

Verso Corp
Form 10-Q
November 16, 2015

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015

OR
TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

VERSO CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Delaware (State of Incorporation or Organization) | 001-34056 (Commission File Number) | 75-3217389 (IRS Employer Identification Number) |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|

VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Delaware (State of Incorporation or Organization) | 333-142283 (Commission File Number) | 56-2597634 (IRS Employer Identification Number) |
|---|--|---|

6775 Lenox Center Court, Suite 400
Memphis, Tennessee 38115-4436
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)

(901) 369-4100
(Registrants' telephone number, including area code)

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.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Verso Corporation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Verso Paper Holdings LLC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Edgar Filing: Verso Corp - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Verso Corporation Yes No

Verso Paper Holdings LLC Yes No

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:

Verso Corporation

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

Verso Paper Holdings

LLC

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 Exchange Act).

Verso Corporation Yes No

Verso Paper Holdings LLC Yes No

As of October 31, 2015, Verso Corporation had 81,877,254 outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and Verso Paper Holdings LLC had one outstanding limited liability company interest.

This Form 10-Q is a combined quarterly report being filed separately by two registrants: Verso Corporation and Verso Paper Holdings LLC.

Entity Names and Organization

Within our organization, Verso Corporation, formerly named Verso Paper Corp., is the ultimate parent entity and the sole member of Verso Paper Finance Holdings One LLC, which is the sole member of Verso Paper Finance Holdings LLC, which is the sole member of Verso Paper Holdings LLC. As used in this report, the term “Verso” refers to Verso Corporation; the term “Verso Finance” refers to Verso Paper Finance Holdings LLC; the term “Verso Holdings” refers to Verso Paper Holdings LLC; the term “NewPage” refers to NewPage Holdings Inc., which is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso; the term “NewPage Corp” refers to NewPage Corporation, which is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of NewPage; and the term for any such entity includes its direct and indirect subsidiaries when referring to the entity’s consolidated financial condition or results. Unless otherwise noted, references to “we,” “us,” and “our” refer collectively to Verso and Verso Holdings. Other than Verso’s common stock transactions, Verso Finance’s debt obligation and related financing costs and interest expense, Verso Holdings’ loan to Verso Finance, and the debt obligation of Verso Holdings’ consolidated variable interest entity to Verso Finance, the assets, liabilities, income, expenses and cash flows presented for all periods represent those of Verso Holdings in all material respects. Unless otherwise noted, the information provided pertains to both Verso and Verso Holdings.

On January 3, 2014, Verso, Verso Merger Sub Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso, or “Merger Sub,” and NewPage entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, or the “Merger Agreement,” pursuant to which the parties agreed to merge Merger Sub with and into NewPage on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, with NewPage surviving the merger as an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso. On January 7, 2015, Verso consummated the acquisition of NewPage through the merger of Merger Sub with and into NewPage, or the “NewPage acquisition,” pursuant to the Merger Agreement. As a result of the merger of Merger Sub with and into NewPage, Merger Sub’s separate corporate existence ceased and NewPage continued as the surviving corporation and an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso (see Note 4). As such, the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, include the impact of NewPage’s operations on our business.

Forward-Looking Statements

In this quarterly report, all statements that are not purely historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the words “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “project,” “plan,” “estimate,” “intend” and other similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available business, economic, financial and other information and reflect management’s current beliefs, expectations and views with respect to future developments and their potential effects on us. Actual results could vary materially depending on risks and uncertainties that may affect us and our business. For a discussion of the risks and uncertainties affecting us and our business, please refer to the risks and uncertainties identified in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and other sections of this quarterly report as well as those discussed in Verso’s and Verso Holdings’ other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statement made in this quarterly report to reflect subsequent events or circumstances or actual outcomes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Page

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----|
| <u>Item 1.</u> | <u>Financial Statements</u> | |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets</u> | 4 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations of Verso Corporation</u> | 5 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income of Verso Corporation</u> | 5 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations of Verso Paper Holdings LLC</u> | 6 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income of Verso Paper Holdings LLC</u> | 6 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity of Verso Corporation</u> | 7 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Member's Equity of Verso Paper Holdings LLC</u> | 8 |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u> | 9 |
| | <u>Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 10 |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 38 |
| <u>Item 3.</u> | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 53 |
| <u>Item 4.</u> | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | 54 |
| <u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u> | | |
| <u>Item 1.</u> | <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | 56 |
| <u>Item 1A.</u> | <u>Risk Factors</u> | 56 |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 3.</u> | <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 4.</u> | <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 5.</u> | <u>Other Information</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 6.</u> | <u>Exhibits</u> | 58 |

SIGNATURES

59

EXHIBIT INDEX

60

3

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| (Dollars in millions) | VERSO | | VERSO HOLDINGS | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$10 | \$6 | \$10 | \$6 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 257 | 88 | 257 | 88 |
| Inventories | 540 | 110 | 540 | 110 |
| Assets held for sale | — | 61 | — | 61 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 34 | 11 | 34 | 11 |
| Total current assets | 841 | 276 | 841 | 276 |
| Property, plant, and equipment, net | 1,931 | 531 | 1,931 | 531 |
| Intangibles and other assets, net | 129 | 71 | 145 | 94 |
| Total assets | \$2,901 | \$878 | \$2,917 | \$901 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$170 | \$63 | \$170 | \$63 |
| Accrued liabilities | 239 | 205 | 232 | 206 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | 72 | 30 | 72 | 30 |
| Liabilities related to assets held for sale | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Total current liabilities | 481 | 300 | 474 | 301 |
| Long-term debt | 2,838 | 1,297 | 2,861 | 1,320 |
| Other liabilities | 560 | 65 | 556 | 60 |
| Total liabilities | 3,879 | 1,662 | 3,891 | 1,681 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 13) | — | — | — | — |
| Equity: | | | | |
| Preferred stock -- par value \$0.01 (20,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued) | — | — | n/a | n/a |
| Common stock -- par value \$0.01 (250,000,000 shares authorized with 82,115,543 shares issued and 81,877,254 outstanding on September 30, 2015, and with 53,434,698 shares issued and 53,336,634 outstanding on December 31, 2014) | 1 | 1 | n/a | n/a |
| Treasury stock -- at cost (238,289 shares on September 30, 2015 and 98,064 shares on December 31, 2014) | (1) |)— | n/a | n/a |
| Paid-in-capital | 320 | 222 | 331 | 234 |
| Retained deficit | (1,273 |) (980 |) (1,280 |) (987 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (25 |) (27 |) (25 |) (27 |
| Total deficit | (978 |) (784 |) (974 |) (780 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$2,901 | \$878 | \$2,917 | \$901 |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO CORPORATION
UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

| (Dollars in millions, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Net sales | \$782 | \$350 | \$2,366 | \$970 | |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 677 | 295 | 2,062 | 873 | |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion (exclusive of accelerated depreciation included in restructuring charges) | 60 | 23 | 181 | 74 | |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 33 | 18 | 134 | 53 | |
| Restructuring charges | 55 | — | 83 | — | |
| Total operating expenses | 825 | 336 | 2,460 | 1,000 | |
| Operating (loss) income | (43 |) 14 | (94 |) (30 |) |
| Interest expense | 68 | 37 | 201 | 107 | |
| Other loss, net | — | 14 | — | 33 | |
| Loss before income taxes | (111 |) (37 |) (295 |) (170 |) |
| Income tax benefit | — | (1 |) (2 |) (1 |) |
| Net loss | \$(111 |) \$(36 |) \$(293 |) \$(169 |) |
| Loss per common share: | | | | | |
| Basic | \$(1.36 |) \$(0.67 |) \$(3.61 |) \$(3.17 |) |
| Diluted | (1.36 |) (0.67 |) (3.61 |) (3.17 |) |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Basic | 81,842 | 53,328 | 81,099 | 53,280 | |
| Diluted | 81,842 | 53,328 | 81,099 | 53,280 | |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO CORPORATION
UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Net loss | \$(111 |) \$(36 |) \$(293 |) \$(169 |) |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | | |
| Defined benefit pension plan amortization of net loss and prior service cost | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Other comprehensive income | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(110 |) \$(35 |) \$(291 |) \$(168 |) |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC
 UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|---|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Net sales | \$782 | \$350 | \$2,366 | \$970 | |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and depletion) | 677 | 295 | 2,062 | 873 | |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion (exclusive of accelerated depreciation included in restructuring charges) | 60 | 23 | 181 | 74 | |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 33 | 18 | 134 | 53 | |
| Restructuring charges | 55 | — | 83 | — | |
| Total operating expenses | 825 | 336 | 2,460 | 1,000 | |
| Operating (loss) income | (43 |)14 | (94 |)30 |) |
| Interest income | — | — | (1 |)1 |) |
| Interest expense | 68 | 37 | 202 | 108 | |
| Other loss, net | — | 14 | — | 33 | |
| Loss before income taxes | \$(111 |)\$(37 |) \$(295 |)\$(170 |) |
| Income tax benefit | — | — | (2 |)— |) |
| Net loss | \$(111 |)\$(37 |) \$(293 |)\$(170 |) |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC
 UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|---|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Net loss | \$(111 |)\$(37 |) \$(293 |)\$(170 |) |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | | |
| Defined benefit pension plan amortization of net loss and prior service cost | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Other comprehensive income | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(110 |)\$(36 |) \$(291 |)\$(169 |) |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO CORPORATION

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND 2014

| (Dollars in millions, shares in thousands) | Common Shares | Common Stock | Treasury Shares | Treasury Stock | Paid-in-Capital | Retained Deficit | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Total Stockholders' Equity (Deficit) |
|---|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Balance - December 31, 2013 | 53,247 | \$1 | (74) | \$— | \$ 220 | \$(627) | \$(11) | \$(417) |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (169) | — | (169) |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Treasury shares acquired | — | — | (24) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stock option exercise | 34 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Common stock issued for restricted stock, net | 146 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Equity award expense | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Balance - September 30, 2014 | 53,427 | \$1 | (98) | \$— | \$ 221 | \$(796) | \$(10) | \$(584) |
| Balance - December 31, 2014 | 53,435 | \$1 | (98) | \$— | \$ 222 | \$(980) | \$(27) | \$(784) |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (293) | — | (293) |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Treasury shares acquired | — | — | (140) | (1) | — | — | — | (1) |
| Stock option exercise | 14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Common stock issued for restricted stock, net | 357 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stock issued for NewPage acquisition | 13,607 | — | — | — | 46 | — | — | 46 |
| Stock issued for convertible warrants | 14,702 | — | — | — | 50 | — | — | 50 |
| Equity award expense | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Balance - September 30, 2015 | 82,115 | \$1 | (238) | \$(1) | \$ 320 | \$(1,273) | \$(25) | \$(978) |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN MEMBER'S EQUITY
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND 2014

| (Dollars in millions) | Paid-in-Capital | Retained Deficit | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Total Member's Equity (Deficit) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Balance - December 31, 2013 | \$231 | \$(631) | \$(11) | \$(411) |
| Contribution from parent | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Net loss | — | (170) | — | (170) |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Equity award expense | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Balance - September 30, 2014 | \$233 | \$(801) | \$(10) | \$(578) |
| Balance - December 31, 2014 | \$234 | \$(987) | \$(27) | \$(780) |
| Contribution from parent | 95 | — | — | 95 |
| Net loss | — | (293) | — | (293) |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Equity award expense | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Balance - September 30, 2015 | \$331 | \$(1,280) | \$(25) | \$(974) |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| (Dollars in millions) | VERSO | | VERSO HOLDINGS | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|---|
| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Net cash used in operating activities | \$(284 |) \$(68 |) \$(284 |) \$(69 |) |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities: | | | | | |
| Proceeds from sale of assets | 51 | — | 51 | — | |
| Transfers from restricted cash, net | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Capital expenditures | (48 |) (34 |) (48 |) (34 |) |
| Acquisition, net of cash acquired | 128 | — | 128 | — | |
| Acquisition of investment securities | (5 |) — | (5 |) — | |
| Other investing activities | — | 5 | — | 5 | |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | 127 | (28 |) 127 | (28 |) |
| Cash Flows From Financing Activities: | | | | | |
| Borrowings on revolving credit facilities | 673 | 340 | 673 | 340 | |
| Payments on revolving credit facilities | (512 |) (228 |) (512 |) (228 |) |
| Debt issuance costs | — | (2 |) — | (2 |) |
| Repayment of long-term debt | — | (13 |) — | (13 |) |
| Contribution from parent | — | — | — | 1 | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 161 | 97 | 161 | 98 | |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 6 | 11 | 6 | 11 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$10 | \$12 | \$10 | \$12 | |
| Noncash investing and financing activities: | | | | | |
| Notes issued for NewPage acquisition | \$663 | \$— | \$663 | \$— | |
| Stock issued for NewPage acquisition | 46 | — | 46 | — | |
| Stock issued for convertible warrants | 50 | — | 50 | — | |
| Conversion of accrued interest to long-term debt | 19 | — | 19 | — | |
| Reductions in long-term debt for debt modification | (15 |) (1 |) (15 |) (1 |) |
| Increase in long-term debt from paid in kind (PIK) interest | 5 | — | 5 | — | |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERSO CORPORATION AND VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND FOR THE THREE-MONTH AND NINE-MONTH
PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND 2014

1. BACKGROUND AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Within our organization, Verso Corporation, formerly named Verso Paper Corp., is the ultimate parent entity and the sole member of Verso Paper Finance Holdings One LLC, which is the sole member of Verso Paper Finance Holdings LLC, which is the sole member of Verso Paper Holdings LLC. As used in this report, the term “Verso” refers to Verso Corporation; the term “Verso Finance” refers to Verso Paper Finance Holdings LLC; the term “Verso Holdings” refers to Verso Paper Holdings LLC; the term “NewPage” refers to NewPage Holdings Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso; the term “NewPage Corp” refers to NewPage Corporation, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of NewPage; and the term for any such entity includes its direct and indirect subsidiaries when referring to the entity’s consolidated financial condition or results. Unless otherwise noted, references to “Verso,” “we,” “us,” and “our” refer collectively to Verso Corporation and Verso Holdings. Other than Verso’s common stock transactions, Verso Finance’s debt obligation and related financing costs and interest expense, Verso Holdings’ loan to Verso Finance, and the debt obligation of Verso Holdings’ consolidated variable interest entity to Verso Finance, the assets, liabilities, income, expenses and cash flows presented for all periods represent those of Verso Holdings in all material respects. Unless otherwise noted, the information provided pertains to both Verso and Verso Holdings.

This report contains the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements of Verso and Verso Holdings as of September 30, 2015, and for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. The December 31, 2014, Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet data was derived from audited financial statements but it does not include all disclosures required annually by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or “GAAP.” In the opinion of Management, the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements include all adjustments that are necessary for the fair presentation of Verso’s and Verso Holdings’ respective financial conditions, results of operations, and cash flows for the interim periods presented. Except as disclosed in the notes to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, such adjustments are of a normal, recurring nature. Variable interest entities for which Verso or Verso Holdings is the primary beneficiary are consolidated. Intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated in consolidation. The results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented may not necessarily be indicative of full-year results. It is suggested that these financial statements be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of Verso and Verso Holdings contained in their respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

On January 3, 2014, Verso, Verso Merger Sub Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso, or “Merger Sub,” and NewPage entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, or the “Merger Agreement,” pursuant to which the parties agreed to merge Merger Sub with and into NewPage on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, with NewPage surviving the merger as an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso. On January 7, 2015, Verso consummated the previously announced acquisition of NewPage through the merger of Merger Sub with and into NewPage, or the “NewPage acquisition,” pursuant to the Merger Agreement. As a result of the merger of Merger Sub with and into NewPage, Merger Sub’s separate corporate existence ceased and NewPage continued as the surviving corporation and an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso (see Note 4). As such, the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, include the results of operations of NewPage beginning January 7, 2015. We have also elected to change our reporting increment from thousands to millions.

We operate in the following two market segments: paper and pulp (see Note 14). Our core business platform is as a producer of coated freesheet and coated groundwood papers. Our products are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including catalogs, magazines, and commercial printing applications such as high-end advertising brochures, annual reports, and direct-mail advertising.

We have historically relied primarily upon cash flow from operations and borrowings under our revolving credit facilities to fund our operations, capital expenditures and debt service requirements. Our recent financial results have included several years of operating losses and cash flows used in operations. We are highly leveraged, with \$2,806 million (see Note 6) in borrowings outstanding under our existing financing arrangements as of September 30, 2015, including the NewPage Corp revolving credit facility, the “NewPage ABL Facility,” and floating rate senior secured term loan, the “NewPage Term Loan Facility.” Also as of September 30, 2015, we had \$8 million available for future borrowings under the Verso Holdings r

evolving credit facilities and \$54 million available for future borrowings under the NewPage ABL Facility (see Note 6). Our indebtedness results in us dedicating a substantial portion of our cash flows from operations to payments for our debt service, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flows to fund working capital, capital expenditures, research and development efforts, and other corporate purposes. In addition, our indebtedness increases our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions and places us at a competitive disadvantage compared to competitors that have less debt.

We have certain significant cash use requirements over the next twelve months outside of operations, including debt service requirements (see Note 6), integration costs associated with the NewPage acquisition (see Note 4), and restructuring costs related to both the NewPage acquisition and the recently announced production capacity reductions at our Androscoggin and Wickliffe mills (see Note 11). Our projected fixed debt service payments over the next twelve months through September 30, 2016, based on our current borrowings and floating interest rates at September 30, 2015, and without taking into account repayments related to our revolving credit facilities, are approximately \$352 million, of which approximately \$72 million is principal (approximately \$3 million in the fourth quarter of 2015 and approximately \$9 million, \$9 million and \$50 million in the first, second and third quarters of 2016, respectively) and approximately \$280 million is interest (approximately \$20 million in the fourth quarter of 2015 and approximately \$120 million, \$20 million and \$120 million in the first, second and third quarters of 2016, respectively). Our debt arrangements also contain financial and other restrictive covenants that limit our ability to engage in activities that may be in our long-term best interests. Failure to comply with those covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the acceleration of all of our debts. If we are unable to repay our indebtedness when due or declared due, our lenders also will have the right to proceed against the collateral securing the indebtedness.

The accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared assuming that we will continue as a going concern. However, based on our liquidity position as of September 30, 2015, and our projections of operating results and cash flows for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, we anticipate that we will not have sufficient resources to fund our most significant future cash obligations and, therefore, we believe that there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months. In addition, based on our recent operating performance, the ability of NewPage Corp to comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in the NewPage Term Loan Facility over the next twelve months is particularly vulnerable to declines in our operating performance compared to our projections. As of September 30, 2015, a decrease of \$2 million of Adjusted EBITDA would have resulted in noncompliance with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, and it is reasonably possible that NewPage Corp will not comply with the quarterly Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant at the end of upcoming quarters. The calculation of Adjusted EBITDA that is used in calculating the Total Net Leverage Ratio includes adjustments, such as pro forma adjustments for management's projections of expected savings from our profitability program. In the event that NewPage Corp is unable to comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in a future quarter, Verso Holdings has the option to make capital contributions for the amount of the shortfall without triggering an event of default. However, Verso Holdings may not have sufficient liquidity to fund any such capital contribution. A breach of the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, if a sufficient capital contribution could not be made to cure the breach, would represent an event of default under the NewPage Term Loan Facility and would trigger cross-default provisions of our other credit facilities. In addition, our lenders would have the right to make any loans then outstanding immediately due and payable, which would trigger cross-default provisions under our indentures, and would no longer be obligated to extend further credit to us.

As a result of our cash flow and liquidity concerns, we have begun evaluating potential alternatives for the restructuring of our balance sheet. We have engaged PJT Partners L.P. to provide us with restructuring and transactional services and O'Melveny & Myers LLP to provide us with restructuring legal advice and assistance. We have begun discussions with certain of our creditor constituencies to explore potential restructuring alternatives. We also are exploring opportunities to raise funds through potential sales of certain of our mills and related facilities,

which may include the Stevens Point, Androscoggin and Duluth mills, our recently idled Wickliffe mill, and the hydroelectric generation facilities associated with our Androscoggin mill. Our potential restructuring could occur in a consensual, out-of-court manner or through a court-supervised Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding. While we intend to actively pursue a potential restructuring and potential asset sales, there can be no assurance that any of these activities will occur on terms acceptable to us or at all. In addition to the strategic alternatives, our future projected operating results also are highly dependent on the successful integration of NewPage, the borrowing availability of the combined company, the synergies and operational cost reduction and earnings enhancement initiatives expected to be achieved, and general market conditions. The synergies and operational cost reductions are targeted in the areas of personnel expenses, raw material costs and manufacturing efficiencies. We have established plans within each of these areas to meet these targets. If the integration of NewPage into our business is not completed as expected, the synergies and other benefits that we expect to achieve could be materially and adversely affected, and these situations could result in additional transaction costs, loss of revenue or other effects associated with uncertainty about the NewPage acquisition.

The accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business. These financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the recovery of the recorded assets or the classification of the liabilities that might be necessary should we be unable to continue as a going concern.

2. RECENT ACCOUNTING DEVELOPMENTS

ASC Topic 205, Presentation of Financial Statements and ASC Topic 360, Property, Plant, and Equipment. In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2014-08, Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity, which changes the criteria for determining which disposals can be presented as discontinued operations and modifies the related disclosure requirements. This guidance should be applied prospectively to new disposals and new classifications of disposal groups as held for sale after the effective date, which is fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those annual periods. The adoption of this amendment in the first quarter of 2015 did not have a material impact on the presentation of our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. This guidance will replace all current GAAP guidance on this topic and eliminate all industry-specific guidance. The new revenue recognition standard provides a unified model to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle is that a company should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration for which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This guidance was effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and can be applied either retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption; however, in August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Deferral of the Effective Date, which defers the effective date by one year making the guidance effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. We are evaluating the impact of adopting this new accounting standard on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 205, Presentation of Financial Statements-Going Concern. In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. This ASU provides guidance on determining when and how to disclose going concern uncertainties in the financial statements. This guidance is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016, and interim periods thereafter. We are evaluating the disclosure impact of adopting this new accounting standard on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 810, Consolidation. In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, Consolidation, which amends the requirements for consolidation and significantly changes the consolidation analysis required. This ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those years. We are evaluating the provisions of this guidance.

ASC Topic 835, Interest. In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs. This ASU changes the presentation of debt issuance costs in financial statements. Under the ASU, an entity presents such costs in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the related debt liability rather than as an asset. Amortization of the costs will continue to be reported as interest expense. This guidance is effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2015 with early adoption permitted. As of September 30, 2015, \$19 million of net debt issuance costs were included in Intangibles and other assets, net in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. Under the new guidance, the net debt issuance costs would reduce both our total other noncurrent assets and long-term debt. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-15, Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements. This ASU clarifies the treatment of debt issuance costs

from line-of-credit arrangements after the adoption of ASU 2015-03. It states that the SEC staff would not object to an entity deferring and presenting debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. We do not expect the adoption of ASU 2015-15 to have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 330, Inventory. In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory. This ASU provides that entities should measure inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal and transportation. Subsequent measurement is unchanged for inventory measured using LIFO or the retail inventory method. This ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those years. Early adoption is permitted. We are evaluating the provisions of this guidance.

ASC Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-13, Application of the Normal Purchases and Normal Sales Scope Exception to Certain Electricity Contracts within Nodal Energy Markets. This ASU allows the application of the normal purchases and normal sales scope exception to energy purchases or sales in nodal energy markets. According to ASU 2015-13, the use of locational marginal pricing by an independent system operator to determine a transmission charge or credit in a nodal energy market would not constitute a net settlement of a forward contract for the purchase or sale of electricity, even when legal title to the electricity is conveyed to the independent system operator during transmission. The guidance is effective upon issuance and must be applied prospectively. The adoption of ASU 2015-13 did not have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 805, Business Combinations. In September 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-16, Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments. This guidance eliminates the requirement for an acquirer in a business combination to account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively. The acquirer must record, in the same period's financial statements, the effect on earnings of changes in depreciation, amortization, or other income effects, if any, as a result of the change to the provisional amounts, calculated as if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. This guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and early adoption is permitted. We do not expect the adoption of this new standard will have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Other new accounting pronouncements issued but not effective until after September 30, 2015, are not expected to have a significant effect on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

3. SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT INFORMATION

Earnings Per Share — Verso computes earnings per share by dividing net income or net loss attributable to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing net income or net loss by the weighted average number of shares outstanding, after giving effect to potentially dilutive common share equivalents outstanding during the period. Potentially dilutive common share equivalents are not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share if they are anti-dilutive.

The following table provides a reconciliation of Verso's basic and diluted loss per common share:

| | VERSO | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net loss available to common shareholders (in millions) | \$(111 |) \$(36 |) \$(293 |) \$(169 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands) | 81,348 | 52,787 | 80,666 | 52,749 |
| Weighted average restricted shares (in thousands) | 494 | 541 | 433 | 531 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic | 81,842 | 53,328 | 81,099 | 53,280 |
| Dilutive shares from stock options | — | — | — | — |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted | 81,842 | 53,328 | 81,099 | 53,280 |
| Basic loss per share | \$(1.36 |) \$(0.67 |) \$(3.61 |) \$(3.17 |
| Diluted loss per share | \$(1.36 |) \$(0.67 |) \$(3.61 |) \$(3.17 |

In accordance with ASC Topic 260, Earnings Per Share, unvested restricted stock awards issued by Verso contain nonforfeitable rights to dividends and qualify as participating securities. No dividends have been declared or paid in 2015 or 2014.

Edgar Filing: Verso Corp - Form 10-Q

For the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, respectively, 8,776,854 and 7,794,513 weighted average potentially dilutive shares from stock options with weighted average exercise prices per share of \$2.17 and \$2.37, respectively, were excluded from the diluted earnings per share calculation due to the antidilutive effect such shares would have on net loss per common share.

For the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014, respectively, 4,969,881 and 4,787,402 weighted average potentially dilutive shares from stock options with weighted average exercise prices per share of \$2.45 and \$2.43,

respectively, were excluded from the diluted earnings per share calculation due to the antidilutive effect such shares would have on net loss per common share.

Inventories and Replacement Parts and Other Supplies — Inventory values include all costs directly associated with manufacturing products: materials, labor, and manufacturing overhead. These values are presented at the lower of cost or market. Costs of raw materials, work-in-progress, and finished goods are determined using the first-in, first-out method.

Replacement parts and other supplies are stated using the average cost method and are reflected in Inventories and Intangibles and other assets, net, respectively, on the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (see Note 5).

The following table summarizes inventories by major category:

| (Dollars in millions) | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Raw materials | \$114 | \$19 |
| Work-in-process | 67 | 9 |
| Finished goods | 279 | 62 |
| Replacement parts and other supplies | 80 | 20 |
| Inventories | \$540 | \$110 |

Asset Retirement Obligations — In accordance with ASC Topic 410, Asset Retirement and Environmental Obligations, a liability and an asset are recorded equal to the present value of the estimated costs associated with the retirement of long-lived assets where a legal or contractual obligation exists. The liability is accreted over time and the asset is depreciated over its useful life. Our asset retirement obligations under this standard relate primarily to closure and post-closure costs for landfills. Revisions to the liability could occur due to changes in the estimated costs or timing of closure or possible new federal or state regulations affecting the closure. The increase in the liability for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was primarily attributable to the assumption of the asset retirement obligation liabilities associated with landfills acquired in connection with the NewPage acquisition.

On September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we had \$1 million of restricted cash included in Intangibles and other assets, net in the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets related to asset retirement obligations in the state of Michigan. These cash deposits are required by the state and may only be used for the future closure of a landfill.

The following table presents an analysis related to our asset retirement obligations. Long-term obligations are included in Other liabilities and current portions are included in Accrued liabilities in the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| (Dollars in millions) | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Asset retirement obligations, January 1 | \$8 | \$13 |
| Accretion expense | 1 | — |
| Liabilities assumed | 9 | — |
| Settlement of existing liabilities | (2 |)— |
| Adjustments to existing liabilities | — | (3 |
| Asset retirement obligations, September 30 | 16 | 10 |
| Less: Current portion | — | — |
| Non-current portion of asset retirement obligations, September 30 | \$16 | \$10 |

In addition to the above obligations, we may be required to remove certain materials from our facilities or to remediate them in accordance with current regulations that govern the handling of certain hazardous or potentially hazardous materials. At this time, any such obligations have an indeterminate settlement date, and we believe that adequate information does not exist to reasonably estimate any such potential obligations. Accordingly, we will record a liability for such remediation when sufficient information becomes available to estimate the obligation.

Property, Plant, and Equipment — Property, plant, and equipment is stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation. Interest is capitalized on projects meeting certain criteria and is included in the cost of the assets. The capitalized interest is depreciated over the same useful lives as the related assets. Expenditures for major repairs and improvements are capitalized, whereas normal repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred.

Interest costs capitalized for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 were immaterial. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, interest costs capitalized were \$1 million and \$2 million, respectively.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the assets' estimated useful lives. Depreciation expense was \$59 million and \$179 million for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, respectively, compared to \$22 million and \$73 million for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014, respectively.

4. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSITIONS

NewPage Acquisition - On January 3, 2014, Verso, Merger Sub, and NewPage entered into a Merger Agreement pursuant to which the parties agreed to merge Merger Sub with and into NewPage on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, with NewPage surviving the merger as an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso. Verso has incurred transaction and integration costs related to the NewPage acquisition during the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 of \$7 million and \$21 million, respectively, which are included in Selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. For the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014, Verso incurred transaction costs of \$14 million and \$33 million, respectively, related to the NewPage acquisition which were included in Other loss, net in the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

On January 7, 2015, Verso consummated the NewPage acquisition pursuant to the Merger Agreement. As a result of the merger, NewPage became a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso Holdings. The NewPage acquisition provides Verso with assets in a complementary geographic area, a broader portfolio of products, and strategic flexibility to reduce operating costs and enhance our financial condition.

As consideration for the NewPage acquisition, Verso issued (a) \$650 million aggregate principal amount of New First Lien Notes and (b) 13,607,693 shares of Verso common stock in exchange for all the outstanding shares of common stock of NewPage. Also, as of the date that NewPage became an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Verso, NewPage had an existing \$750 million NewPage Term Loan Facility (see Note 6) and \$350 million NewPage ABL Facility (see Note 6), of which \$734 million and \$100 million, respectively, were outstanding. As a condition of allowing the acquisition to proceed, the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice entered into a settlement with Verso and NewPage that required NewPage to divest its paper mills in Biron, Wisconsin, and Rumford, Maine, which occurred prior to the acquisition of NewPage.

Accounting consideration for the NewPage acquisition is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)

| | |
|---|-------|
| 13,607,693 shares of Verso common stock valued at January 7, 2015 closing price | \$46 |
| \$650 million face value New First Lien Notes valued at January 7, 2015 closing price | 663 |
| Accounting consideration | \$709 |

The preliminary allocation of the purchase price to the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the NewPage acquisition includes necessary adjustments to reflect the estimated fair values of NewPage's assets and liabilities at the completion of the NewPage acquisition. The preliminary allocation of the purchase price is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)

| | | |
|--|--------|---|
| Cash | \$ 128 | |
| Current assets, excluding cash | 577 | |
| Property, plant, and equipment | 1,570 | |
| Other long-term assets | 43 | |
| Current liabilities | (276 |) |
| Current portion of long-term debt | (3 |) |
| Noncurrent pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations | (474 |) |
| Other long-term liabilities | (56 |) |
| Long-term debt | (800 |) |
| Net assets acquired | \$ 709 | |

The allocation of the purchase price above is considered preliminary and is based on valuation information, estimates and assumptions available on September 30, 2015. Verso is still in the process of verifying data and finalizing information related to the valuation of intangible assets, fixed assets, and pension obligations and expects to finalize these matters within the fourth quarter of 2015 as final asset and liability valuations are completed. The valuations reflected herein consist of physical appraisals, discounted cash flow analyses, or other appropriate valuation techniques to determine the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. We did not identify a material amount of goodwill as a result of the preliminary purchase price allocation. Although management believes that the preliminary purchase price allocation herein is reasonable, there can be no assurance that finalization of such purchase price allocation will not result in material changes from the preliminary purchase price allocation.

The operating results of NewPage are included in Verso's financial statements from January 7, 2015 through September 30, 2015. The determination of net sales and net loss attributable to the acquired operations during this period and included in Verso's Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations was not practicable as the operations are integrated with the consolidated operations.

The following unaudited pro forma financial information presents results as if the NewPage acquisition and the related financing, further described in Note 6, occurred on January 1, 2014. The historical consolidated financial information of Verso and NewPage has been adjusted in the pro forma information to give effect to pro forma events that are directly attributable to the transactions and factually supportable. As NewPage's divestiture of its paper mills in Biron, Wisconsin, and Rumford, Maine, occurred prior to the acquisition of NewPage, their historical results have been excluded from the pro forma results below.

The unaudited pro forma results do not reflect events that have occurred or may occur after the transactions, including the costs of any integration activities or benefits that may result from realization of future cost savings from operating efficiencies, or any revenue, tax, or other synergies expected to result from the NewPage acquisition. Accordingly, the unaudited pro forma financial information is not necessarily indicative of the results of operations as they would have been had the transactions been effected on the assumed date, nor is it necessarily an indication of future operating results.

In addition, the NewPage acquisition did not result in a taxable transaction and Verso has net operating loss carryforwards and a related full valuation allowance that are expected to offset any deferred tax impact of the NewPage acquisition. Further, as the sale of the Bucksport mill was not directly attributable to the NewPage acquisition, no pro forma adjustments for the Bucksport sale have been made.

| (Unaudited) (Dollars in millions, except per share data) | Pro Forma Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|---|---------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Revenues | \$2,399 | \$2,731 |
| Net loss | (265 |)(318 |
| Earnings per share - basic and diluted | \$(3.24 |)(3.90 |
| Weighted-average common shares outstanding - basic and diluted (in thousands) | 81,720 | 81,496 |

Sale of Bucksport Mill - On January 29, 2015, two Verso subsidiaries consummated a sale of their equity interests in two other Verso subsidiaries that owned the Bucksport mill and related assets to AIM Development (USA) LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of American Iron & Metal Company Inc., or "AIM."

5. INTANGIBLES AND OTHER ASSETS

The following table summarizes intangibles and other assets:

| (Dollars in millions) | VERSO | | VERSO HOLDINGS | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
| Amortizable intangible assets: | | | | |
| Customer relationships, net of accumulated amortization of \$10 million on September 30, 2015, \$33 and \$9 million on December 31, 2014 | \$33 | \$4 | \$33 | \$4 |
| Unamortizable intangible assets: | | | | |
| Trademarks | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Other assets: | | | | |
| Financing costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$23 million on September 30, 2015, and \$19 million on December 31, 2014 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 23 |
| Deferred major repair | 35 | 21 | 35 | 21 |
| Replacement parts, net | 6 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Loan to affiliate | — | — | 23 | 23 |
| Restricted cash | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | 23 | 7 | 16 | 7 |
| Total other assets | \$86 | \$57 | \$102 | \$80 |
| Intangibles and other assets, net | \$129 | \$71 | \$145 | \$94 |

Amortization expense of intangibles was not material for the three-month period ended September 30, 2015 and \$1 million for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015. Amortization expense of intangibles was not material for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014.

The estimated future amortization expense for intangible assets over the next five years is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2015 | \$1 |
| 2016 | 2 |
| 2017 | 2 |
| 2018 | 2 |
| 2019 | 2 |

6. DEBT

A summary of debt is as follows:

| (Dollars in millions) | Original Maturity | September 30, 2015 | | | December 31, 2014 | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Interest Rate | Balance | Par Value | Balance | Par Value |
| Verso Holdings | | | | | | |
| Verso Androscoggin Power LLC Revolving Credit Facility | 2/6/2015 | — | %\$— | \$— | \$30 | \$30 |
| Revolving Credit Facilities | 5/4/2017 | 3.72 | %115 | 115 | 63 | 63 |
| 11.75% Senior Secured Notes - 2012 | 1/15/2019 | 11.75 | %424 | 418 | 424 | 418 |
| 11.75% Senior Secured Notes - 2015 | 1/15/2019 | 11.75 | %656 | 645 | — | — |
| 11.75% Secured Notes | 1/15/2019 | 11.75 | %272 | 272 | 272 | 272 |
| 13% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes | 8/1/2020 | 13.00 | %272 | 181 | 299 | 299 |
| 16% Senior Subordinated Notes | 8/1/2020 | 16.00 | %89 | 65 | 102 | 102 |
| 8.75% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes | 2/1/2019 | 8.75 | %96 | 97 | 96 | 97 |
| 11.38% Senior Subordinated Notes | 8/1/2016 | 11.38 | %41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund LLC | | | | | | |
| Loan from Verso Finance | 12/29/2040 | 6.50 | %23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| NewPage Corp | | | | | | |
| Revolving Credit Facility | 2/11/2019 | 2.75 | %238 | 238 | — | — |
| Floating Rate Senior Secured Term Loan | 2/11/2021 | 9.50 | %707 | 734 | — | — |
| Total debt for Verso Holdings | | | | \$2,933 | \$2,829 | \$1,350 |
| Verso Finance | | | | | | |
| Loan from Verso Holdings | 12/29/2040 | 6.50 | %23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Less current maturities of long-term debt | | | | (72) | (72) | (30) |
| Less loans from affiliates | | | | (46) | (46) | (46) |
| Total long-term debt for Verso | | | | \$2,838 | \$2,734 | \$1,297 |

We determine the fair value of our long-term debt based on market information and a review of prices and terms available for similar obligations. Our debt is classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 9). As of September 30, 2015, the fair value of Verso's total debt was \$1,129 million, and the fair value of Verso Holdings' total debt was \$1,152 million. As of December 31, 2014, the fair value of Verso's total debt was \$1,059 million, and the fair value of Verso Holdings' total debt was \$1,082 million.

