

WESTLAKE CHEMICAL CORP

Form 10-K

February 25, 2015

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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2014

or

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

For the Transition Period from to

Commission File No. 001-32260

Westlake Chemical Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

2801 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 600

Houston, Texas 77056

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(713) 960-9111

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

76-0346924

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

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

Title of each class

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

Name of each exchange on which registered

New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant's voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 30, 2014, the end of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, based on a closing price on June 30, 2014 of \$83.76 on the New York Stock Exchange was approximately \$3.4 billion.

There were 132,857,937 shares (on a post-split basis) of the registrant's common stock outstanding as of February 18, 2015.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

Certain information required by Part II and Part III of this Form 10-K is incorporated by reference from the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A with respect to the registrant's 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 15, 2015.

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INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA

Industry and market data used throughout this Form 10-K were obtained through internal company research, surveys and studies conducted by unrelated third parties and publicly available industry and general publications, including information from IHS Chemical and Chemical Data, Inc. We have not independently verified market and industry data from external sources. While we believe internal company estimates are reliable and market definitions are appropriate, neither such estimates nor these definitions have been verified by any independent sources.

PRODUCTION CAPACITY

Unless we state otherwise, annual production capacity estimates used throughout this Form 10-K represent rated capacity of the facilities at December 31, 2014. We calculated rated capacity by estimating the number of days in a typical year that a production unit of a plant is expected to operate, after allowing for downtime for regular maintenance, and multiplying that number by an amount equal to the unit's optimal daily output based on the design feedstock mix. Because the rated capacity of a production unit is an estimated amount, actual production volumes may be more or less than the rated capacity.

NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

The body of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States is commonly referred to as "GAAP." For this purpose, a non-GAAP financial measure is generally defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as one that purports to measure historical or future financial performance, financial position or cash flows, but excludes or includes amounts that would not be so adjusted in the most comparable GAAP measures. In this report, we disclose so-called non-GAAP financial measures, primarily earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA"). EBITDA is calculated as net income before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization. The non-GAAP financial measures described in this Form 10-K are not substitutes for the GAAP measures of earnings and cash flow.

EBITDA is included in this Form 10-K because our management considers it an important supplemental measure of our performance and believes that it is frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in the evaluation of companies in our industry, some of which present EBITDA when reporting their results. We regularly evaluate our performance as compared to other companies in our industry that have different financing and capital structures and/or tax rates by using EBITDA. In addition, we utilize EBITDA in evaluating acquisition targets. Management also believes that EBITDA is a useful tool for measuring our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures and working capital requirements, and EBITDA is commonly used by us and our investors to measure our ability to service indebtedness. EBITDA is not a substitute for the GAAP measures of earnings or of cash flow and is not necessarily a measure of our ability to fund our cash needs. In addition, it should be noted that companies calculate EBITDA differently and, therefore, EBITDA as presented for us may not be comparable to EBITDA reported by other companies. EBITDA has material limitations as a performance measure because it excludes interest expense, depreciation and amortization, and income taxes.

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PART I

Item 1. Business

General

We are a vertically integrated global manufacturer and marketer of basic chemicals, vinyls, polymers and fabricated building products. Our products include some of the most widely used chemicals in the world, which are fundamental to many diverse consumer and industrial markets, including flexible and rigid packaging, automotive products, coatings, residential and commercial construction as well as other durable and non-durable goods. We operate in two principal operating segments, Olefins and Vinyls. We are highly integrated along our olefins product chain with significant downstream integration into polyethylene and styrene monomer. We are also an integrated global producer of vinyls with substantial downstream integration into polyvinyl chloride ("PVC") building products.

We began operations in 1986 after our first polyethylene plant, an Olefins segment business, near Lake Charles, Louisiana was acquired from Occidental Petroleum Corporation. We began our vinyls operations in 1990 with the acquisition of a vinyl chloride monomer ("VCM") plant in Calvert City, Kentucky from the Goodrich Corporation. In 1992, we commenced our Vinyls segment building products operations after acquiring three PVC pipe plants. Since 1986, we have grown rapidly into an integrated global producer of petrochemicals, vinyls, polymers and building products. We achieved this by acquiring existing plants or constructing new plants and completing numerous capacity or production line expansions. We regularly consider acquisitions and other internal and external growth opportunities that would be consistent with or complementary to our overall business strategy.

We benefit from highly integrated production facilities that allow us to process raw materials into higher value-added chemicals and building products. As of February 18, 2015, we had 19.3 billion pounds per year of aggregate production capacity at 21 manufacturing sites in North America and Europe. We also have a 59% interest in a joint venture in China that operates a vinyls facility. In February 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire an additional 35.7% interest in this joint venture. For more information, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Recent Developments."

Formation and Initial Public Offering of a Master Limited Partnership

In March 2014, we formed Westlake Chemical Partners LP ("Westlake Partners") to operate, acquire and develop ethylene production facilities and related assets. On August 4, 2014, Westlake Partners completed an initial public offering of 12,937,500 common units (the "Westlake Partners IPO"). Westlake Partners' assets consist of a 10.6% limited partner interest in Westlake Chemical OpCo LP ("OpCo"), as well as the general partner interest in OpCo. Prior to the Westlake Partners IPO, OpCo's assets were wholly owned by us. OpCo's assets include (1) two ethylene production facilities at our Lake Charles site; (2) one ethylene production facility at our Calvert City site; and (3) a 200-mile common carrier ethylene pipeline that runs from Mont Belvieu, Texas to the Longview, Texas site, which includes our Longview polyethylene production facility. We retained an 89.4% limited partner interest in OpCo, a 52.2% limited partner interest in Westlake Partners (common and subordinated units), a general partner interest in Westlake Partners and incentive distribution rights. The operations of Westlake Partners are consolidated in our financial statements.

