must submit such proposal to the corporate secretary on or before November 12, 2010.

Bylaw Copies: You may obtain a copy of the full text of the bylaw provisions discussed above by writing to the corporate secretary. Our bylaws are also available on our website at: <http://www.mdu.com/Documents/Governance/MDU%20ResourcesBylaws.pdf>.

We will make available to our stockholders to whom we furnish this proxy statement a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, excluding exhibits, for the year ended December 31, 2009, which is required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may obtain a copy, without charge, upon written or oral request to the Office of the Treasurer of MDU Resources Group, Inc., 1200 West Century Avenue, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, ND 58506-5650, Telephone Number: (701) 530-1000. You may also access our Annual Report on Form 10-K through our website at www.mdu.com.

By order of the Board of Directors,



Paul K. Sandness
Secretary
March 12, 2010

PROXY

EXHIBIT A**MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s Proposed Amendments to Its Restated Certificate of Incorporation**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (the "Corporation") hereby declares it advisable:

(A) That the provisions requiring a supermajority vote by stockholders set forth in Articles TWELFTH and FIFTEENTH of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation be repealed, and that certain technical amendments to the provisions of Articles THIRTEENTH and FOURTEENTH of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation be adopted in connection with the repeal of such supermajority vote provisions and the declassification of the Board of Directors of the Corporation effected in 2007, effective at the close of business on the date on which the appropriate Certificate of Amendment to the Corporation's Restated Certificate of Incorporation is filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware;

(B) That, in order to effect the foregoing, the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation, as heretofore amended, be further amended by amending Articles TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH and FIFTEENTH as follows:

TWELFTH. [RESERVED]

Part I. For the purposes of this Article TWELFTH, the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter set forth:

- (a) "Affiliate" or "Associate" shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as in effect on January 1, 1985.
- (b) A person shall be a "Beneficial Owner" of any Voting Stock:
 - (i) which such person or any of its Affiliates or Associates (as herein defined) beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or
 - (ii) which such person or any of its Affiliates or Associates has (A) the right to acquire (whether such right is exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time), pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding or upon the exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, warrants or options, or otherwise, or (B) the right to vote pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding; or
 - (iii) which are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by any other person with which such person or any of its Affiliates or Associates has any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of any shares of Voting Stock.
- (c) "Business Combination" shall mean any of the following:
 - (i) any merger or consolidation of the Corporation or any Subsidiary with (A) any Interested Stockholder or (B) any other corporation (whether or not itself an Interested Stockholder) which is, or after such merger or consolidation would be, an Affiliate of an Interested Stockholder; or
 - (ii) any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition (in one transaction or a series of transactions) to or with any Interested Stockholder or any Affiliate of any Interested Stockholder of any assets of the Corporation or any Subsidiary having an aggregate Fair Market Value of \$5,000,000 or more but shall not include transactions between the Corporation and its Subsidiaries; or
 - (iii) the issuance or transfer by the Corporation or any subsidiary (in one transaction or a series of transactions) of any securities of the Corporation or any subsidiary to any Interested Stockholder or any Affiliate of any Interested Stockholder in exchange for cash, securities or other property (or a combination thereof) having an aggregate Fair Market Value of \$5,000,000 or more; or
 - (iv) the adoption of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Corporation proposed by or on behalf of an Interested Stockholder or any Affiliate of any Interested Stockholder; or