Amounts included in interest expense related to long-term debt and amounts of cash interest payments on long-term debt are as follows:

| | VERSO | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
| (Dollars in millions) | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Interest expense | \$67 | \$34 | \$198 | \$102 |
| Cash interest paid | 118 | 48 | 223 | 115 |
| Debt issuance cost amortization ⁽¹⁾ | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | VERSO HOLDINGS | | | |
| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
| (Dollars in millions) | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Interest expense | \$67 | \$35 | \$199 | \$103 |
| Cash interest paid | 118 | 49 | 224 | 117 |
| Debt issuance cost amortization ⁽¹⁾ | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |

(1) Amortization of debt issuance cost is included in interest expense.

Verso Holdings

Revolving Credit Facilities. In 2012, Verso Holdings' entered into revolving credit facilities consisting of a \$150 million asset-based loan facility, or "ABL Facility," and a \$50 million cash-flow facility, or "Cash Flow Facility." Verso Holdings' ABL Facility had \$66 million outstanding, \$30 million in letters of credit issued, and \$8 million available for future borrowing as of September 30, 2015. Verso Holdings' Cash Flow Facility had \$50 million outstanding balance, no letters of credit issued, and no availability for future borrowing as of September 30, 2015. The indebtedness under the revolving credit facilities bear interest at a floating rate based on a margin over a base rate or LIBOR. As of September 30, 2015, the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding advances was 3.72%. Verso Holdings is required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders in respect of the unused commitments under the ABL Facility at an annual rate of either 0.375% or 0.50%, based on daily average utilization, and under the Cash Flow Facility at an annual rate of 0.625%. The indebtedness under each of the revolving credit facilities is guaranteed, jointly and severally, by Verso Finance and each of Verso Holdings' subsidiaries, subject to certain exceptions, and the indebtedness and guarantees are senior secured obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. The indebtedness under the ABL Facility and related guarantees are secured by first-priority security interests, subject to permitted liens, in substantially all of Verso Holdings', Verso Finance's, and the subsidiary guarantors' (excluding, among other subsidiaries, NewPage Investment Company and its subsidiaries) inventory and accounts receivable, or "Verso ABL Priority Collateral," and second-priority security interests, subject to permitted liens, in substantially all of their other assets, or "Notes Priority Collateral." The indebtedness under the Cash Flow Facility and related guarantees are secured, pari passu with the 2012 First Lien Notes and the 2015 First Lien Notes (each as defined below) and related guarantees, by first-priority security interests in the Notes Priority Collateral and second-priority security interests in the Verso ABL Priority Collateral. The revolving credit facilities will mature on May 4, 2017. On January 3, 2014, Verso Holdings entered into certain amendments to the revolving credit facilities in connection with the NewPage acquisition, in which (a) the lenders under each of our revolving credit facilities consented to the NewPage acquisition and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, including the incurrence of certain additional indebtedness, (b) the lenders consented to amendments to allow the sale and/or financing of certain non-core assets and (c) the parties agreed to amend our revolving credit facilities to allow for certain other transactions upon the consummation of the NewPage acquisition and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement.

11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019. In 2012, Verso Holdings issued \$345 million aggregate principal amount of 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019. In 2013, Verso Holdings issued an additional \$73 million aggregate principal amount of its 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019 to certain lenders holding approximately \$86 million aggregate principal amount of Verso Finance's senior unsecured term loans, and net accrued interest through the closing date, at an exchange rate of 85%, in exchange for the assignment to Verso Finance of its senior unsecured term loans and the cancellation of such loans. The 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019 issued in 2012 and 2013 constitute one class of securities and are referred to herein as the "2012 First Lien Notes." The 2012 First Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.75% per

year. The 2012 First Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, on a senior secured basis, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility and by each of its future domestic subsidiaries that guarantees certain of its debt or issues disqualified stock. The 2012 First Lien Notes and related guarantees are senior secured obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. The 2012 First Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured, *pari passu* with the Cash Flow Facility and related guarantees, by first-priority security interests in the Notes Priority Collateral and second-priority security interests in the Verso ABL Priority Collateral. The 2012 First Lien Notes will mature on January 15, 2019.

On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, Verso Holdings issued \$650 million aggregate principal amount of 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019, or the "2015 First Lien Notes," to the stockholders of NewPage as partial consideration in the NewPage acquisition. The 2015 First Lien Notes constitute a separate class of securities from the 2012 First Lien Notes. The 2015 First Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.75% per year. The 2015 First Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, on a senior secured basis, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility and by each of its future domestic subsidiaries that guarantees certain of its debt or issues disqualified stock (including NewPage Holdings Inc., but not guaranteed by any of its subsidiaries). The 2015 First Lien Notes and the related guarantees are secured, *pari passu* with the Cash Flow Facility and related guarantees, by first-priority security interests in the Notes Priority Collateral and second-priority security interests in the Verso ABL Priority Collateral. The 2015 First Lien Notes will mature on January 15, 2019.

11.75% Secured Notes due 2019. In 2012, Verso Holdings issued \$272 million aggregate principal amount of 11.75% Secured Notes due 2019, or the "1.5 Lien Notes". The 1.5 Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.75% per year. The 1.5 Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility and by each of its future domestic subsidiaries that guarantees certain of its debt or issues disqualified stock. The 1.5 Lien Notes and related guarantees are senior secured obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. The 1.5 Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured by security interests, subject to permitted liens, in substantially all of Verso Holdings' and the guarantors' tangible and intangible assets. The 1.5 Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured by liens that rank junior to those securing the obligations under the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility, the 2012 First Lien Notes and the 2015 First Lien Notes and rank senior to those securing the New Second Lien Notes (as defined below). The 1.5 Lien Notes will mature on January 15, 2019.

13% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2020. On July 2, 2014, Verso Holdings commenced an offer to exchange any and all of the Verso Holdings' outstanding 8.75% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2019, or "Old Second Lien Notes," for Second Priority Adjustable Senior Secured Notes, or "New Second Lien Notes," and warrants issued by Verso that were mandatorily convertible on a one-for-one basis into shares of Verso's common stock immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition, or "Warrants" (we refer to this exchange offer as the "Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer"). On August 1, 2014, approximately \$299 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Second Lien Notes and approximately 9.3 million Warrants in the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer. The Warrants had no fair value at the date of the closing of the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer. The New Second Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured by liens that rank junior to those securing the obligations under the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility, the 2012 First Lien Notes, the 2015 First Lien Notes and the 1.5 Lien Notes.

On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, the provisions of the New Second Lien Notes were adjusted as follows: (a) the principal amount was adjusted such that a holder of \$1,000 principal amount of New Second Lien Notes immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition now holds \$593.75 principal amount of New Second Lien Notes (and any adjusted New Second Lien Notes that did not bear an authorized denomination were rounded down); (b) the maturity date was extended from February 1, 2019, to August 1, 2020; (c) the interest rate was adjusted such that the New Second Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually,

from and after January 7, 2015 at a rate of 10% per year payable entirely in cash plus 3% per year payable entirely by increasing the principal amount of the outstanding New Second Lien Notes or by issuing additional New Second Lien Notes, as compared to an interest rate of 8.75% per year payable in cash prior to such adjustment; (d) the optional redemption provisions were adjusted as provided in the indenture governing the New Second Lien Notes; and (e) certain other terms and conditions of the New Second Lien Notes were modified as set forth in the indenture governing the New Second Lien Notes. As a result of the principal adjustment, the outstanding principal amount of the New Second Lien Notes was reduced by approximately \$121 million from approximately \$299 million before January 7, 2015, to approximately \$178 million afterwards.

8.75% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2019. In 2011, Verso Holdings issued \$396 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes. On August 1, 2014, approximately \$299 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Second Lien Notes and approximately 9.3 million Warrants in the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer. Following the settlement of the Second Lien Notes Exchange

Offer, approximately \$97 million aggregate principal amount of the Old Second Lien Notes remain outstanding. The Old Second Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 8.75% per year. The Old Second Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guaranteed the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility as of the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer, subject to certain exceptions. As of August 1, 2014, the Old Second Lien Notes were amended by a supplemental indenture so as to (a) eliminate or waive substantially all of the restrictive covenants contained in the indenture governing such notes, (b) eliminate certain events of default, (c) modify covenants regarding mergers and consolidations, and (d) modify or eliminate certain other provisions, including, in some cases, certain provisions relating to defeasance, contained in such indenture and such notes. In addition, as of August 1, 2014, the Old Second Lien Notes are no longer secured by any collateral. The Old Second Lien Notes will mature on February 1, 2019.

16% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2020. On July 2, 2014, Verso Holdings also commenced an offer to exchange any and all of Verso Holdings' outstanding 11.38% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2016, or "Old Subordinated Notes" for Adjustable Senior Subordinated Notes, or "New Subordinated Notes," and Warrants (we refer to this exchange offer as the "Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer"). On August 1, 2014, approximately \$102 million aggregate principal amount of Old Subordinated Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Subordinated Notes and approximately 5.4 million Warrants in the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer. The Warrants had no fair value at the date of the closing of the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer.

On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, the provisions of the New Subordinated Notes were adjusted as follows: (a) the principal amount was adjusted such that a holder of \$1,000 principal amount of New Subordinated Notes immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition now holds \$620 principal amount of New Subordinated Notes (and any adjusted New Subordinated Notes that did not bear an authorized denomination were rounded down); (b) the maturity date of the New Subordinated Notes was extended from August 1, 2016, to August 1, 2020; (c) the interest rate has been adjusted such that the New Subordinated Notes bear interest from and after January 7, 2015 at a rate of 11% per year payable entirely in cash plus 5% per year payable entirely by increasing the principal amount of the outstanding New Subordinated Notes or by issuing additional New Subordinated Notes, as compared to an interest rate of 11.38% per year payable in cash prior to such adjustment; (d) the optional redemption provisions were adjusted as provided in the indenture governing the New Subordinated Notes; and (e) certain other terms and conditions of the New Subordinated Notes were modified as set forth in the indenture governing the New Subordinated Notes. As a result of the principal adjustment, the outstanding principal amount of the New Subordinated Notes was reduced by approximately \$39 million from approximately \$102 million before January 7, 2015, to approximately \$63 million afterwards.

11.38% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2016. In 2006, Verso Holdings issued \$300 million aggregate principal amount of Old Subordinated Notes. On August 1, 2014, approximately \$102 million aggregate principal amount of the Old Subordinated Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Subordinated Notes and approximately 5.4 million Warrants in the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer. Following the settlement of the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer, approximately \$41 million aggregate principal amount of the Old Subordinated Notes remain outstanding. The Old Subordinated Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.38% per year. The Old Subordinated Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and Cash Flow Facility, as of the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer, subject to certain exceptions. The Old Subordinated Notes and related guarantees are unsecured senior subordinated obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. As of August 1, 2014, the Old Subordinated Notes were amended by a supplemental indenture so as to (a) eliminate or waive substantially all of the restrictive covenants contained in the indenture governing such notes, (b) eliminate certain events of default, (c) modify covenants regarding mergers and consolidations, and (d) modify or eliminate certain other provisions, including, in some cases, certain provisions relating to defeasance, contained in such indenture and such notes. The Old Subordinated Notes will mature on August 1, 2016.

Verso Androscoggin Power LLC Revolving Credit Facility. On May 5, 2014, acting through a wholly owned subsidiary, Verso Androscoggin Power LLC, or “VAP,” Verso Holdings entered into a credit agreement providing for a revolving credit facility with Barclays Bank PLC and Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch. On January 7, 2015, Verso consummated the NewPage acquisition, and as a result, the credit facility was terminated on February 4, 2015.

Loan from Verso Finance / Verso Holdings. In 2010, Verso Quinnesec REP LLC, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Verso Holdings, entered into a financing transaction with Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund, LLC, or the “Investment Fund,” a consolidated variable interest entity. Under this arrangement, Verso Holdings loaned \$23 million to Verso Finance at an interest rate of 6.5% per year and with a maturity of December 29, 2040, and Verso Finance, in turn, loaned the funds on similar terms to the Investment Fund. The Investment Fund then contributed the loan proceeds to certain community development entities, which, in turn, loaned the funds on similar terms to Verso Quinnesec REP LLC as partial financing for the renewable energy project at our mill in Quinnesec, Michigan.

Loan from NewPage Corp. On July 14, 2015, NewPage Corp entered into a \$60 million inter-company revolving credit facility with VAP. The loan bears interest at a floating Eurocurrency rate plus a 4.75% margin, matures on January 6, 2018, and is guaranteed by Verso Maine Power Holdings LLC, or “VMPH,” with such guaranty being secured by a pledge of VMPH’s member interest in VAP. We have used the borrowings under the credit facility for working capital and other general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2015, there was no outstanding balance on the loan.

NewPage Corp

Revolving Credit Facility. On February 11, 2014, NewPage Corp entered into a \$350 million senior secured asset-backed revolving credit facility, or the “NewPage ABL Facility.” As of September 30, 2015, the NewPage ABL Facility had \$238 million outstanding balance, \$52 million letters of credit issued, and \$54 million available for future borrowing. Amounts drawn under the NewPage ABL Facility bear annual interest at either the LIBOR rate plus a margin of 1.75% to 2.25% per year or at a base rate plus a margin of 0.75% to 1.25% per year. The interest rate margins on the NewPage ABL Facility are subject to adjustments based on the daily average availability of the NewPage ABL Facility. As of September 30, 2015, the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding advances was 2.75%. NewPage Corp is required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders in respect of the unutilized commitments under the revolving credit facilities and other customary fees. The security interest with respect to the NewPage ABL Facility consists of a first-priority lien with respect to most inventory, accounts receivable, bank accounts, and certain other assets of NewPage Corp, or “NewPage ABL Priority Collateral,” and a second-priority lien with respect to all other NewPage Corp assets, or “NewPage Term Loan Priority Collateral.” The NewPage ABL Facility will mature on February 11, 2019.

The issuers and guarantors of Verso Holdings’ debt securities and the borrower and guarantors of Verso Holdings’ credit facilities do not guarantee the obligations under the NewPage ABL Facility, and the borrower and the guarantors under the NewPage ABL Facility do not guarantee the obligations under Verso Holdings’ debt securities and credit facilities.

Floating Rate Senior Secured Term Loan. On February 11, 2014, NewPage Corp entered into a \$750 million term loan facility, or “NewPage Term Loan Facility.” Amounts drawn under the NewPage Term Loan Facility bear annual interest at either the LIBOR rate plus a margin of 8.25% per year or at a base rate plus a margin of 7.25% per year. The interest in effect for the NewPage Term Loan Facility at September 30, 2015 was 9.50% per year. The security interest with respect to the NewPage Term Loan Facility consists of a first-priority lien with respect to the NewPage Term Loan Priority Collateral and a second-priority lien with respect to the NewPage ABL Priority Collateral. The NewPage Term Loan Facility has scheduled principal payments due quarterly that began on September 30, 2015. However, NewPage Corp has the right to prepay loans under the NewPage Term Loan Facility at any time without premium or penalty, other than customary “breakage” costs with respect to LIBOR rate loans, subject, however, to a prepayment premium for optional prepayments of the NewPage Term Loan Facility with a new or replacement term loan facility with an “effective” interest rate less than that applicable to the NewPage Term Loan Facility equal to (1) 2.00% if prepaid on or after the first anniversary of the closing date and prior to the second anniversary of the closing date and (2) 1.00% if prepaid on or after the second anniversary of the closing date and prior to the third anniversary of the closing date. The NewPage Term Loan Facility is subject to mandatory prepayments in amounts equal to (1) 100% of the net cash proceeds of indebtedness by NewPage Corp or any of its subsidiary guarantors other than indebtedness permitted under the NewPage Term Loan Facility, (2) 100% of the net cash proceeds of any non-ordinary course sale or other disposition of assets by NewPage Corp or any of its subsidiary guarantors (including as a result of casualty or condemnation) (with customary exceptions, thresholds, and reinvestment rights of up to 12 months or 18 months if contractually committed to within 12 months), and (3) 75% of “excess cash flow” for each fiscal year beginning with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, subject to possible step-downs based on total net first lien leverage ratio

thresholds. As such, immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition on January 7, 2015, \$16 million in proceeds from the sale of Biron and Rumford mills were used to pay the September 2015 scheduled principal payment and a portion of the December 2015 scheduled principal payment on the NewPage Term Loan Facility, leaving \$3 million due in December 2015. Quarterly installments due are \$9 million for each quarter ending in 2016, \$14 million for each quarter ending in 2017 and \$19 million for each quarter ending in 2018 through 2020 with the remaining balance due on February 11, 2021. The NewPage Term Loan Facility will mature on February 11, 2021.

The issuers and guarantors of Verso Holdings' debt securities and the borrower and guarantors of Verso Holdings' credit facilities do not guarantee the obligations under the NewPage Term Loan Facility, and the borrower and the guarantors under the NewPage Term Loan Facility do not guarantee the obligations under Verso Holdings' debt securities and credit facilities.

As of September 30, 2015, both Verso Holdings and NewPage Corp were in compliance with the covenants in their respective debt agreements (see Note 1).

7. RETIREMENT AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

We maintain various defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans that provide retirement benefits for certain current and former hourly employees. The pension plans provide defined benefits based on years of credited service times a specified flat dollar benefit rate. Since the completion of the NewPage acquisition, we have maintained a cash balance defined benefit pension plan for salaried employees, a defined benefit pension plan for hourly employees, and a plan covering other post-retirement and post-employment benefits for certain employees, or "OPEB."