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- (v) any reclassification of securities (including any reverse stock split), or recapitalization of the Corporation, statutory share exchange, or any merger or consolidation of the Corporation with any of its Subsidiaries or any other transaction (whether or not with or into or otherwise involving an Interested Stockholder) which has the effect, directly or indirectly, of increasing the proportionate share of the outstanding shares of any class of equity or convertible securities of the Corporation or any Subsidiary which is directly or indirectly owned by any Interested Stockholder or any Affiliate of any Interested Stockholder.
- (d) "Continuing Director" shall mean any member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation (the "Board") who is unaffiliated with, and not a nominee of, the Interested Stockholder (as such term is used in the context of a Business Combination) and was a member of the Board prior to the time that the Interested Stockholder became an Interested Stockholder and any successor of a Continuing Director who is unaffiliated with, and not a nominee of, the Interested Stockholder and is designated to succeed a Continuing Director by two thirds of Continuing Directors then on the Board.
- (e) "Fair Market Value" means:
- (i) in the case of stock, the highest closing sale price during the thirty day period immediately preceding the date in question of a share of such stock on the Composite Tape for the New York Stock Exchange Listed Stocks, or, if such stock is not quoted on the Composite Tape for the New York Stock Exchange, or, if such stock is not listed on such Exchange, on the principal United States securities exchange registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on which such stock is listed, or, if such stock is not listed on any such exchange, the highest closing bid quotation with respect to a share of such stock during the thirty day period preceding the date in question on the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Automated Quotations System ("NASDAQ") or, if NASDAQ is not then in use, any other system then in use, or, if no such quotations are available, the fair market value on the date in question of a share of such stock as determined by two thirds of the Continuing Directors in good faith; and
 - (ii) in the case of property other than cash or stock, the fair market value of such property on the date in question as determined by a majority of the Continuing Directors in good faith.
- (f) "Institutional Voting Stock" shall mean any class of Voting Stock which was issued to and continues to be held solely by one or more insurance companies, pension funds, commercial banks, savings banks and/or similar financial institutions or institutional investors.
- (g) "Interested Stockholder" shall mean any person (other than the Corporation or any Subsidiary) who or which:
- (i) is the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 10 percent of the voting power of the then outstanding Voting Stock; or
 - (ii) is an Affiliate of the Corporation and at any time within the two year period immediately prior to the date in question, became the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of 10 percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding Voting Stock; or
 - (iii) is an assignee of or has otherwise succeeded to any shares of Voting Stock which were at any time within the two year period immediately prior to the date in question beneficially owned by any Interested Stockholder, if such assignment or succession shall have occurred in the course of a transaction or series of transactions not involving a public offering within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933.
- For the purpose of determining whether a person is an Interested Stockholder pursuant to this paragraph (g), the number of shares of Voting Stock deemed to be outstanding shall include shares deemed owned through application of paragraph (b) of this Part I but shall not include any other shares of Voting Stock which may be issuable pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon exercise of conversion rights, warrants or options, or otherwise.
- (h) In the event of any Business Combination in which the Corporation survives the phrase "consideration other than cash to be received" as used in Sections (a) and (b) of Part II of this Article TWELFTH shall include the shares of Common Stock and/or the shares of any other class of outstanding Voting Stock retained by the holders of such shares.
- (i) A "person" shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, trust, corporation or other entity.

- (j) "Subsidiary" means any corporation of which a majority of any class of equity security is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Corporation, provided, however, that for the purposes of the definition of Interested Stockholder set forth in paragraph (g) of this Part I, the term "Subsidiary" shall mean only a corporation of which a majority of each class of equity security is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Corporation.
- (k) "Voting Stock" shall mean each share of stock of the Corporation generally entitled to vote in elections of directors.

The Continuing Directors of the Corporation shall have the power and duty to determine, for the purposes of this Article TWELFTH, on the basis of information known to them after reasonable inquiry, all facts necessary to determine the applicability of the various provisions of this Article TWELFTH, including (a) whether a person is an Interested Stockholder, (b) the number of shares of Voting Stock beneficially owned by any person, (c) whether a person is an Affiliate or Associate of another, and (d) whether a class of Voting Stock is Institutional Voting Stock. Any such determination made in good faith shall be binding and conclusive on all parties.

PART II.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in Part III of this Article TWELFTH and in addition to any other provision of law and as may otherwise be set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, the consummation of any Business Combination shall require that all of the following conditions shall have been met:

- (a) The aggregate amount of the cash and the Fair Market Value as of the date of the consummation of the Business Combination of consideration other than cash to be received per share by holders of Common Stock in such Business Combination shall be at least equal to the highest of the following:
 - (i) (if applicable) the highest per share price (including any brokerage commissions, transfer taxes and soliciting dealers' fees) paid by the Interested Stockholder for any shares of Common Stock acquired by it (A) within the two year period immediately prior to the first public announcement of the proposal of the Business Combination (the "Announcement Date") or (B) in the transaction in which it became an Interested Stockholder, whichever is highest;
 - (ii) the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the Announcement Date or on the date on which the Interested Stockholder became an Interested Stockholder (such latter date is referred to in this Article TWELFTH as the "Determination Date"), whichever is higher; and
 - (iii) (if applicable) the price per share equal to the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock determined pursuant to paragraph (ii) above, multiplied by the ratio of (A) the highest per share price (including any brokerage commissions, transfer taxes and soliciting dealers' fees) paid by the Interested Stockholder for any shares of Common Stock acquired by it within the two year period immediately prior to the Announcement Date to (B) the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the first day in such two year period upon which the Interested Stockholder acquired any shares of Common Stock.
- (b) The aggregate amount of the cash and the Fair Market Value as of the date of the consummation of the Business Combination of consideration other than cash to be received per share by holders of shares of any class of outstanding Voting Stock other than Common Stock (and other than Institutional Voting Stock), shall be at least equal to the highest of the following (it being intended that the requirements of this paragraph (b) shall be required to be met with respect to every class of outstanding Voting Stock, whether or not the Interested Stockholder has previously acquired any shares of a particular class of Voting Stock):
 - (i) (if applicable) the highest per share price (including any brokerage commissions, transfer taxes and soliciting dealers' fees) paid by the Interested Stockholder for any shares of such class of Voting Stock acquired by it (A) within the two year period immediately prior to the Announcement Date or (B) in the transaction in which it became an Interested Stockholder, whichever is higher;
 - (ii) (if applicable) the highest preferential amount per share to which the holders of shares of such class of Voting Stock are entitled in the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Corporation;
 - (iii) the Fair Market Value per share of such class of Voting Stock on the Announcement Date or on the Determination Date, whichever is higher; and

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- (iv) (if applicable) the price per share equal to the Fair Market Value per share of such class of Voting Stock determined pursuant to paragraph (b)(iii) above, multiplied by the ratio of (A) the highest per share price (including any brokerage commissions, transfer taxes and soliciting dealers' fees) paid by the Interested Stockholder for any shares of such class of Voting Stock acquired by it within the two year period immediately prior to the Announcement Date to (B) the Fair Market Value per share of such class of Voting Stock on the first day in such two year period upon which the Interested Stockholder acquired any shares of such class of Voting Stock.
- (e) The consideration to be received by holders of a particular class of outstanding Voting Stock (including Common Stock) shall be in cash or in the same form as the Interested Stockholder has previously paid for shares of such class of Voting Stock. If the Interested Stockholder has paid for shares of any class of Voting Stock with varying forms of consideration, the form of consideration for such class of Voting Stock shall be either cash or the form used to acquire the largest number of shares of such class of Voting Stock previously acquired by it.
- (d) After such Interested Stockholder has become an Interested Stockholder and prior to the consummation of such Business Combination:
- (i) except as approved by two thirds of the Continuing Directors, there shall have been no failure to declare and pay at the regular date therefor any full quarterly dividends (whether or not cumulative) on the outstanding Preferred Stock;
 - (ii) there shall have been (A) no reduction in the annual rate of dividends paid on the Common Stock (except as necessary to reflect any subdivision of the Common Stock), except as approved by two thirds of the Continuing Directors, and (B) an increase in such annual rate of dividends as necessary to reflect any reclassification (including any reverse stock split), recapitalization, reorganization or any similar transaction which has the effect of reducing the number of outstanding shares of the Common Stock, unless the failure so to increase such annual rate is approved by two thirds of the Continuing Directors; and
 - (iii) such Interested Stockholder shall have not become the beneficial owner of any additional shares of Voting Stock except as part of the transaction which results in such Interested Stockholder becoming an Interested Stockholder.
- (e) After such Interested Stockholder has become an Interested Stockholder, such Interested Stockholder shall not have received the benefit, directly or indirectly (except proportionately as a stockholder), of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial assistance or any tax credits or other tax advantages provided by the Corporation, whether in anticipation of or in connection with such Business Combination or otherwise.
- (f) A proxy or information statement describing the proposed Business Combination and containing the information specified for proxy or information statements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations thereunder (or any subsequent provisions replacing such Act, rules or regulations) shall be mailed to stockholders of the Corporation at least thirty days prior to the consummation of such Business Combination (whether or not such proxy or information statement is required to be mailed pursuant to such Act or subsequent provisions).

PART III.

Unless the Business Combination shall have been approved by two thirds of the Continuing Directors, (a) the provisions of Part II of this Article TWELFTH shall be applicable to each particular Business Combination, and (b) any such Business Combination shall be approved by the affirmative vote of at least four fifths of the voting power of all shares of Voting Stock (considered for purposes of this Article TWELFTH as one class, it being understood that for purposes of this Article TWELFTH, each share of Voting Stock shall have the number of votes granted to it pursuant to Article FOURTH of the Certificate of Incorporation).

PART IV.

Nothing contained in this Article TWELFTH shall be construed to relieve any Interested Stockholder from any fiduciary obligation imposed by law.

THIRTEENTH.

- (a) The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors consisting of not less than six nor more than fifteen persons. The exact number of directors within the limitations specified in the preceding sentence shall be fixed from

time to time by the Board of Directors pursuant to a resolution adopted by two-thirds of the Continuing Directors. The directors need not be elected by ballot unless required by the By-Laws of the Corporation.

At each annual meeting of stockholders, the directors shall be elected for terms expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders, ~~provided, however, that each director elected at the annual meetings of stockholders held in 2005, 2006 and 2007 shall serve for the full three year term to which such director was elected.~~ Each director shall hold office for the term for which he is elected or appointed and until his successor shall be elected and qualified or until his earlier resignation, removal from office or death, or until he shall resign or be removed.

In the event of any increase or decrease in the authorized number of directors, each director then serving as such shall nevertheless continue as director until the expiration of his current term, or until his earlier resignation, removal from office or death.

- (b) Newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors or any vacancies in the Board of Directors resulting from death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, removal from office or other cause shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the Continuing Directors then in office, or a sole remaining director, although less than a quorum, and directors so chosen shall hold office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders. If one or more directors shall resign from the Board effective as of a future date, such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled pursuant to the provisions hereof, and such new directorship(s) shall become effective when such resignation or resignations shall become effective, and each director so chosen shall hold office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders.

- (c) [RESERVED]

~~Any director or the entire Board of Directors may be removed, however, such removal must be for cause and must be approved as set forth in this Section. Except as may otherwise be provided by law, cause for removal shall be construed to exist only if: (i) the director whose removal is proposed has been convicted, or where a director was granted immunity to testify where another has been convicted, of a felony by a court of competent jurisdiction and such conviction is no longer subject to direct appeal; (ii) such director has been grossly negligent in the performance of his duties to the Corporation; or (iii) such director has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be mentally incompetent, which mental incompetency directly affects his ability as a director of the Corporation, and such adjudication is no longer subject to direct appeal.~~

~~Removal for cause, as cause is defined above, must be approved by at least a majority vote of the shares of the Corporation then entitled to be voted at an election for that director, and the action for removal must be brought within three months of such conviction or adjudication.~~

~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, and except as otherwise provided by law, in the event that Preferred Stock of the Corporation is issued and holders of any one or more series of such Preferred Stock are entitled, voting separately as a class, to elect one or more directors of the Corporation to serve for such terms as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, the provisions of this Article THIRTEENTH, Section (c), shall also apply, in respect to the removal of a director or directors so elected to the vote of the holders of the outstanding shares of that class and not to the vote of the outstanding shares as a whole.~~

- (d) Any directors elected pursuant to special voting rights of one or more series of Preferred Stock, voting as a class, shall be excluded from, and for no purpose be counted in, the scope and operation of the foregoing provisions, unless expressly stated.

- (e) For purposes of this Article THIRTEENTH, the following terms shall have the meanings hereinafter set forth:

(i) "Affiliate" or "Associate" shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as in effect on January 1, 1985.

(ii) A person shall be a "Beneficial Owner" of any Voting Stock:

(A) which such person or any of its Affiliates or Associates beneficially owns, directly or indirectly; or

(B) which such person or any of its Affiliates or Associates has (1) the right to acquire (whether such right is exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time), pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding or upon the exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, warrants or options, or otherwise, or (2) the right to vote pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding; or

Proxy Statement

- (C) which are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by any other person with which such person or any of its Affiliates or Associates has any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of any shares of Voting Stock.
- (iii) "Continuing Director" shall mean any member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation who is unaffiliated with, and not a nominee of, any Interested Stockholder and was a member of the Board of Directors prior to the time that any Interested Stockholder became an Interested Stockholder and any successor of a Continuing Director who is unaffiliated with, and not a nominee of, any Interested Stockholder and is designated to succeed a Continuing Director by two-thirds of the Continuing Directors then on the Board of Directors.
- (iv) "Interested Stockholder" shall mean any person (other than the Corporation or any Subsidiary) who or which:
- (A) is the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 10 percent of the voting power of the then outstanding Voting Stock; or
- (B) is an Affiliate of the Corporation and at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question, became the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 10 percent of the voting power of the then outstanding Voting Stock; or
- (C) is an assignee of or has otherwise succeeded to any shares of Voting Stock which were at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question beneficially owned by any Interested Stockholder, if such assignment or succession shall have occurred in the course of a transaction or series of transactions not involving a public offering within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933.