The following table summarizes the components of net periodic benefit cost of our pension plans for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Service cost | \$3 | \$1 | \$9 | \$4 |
| Interest cost | 17 | 1 | 49 | 3 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (21 |)(1 |)(62 |)(3 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Amortization of actuarial loss | — | — | 1 | — |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$(1 |)\$2 | \$(3 |)\$5 |

The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service cost that are amortized from Accumulated other comprehensive loss and into Net periodic pension cost are classified into Cost of products sold on our accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

We make contributions that are sufficient to fully fund our actuarially determined costs, generally equal to the minimum amounts required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. For the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, we made contributions to the pension plans of approximately \$10 million and \$23 million, respectively. We expect to make cash contributions of approximately \$4 million to the pension plans in the remainder of 2015. For the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014, we made contributions to the pension plans of approximately \$5 million and \$7 million, respectively.

The OPEB obligations of NewPage Corp provide other retirement and post-employment benefits for certain employees, which may include healthcare benefits for certain retirees prior to their reaching age 65, healthcare benefits for certain retirees on and after their reaching age 65, long-term disability benefits, continued group life insurance and extended health and dental benefits. These benefits are provided through various employer- and/or employee-funded postretirement benefit plans.

The following table summarizes the components of net periodic benefit cost of our OPEB obligations for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015:

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Service cost | \$— | \$— |
| Interest cost | — | 1 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$— | \$1 |

8. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGES

In the normal course of business, we utilize derivative contracts as part of our risk management strategy to manage our exposure to market fluctuations in energy prices. These instruments are subject to credit and market risks in excess of the amount recorded on the balance sheet in accordance with GAAP. Controls and monitoring procedures for these instruments have been established and are routinely reevaluated. Credit risk represents the potential loss that may occur because a party to a transaction fails to perform according to the terms of the contract. The measure of credit exposure is the replacement cost of contracts with a positive fair value. We manage credit risk by entering into financial instrument transactions only through approved counterparties. Market risk represents the potential loss due to the decrease in the value of a financial instrument caused primarily by changes in commodity prices. We manage market risk by establishing and monitoring limits on the types and degree of risk that may be undertaken.

Derivative instruments are recorded on the balance sheet as other assets or other liabilities measured at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Where available, fair value is based on observable market prices or parameters or derived from such prices or parameters. Where observable prices or inputs are not available, valuation models may be applied.

We enter into fixed-price energy swaps as hedges designed to mitigate the risk of changes in commodity and delivery prices for forecasted future purchase commitments. These fixed-price swaps involve the exchange of net cash settlements, based on changes in the price of the underlying commodity index compared to the fixed price offering, at specified intervals without the exchange of any underlying principal. All gains and losses from changes in the fair value of our derivative contracts that are not designated as hedging instruments are recognized immediately in Cost of products sold.

The following table presents information about the volume and fair value amounts of our derivative instruments:

| (Dollars in millions) | September 30, 2015 | | December 31, 2014 | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| | MMBTUs | Fair Value Assets/(Liabilities) | MMBTUs | Fair Value Assets/(Liabilities) |
| Derivative contracts not currently designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Fixed price energy swaps: | | | | |
| Notional amount | 2,280,000 | | 1,876,475 | |
| Accrued liabilities | | \$ (3) | | \$ (6) |

The following table presents information about the effect of our derivative instruments on the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations:

| (Dollars in millions) | (Loss) Gain Recognized on Derivatives | | | |
|---|--|------|---|-------|
| | Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 | | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 | |
| Derivative contracts not currently designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Fixed price energy swaps | \$ (1) | \$ 3 | \$ (3) | \$ 15 |
| (Loss) gain recognized on derivatives is included in Cost of products sold. | | | | |

9. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

We use fair value measurements for the initial recording of certain assets and liabilities, periodic remeasurement of certain assets and liabilities, and disclosures. Fair value is generally defined as the exit price at which an asset or liability could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing, unrelated parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

The fair value framework requires the categorization of assets and liabilities into three levels based upon the assumptions used to value the assets or liabilities. Level 1 provides the most reliable measure of fair value, whereas Level 3 generally requires significant management judgment. The three levels are defined as follows:

- Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date.
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than those included in Level 1. For example, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs reflecting management's own assumption about the inputs used in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date.

The following table summarizes the balances of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

| (Dollars in millions) | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
|--|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| September 30, 2015 | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments related to deferred compensation plans | \$4 | \$4 | \$— | \$— |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Commodity swaps | \$3 | \$— | \$3 | \$— |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments related to deferred compensation plans | \$4 | \$4 | \$— | \$— |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Commodity swaps | \$6 | \$— | \$6 | \$— |

Fair values are based on observable market data.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Management Agreement — In connection with the acquisition of our business from International Paper Company on August 1, 2006, we entered into a management agreement with certain affiliates of Apollo Global Management, LLC, or “Apollo,” our largest stockholder, relating to the provision of certain financial and strategic advisory services and consulting services, which will expire on August 1, 2018. Under the management agreement, at any time prior to the expiration of the agreement, Apollo has the right to act, in return for fees to be mutually agreed by the parties to the management agreement, as our financial advisor or investment banker for any merger, acquisition, disposition, financing or the like if we decide to engage someone to fill such role. In the event that we are not able to come to an agreement with Apollo in connection with such role, at the closing of any merger, acquisition, disposition or financing or any similar transaction, we have agreed to pay Apollo a fee equal to 1% of the aggregate enterprise value (including the aggregate value of equity securities, warrants, rights and options acquired or retained; indebtedness acquired, assumed or refinanced; and any other consideration or compensation paid in connection with such transaction). We agreed to indemnify Apollo and its affiliates and their directors, officers and representatives for losses relating to the services contemplated by the management agreement and the engagement of affiliates of Apollo pursuant to, and the performance by them of the services contemplated by, the management agreement. We made no payments to Apollo related to the management agreement in the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Verso Quinnesec Renewable Energy Project — On December 29, 2010, Verso Quinnesec REP LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso Holdings, entered into a financing transaction with Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund, LLC, or the “Investment Fund,” a consolidated variable interest entity (see Note 12). Under this arrangement, Verso Holdings loaned \$23 million to Verso Finance at an interest rate of 6.5% per year and with a maturity of December 29, 2040, and Verso Finance, in turn, loaned the funds on similar terms to the Investment Fund. The Investment Fund then contributed the loan proceeds to certain community development entities, which, in turn, loaned the funds on similar terms to Verso Quinnesec REP LLC as partial financing for the renewable energy project at our

mill in Quinnesec, Michigan. As of both September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, Verso Holdings had a \$23 million long-term receivable due from Verso Finance, representing these funds and immaterial accrued interest receivable, while the Investment Fund had an outstanding loan of \$23 million due to Verso Finance and immaterial accrued interest payable. For both the three-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, Verso Holdings recognized immaterial interest income from Verso Finance and the Investment Fund recognized immaterial interest expense to Verso Finance. For both the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, Verso Holdings recognized approximately \$1 million in interest income from Verso Finance and the Investment Fund recognized approximately \$1 million in interest expense to Verso Finance.

Transactions with Affiliates — We transact business with affiliates of Apollo from time to time. Our product sales to Apollo affiliates were approximately \$11 million and \$23 million for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and our related accounts receivable were approximately \$3 million as of September 30, 2015. Our product purchases from Apollo affiliates were negligible in the reporting periods.

11. RESTRUCTURING CHARGES

Bucksport Mill Closure - On October 1, 2014, Verso announced plans to close our paper mill in Bucksport, Maine, and we ceased paper manufacturing operations in December 2014. The mill closure reduced Verso's coated groundwood paper production capacity by approximately 350,000 tons and its specialty paper production capacity by approximately 55,000 tons.

The following table details the charges incurred related primarily to the Bucksport mill closure in 2014 and attributable to the paper segment as included in Restructuring charges on our accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations:

| (Dollars in millions) | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2015 | Cumulative Incurred |
| Property and equipment - impairment | \$— | \$89 |
| Severance and benefit costs | 2 | 29 |
| Write-off of spare parts and inventory | — | 14 |
| Write-off of purchase obligations and commitments | 6 | 8 |
| Other miscellaneous costs | 4 | 7 |
| Total restructuring costs | \$12 | \$147 |

The following details the changes in our restructuring reserve liabilities related to the Bucksport shutdown during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, which are included in Accrued liabilities on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| (Dollars in millions) | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | |
|---|--|---|
| Beginning balance of reserve | \$24 | |
| Severance and benefit payments | (24 |) |
| Purchase obligations | 6 | |
| Payments on purchase obligations | (8 |) |
| Severance and benefit reserve adjustments | 2 | |
| Ending balance of reserve | \$— | |

NewPage Acquisition Restructuring - As part of the NewPage acquisition, Verso is executing a restructuring of its operations to integrate the historical Verso and NewPage operations, generate cost savings and capture synergies across the combined company.

The following table details the charges incurred related primarily to the NewPage acquisition and primarily attributable to the paper segment as included in Restructuring charges on our accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | Nine Months Ended September 30, | Cumulative Incurred |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (Dollars in millions) | 2015 | 2015 | |
| Property and equipment - disposal | \$4 | \$4 | \$4 |
| Severance and benefit costs | — | 16 | 16 |
| Total restructuring costs | \$4 | \$20 | \$20 |

The following details the changes in our restructuring reserve liabilities related to the NewPage acquisition during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, which are included in Accrued liabilities on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| (Dollars in millions) | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Beginning balance of reserve | \$— |
| Severance and benefit costs | 16 |
| Severance and benefit payments | (8 |
| Ending balance of reserve | \$8 |

Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reduction - On August 20, 2015, Verso announced plans to make production capacity reductions at two of our mills by shutting down the No. 1 pulp dryer and No. 2 paper machine at our mill in Androscoggin, Maine, and by indefinitely idling our mill in Wickliffe, Kentucky. Together, these actions will reduce our production capacity by 430,000 tons of coated paper and 130,000 tons of dried market pulp. We began implementing these capacity reductions in the third quarter of 2015 and expect to complete them in the fourth quarter of 2015.

The following table details the charges incurred related primarily to the Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reduction and primarily attributable to the paper segment as included in Restructuring charges on our accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations:

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 |
|---|---|
| Property and equipment - accelerated depreciation | \$34 |
| Severance and benefit costs | 15 |
| Write-off of spare parts and inventory | 1 |
| Total restructuring costs | \$50 |

The following details the changes in our restructuring reserve liabilities related to the Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reduction during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, which are included in Accrued liabilities on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| (Dollars in millions) | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 |
|------------------------------|--|
| Beginning balance of reserve | \$— |
| Severance and benefit costs | 15 |
| Ending balance of reserve | \$15 |

There were no restructuring costs incurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

12. NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT ENTITIES

In December 2010, we entered into a financing transaction with Chase Community Equity, LLC, or “Chase,” related to a \$43 million renewable energy project at our mill in Quinnesec, Michigan, in which Chase made a capital contribution and Verso Finance made a loan to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund, LLC, or the “Investment Fund,” under a qualified New Markets Tax Credit, or “NMTC,” program, provided for in the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000. By virtue of its contribution, Chase is entitled to substantially all of the benefits derived from the NMTCs.

This transaction also includes a put/call provision whereby we may be obligated or entitled to repurchase Chase’s interest. We believe that Chase will exercise the put option in December 2017 at the end of the recapture period. The value attributed to the put/call is de minimis. The NMTC is subject to 100% recapture for a period of 7 years as provided in the Internal Revenue Code. We are required to be in compliance with various regulations and contractual provisions that apply to the NMTC arrangement. Non-compliance with applicable requirements could result in projected tax benefits not being realized and, therefore, could require us to indemnify Chase for any loss or recapture of NMTCs related to the financing until such time as our obligation to deliver tax benefits is relieved. We do not anticipate any credit recaptures will be required in connection with this arrangement.

We have determined that the Investment Fund is a variable interest entity, or “VIE,” of which we are the primary beneficiary, and have consolidated it in accordance with the accounting standard for consolidation. Chase’s contribution, net of syndication fees, is included in Other liabilities in the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. Direct costs incurred in structuring the financing arrangement are deferred and will be recognized as expense over the term of the loans. Incremental costs to maintain the structure during the compliance period are recognized as incurred.

The following table summarizes the impact of the VIE consolidated by Verso Holdings as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014:

| (Dollars in millions) | VERSO | | VERSO HOLDINGS | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
| Total assets | \$— | \$— | \$23 | \$23 |
| Long-term debt | — | — | 23 | 23 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Total liabilities | \$8 | \$8 | \$31 | \$31 |

Amounts presented in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets and the table above are adjusted for intercompany eliminations.

13. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Expera Specialty Solutions, LLC — We are a party to a long-term supply agreement with Expera Specialty Solutions, LLC, or “Expera,” for the manufacture of specialty paper products on paper machine no. 5 at our Androscoggin mill in Jay, Maine. The agreement, which expires on June 1, 2017, requires Expera to pay us a variable charge for the paper purchased and a fixed charge for the availability of the paper machine. We are responsible for the machine’s routine maintenance and Expera is responsible for any capital expenditures specific to the machine. Expera has the right to terminate the agreement if certain events occur.

General Litigation — We are involved from time to time in legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business. We do not believe that any liability that may result from these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

14. INFORMATION BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT

In January 2015, as a result of the NewPage acquisition, Verso reorganized its reportable segments as a result of a change in the way the Chief Executive Officer, who serves as the Chief Operating Decision Maker, or “CODM,” manages and evaluates the business. Based on the information that the CODM utilizes to manage and evaluate the business, it was determined that the operating segments represent two segments, paper and pulp. Our paper segment now includes the historical coated and other segments. As a result of these changes in segment reporting, all historical segment information has been revised to conform to the new presentation, with no resulting impact on the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Our paper products are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including catalogs, magazines, and commercial printing applications such as high-end advertising brochures, annual reports, and direct-mail advertising. Our market kraft pulp is used to manufacture printing, writing, and specialty paper grades and tissue products. Our assets are utilized across segments in our integrated mill system and are not identified by segment or reviewed by management on a segment basis. We operate primarily in one geographic segment, North America.

The following table summarizes the industry segment data for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | September 30, 2015 | 2014 |
| Net sales | | | | |
| Paper | \$736 | \$313 | \$2,207 | \$851 |
| Pulp | 62 | 37 | 197 | 119 |
| Intercompany eliminations | (16) |)— | (38) |)— |
| Total | \$782 | \$350 | \$2,366 | \$970 |
| Operating income (loss) | | | | |
| Paper | \$(38) |)\$9 | \$(70) |)\$(47) |
| Pulp | (5) |)5 | (24) |)17 |
| Total | \$(43) |)\$14 | \$(94) |)\$(30) |
| Depreciation, amortization, and depletion | | | | |
| Paper | \$53 | \$20 | \$159 | \$62 |
| Pulp | 7 | 3 | 22 | 12 |
| Total | \$60 | \$23 | \$181 | \$74 |
| Capital expenditures | | | | |
| Paper | \$18 | \$5 | \$39 | \$27 |
| Pulp | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 |
| Total | \$23 | \$7 | \$48 | \$34 |

Certain amounts in the prior year presentation have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

15. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Presented below are Verso Holdings' Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheets, Condensed Consolidating Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income, and Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows, as required by Rule 3-10 of Regulation S-X of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Condensed Consolidating Financial Statements have been prepared from Verso Holdings' financial information on the same basis of accounting as the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. Investments in our subsidiaries are accounted for under the equity method. Accordingly, the entries necessary to consolidate Verso Holdings' subsidiaries that guaranteed the obligations under the debt securities described below are reflected in the Eliminations column.

Verso Holdings, or the "Parent Issuer," and its direct, 100% owned subsidiary, Verso Paper Inc., or the "Subsidiary Issuer," are the issuers of the 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019, the 11.75% Secured Notes due 2019, the 13% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2020, the 16% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2020, the 8.75% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2019, the 11.38% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2016, or collectively, the "Notes." In accordance with ASU 2013-04 related to joint and several liability arrangements, the Notes have been recorded by the Parent Issuer as it is the intent of the issuers for the Parent Issuer to settle the obligation. The Notes are jointly and severally guaranteed on a full and unconditional basis by the Parent Issuer's direct and indirect, 100% owned subsidiaries, excluding the Subsidiary Issuer, the subsidiaries of NewPage Holdings Inc., Bucksport Leasing LLC, Verso Quinnesec REP LLC, Verso Bucksport Power LLC, and Verso Androscoggin Power LLC, or collectively, the "Guarantor Subsidiaries." As of September 30, 2015, NewPage Corporation is presented as a Non-Guarantor Subsidiary. Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund, LLC, a consolidated VIE of Verso Holdings, and all other entities specifically aforementioned are in "Other Non-Guarantors."

Verso Paper Holdings LLC
Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet
September 30, 2015

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non-Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|--|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$— | \$— | \$3 | \$7 | \$— | \$— | \$10 |
| Accounts receivable, net | — | — | 74 | 183 | — | — | 257 |
| Current intercompany/affiliate receivable | — | — | 10 | 16 | — | (26) |)— |
| Inventories | — | — | 115 | 425 | — | — | 540 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | — | — | 5 | 29 | — | — | 34 |
| Total current assets | — | — | 207 | 660 | — | (26) |)841 |
| Property, plant, and equipment, net | — | — | 436 | 1,473 | 22 | — | 1,931 |
| Intercompany/affiliate receivable | 1,390 | — | 2 | — | 30 | (1,422) |)— |
| Intangibles and other assets, net ⁽¹⁾ | — | — | 81 | 68 | 1 | (5) |)145 |
| Total assets | \$1,390 | \$— | \$726 | \$2,201 | \$ 53 | \$(1,453) |)\$2,917 |
| LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY | | | | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$— | \$— | \$45 | \$125 | \$— | \$— | \$170 |
| Current intercompany/affiliate payable | — | — | 16 | 10 | — | (26) |)— |
| Accrued liabilities | 42 | — | 60 | 130 | — | — | 232 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | 41 | — | — | 31 | — | — | 72 |
| Total current liabilities | 83 | — | 121 | 296 | — | (26) |)474 |
| Intercompany/affiliate payable | — | — | 1,390 | — | 32 | (1,422) |)— |
| Investment in subsidiaries | 352 | — | 14 | — | — | (366) |)— |
| Long-term debt ⁽²⁾ | 1,929 | — | — | 914 | 23 | (5) |)2,861 |
| Other liabilities | — | — | 52 | 496 | 8 | — | 556 |
| Member's (deficit) equity | (974) |)— | (851) |)495 | (10) |) 366 | (974) |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$1,390 | \$— | \$726 | \$2,201 | \$ 53 | \$(1,453) |)\$2,917 |

(1) Intangibles and other assets, net of Guarantor Subsidiaries include \$23 million of a long-term note receivable from Verso Finance.

(2) Long-term debt of Other Non-Guarantors is payable to Verso Finance.

Verso Paper Holdings LLC
Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet
December 31, 2014

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non- Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$— | \$— | \$6 | \$— | \$ — | \$— | \$6 |
| Accounts receivable, net | — | — | 88 | — | — | — | 88 |
| Inventories | — | — | 110 | — | — | — | 110 |
| Assets held for sale | — | — | 60 | — | 1 | — | 61 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | — | — | 9 | — | 2 | — | 11 |
| Total current assets | — | — | 273 | — | 3 | — | 276 |
| Property, plant, and equipment, net | — | — | 508 | — | 23 | — | 531 |
| Intercompany/affiliate receivable | 1,397 | — | 2 | — | 58 | (1,457) | — |
| Intangibles and other assets, net ⁽¹⁾ | — | — | 93 | — | 1 | — | 94 |
| Total assets | \$1,397 | \$— | \$876 | \$— | \$ 85 | \$(1,457) | \$901 |
| LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY | | | | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$— | \$— | \$63 | \$— | \$ — | \$— | \$63 |
| Accrued liabilities | 77 | — | 128 | — | 1 | — | 206 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | — | — | — | — | 30 | — | 30 |
| Liabilities related to assets held for sale | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Total current liabilities | 77 | — | 193 | — | 31 | — | 301 |
| Intercompany/affiliate payable | — | — | 1,423 | — | 34 | (1,457) | — |
| Investment in subsidiaries | 803 | — | 13 | — | — | (816) | — |
| Long-term debt ⁽²⁾ | 1,297 | — | — | — | 23 | — | 1,320 |
| Other liabilities | — | — | 52 | — | 8 | — | 60 |
| Member's (deficit) equity | (780) | — | (805) | — | (11) | 816 | (780) |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$1,397 | \$— | \$876 | \$— | \$ 85 | \$(1,457) | \$901 |

(1) Intangibles and other assets, net of Guarantor Subsidiaries include \$23 million of a long-term note receivable from Verso Finance.

(2) Long-term debt of Other Non-Guarantors is payable to Verso Finance.

Certain amounts in the prior year presentation have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Verso Paper Holdings LLC

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income
Three Months Ended September 30, 2015

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non- Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net sales | \$— | \$— | \$264 | \$537 | \$ — | \$(19) | \$782 |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and depletion) | — | — | 219 | 477 | — | (19) | 677 |
| Depreciation, amortization, and depletion (exclusive of accelerated depreciation included in Restructuring charges) | — | — | 15 | 45 | — | — | 60 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | — | — | 17 | 16 | — | — | 33 |
| Restructuring charges | — | — | 53 | 2 | — | — | 55 |
| Other operating income | — | — | (37 |)37 | — | — | — |
| Interest income | (47) | — | — | — | (1) | 48 | — |
| Interest expense | 47 | — | 48 | 20 | 1 | (48) | 68 |
| Equity in net loss of subsidiaries | (111) | — | — | — | — | 111 | — |
| Loss before income taxes | \$(111) | \$— | \$(51) | \$(60) | \$ — | \$111 | \$(111) |
| Income tax benefit | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Net loss | \$(111) | \$— | \$(51) | \$(60) | \$ — | \$111 | \$(111) |
| Other comprehensive income | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | (1) | 1 |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(110) | \$— | \$(50) | \$(60) | \$ — | \$110 | \$(110) |

Edgar Filing: Verso Corp - Form 10-Q

Verso Paper Holdings LLC

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non- Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----|---|
| Net sales | \$— | \$— | \$767 | \$1,640 | \$ 1 | \$(42 |)\$2,366 | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and depletion) | — | — | 665 | 1,439 | — | (42 |)2,062 | | |
| Depreciation, amortization, and depletion (exclusive of accelerated depreciation included in Restructuring charges) | — | — | 48 | 132 | 1 | — | 181 | | |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | — | — | 68 | 67 | (1 |) | 134 | | |
| Restructuring charges | — | — | 70 | 13 | — | — | 83 | | |
| Other operating income | — | — | (73 |)73 | — | — | — | | |
| Interest income | (142 |)— | (1 |)— | (1 |) | 143 | (1 |) |
| Interest expense | 142 | — | 142 | 59 | 2 | (143 |)202 | | |
| Equity in net loss of subsidiaries | (293 |)— | — | — | — | 293 | — | | |
| Loss before income taxes | \$(293 |)\$— | \$(152 |)\$(143 |)\$ — | \$293 | \$(295 |) | |
| Income tax benefit | — | — | — | (2 |)— | — | (2 |) | |
| Net loss | \$(293 |)\$— | \$(152 |)\$(141 |)\$ — | \$293 | \$(293 |) | |
| Other comprehensive income | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | (2 |)2 | | |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(291 |)\$— | \$(150 |)\$(141 |)\$ — | \$291 | \$(291 |) | |

Verso Paper Holdings LLC

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income
Three Months Ended September 30, 2014

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non- Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|---|
| Net sales | \$— | \$— | \$350 | \$— | \$ 1 | \$(1 |)\$350 | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and depletion) | — | — | 295 | — | 1 | (1 |)295 | | |
| Depreciation, amortization, and depletion | — | — | 23 | — | — | — | 23 | | |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | — | — | 18 | — | — | — | 18 | | |
| Interest income | (36 |)— | — | — | — | 36 | — | | |
| Interest expense | 36 | — | 35 | — | 2 | (36 |)37 | | |
| Other loss, net | — | — | 14 | — | — | — | 14 | | |
| Equity in net loss of subsidiaries | (37 |)— | — | — | — | 37 | — | | |
| Net loss | \$(37 |)\$— | \$(35 |)\$— | \$ (2 |) | \$37 | \$(37 |) |

Edgar Filing: Verso Corp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Other comprehensive income | 1 | — | — | (1 |)1 |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(36)\$— | \$(34)\$— | \$ (2 |) \$36 | \$(36) |

Certain amounts in the prior year presentation have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Verso Paper Holdings LLC

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non- Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|---|
| Net sales | \$— | \$— | \$970 | \$— | \$ 2 | \$(2 |)\$970 | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization, and depletion) | — | — | 874 | — | 1 | (2 |)873 | | |
| Depreciation, amortization, and depletion | — | — | 73 | — | 1 | — | 74 | | |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | — | — | 54 | — | (1 |) | 53 | | |
| Interest income | (106 |)— | (1 |)— | (1 |) | 107 | (1 |) |
| Interest expense | 106 | — | 104 | — | 5 | (107 |)108 | | |
| Other loss, net | — | — | 33 | — | — | — | 33 | | |
| Equity in net loss of subsidiaries | (170 |)— | — | — | — | 170 | — | | |
| Net loss | \$(170 |)\$— | \$(167 |)\$— | \$ (3 |) | \$170 | \$(170 |) |
| Other comprehensive income ¹ | — | — | 1 | — | — | (1 |)1 | | |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(169 |)\$— | \$(166 |)\$— | \$ (3 |) | \$169 | \$(169 |) |

Certain amounts in the prior year presentation have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Verso Paper Holdings LLC
Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non-Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net cash used in operating activities | \$— | \$— | \$(136) | \$(148) | \$— | \$— | \$(284) |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | | | | | |
| Proceeds from sale of assets | — | — | 50 | 1 | — | — | 51 |
| Transfers from (to) restricted cash | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Capital expenditures | — | — | (13) | (35) | — | — | (48) |
| Acquisition, net of cash acquired | — | — | — | 128 | — | — | 128 |
| Acquisition of investment securities | — | — | — | (5) | — | — | (5) |
| Return of capital to Parent Issuer | 73 | — | — | — | — | (73) | — |
| Advances to subsidiaries | (375) | — | — | (51) | — | 426 | — |
| Payments from subsidiaries | 250 | — | — | 51 | — | (301) | — |
| Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities | (52) | — | 37 | 89 | 1 | 52 | 127 |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | | | | | |
| Borrowings on revolving credit facilities | 169 | — | — | 504 | 51 | (51) | 673 |
| Payments on revolving credit facilities | (117) | — | — | (365) | (81) | 51 | (512) |
| Return of capital to Parent Issuer | — | — | — | (73) | — | 73 | — |
| Advances from parent | — | — | 294 | — | 81 | (375) | — |
| Payments to parent | — | — | (198) | — | (52) | 250 | — |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 52 | — | 96 | 66 | (1) | (52) | 161 |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | — | — | (3) | 7 | — | — | 4 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | — | — | 6 | — | — | — | 6 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$— | \$— | \$3 | \$7 | \$— | \$— | \$10 |

Verso Paper Holdings LLC
Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014

| (Dollars in millions) | Parent Issuer | Subsidiary Issuer | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Non-Guarantor Subsidiary | Other Non-Guarantor | Elimination | Consolidated |
|---|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities | \$— | \$— | \$(69) |)\$ — | \$ — | \$— | \$(69) |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | | | | | |
| Transfers from (to) restricted cash | — | — | 2 | — | (1 |) — | 1 |
| Capital expenditures | — | — | (34 |)— | — | — | (34) |
| Other investing activities | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Advances to subsidiaries | (278 |)— | — | — | — | 278 | — |
| Payments from subsidiaries | 218 | — | — | — | — | (218 |)— |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (60 |)— | (27 |)— | (1 |) 60 | (28) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | | | | | |
| Borrowings on revolving credit facilities | 240 | — | — | — | 100 | — | 340 |
| Payments on revolving credit facilities | (168 |)— | — | — | (60 |) — | (228) |
| Repayment of long-term debt | (13 |)— | — | — | — | — | (13) |
| Debt issuance costs | — | — | — | — | (2 |) — | (2) |
| Contribution from Verso | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Return of capital to Parent Issuer | — | — | — | — | (1 |) 1 | — |
| Advances from parent | — | — | 278 | — | — | (278 |)— |
| Payments to parent | — | — | (181 |)— | (36 |) 217 | — |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 60 | — | 97 | — | 1 | (60 |)98 |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | — | — | 11 | — | — | — | 11 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$— | \$— | \$12 | \$ — | \$ — | \$— | \$12 |

Certain amounts in the prior year presentation have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

We are a leading North American producer of printing and specialty papers and pulp. Our papers are used primarily in commercial printing, media and marketing applications, including magazines, catalogs, books, direct mail, corporate collateral, retail inserts, and specialty applications, including label and converting, flexible packaging and technical paper. We also produce and sell market kraft pulp, which is used to manufacture printing, writing, and specialty paper grades and tissue products. Headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee, with a business center in Miamisburg, Ohio, Verso owns eight mills strategically located in Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin with a total annual paper production capacity of approximately 3.6 million tons.

Financial Summary

On January 3, 2014, Verso, Verso Merger Sub Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso, or "Merger Sub," and NewPage Holdings Inc., or "NewPage," entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, or the "Merger Agreement," pursuant to which the parties agreed to merge Merger Sub with and into NewPage on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, with NewPage surviving the merger as an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso. On January 7, 2015, Verso consummated the acquisition of NewPage through the merger of Merger Sub, with and into NewPage, or the "NewPage acquisition," pursuant to the Merger Agreement. As a result of the merger of Merger Sub with and into NewPage, Merger Sub's separate corporate existence ceased and NewPage continued as the surviving corporation and an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso. As such, management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, include the impact of NewPage's operations on our business.

On August 20, 2015, Verso announced plans to make production capacity reductions at two of our mills by shutting down the No. 1 pulp dryer and No. 2 paper machine at our mill in Androscoggin, Maine, and by indefinitely idling our mill in Wickliffe, Kentucky. Together, these actions will reduce our production capacity by 430,000 tons of coated paper and 130,000 tons of dried market pulp. We began implementing these capacity reductions in the third quarter of 2015 and expect to complete them in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Results of Operations

The following tables set forth the historical results of operations of Verso and Verso Holdings for the periods indicated below. The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this quarterly report. All assets, liabilities, income, expenses and cash flows presented for all periods represent those of Verso's indirect, wholly owned subsidiary, Verso Holdings, in all material respects, except for Verso's common stock transactions and Verso Finance's debt obligation and related financing costs and interest expense. Unless otherwise noted, the information provided pertains to both Verso and Verso Holdings.

VERSO CORPORATION

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net sales | \$782 | \$350 | \$2,366 | \$970 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 677 | 295 | 2,062 | 873 |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion (exclusive of accelerated depreciation included in restructuring charges) | 60 | 23 | 181 | 74 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 33 | 18 | 134 | 53 |
| Restructuring charges | 55 | — | 83 | — |
| Total operating expenses | 825 | 336 | 2,460 | 1,000 |
| Operating (loss) income | (43 |)14 | (94 |)30 |
| Interest expense | 68 | 37 | 201 | 107 |
| Other loss, net | — | 14 | — | 33 |
| Loss before income taxes | (111 |)37 | (295 |)170 |
| Income tax benefit | — | (1 |)2 |)1 |
| Net loss | \$(111 |)\$36 |)\$(293 |)\$(169) |

VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC

| (Dollars in millions) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net sales | \$782 | \$350 | \$2,366 | \$970 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 677 | 295 | 2,062 | 873 |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion (exclusive of accelerated depreciation included in restructuring charges) | 60 | 23 | 181 | 74 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 33 | 18 | 134 | 53 |
| Restructuring charges | 55 | — | 83 | — |
| Total operating expenses | 825 | 336 | 2,460 | 1,000 |
| Operating (loss) income | (43 |)14 | (94 |)30 |
| Interest income | — | — | (1 |)1 |
| Interest expense | 68 | 37 | 202 | 108 |
| Other loss, net | — | 14 | — | 33 |
| Loss before income taxes | (111 |)37 | (295 |)170 |
| Income tax benefit | — | — | (2 |)— |
| Net loss | \$(111 |)\$37 |)\$(293 |)\$(170) |

Third Quarter of 2015 Compared to Third Quarter of 2014

Net Sales. Net sales for the third quarter of 2015 increased 123% to \$782 million from \$350 million in the third quarter of 2014. Our sales increase was primarily driven by a 110% increase in total sales volume, from 433 thousand

tons in 2014 to 910 thousand tons in 2015. The increase in volume resulted in \$398 million of additional revenue, while changes in pricing contributed \$34 million, as the average sales price per ton increased from \$808 to \$859, for all of our products in the third quarter of 2015, compared to the third quarter of 2014. When compared to 2014 sales as adjusted to include the impact of the

NewPage acquisition and the sale of the Bucksport mill, our sales have declined, quarter over quarter, reflecting an increase in offshore imports and a decline in U.S. demand for coated papers.

Net sales for our paper segment increased 135% to \$736 million in the third quarter of 2015 from \$313 million in the third quarter of 2014, due to a 124% increase in paper sales volume to 829 thousand tons in the third quarter of 2015, compared to 371 thousand tons in the third quarter of 2014, supplemented by a 5% increase in average sales price per ton of paper to \$888 in the third quarter of 2015, compared to \$845 in the third quarter of 2014. The increased sales volume, which is primarily due to the addition of sales resulting from the NewPage acquisition, resulted in \$387 million of additional revenue, which was augmented by the impact of changes in market pricing and product mix of \$36 million.

Net sales for our pulp segment increased 24% in the third quarter of 2015 to \$46 million from \$37 million in the third quarter of 2014, due to a 31% increase in pulp sales volume to 81 thousand tons in the third quarter of 2015, compared to 62 thousand tons in the third quarter of 2014, while the average sales price per ton declined 4% to \$566 in the third quarter of 2015, compared to \$589 in the third quarter of 2014. The increased sales volume, which is primarily attributable to the addition of net sales as a result of the NewPage acquisition, contributed \$11 million of additional revenue, while the change in pricing resulted in a decrease in revenue of \$2 million. The price decline was attributable to market price reductions.

Cost of sales. Cost of products sold, excluding depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses, increased \$382 million, or 130%, primarily due to incremental costs as a result of the NewPage acquisition. Our gross margin percentage was 13.4% for the third quarter of 2015, compared to 15.8% for the third quarter of 2014, reflecting an incremental \$49 million in gross margin, with \$59 million attributable to volume increases offset by \$10 million attributable to lower margin per ton. During the third quarter of 2015, our margin per ton was negatively impacted by incremental costs related to mill maintenance outages and 79,000 tons of downtime. Depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses increased \$37 million, or 161%, also primarily due to incremental costs as a result of the NewPage acquisition.

Selling, general and administrative. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased primarily due to incremental expenses of \$15 million, or 83%, in the third quarter of 2015, compared to the third quarter of 2014, as a result of the NewPage acquisition. As a percentage of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses decreased from 5% in the third quarter of 2014 to 4% in the third quarter of 2015. Selling, general and administrative expenses are allocated to the paper and pulp segments based on relative sales volume.

Restructuring charges. Restructuring charges of \$55 million during the third quarter of 2015 consisted primarily of \$34 million of noncash charges related to accelerated depreciation on property and equipment at our Androscoggin mill, and \$15 million of severance and benefit costs related primarily to the production capacity reductions at our Androscoggin and Wickliffe mills. Restructuring charges of approximately \$49 million and \$6 million were attributable to the paper segment and the pulp segment, respectively for the third quarter of 2015.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the third quarter of 2015 was \$68 million, compared to \$37 million for the third quarter of 2014. The change in interest expense reflects the addition of the NewPage ABL Facility and NewPage Term Loan Facility, the 2015 First Lien Notes (each as defined below) issued in connection with the NewPage acquisition and changes resulting from the completion of the second lien and subordinated notes exchange offers.

First Nine Months of 2015 Compared to First Nine Months of 2014

Net Sales. Net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 increased 144% to \$2,366 million from \$970 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. Our sales increase was primarily driven by a 126% increase in

total sales volume, from 1,212 thousand tons in 2014 to 2,742 thousand tons in 2015. The increase in volume resulted in \$1,267 million of additional revenue. The revenue increase associated with the increased volume was enhanced by the impact of pricing improvements of \$128 million, as the average sales price per ton increased from \$801 to \$863, for all of our products in the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2014. When compared to 2014 sales as adjusted to include the impact of the NewPage acquisition and the sale of the Bucksport mill, our sales have declined, on a year-to-date basis, reflecting an increase in offshore imports and a decline in U.S. demand for coated papers.

Net sales for our paper segment increased 159% to \$2,207 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 from \$851 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2014, due to a 143% increase in paper sales volume to 2,456 thousand tons in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 1,011 thousand tons in the nine months ended September 30, 2014, supplemented by a 7% increase in average sales price per ton of paper to \$898 in nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$842 in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The increased sales volume, which is primarily due to the

addition of sales resulting from NewPage acquisition, resulted in \$1,217 million of additional revenue, which was augmented by the impact of changes in market pricing and product mix of \$138 million.