For the purpose of determining whether a person is an Interested Stockholder pursuant to this Article THIRTEENTH, Section (e)(iv), the number of shares of Voting Stock deemed to be outstanding shall include shares deemed owned through application of Section (e)(ii) of this Article THIRTEENTH but shall not include any other shares of Voting Stock which may be issuable pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon exercise of conversion rights, warrants or options, or otherwise.

- (v) A "person" shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, trust, corporation or other entity.
- (vi) "Subsidiary" means any corporation of which a majority of any class of equity security is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Corporation; provided, however, that for the purposes of the definition of Interested Stockholder set forth in Section (e)(iv) of this Article THIRTEENTH, the term "Subsidiary" shall mean only a corporation of which a majority of each class of equity security is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Corporation.
- (vii) "Voting Stock" shall mean each share of stock of the Corporation generally entitled to vote in elections of directors.

The Continuing Directors of the Corporation shall have the power and duty to determine, on the basis of information known to them after reasonable inquiry, all facts necessary to determine the applicability of the various provisions of this Article THIRTEENTH, including (A) whether a person is an Interested Stockholder, (B) the number of shares of Voting Stock beneficially owned by any person, and (C) whether a person is an Affiliate or Associate of another. Any such determination made in good faith shall be binding and conclusive on all parties.

- (f) Capitalized terms used and not defined in Article FOURTEENTH or in Article SIXTEENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation which are defined in Section (e) of this Article THIRTEENTH shall have the meanings, for purposes of Article FOURTEENTH and Article SIXTEENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation, ascribed to such terms in Section (e) of this Article THIRTEENTH.

FOURTEENTH. The Board of Directors, in evaluating any proposal by another party to (a) make a tender or exchange offer for any securities of the Corporation, (b) effect a ~~Business Combination (as defined in Article TWELFTH)~~, **merger, consolidation or other business combination of the Corporation** or (c) effect any other transaction having an effect upon the properties, operations or control of the Corporation similar to a tender or exchange offer ~~or Business Combination~~ **for any securities of the Corporation or a merger, consolidation or other business combination of the Corporation**, as the case may be, whether by an Interested Stockholder

(as defined in Article TWELFTH) or otherwise, may, in connection with the exercise of its judgment as to what is in the best interests of the Corporation and its stockholders, give due consideration to the following:

- (i) the consideration to be received by the Corporation or its stockholders in connection with such transaction in relation not only to the then current market price for the outstanding capital stock of the Corporation, but also to the market price for the capital stock of the Corporation over a period of years, the estimated price that might be achieved in a negotiated sale of the Corporation as a whole or in part through orderly liquidation, the premiums over market price for the securities of other corporations in similar transactions, current political, economic and other factors bearing on securities prices and the Corporation's financial condition, future prospects and future value as an independent Corporation;
- (ii) the character, integrity and business philosophy of the other party or parties to the transaction and the management of such party or parties;
- (iii) the business and financial conditions and earnings prospects of the other party or parties to the transaction, including, but not limited to, debt service and other existing or likely financial obligations of such party or parties, the intention of the other party or parties to the transaction regarding the use of the assets of the Corporation to finance the acquisition, and the possible effect of such conditions upon the Corporation and its Subsidiaries and the other elements of the communities in which the Corporation and its Subsidiaries operate or are located;
- (iv) the projected social, legal and economic effects of the proposed action or transaction upon the Corporation or its Subsidiaries, its employees, suppliers, customers and others having similar relationships with the Corporation, and the communities in which the Corporation and its Subsidiaries do business;
- (v) the general desirability of the continuance of the Corporation as an independent entity; and
- (vi) such other factors as the Continuing Directors may deem relevant.