Net sales for our pulp segment increased 34% in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 to \$159 million from \$119 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2014, due primarily to a 43% increase in pulp sales volume to 285 thousand tons in the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to 200 thousand tons in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The average sales price per ton declined 6% to \$558 in the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$593 in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The increased sales volume, which is primarily attributable to the addition of net sales as a result of the NewPage acquisition, contributed \$50 million of additional revenue, while pricing resulted in a decrease in revenue of \$10 million. The price decline was attributable to market price reductions.

Cost of sales. Cost of products sold, excluding depreciation, amortization, and depletion expenses, increased \$1,189 million, or 136%, in the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2014, primarily due to incremental costs as a result of the NewPage acquisition. Our gross margin was 12.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to 10.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, reflecting an incremental \$206 million in gross margin, with \$122 million attributable to volume increases and \$84 million attributable to higher margin per ton as a result of different mix of paper products from NewPage. Depreciation, amortization, and depletion expenses increased \$107 million, or 145%, also primarily due to incremental costs as a result of the NewPage acquisition.

Selling, general and administrative. Selling, general and administrative expenses for nine months ended September 30, 2015 increased primarily due to incremental expenses of \$81 million, or 153%, as a result of the NewPage acquisition. As a percentage of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses were flat at 6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Selling, general and administrative expenses are allocated to the paper and pulp segments based on relative sales volume.

Restructuring charges. Restructuring charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$83 million, and consisted primarily of \$34 million of noncash charges related to accelerated depreciation on property and equipment at our Androscoggin mill, \$15 million of severance and benefit costs related primarily to the production capacity reductions at our Androscoggin and Wickliffe mills, \$16 million of severance and benefit costs related to efforts to integrate the legacy Verso and NewPage operations, and \$12 million of expenses related to the sale of the Bucksport mill. Restructuring charges of approximately \$75 million and \$8 million were attributable to the paper segment and the pulp segment, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

Interest expense. Verso's interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was \$201 million, compared to \$107 million for the same period in 2014. Verso Holdings' interest expense was \$202 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to \$108 million for the same period in 2014. The change in interest expense year over year reflects the addition of the NewPage ABL Facility and NewPage Term Loan Facility, the 2015 First Lien Notes issued in connection with the NewPage acquisition and changes resulting from the completion of the second lien and subordinated notes exchange offers.

Reconciliation of Cash Flows from Operating Activities to Adjusted EBITDA

EBITDA consists of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA reflects adjustments to EBITDA to eliminate the impact of certain items we do not consider indicative of ongoing performance. Adjusted EBITDA is a financial term commonly used in our industry. We use Adjusted EBITDA as a way of evaluating our performance relative to that of our peers. We believe that Adjusted EBITDA is an operating performance measure that provides investors and analysts with a measure of ongoing operating results unaffected by

differences in capital structures, capital investment cycles, and ages of related assets among otherwise comparable companies.

You are encouraged to evaluate each adjustment and to consider whether the adjustment is appropriate. In addition, in evaluating Adjusted EBITDA, you should be aware that in the future, we may incur expenses similar to the adjustments included in the presentation of Adjusted EBITDA. We believe that the supplemental adjustments applied in calculating Adjusted EBITDA are reasonable and appropriate to provide additional information to investors. We also believe that Adjusted EBITDA is a useful measurement tool for assessing our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures, and working capital requirements.

Because EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are not measurements determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or "GAAP," and are susceptible to varying calculations, EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, as presented, may not be comparable to other similarly titled measures presented by other companies. You should

Edgar Filing: Verso Corp - Form 10-Q

consider our EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA in addition to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, our operating or net income or cash flows from operating activities, which are determined in accordance with GAAP.

| | VERSO | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Nine Months Ended | Year Ended | Nine Months Ended | Twelve Months Ended |
| | September 30, | December 31, | September 30, | September 30, |
| (Dollars in millions) | 2014 | 2014 | 2015 | 2015 |
| Cash flows from operating activities | \$(68) | \$(58) | \$(284) | \$(274) |
| Income tax benefit | (1) | (3) | (2) | (4) |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | (6) | (8) | (4) | (6) |
| Accretion of discount on long-term debt | (1) | (1) | (2) | (2) |
| Equity award expense | (1) | (2) | (2) | (3) |
| Interest expense | 107 | 142 | 201 | 236 |
| Loss on disposal of assets | — | — | (4) | (4) |
| Trademark impairment | (6) | (6) | — | — |
| Asset impairment/ accelerated depreciation | — | (102) | (34) | (136) |
| Other, net | (7) | (2) | 5 | 10 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, net | (6) | (83) | 213 | 136 |
| EBITDA | 11 | (123) | 87 | (47) |
| Restructuring charges ⁽¹⁾ | — | 141 | 83 | 224 |
| Integration ⁽²⁾ | — | — | 15 | 15 |
| NewPage acquisition-related costs/charges ⁽³⁾ | 33 | 39 | 18 | 24 |
| Hedge losses (gains) ⁽⁴⁾ | 6 | 17 | (4) | 7 |
| Equity award expense ⁽⁵⁾ | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Trademark impairment ⁽⁶⁾ | 6 | 6 | — | — |
| Other items, net ⁽⁷⁾ | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Adjusted EBITDA | \$60 | \$84 | \$208 | \$232 |

Represents costs primarily associated with the shutdown of a pulp dryer and paper machine at the Androscoggin (1) mill, the indefinite idling of the Wickliffe mill, the closure of the Bucksport mill, and the costs associated with reorganizing the business after the NewPage acquisition.

(2) Represents costs associated with efforts to integrate the legacy Verso and NewPage operations, generate cost savings and capture synergies across the combined company.

(3) Represents costs incurred in connection with the NewPage acquisition, including one-time impacts of purchase accounting.

(4) Represents unrealized losses (gains) on energy-related derivative contracts.

(5) Represents amortization of noncash incentive compensation.

(6) Represents noncash impairment charge on trademarks.

(7) Represents miscellaneous noncash and other earnings adjustments.

Debt Agreement Adjusted EBITDA

Our debt agreements allow further adjustments to Adjusted EBITDA for the purpose of calculating covenant compliance. These additional adjustments include projected pro forma effects of our profitability program and, for Verso Holdings only, the pro forma impact of expected synergies related to the NewPage acquisition. Our profitability program is a management-developed company-wide cost reduction program, which is expected to yield approximately \$49 million of additional cost reduction (\$40 million attributable to NewPage) in the future.

Reconciliation of Net (Loss) Income to EBITDA

| | VERSO | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Nine Months Ended | Year Ended | Nine Months Ended | Twelve Months Ended |
| (Dollars in millions) | September 30, 2014 | December 31, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2015 |
| Net loss | \$(169) | \$(353) | \$(293) | \$(477) |
| Income tax benefit | (1) | (3) | (2) | (4) |
| Interest expense | 107 | 142 | 201 | 236 |
| Depreciation, amortization, and depletion | 74 | 91 | 181 | 198 |
| EBITDA | \$11 | \$(123) | \$87 | \$(47) |

Seasonality

We are exposed to fluctuations in quarterly net sales volumes and expenses due to seasonal factors common in the coated paper industry. Typically, the first two quarters are our slowest quarters due to lower demand for coated paper during this period. Our third quarter is generally our strongest quarter, reflecting an increase in printing related to end-of-year magazines, increased end-of-year direct mailings, and holiday season catalogs. Our working capital and accounts receivable generally peak in the third quarter, while inventory generally peaks in the second quarter in anticipation of the third quarter season. We expect our seasonality trends to continue for the foreseeable future.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We have historically relied primarily upon cash flows from operations and borrowings under our revolving credit facilities to fund our operations, capital expenditures and debt service requirements. Our recent financial results have included several years of operating losses and cash flows used in operations. We are highly leveraged, with \$2,806 million in borrowings outstanding under our existing financing arrangements as of September 30, 2015, including the NewPage Corp revolving credit facility, the "NewPage ABL Facility," and floating rate senior secured term loan, the "NewPage Term Loan Facility." Also as of September 30, 2015, we had \$8 million available for future borrowings under the Verso Holdings revolving credit facilities and \$54 million available for future borrowings under the NewPage ABL Facility. Our indebtedness results in us dedicating a substantial portion of our cash flows from operations to payments for our debt service, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flows to fund working capital, capital expenditures, research and development efforts, and other corporate purposes. In addition, our indebtedness increases our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions and places us at a competitive disadvantage compared to competitors that have less debt.

We have certain significant cash use requirements over the next twelve months outside of operations, including debt service requirements, integration costs associated with the NewPage acquisition, and restructuring costs related to both the NewPage acquisition and the recently announced production capacity reductions at our Androscoggin and Wickliffe mills. Our projected fixed debt service payments over the next twelve months through September 30, 2016, based on our current borrowings and floating interest rates at September 30, 2015, and without taking into account repayments related to our revolving credit facilities, are approximately \$352 million, of which approximately \$72 million is principal (approximately \$3 million in the fourth quarter of 2015 and approximately \$9 million, \$9 million and \$50 million in the first, second and third quarters of 2016, respectively) and approximately \$280 million is interest (approximately \$20 million in the fourth quarter of 2015 and approximately \$120 million, \$20 million and \$120 million in the first, second and third quarters of 2016, respectively). Our debt arrangements also contain financial and other restrictive covenants that limit our ability to engage in activities that may be in our long-term best interests. Failure to comply with those covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the acceleration of all of our debts. If we are unable to repay our indebtedness when due or declared due, our

lenders also will have the right to proceed against the collateral securing the indebtedness.

The accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared assuming that we will continue as a going concern. However, based on our liquidity position as of September 30, 2015, and our projections of operating results and cash flows for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, we anticipate that we will not have sufficient resources to fund our most significant future cash obligations and, therefore, we believe that there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months. In addition, based on our recent operating performance, the ability of NewPage Corp to comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in the NewPage Term Loan Facility over the next twelve

months is particularly vulnerable to declines in our operating performance compared to our projections. As of September 30, 2015, a decrease of \$2 million of Adjusted EBITDA would have resulted in noncompliance with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, and it is reasonably possible that NewPage Corp will not comply with the quarterly Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant at the end of upcoming quarters. The calculation of Adjusted EBITDA that is used in calculating the Total Net Leverage Ratio includes adjustments, such as pro forma adjustments for management's projections of expected savings from our profitability program (see below). In the event that NewPage Corp is unable to comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in a future quarter, Verso Holdings has the option to make capital contributions for the amount of the shortfall without triggering an event of default. However, Verso Holdings may not have sufficient liquidity to fund any such capital contribution. A breach of the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, if a sufficient capital contribution could not be made to cure the breach, would represent an event of default under the NewPage Term Loan Facility and would trigger cross-default provisions of our other credit facilities. In addition, our lenders would have the right to make any loans then outstanding immediately due and payable, which would trigger cross-default provisions under our indentures, and would no longer be obligated to extend further credit to us.

As a result of our cash flow and liquidity concerns, we have begun evaluating potential alternatives for the restructuring of our balance sheet. We have engaged PJT Partners L.P. to provide us with restructuring and transactional services and O'Melveny & Myers LLP to provide us with restructuring legal advice and assistance. We have begun discussions with certain of our creditor constituencies to explore potential restructuring alternatives. We also are exploring opportunities to raise funds through potential sales of certain of our mills and related facilities, which may include the Stevens Point, Androscoggin and Duluth mills, our recently idled Wickliffe mill, and the hydroelectric generation facilities associated with our Androscoggin mill. Our potential restructuring could occur in a consensual, out-of-court manner or through a court-supervised Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding. While we intend to actively pursue a potential restructuring and potential asset sales, there can be no assurance that any of these activities will occur on terms acceptable to us or at all. In addition to the strategic alternatives, our future projected operating results also are highly dependent on the successful integration of NewPage, the borrowing availability of the combined company, and the synergies and operational cost reduction and earnings enhancement initiatives expected to be achieved. The synergies and operational cost reductions are targeted in the areas of personnel expenses, raw material costs and manufacturing efficiencies. We have established plans within each of these areas to meet these targets. If the integration of NewPage into our business is not completed as expected, the synergies and other benefits that we expect to achieve could be materially and adversely affected, and these situations could result in additional transaction costs, loss of revenue or other effects associated with uncertainty about the NewPage acquisition.

The accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business. These financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the recovery of the recorded assets or the classification of the liabilities that might be necessary should we be unable to continue as a going concern.

Verso's and Verso Holdings' cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities, as reflected in the accompanying Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, are summarized in the following table.

| (Dollars in millions) | VERSO | | VERSO HOLDINGS | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net cash (used in) provided by: | | | | |
| Operating activities | \$(284 |) \$(68 |) \$(284 |) \$(69 |
| Investing activities | 127 | (28 |) 127 | (28 |
| Financing activities | 161 | 97 | 161 | 98 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | \$4 | \$1 | \$4 | \$1 |

Operating activities. In the first nine months of 2015, Verso's net cash used in operating activities of \$284 million reflects a net loss of \$293 million adjusted for non-cash depreciation, amortization, and accretion of \$225 million, an increase in cash used for working capital of \$157 million, and cash used in non-current assets and non-current liabilities of \$56 million. The change in working capital primarily reflects a decrease in accrued liabilities primarily attributable to the timing of interest payments as well as payments of Merger and Exchange Offer related expenses, and severance and other costs associated with the Bucksport closure and NewPage Acquisition.

In the first nine months of 2014, Verso's net cash used in operating activities of \$68 million reflected a net loss of \$169 million adjusted for noncash depreciation, amortization, depletion and accretion of \$87 million and a decrease in cash used for working capital of \$17 million, which was primarily due to decreases in inventory and accounts receivable. Verso Holdings' operating cash flows are the same as those of Verso in all material respects.

Investing activities. In the first nine months of 2015, Verso's net cash provided by investing activities of \$127 million reflects cash acquired in the NewPage acquisition of \$128 million as well as proceeds from sale of assets of \$51 million including the sale of the Bucksport mill and were offset by capital expenditures of \$48 million. This compares to \$28 million of net cash used in investing activities in the first nine months of 2014, which was driven primarily by capital expenditures of \$34 million. Verso Holdings' investing cash flows are the same as those of Verso in all material respects.

Financing activities. In the first nine months of 2015, Verso's net cash provided by financing activities was \$161 million, compared to net cash provided by financing activities of \$97 million in the first nine months of 2014. Cash provided by financing activities in the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, resulted primarily from net borrowings on our revolving credit facilities. Verso Holdings' financing cash flows are the same as those of Verso in all material respects.

Indebtedness. As of September 30, 2015, the principal amount of Verso's total indebtedness was \$2,806 million and the principal amount of Verso Holdings' total indebtedness was \$2,829 million, including \$238 million on the NewPage ABL Facility (as defined below), \$734 million on the NewPage Term Loan Facility (as defined below), and a \$23 million loan from Verso Finance Holdings to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund. Note that the issuers and guarantors of Verso's debt securities (including the 2015 First Lien Notes) and the borrower and guarantors of Verso's credit facilities do not guarantee the obligations under the NewPage ABL Facility or the NewPage Term Loan Facility, and the borrower and guarantors under the NewPage ABL Facility and the NewPage Term Loan Facility do not guarantee the obligations under Verso's debt securities and credit facilities. As a result, following the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, the holders of Verso's debt securities (including the 2015 First Lien Notes) are structurally subordinated to the obligations under the NewPage ABL Facility and the NewPage Term Loan Facility to the extent of the value of the collateral securing the NewPage ABL Facility and the NewPage Term Loan Facility.

Verso Holdings

Revolving Credit Facilities. In 2012, Verso Holdings entered into revolving credit facilities consisting of a \$150 million asset-based loan facility, or "ABL Facility," and a \$50 million cash-flow facility, or "Cash Flow Facility." Verso Holdings' ABL Facility had \$66 million outstanding, \$30 million in letters of credit issued, and \$8 million available for future borrowing as of September 30, 2015. Verso Holdings' Cash Flow Facility had \$50 million outstanding balance, no letters of credit issued, and no availability for future borrowing as of September 30, 2015. The indebtedness under the revolving credit facilities bears interest at a floating rate based on a margin over a base rate or LIBOR. As of September 30, 2015, the applicable margin for advances under the ABL Facility was 1.25% for base rate advances and 2.25% for LIBOR advances, and the applicable margin for advances under the Cash Flow Facility was 3.75% for base rate advances and 4.75% for LIBOR advances. As of September 30, 2015, the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding advances was 3.72%. Verso Holdings is required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders in respect of the unused commitments under the ABL Facility at an annual rate of either 0.375% or 0.50%, based on daily average utilization, and under the Cash Flow Facility at an annual rate of 0.625%. The indebtedness under each of the revolving credit facilities is guaranteed, jointly and severally, by Verso Finance and each of Verso Holdings' subsidiaries, subject to certain exceptions, and the indebtedness and guarantees are senior secured obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. The indebtedness under the ABL Facility and related guarantees are secured by first-priority security interests, subject to permitted liens, in substantially all of Verso Holdings', Verso

Finance's, and the subsidiary guarantors' (excluding among other subsidiaries, NewPage Investment Company and its subsidiaries) inventory and accounts receivable, or "Verso ABL Priority Collateral," and second-priority security interests, subject to permitted liens, in substantially all of their other assets, or "Notes Priority Collateral." The indebtedness under each of the Cash Flow Facility and related guarantees are secured, pari passu with the 2012 First Lien Notes and the 2015 First Lien Notes, each defined below, and related guarantees, by first-priority security interests in the Notes Priority Collateral and second-priority security interests in the Verso ABL Priority Collateral. The revolving facilities will mature on May 4, 2017.

On January 3, 2014, Verso Holdings entered into certain amendments to the revolving credit facilities in connection with the NewPage acquisition, in which (a) the lenders under each of our revolving credit facilities consented to the NewPage acquisition and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, including the incurrence of certain additional indebtedness, (b) the lenders consented to amendments to allow the sale and/or financing of certain non-core assets and (c) the parties agreed to amend our revolving credit facilities to allow for certain other transactions upon the consummation of the NewPage acquisition and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement.

11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019. In 2012, Verso Holdings issued \$345 million aggregate principal amount of 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019. In 2013, Verso Holdings issued an additional \$73 million aggregate principal amount of its 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019 to certain lenders holding approximately \$86 million aggregate principal amount of Verso Finance's senior unsecured term loans, and net accrued interest through the closing date, at an exchange rate of 85%, in exchange for the assignment to Verso Finance of its senior unsecured term loans and the cancellation of such loans. After such exchange there were no longer any outstanding senior unsecured term loans.

The 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019 issued in 2012 and 2013 constitute one class of securities and are referred to herein as the "2012 First Lien Notes." The 2012 First Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.75% per year. The 2012 First Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, on a senior secured basis, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee its senior secured credit facility and by each of its future domestic subsidiaries that guarantees certain of its debt or issues disqualified stock. The 2012 First Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured, pari passu with the Cash Flow Facility and related guarantees, by first-priority security interests in the Notes Priority Collateral and second-priority security interests in the Verso ABL Priority Collateral. The notes will mature on January 15, 2019.