FIFTEENTH. ~~[RESERVED] Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Certificate of Incorporation or the By-Laws of the Corporation (and notwithstanding the fact that a lesser percentage may be specified by law, this Certificate of Incorporation or the By-Laws of the Corporation), the affirmative vote of the holders of at least four fifths of the voting power of the then outstanding Voting Stock shall be required to amend, alter, change or repeal, or to adopt any provision inconsistent with, Articles TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH and SIXTEENTH of this Certificate of Incorporation, provided that such four fifths vote shall not be required for any amendment, alteration, change or repeal recommended to the stockholders by two thirds of the Continuing Directors, as defined in Article TWELFTH.~~

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby directs that this resolution and above proposed amendments be attached as an exhibit to the proxy statement for the Corporation's 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders for consideration by the stockholders entitled to vote in respect thereof;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of the proposed amendments to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation by the stockholders, the proper officers of the Corporation be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and directed to file a Certificate of Amendment to the Corporation's Restated Certificate of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, to amend the Corporation's Registration Statement on Form 8-A relating to the common stock of the Corporation, and to file any and all other documents and to take any and all such further action as they deem necessary or appropriate to reflect such amendments.

PROXY

Stockholder Information

Corporate Headquarters

MDU Resources Group, Inc.
Street Address: 1200 W. Century Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650

Telephone: (701) 530-1000
Toll-Free Telephone: (866) 760-4852
www.mdu.com

The company has filed as exhibits to its Annual Report on Form 10-K the CEO and CFO certifications as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

The company also submitted the required annual CEO certification to the New York Stock Exchange.

Common Stock

MDU Resources' common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol MDU. The stock began trading on the NYSE in 1948 and is included in the Standard & Poor's MidCap 400 index. Average daily trading volume in 2009 was 909,899 shares.

Common Stock Prices

| | High | Low | Close |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 2009 | | | |
| First Quarter | \$22.89 | \$12.79 | \$16.14 |
| Second Quarter | 19.76 | 15.70 | 18.97 |
| Third Quarter | 21.16 | 17.44 | 20.85 |
| Fourth Quarter | 24.22 | 19.96 | 23.60 |
| 2008 | | | |
| First Quarter | \$27.83 | \$23.08 | \$24.55 |
| Second Quarter | 35.25 | 24.70 | 34.86 |
| Third Quarter | 35.34 | 26.03 | 29.00 |
| Fourth Quarter | 29.50 | 15.50 | 21.58 |

Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan

The company's plan provides interested investors the opportunity to purchase shares of the company's common stock and to reinvest dividends without incurring brokerage commissions.

For complete details, including an enrollment form, contact the stock transfer agent. Plan information also is available on the Wells Fargo Shareowner Services Web site: www.wellsfargo.com/shareownerservices.

2010 Key Dividend Dates

| | Ex-Dividend Date | Record Date | Payment Date |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| First Quarter | March 9 | March 11 | April 1 |
| Second Quarter | June 8 | June 10 | July 1 |
| Third Quarter | September 7 | September 9 | October 1 |
| Fourth Quarter | December 7 | December 9 | January 1, 2011 |

Key dividend dates are subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2010
11 a.m. CDT
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Service Center
909 Airport Road
Bismarck, North Dakota

Shareholder Information and Inquiries

Registered shareholders have electronic access to their accounts by visiting www.shareowneronline.com. Shareowner Online allows shareholders to view their account balance, dividend information, reinvestment details and more. The stock transfer agent maintains stockholder account information.

Communications regarding stock transfer requirements, lost certificates, dividends or change of address should be directed to the stock transfer agent.

Company information, including financial reports, is available at www.mdu.com.

Shareholder Contact

Arlene Stillwell
Telephone: (866) 866-8919
E-mail: investor@mduresources.com

Analyst Contact

Phyllis A. Rittenbach
Director of Investor Relations
Telephone: (701) 530-1057
E-mail: phyllis.rittenbach@mduresources.com

Transfer Agent and Registrar for all Classes of Stock and Dividend Reinvestment Plan

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Stock Transfer Department
P.O. Box 64856
St. Paul, MN 55164-0856
Telephone: (651) 450-4064
Toll-Free Telephone: (877) 536-3553
www.wellsfargo.com/shareownerservices

Transfer Agent and Registrar for Senior Notes

The Bank of New York Mellon
Corporate Trust Department
101 Barclay St. — 12W
New York, NY 10286

Independent Auditors

Deloitte & Touche LLP
50 S. Sixth St., Suite 2800
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1538

Note: This information is not given in connection with any sale or offer for sale or offer to buy any security.



The paper used in this annual report is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and contains a minimum of 10 percent post-consumer recycled paper fibers.

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Group, Inc.

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