On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, Verso Holdings issued \$650 million aggregate principal amount of 11.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019, or the "2015 First Lien Notes," to the stockholders of NewPage as partial consideration in the NewPage acquisition. The 2015 First Lien Notes constitute a separate class of securities from the 2012 First Lien Notes. The 2015 First Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.75% per year. The 2015 First Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, on a senior secured basis, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility and by each of its future domestic subsidiaries that guarantees certain of its debt or issues disqualified stock (including NewPage Holdings Inc. but not any of its subsidiaries). The 2015 First Lien Notes and the related guarantees are secured, pari passu with the Cash Flow Facility and related guarantees, by first-priority security interests in the Notes Priority Collateral and second-priority security interests in the Verso ABL Priority Collateral. The 2015 First Lien Notes will mature on January 15, 2019.

11.75% Secured Notes due 2019. In 2012, Verso Holdings issued \$272 million aggregate principal amount of 11.75% Secured Notes due 2019, or the "1.5 Lien Notes." The 1.5 Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.75% per year. The 1.5 Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, by each of Verso Holdings' existing domestic subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility and by each of its future domestic subsidiaries that guarantees certain of its debt or issues disqualified stock. The 1.5 Lien Notes and related guarantees are senior secured obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. The 1.5 Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured by security interests, subject to permitted liens, in substantially all of Verso Holdings' and the guarantors' tangible and intangible assets. The 1.5 Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured by liens that rank junior to those securing the obligations under the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility, the 2012 First Lien Notes and the 2015 First Lien Notes and rank senior to those securing the New Second Lien Notes (as defined below). The 1.5 Lien Notes will mature on January 15, 2019.

13% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2020. On July 2, 2014, Verso Holdings commenced an offer to exchange any and all of Verso Holdings' outstanding 8.75% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2019, or "Old Second Lien Notes," for their Second Priority Adjustable Senior Secured Notes, or "New Second Lien Notes," and warrants issued by Verso that were mandatorily convertible on a one-for-one basis into shares of Verso's common stock immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition, or "Warrants," (we refer to this exchange offer as the "Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer"). On August 1, 2014, approximately \$299 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Second Lien Notes and approximately 9.3 million Warrants in the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer. The Warrants had no fair value at the date of the

closing of the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer. The New Second Lien Notes and related guarantees are secured by liens that rank junior to those securing the obligations under the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility, the 2012 First Lien Notes, the 2015 First Lien Notes and the 1.5 Lien Notes.

On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, the provisions of the New Second Lien Notes were adjusted as follows: (a) the principal amount was adjusted such that a holder of \$1,000 principal amount of New Second Lien Notes immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition now holds \$593.75 principal amount of New Second Lien Notes (and any adjusted New Second Lien Notes that did not bear an authorized denomination were rounded down); (b) the maturity date was extended from February 1, 2019, to August 1, 2020; (c) the interest rate was adjusted such that the New Second Lien Notes bear interest, payable semiannually, from and after January 7, 2015 at a rate of 10% per year payable entirely in cash plus 3% per year payable entirely by increasing the principal amount of the outstanding New Second Lien Notes or by issuing additional New Second Lien Notes, as compared to a rate 8.75% per year payable in cash prior to such adjustment; (d) the optional redemption provisions were adjusted as provided in the indenture governing the New Second Lien Notes; and (e) certain other terms and conditions of the New Second Lien Notes were modified as set forth in the indenture governing the New Second Lien Notes. As a result of the principal adjustment, the outstanding principal amount of the New

Second Lien Notes was reduced by approximately \$121 million from approximately \$299 million before January 7, 2015, to approximately \$178 million afterwards.

8.75% Second Priority Senior Secured Notes due 2019. In 2011, Verso Holdings issued \$396 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes. On August 1, 2014, approximately \$299 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Second Lien Notes and approximately 9.3 million Warrants in the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer. Following the settlement of the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer, approximately \$97 million aggregate principal amount of the Old Second Lien Notes remain outstanding. The Old Second Lien Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 8.75% per year. The Old Second Lien Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, by each of Verso Holdings' subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility as of the Second Lien Notes Exchange Offer, subject to certain exceptions. As of August 1, 2014, the Old Second Lien Notes were amended by a supplemental indenture so as to (a) eliminate or waive substantially all of the restrictive covenants contained in the indenture governing such notes, (b) eliminate certain events of default, (c) modify covenants regarding mergers and consolidations, and (d) modify or eliminate certain other provisions, including, in some cases, certain provisions relating to defeasance, contained in such indenture and such notes. In addition, as of August 1, 2014, the Old Second Lien Notes are no longer secured by any collateral. The Old Second Lien Notes will mature on February 1, 2019.

16% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2020. On July 2, 2014, Verso Holdings also commenced an offer to exchange any and all of Verso Holdings' outstanding 11.38% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2016, or "Old Subordinated Notes" for their new Adjustable Senior Subordinated Notes, or "New Subordinated Notes," and Warrants (we refer to this exchange offer as the "Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer"). On August 1, 2014, approximately \$102 million aggregate principal amount of Old Subordinated Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Subordinated Notes and approximately 5.4 million Warrants in the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer. The Warrants had no fair value at the date of the closing of the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer.

On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition, the provisions of the New Subordinated Notes were adjusted as follows: (a) the principal amount was adjusted such that a holder of \$1,000 principal amount of New Subordinated Notes immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition now holds \$620 principal amount of New Subordinated Notes (and any adjusted New Subordinated Notes that did not bear an authorized denomination were rounded down); (b) the maturity date of the New Subordinated Notes was extended from August 1, 2016, to August 1, 2020; (c) the interest rate was adjusted such that the New Subordinated Notes bear interest from and after the January 7, 2015 at a rate of 11% per year payable entirely in cash plus 5% per year payable entirely by increasing the principal amount of the outstanding New Subordinated Notes or by issuing additional New Subordinated Notes, as compared to a rate of 11.38% per year payable in cash prior to such adjustment; (d) the optional redemption provisions were adjusted as provided in the indenture governing the New Subordinated Notes; and (e) certain other terms and conditions of the New Subordinated Notes were modified as set forth in the indenture governing the New Subordinated Notes. As a result of the principal adjustment, the outstanding principal amount of the New Subordinated Notes was reduced by approximately \$39 million from approximately \$102 million before January 7, 2015, to approximately \$63 million afterwards.

11.38% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2016. In 2006, Verso Holdings issued \$300 million aggregate principal amount of Old Subordinated Notes. On August 1, 2014, approximately \$102 million aggregate principal amount of the Old Subordinated Notes were tendered and accepted in exchange for a like amount of New Subordinated Notes and approximately 5.4 million Warrants in the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer. Following the settlement of the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer, approximately \$41 million aggregate principal amount of the Old Subordinated Notes remain outstanding. The Old Subordinated Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of 11.38% per year. The Old Subordinated Notes are guaranteed, jointly and severally, by each of Verso Holdings' subsidiaries that guarantee the ABL Facility and the Cash Flow Facility as of the Subordinated Notes Exchange Offer, subject to certain exceptions. The Old Subordinated Notes and related guarantees are unsecured senior subordinated obligations of Verso Holdings and the guarantors, respectively. As of August 1, 2014, the Old Subordinated Notes were amended by a supplemental indenture so as to (a) eliminate or waive substantially all of the restrictive covenants contained in

the indenture governing such notes, (b) eliminate certain events of default, (c) modify covenants regarding mergers and consolidations, and (d) modify or eliminate certain other provisions, including, in some cases, certain provisions relating to defeasance, contained in such indenture and such notes. The Old Subordinated Notes will mature on August 1, 2016.

Verso Androscoggin Power LLC Revolving Credit Facility. On May 5, 2014, acting through a wholly owned subsidiary, Verso Androscoggin Power LLC, or "VAP," Verso Holdings entered into a credit agreement providing for a revolving credit facility with Barclays Bank PLC and Credit Suisse AG, Cayman Islands Branch. On January 7, 2015, Verso consummated the NewPage acquisition, and as a result, the credit facility was terminated on February 4, 2015.

Loan from Verso Finance / Verso Holdings. In 2010, Verso Quinnesec REP LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso Holdings, entered into a financing transaction with Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund, LLC, or the "Investment Fund," a consolidated variable interest entity. Under this arrangement, Verso Holdings loaned \$23 million to Verso Finance at an interest rate of 6.5% per year and with a maturity of December 29, 2040, and Verso Finance, in turn, loaned the funds on similar terms to the Investment Fund. The Investment Fund then contributed the loan proceeds to certain community development entities, which, in turn, loaned the funds on similar terms to Verso Quinnesec REP LLC as partial financing for the renewable energy project at our mill in Quinnesec, Michigan.

Loan from NewPage Corp. On July 14, 2015, NewPage Corp entered into a \$60 million inter-company revolving credit facility with VAP. The loan bears interest at a floating Eurocurrency rate plus a 4.75% margin, matures on January 6, 2018, and is guaranteed by Verso Maine Power Holdings LLC, or "VMPH," with such guaranty being secured by a pledge of VMPH's member interest in VAP. We have used the borrowings under the credit facility for working capital and other general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2015, there was no outstanding balance on the loan.

As a holding company, Verso's investments in its operating subsidiaries constitute substantially all of its operating assets. Consequently, Verso's subsidiaries conduct all of its consolidated operations and own substantially all of its operating assets. Verso's principal source of the cash it needs to pay its debts is the cash that its subsidiaries generate from their operations and their borrowings. Verso's subsidiaries are not obligated to make funds available to it. The terms of the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility, the NewPage ABL Facility (as defined below), the NewPage Term Loan Facility (as defined below) and the indentures governing the outstanding notes of Verso Holdings subsidiaries significantly restrict Verso's subsidiaries from paying dividends and otherwise transferring assets to Verso. Furthermore, Verso's subsidiaries are permitted under the terms of the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility, the NewPage ABL Facility, the NewPage Term Loan Facility and the indentures governing the outstanding notes of Verso Holdings to incur additional indebtedness that may severely restrict or prohibit the making of distributions, the payment of dividends, or the making of loans by such subsidiaries to Verso. Although the terms of the ABL Facility, the Cash Flow Facility and the indentures governing the outstanding notes of Verso Holdings do not restrict Verso's operating subsidiaries from obtaining funds from their respective subsidiaries to fund their operations and payments on indebtedness, there can be no assurance that the agreements governing the current and future indebtedness of its subsidiaries will permit its subsidiaries to provide Verso with sufficient dividends, distributions or loans to fund its obligations or pay dividends to its stockholders. In addition, the NewPage ABL Facility and the NewPage Term Loan Facility place certain restrictions on the ability of NewPage's subsidiaries to make funds available to Verso and its subsidiaries other than Verso's subsidiaries that are also subsidiaries of NewPage Corp.

We may elect to retire our outstanding debt in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, or otherwise. These repurchases may be funded through available cash from operations and borrowings under our revolving credit facilities. Such repurchases are dependent on prevailing market conditions, our liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions, and other factors.

Warrants. On August 1, 2014, Verso issued 14,701,832 Warrants that were mandatorily convertible on a one-for-one basis into shares of Verso common stock immediately prior to the consummation of the NewPage acquisition (and are not otherwise exercisable or convertible). The Warrants were issued by Verso as part of the consideration for the approximately \$299 million aggregate principal amount of Old Second Lien Notes and approximately \$102 million aggregate principal amount of Old Subordinated Notes that were tendered and accepted in the Exchange Offers. On January 7, 2015, in connection with the consummation of the NewPage acquisition these Warrants converted into a like number of shares of Verso common stock.

NewPage Corp

Revolving Credit Facility. On February 11, 2014, NewPage Corporation, or “NewPage Corp,” entered into a \$350 million senior secured asset-backed revolving credit facility, or the “NewPage ABL Facility.” As of September 30, 2015, the NewPage ABL Facility had \$238 million outstanding balance, \$52 million letters of credit issued, and \$54 million available for future borrowing. Amounts drawn under the NewPage ABL Facility bear annual interest at either the LIBOR rate plus a margin of 1.75% to 2.25% per year or at a base rate plus a margin of 0.75% to 1.25% per year. The interest rate margins on the NewPage ABL Facility are subject to adjustments based on the daily average availability of the NewPage ABL Facility. As of September 30, 2015, the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding advances was 2.75%. NewPage Corp is required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders in respect of the unutilized commitments under the revolving credit facilities and other customary fees. The security interest with respect to the NewPage ABL Facility consists of a first-priority lien with respect to most inventory, accounts receivable, bank accounts, and certain other assets of NewPage Corp, or “NewPage ABL Priority Collateral,” and a second-priority lien with respect to all other NewPage Corp assets, or “NewPage Term Loan Priority Collateral.” The NewPage ABL Facility will mature on February 11, 2019.

The issuers and guarantors of Verso Holdings' debt securities and the borrower and guarantors of Verso Holdings' credit facilities do not guarantee the obligations under the NewPage ABL Facility, and the borrower and the guarantors under the NewPage ABL Facility do not guarantee the obligations under Verso Holdings' debt securities and credit facilities.

Floating Rate Senior Secured Term Loan. On February 11, 2014, NewPage Corp entered into a \$750 million term loan facility, or "NewPage Term Loan Facility." Amounts drawn under the NewPage Term Loan Facility bear annual interest at either the LIBOR rate plus a margin of 8.25% per year or at a base rate plus a margin of 7.25% per year. The interest in effect for the NewPage Term Loan Facility at September 30, 2015 was 9.50% per year. The security interest with respect to the NewPage Term Loan Facility consists of a first-priority lien with respect to the NewPage Term Loan Priority Collateral and a second-priority lien with respect to the NewPage ABL Priority Collateral. The NewPage Term Loan Facility has scheduled principal payments due quarterly that began on September 30, 2015. However, NewPage Corp has the right to prepay loans under the NewPage Term Loan Facility at any time without premium or penalty, other than customary "breakage" costs with respect to LIBOR rate loans, subject, however, to a prepayment premium for optional prepayments of the NewPage Term Loan Facility with a new or replacement term loan facility with an "effective" interest rate less than that applicable to the NewPage Term Loan Facility equal to (1) 2.00% if prepaid on or after the first anniversary of the closing date and prior to the second anniversary of the closing date and (2) 1.00% if prepaid on or after the second anniversary of the closing date and prior to the third anniversary of the closing date. The NewPage Term Loan Facility is subject to mandatory prepayments in amounts equal to (1) 100% of the net cash proceeds of indebtedness by NewPage Corp or any of its subsidiary guarantors other than indebtedness permitted under the NewPage Term Loan Facility, (2) 100% of the net cash proceeds of any non-ordinary course sale or other disposition of assets by NewPage Corp or any of its subsidiary guarantors (including as a result of casualty or condemnation) (with customary exceptions, thresholds, and reinvestment rights of up to 12 months or 18 months if contractually committed to within 12 months), and (3) 75% of "excess cash flow" for each fiscal year beginning with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, subject to possible step-downs based on total net first lien leverage ratio thresholds. As such, immediately prior to the NewPage acquisition on January 7, 2015, \$16 million in proceeds from the sale of Biron and Rumford mills were used to pay the September 2015 scheduled principal payment and a portion of the December 2015 scheduled principal payment on the NewPage Term Loan Facility, leaving \$3 million due in December 2015. Quarterly installments due are \$9 million for each quarter ending in 2016, \$14 million for each quarter ending in 2017 and \$19 million for each quarter ending in 2018 through 2020 with the remaining balance due on February 11, 2021. The NewPage Term Loan Facility will mature on February 11, 2021.

The issuers and guarantors of Verso Holdings' debt securities and the borrower and guarantors of Verso Holdings' credit facilities do not guarantee the obligations under the NewPage Term Loan Facility, and the borrower and the guarantors under the NewPage Term Loan Facility do not guarantee the obligations under Verso Holdings' debt securities and credit facilities.

Covenant Compliance

The credit agreements for Verso Holdings' revolving credit facilities and the indentures governing Verso Holdings' notes contain affirmative covenants as well as restrictive covenants that limit our ability to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness; pay dividends or make other distributions; repurchase or redeem our stock; make investments; sell assets, including capital stock of restricted subsidiaries; enter into agreements restricting our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends; consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets; enter into transactions with our affiliates; and incur liens. These covenants can result in limiting our long-term growth prospects by hindering our ability to incur future indebtedness or grow through acquisitions. The material covenants in the indentures that are impacted by the calculation of Adjusted EBITDA are those that govern the amount of indebtedness that Verso Holdings and its subsidiaries may incur, whether Verso Holdings may make

certain dividends, distributions or payments on subordinated indebtedness, and whether Verso Holdings may merge with another company. Although there are limited baskets for incurring indebtedness contained in the indentures, the primary means for incurring additional indebtedness under the Indentures is to have a pro forma Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio of at least 2.00 to 1.00 after the incurrence of such additional indebtedness. This same test also applies to most dividends and other payments made in respect of Verso Holdings' equity and subordinated indebtedness and also to whether Verso Holdings may merge with another company. In the case of a merger, Verso Holdings may merge so long as either its Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio is at least 2.00 to 1.00 or that same ratio improves after giving pro forma effect to the merger. As of September 30, 2015, our Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio was less than 2.00 to 1.00 as calculated under our debt agreements. Accordingly, unless we are able to meet the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test on a pro forma basis, our long-term growth prospects may be limited, as it would severely hinder Verso Holdings' ability to incur additional indebtedness for the purpose of completing acquisitions or capital improvement programs, among other things. In addition, if the ratio test cannot be met, distributions by Verso Holdings to Verso would also be severely restricted.

The NewPage Term Loan Facility requires NewPage Corp to maintain a maximum Total Net Leverage Ratio on the last day of any fiscal quarter when loans are outstanding under the NewPage Term Loan Facility. The initial maximum Total Net Leverage Ratio threshold was 4.10 to 1.00 through the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2014, stepping down every year thereafter to a maximum Total Net Leverage Ratio threshold of 3.50 to 1.00 for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2019 and thereafter.

As of September 30, 2015, both Verso Holdings and NewPage were in compliance with the covenants in our respective debt agreements. However, as noted above, as of September 30, 2015, a decrease of \$2 million of Adjusted EBITDA would have resulted in non-compliance with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, and it is reasonably possible that NewPage Corp will not comply with the quarterly Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant at the end of upcoming quarters. In the event that NewPage Corp is unable to meet its Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in a future quarter, Verso Holdings has the ability to make capital contributions for the amount of the shortfall without triggering an event of default. However, Verso Holdings may not have sufficient liquidity to fund any such capital contribution. A breach of the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, if a sufficient capital contribution could not be made to cure the breach, would represent an event of default under the NewPage Term Loan Facility and would trigger cross-default provisions of our other credit facilities. In addition, our lenders would have the right to make any loans then outstanding immediately due and payable, which would trigger cross-default provisions under our indentures, and would no longer be obligated to extend further credit to us.

Critical Accounting Policies

Our accounting policies are fundamental to understanding management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations. Our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in conformity with GAAP and follow general practices within the industry in which we operate. The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make certain judgments and assumptions in determining accounting estimates. Accounting estimates are considered critical if the estimate requires management to make assumptions about matters that were highly uncertain at the time the accounting estimate was made, and different estimates reasonably could have been used in the current period, or changes in the accounting estimate are reasonably likely to occur from period to period, that would have a material impact on the presentation of our financial condition, changes in financial condition or results of operations.

Management believes the following critical accounting policies are both important to the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations and require subjective or complex judgments. These judgments about critical accounting estimates are based on information available to us as of the date of the financial statements.

Accounting standards whose application may have a significant effect on the reported results of operations and financial position, and that can require judgments by management that affect their application, include the following: Financial Accounting Standards Board, Accounting Standards Codification, or "ASC," Topic 450, Contingencies, ASC Topic 360, Property, Plant, and Equipment, ASC Topic 350, Intangibles – Goodwill and Other, ASC Topic 715, Compensation – Retirement Benefits, and ASC Topic 805, Business Combinations.

Impairment of long-lived assets. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment upon the occurrence of events or changes in circumstances that indicate that the carrying value of the assets may not be recoverable, as measured by comparing their net book value to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows generated by their use.

Management believes that the accounting estimates associated with determining fair value as part of an impairment analysis are critical accounting estimates because estimates and assumptions are made about our future performance and cash flows. The estimated fair value is generally determined on the basis of discounted future cash flows. We also consider a market-based approach and a combination of both. While management uses the best information

available to estimate future performance and cash flows, future adjustments to management's projections may be necessary if economic conditions differ substantially from the assumptions used in making the estimates.

Pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations. We offer various pension and other post-employment and retirement benefits to certain employees. The calculation of the obligations and related expenses under these plans requires the use of actuarial valuation methods and assumptions, including the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, discount rates, increases in future medical cost, and mortality rates. Actuarial valuations and assumptions used in the determination of future values of plan assets and liabilities are subject to management judgment and may differ significantly if different assumptions are used. In accordance with GAAP, actual results that differ from assumptions are accumulated and amortized over future periods and, therefore, affect expense in future periods. Unrecognized prior service cost and actuarial gains and losses in the defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans subject to amortization are amortized over the average remaining service of the participants.

Contingent liabilities. A liability is contingent if the outcome or amount is not presently known, but may become known in the future as a result of the occurrence of some uncertain future event. We estimate our contingent liabilities based on management's estimates about the probability of outcomes and their ability to estimate the range of exposure. Accounting standards require that a liability be recorded if management determines that it is probable that a loss has occurred and the loss can be reasonably estimated. In addition, it must be probable that the loss will be confirmed by some future event. As part of the estimation process, management is required to make assumptions about matters that are by their nature highly uncertain.

The assessment of contingent liabilities, including legal contingencies, asset retirement obligations and environmental costs and obligations, involves the use of critical estimates, assumptions, and judgments. Management's estimates are based on their belief that future events will validate the current assumptions regarding the ultimate outcome of these exposures. However, there can be no assurance that future events will not differ from management's assessments.

NewPage Acquisition. We have accounted for the NewPage Acquisition in accordance with GAAP by recognizing and measuring the total consideration transferred to and the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at their estimated fair values. The preliminary allocation of the purchase price to the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the NewPage acquisition includes necessary adjustments to reflect the estimated fair values of NewPage's assets and liabilities at the completion of the NewPage acquisition. The valuations reflected herein consist of physical appraisals, discounted cash flow analyses, or other appropriate valuation techniques to determine the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Although management believes that the preliminary purchase price allocation herein is reasonable, there can be no assurance that finalization of such purchase price allocation will not result in material changes from the preliminary purchase price allocation.

Recent Accounting Developments

ASC Topic 205, Presentation of Financial Statements and ASC Topic 360, Property, Plant, and Equipment. In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2014-08, Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity, which changes the criteria for determining which disposals can be presented as discontinued operations and modifies the related disclosure requirements. This guidance should be applied prospectively to new disposals and new classifications of disposal groups as held for sale after the effective date, which is fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those annual periods. The adoption of this amendment in the first quarter of 2015 did not have a material impact on the presentation of our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. This guidance will replace all current GAAP guidance on this topic and eliminate all industry-specific guidance. The new revenue recognition standard provides a unified model to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle is that a company should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration for which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This guidance was effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and can be applied either retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption; however, in August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Deferral of the Effective Date, which defers the effective date by one year making the guidance effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. We are evaluating the impact of adopting this new accounting standard on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 205, Presentation of Financial Statements-Going Concern. In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. This ASU provides guidance on determining when and how to disclose going concern uncertainties in the financial statements. This guidance is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016, and interim periods thereafter. We are

evaluating the disclosure impact of adopting this new accounting standard on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 810, Consolidation. In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, Consolidation, which amends the requirements for consolidation and significantly changes the consolidation analysis required. This ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those years. We are evaluating the provisions of this guidance.

ASC Topic 835, Interest. In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs. This ASU changes the presentation of debt issuance costs in financial statements. Under the ASU, an entity presents such costs in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the related debt liability rather than as an asset. Amortization of the costs will continue to be reported as interest expense. This guidance is effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2015 with early adoption permitted. As of September 30, 2015, \$19 million of net debt issuance costs were included in Intangibles and other assets, net in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. Under the new guidance, the net debt issuance costs would reduce both our total other noncurrent assets and long-term debt. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-15, Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements. This ASU clarifies the treatment of debt issuance costs from line-of-credit arrangements after the adoption of ASU 2015-03. It states that the SEC staff would not object to an entity deferring and presenting debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. We do not expect the adoption of ASU 2015-15 to have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 330, Inventory. In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory. This ASU provides that entities should measure inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal and transportation. Subsequent measurement is unchanged for inventory measured using LIFO or the retail inventory method. This ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those years. Early adoption is permitted. We are evaluating the provisions of this guidance.

ASC Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-13, Application of the Normal Purchases and Normal Sales Scope Exception to Certain Electricity Contracts within Nodal Energy Markets. This ASU allows the application of the normal purchases and normal sales scope exception to energy purchases or sales in nodal energy markets. According to ASU 2015-13, the use of locational marginal pricing by an independent system operator to determine a transmission charge or credit in a nodal energy market would not constitute a net settlement of a forward contract for the purchase or sale of electricity, even when legal title to the electricity is conveyed to the independent system operator during transmission. The guidance is effective upon issuance and must be applied prospectively. The adoption of ASU 2015-13 did not have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ASC Topic 805, Business Combinations. In September 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-16, Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments. This guidance eliminates the requirement for an acquirer in a business combination to account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively. The acquirer must record, in the same period's financial statements, the effect on earnings of changes in depreciation, amortization, or other income effects, if any, as a result of the change to the provisional amounts, calculated as if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. This guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and early adoption is permitted. We do not expect the adoption of this new standard will have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Other new accounting pronouncements issued but not effective until after September 30, 2015, are not expected to have a significant effect on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to market risk from fluctuations in our paper prices, interest rates, energy prices, and commodity prices for our inputs.

Paper Prices

Our sales, which we report net of rebates, allowances and discounts, are a function of the number of tons of paper that we sell and the price at which we sell our paper. The coated paper industry is cyclical, which results in changes in both volume and price. Paper prices historically have been a function of macroeconomic factors that influence supply and demand. Price has historically been substantially more variable than volume and can change significantly over relatively short time periods.

We are primarily focused on serving two end-user segments: catalogs and magazines. Coated paper demand is primarily driven by advertising and print media usage. Advertising spending and magazine and catalog circulation tend to correlate with gross domestic product in the United States, as they rise with a strong economy and contract with a weak economy.

Many of our customers provide us with forecasts of their paper needs, which allows us to plan our production runs in advance, optimizing production over our integrated mill system and thereby reducing costs and increasing overall efficiency. Generally, our sales agreements do not extend beyond the calendar year, and they typically provide for quarterly price adjustments based on market price movements.

We reach our end-users through several distribution channels, including commercial printers, paper merchants, brokers, converters, and direct sales to end-users. We sell and market our products to approximately 300 customers. During the first nine months of the year, Veritiv Corporation accounted for approximately 20% of our net sales.

Interest Rates

We have issued fixed- and floating-rate debt in order to manage our variability to cash flows from interest rates. Borrowings under the revolving credit facilities and term loan accrue interest at variable rates. The NewPage Term Loan Facility has a LIBOR floor of 1.25%. Assuming the NewPage Term Loan Facility interest rate is at or above the LIBOR floor, a 100 basis point increase in quoted interest rates on our outstanding floating-rate debt as of September 30, 2015, would increase annual interest expense by \$11 million. While we may enter into agreements limiting our exposure to higher interest rates, any such agreements may not offer complete protection from this risk.

Derivatives

In the normal course of business, we utilize derivatives contracts as part of our risk management strategy to manage our exposure to market fluctuations in energy prices and interest rates. These instruments are subject to credit and market risks in excess of the amount recorded on the balance sheet in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Controls and monitoring procedures for these instruments have been established and are routinely reevaluated. We have an Energy Risk Management Policy which was adopted by our Board of Directors and is monitored by an Energy Risk Management Committee composed of our senior management. In addition, we have an Interest Rate Risk Committee which was formed to monitor our Interest Rate Risk Management Policy. Credit risk represents the potential loss that may occur because a party to a transaction fails to perform according to the terms of the contract. The measure of credit exposure is the replacement cost of contracts with a positive fair value. We manage credit risk by entering into financial instrument transactions only through approved counterparties. Market

risk represents the potential loss due to the decrease in the value of a financial instrument caused primarily by changes in commodity prices or interest rates. We manage market risk by establishing and monitoring limits on the types and degree of risk that may be undertaken.

We do not hedge the entire exposure of our operations from commodity price volatility for a variety of reasons. To the extent that we do not hedge against commodity price volatility, our results of operations may be affected either favorably or unfavorably by a shift in the future price curve. As of September 30, 2015, we had liabilities for net unrealized losses of \$3 million on open commodity contracts with maturities of one to twelve months. These derivative instruments involve the exchange of net cash settlements, based on changes in the price of the underlying commodity index compared to the fixed price offering, at specified intervals without the exchange of any underlying principal. A 10% decrease in commodity prices would have a negative impact of approximately \$1 million on the fair value of such instruments. This quantification of exposure to market risk does not take into account the offsetting impact of changes in prices on anticipated future energy purchases.

Commodity Prices

We are subject to changes in our cost of sales caused by movements in underlying commodity prices. The principal components of our cost of sales are chemicals, wood, energy, labor, maintenance, and depreciation, amortization, and depletion. Costs for commodities, including chemicals, wood, and energy, are the most variable component of our cost of sales because their prices can fluctuate substantially, sometimes within a relatively short period of time. In addition, our aggregate commodity purchases fluctuate based on the volume of paper that we produce.

Chemicals. Chemicals utilized in the manufacturing of coated papers include latex, clay, starch, calcium carbonate, caustic soda, sodium chlorate, and titanium dioxide. We purchase these chemicals from a variety of suppliers and are not dependent on any single supplier to satisfy our chemical needs. We expect imbalances in supply and demand to periodically create volatility in prices for certain chemicals.

Wood. Our costs to purchase wood are affected directly by market costs of wood in our regional markets and indirectly by the effect of higher fuel costs on logging and transportation of timber to our facilities. While we have in place fiber supply agreements that ensure a substantial portion of our wood requirements, purchases under these agreements are typically at market rates.

Energy. We produce approximately 55% of our energy needs for our paper mills from sources such as waste wood, waste water, hydroelectric facilities, liquid biomass from our pulping process, and internal energy cogeneration facilities. Our external energy purchases vary across each of our mills and include fuel oil, natural gas, coal and electricity. Our overall energy expenditures are mitigated by our internal energy production capacity and ability to switch between certain energy sources. We also utilize derivative contracts as part of our risk management strategy to manage our exposure to market fluctuations in energy prices.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in reports that we file and submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any disclosure controls and procedures, including the possibility of human error or the circumvention or overriding of the controls and procedures, and even effective disclosure controls and procedures can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives.

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of Verso's disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2015. Based upon this evaluation, and subject to the foregoing, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that Verso's disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of September 30, 2015.

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of Verso Holdings' disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2015. Based upon this evaluation, and subject to the foregoing, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial

Officer concluded that Verso Holdings' disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of September 30, 2015.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in Verso's internal control over financial reporting during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2015, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting, except as described in the following paragraph.

On January 7, 2015, we completed the acquisition of NewPage. We are currently integrating the operations, processes, people, technology, and policies of the combined company. Management will continue to evaluate our internal control over financial reporting as we execute our integration activities.

There were no changes in Verso Holdings' internal control over financial reporting during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2015, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting, except as described in the following paragraph.

On January 7, 2015, we completed the acquisition of NewPage. We are currently integrating the operations, processes, people, technology, and policies of the combined company. Management will continue to evaluate our internal control over financial reporting as we execute our integration activities.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved from time to time in legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business. We do not believe that any liability that may result from these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the information contained in this report, you should carefully consider the risk factors disclosed in our Form 10-K, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. Except as set forth below or as described elsewhere in this report, there have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Form 10-K.

Based on our liquidity position as of September 30, 2015, and our projections of operating results and cash flows for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, we believe that there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months.

Based on our liquidity position as of September 30, 2015, and our projections of operating results and cash flows for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, we anticipate that we will not have sufficient resources to fund our most significant future cash obligations and, therefore, we believe that there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months. As a result of our cash flow and liquidity concerns, we have begun evaluating potential alternatives for the restructuring of our balance sheet. Our potential restructuring could occur in a consensual, out-of-court manner or through a court-supervised Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding. However, there can be no assurance that we will be able to restructure on terms acceptable to us or at all. Moreover, actions may be taken by counterparties to certain of our contractual relationships in an attempt to reduce their financial exposure to us, which actions would increase the risk of our not being able to continue as a going concern.

We may not be able to maintain compliance with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in the NewPage Term Loan Facility which, if not cured, could allow our creditors to accelerate our obligations under that debt agreement and could trigger cross-default provisions of our other credit facilities.

Based on our recent operating performance, our ability to comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in the NewPage Term Loan Facility over the next twelve months is vulnerable to declines in our operating performance compared to our projections. As of September 30, 2015, a decrease of \$2 million of Adjusted EBITDA would have resulted in noncompliance with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, and it is reasonably possible that NewPage Corp will not comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant at the end of upcoming quarters. In the event that NewPage Corp is unable to comply with the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant in a future quarter, Verso Holdings has the option to make capital contributions for the amount of the shortfall without triggering an event of default. However, Verso Holdings may not have sufficient liquidity to fund any such capital contribution. A breach of the Total Net Leverage Ratio covenant, if a sufficient capital contribution could not be made to cure the breach, would represent an event of default under the NewPage Term Loan Facility and would trigger cross-default provisions of our other credit facilities. In addition, our lenders would have the right to make any loans then outstanding immediately due and payable, which would trigger cross-default provisions under our indentures, and would no longer be obligated to extend further credit to us.

Our operations require substantial ongoing capital expenditures, and we may not have adequate capital resources to fund all of our required capital expenditures.

Our business is capital intensive, and we incur capital expenditures on an ongoing basis to maintain our equipment, comply with environmental and other laws, and enhance the efficiency of our operations. Our total capital expenditures were \$42 million in 2014. As noted above, based on our liquidity position as of September 30, 2015, and our projections of operating results and cash flows for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, we believe that there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months. We may need to seek

additional sources of liquidity, which may include the potential sale of certain of our mills and related facilities, in order to fund our capital expenditures. However, if we require additional funds for our capital expenditures, we may not be able to obtain them on favorable terms or at all. If we cannot maintain or upgrade our facilities and equipment as we require or as necessary to ensure legal compliance, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We will require a significant amount of cash to service our indebtedness and make planned capital expenditures. Our ability to generate cash or refinance our indebtedness depends on many factors beyond our control, including general economic conditions.

Our ability to make payments on and to refinance our indebtedness and to fund planned capital expenditures and research and development efforts will depend on our ability to generate cash flows in the future and our ability to borrow under Verso Holdings' ABL Facility and Cash Flow Facility and the NewPage ABL Facility, to the extent of available borrowings. This borrowing ability, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. If adverse regional and national economic conditions persist, worsen or fail to improve significantly, we could experience decreased revenues from our operations attributable to decreases in wholesale and consumer spending levels and could fail to generate sufficient cash to fund our liquidity needs or fail to satisfy the restrictive covenants and borrowing limitations that we are subject to under our indebtedness.

As noted above, based on our current liquidity position as of September 30, 2015, and our projections of operating results and cash flows for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, we believe that there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months. We cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flows from operations or that future borrowings will be available to us under Verso Holdings' ABL Facility and Cash Flow Facility and the NewPage ABL Facility or otherwise in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our indebtedness or to fund our other cash obligations.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Not applicable.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

Not applicable.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are included with this report:

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 10.1 | Employment offer letter agreement dated September 8, 2015, between Verso Corporation and Allen J. Campbell (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities Exchange Commission on September 8, 2015). |
| 31.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.3 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.4 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 32.3 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 32.4 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema. |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase. |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase. |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase. |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase. |

SIGNATURES

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

Date: November 16, 2015

VERSO CORPORATION

By: /s/ David J. Paterson
David J. Paterson
President and Chief Executive Officer
By: /s/ Allen J. Campbell
Allen J. Campbell
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
By: /s/ Robert M. Wilhelm
Robert M. Wilhelm
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

Date: November 16, 2015

VERSO PAPER HOLDINGS LLC

By: /s/ David J. Paterson
David J. Paterson
President and Chief Executive Officer
By: /s/ Allen J. Campbell
Allen J. Campbell
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
By: /s/ Robert M. Wilhelm
Robert M. Wilhelm
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are included with this report:

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 10.1 | Employment offer letter agreement dated September 8, 2015, between Verso Corporation and Allen J. Campbell (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities Exchange Commission on September 8, 2015). |
| 31.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.3 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.4 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 32.3 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 32.4 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Paper Holdings LLC pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema. |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase. |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase. |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase. |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase. |