We are party to certain agreements with Westlake Partners and OpCo whereby, among other things, OpCo sells us 95% of the ethylene it produces on a cost-plus basis that is expected to generate a fixed margin per pound of \$0.10. We use this ethylene in the production processes of both our Olefins and Vinyls segments. For more information, see "—Olefins Business" and "—Vinyls Business" below.

Acquisition of Vinnolit Holdings GmbH

On July 31, 2014, we acquired German-based Vinnolit Holdings GmbH and its subsidiary companies ("Vinnolit"). Vinnolit is headquartered in Ismaning, Germany and is an integrated global leader in specialty PVC resins, VCM and caustic soda, with manufacturing sites in Germany and the United Kingdom.

Olefins Business

Products

Olefins are the basic building blocks used to create a wide variety of petrochemical products. We manufacture ethylene (through OpCo), polyethylene, styrene and associated co-products at our manufacturing facility in Lake

Charles and polyethylene at our Longview facility. We have two ethylene plants, which are owned by OpCo, two polyethylene plants and one styrene monomer plant at our Lake Charles site. We have three polyethylene plants and a specialty polyethylene wax plant

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at our Longview site. The following table illustrates our production capacities at February 18, 2015 by principal product and the primary end uses of these materials:

Product	Annual Capacity (Millions of pounds)	End Uses
Ethylene ⁽¹⁾	2,740	Polyethylene, ethylene dichloride ("EDC"), styrene, ethylene oxide/ethylene glycol High clarity packaging, shrink films, laundry and dry cleaning bags, ice bags, frozen foods packaging,
Low-Density Polyethylene ("LDPE")	1,500	bakery bags, coated paper board, cup stock, paper folding cartons, lids, closures and general purpose molding
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene ("LLDPE")	1,070	Heavy-duty films and bags, general purpose liners
Styrene	570	Consumer disposables, packaging material, appliances, paints and coatings, resins and building materials

(1) Production capacity owned by OpCo.

Ethylene. Ethylene is the world's most widely used petrochemical in terms of volume. It is the key building block used to produce a large number of higher value-added chemicals including polyethylene, EDC, VCM and styrene. OpCo has the capacity to produce 2.7 billion pounds of ethylene per year at our Lake Charles site, and we have the capability to consume all of OpCo's production that we purchase at Lake Charles to produce polyethylene and styrene monomer in our Olefins business and to produce VCM and EDC in our Vinyls business. OpCo also produces ethylene for our Vinyls segment at our Calvert City site, and all of the ethylene we purchase from OpCo at Calvert City is used internally in the production of VCM. For OpCo's annual ethylene production that is purchased by us for our Vinyls business, see "Business—Vinyls Business." In addition, we (through OpCo) produce ethylene co-products including chemical grade propylene, crude butadiene, pyrolysis gasoline and hydrogen. We (through OpCo) sell our entire output of these co-products to external customers. Prior to the Westlake Partners IPO, we completed the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site and its conversion to 100% ethane feedstock capability. OpCo currently plans to upgrade and expand the capacity of its Petro 1 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site during the first half of 2016.

Polyethylene. Polyethylene, the world's most widely consumed polymer, is used in the manufacture of a wide variety of film, coatings and molded product applications primarily used in packaging. Polyethylene is generally classified as either LDPE, LLDPE or high-density polyethylene ("HDPE"). The density correlates to the relative stiffness of the end-use products. The difference between LDPE and LLDPE is molecular, and products produced from LLDPE, in general, have higher strength properties than products produced from LDPE. LDPE exhibits better clarity and other physical properties and is used in end products such as bread bags, dry cleaning bags, food wraps, milk carton coatings and snack food packaging. LLDPE is used for higher film strength applications such as stretch film and heavy duty sacks. HDPE is used to manufacture products such as grocery, merchandise and trash bags, rigid plastic containers, plastic closures and pipe.

We are the largest producer of LDPE in the Americas based on capacity and, in 2014, our annual capacity of 1.5 billion pounds was available in numerous formulations to meet the needs of our diverse customer base. We also have the capacity to produce 1.1 billion pounds of LLDPE per year in various formulations. We produce LDPE and LLDPE at both Lake Charles and Longview. Our Lake Charles and Longview facilities also have the capability to produce HDPE. We sell polyethylene to external customers as a final product in pellet form.

Styrene. Styrene is used to produce derivatives such as polystyrene, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, unsaturated polyester and synthetic rubber. These derivatives are used in a number of applications including consumer disposables, food packaging, housewares, paints and coatings, building materials, tires and toys. We produce styrene

at our Lake Charles plant, where we have the capacity to produce 570 million pounds of styrene per year, all of which is sold to external customers.

Feedstocks

We are highly integrated along our olefins product chain. We, through OpCo, produce most of the ethylene required to produce our polyethylene, VCM and styrene. Ethylene can be produced from either petroleum liquid feedstocks, such as naphtha, condensates and gas oils, or from natural gas liquid feedstocks, such as ethane, propane and butane. Both of OpCo's Lake Charles ethylene plants use ethane as the primary feedstock. Pursuant to a feedstock supply agreement between us and OpCo, OpCo receives ethane feedstock at our Lake Charles site through several pipelines from a variety of suppliers in Texas and Louisiana. We own a 50% interest in a 104-mile natural gas liquids pipeline from Mont Belvieu to our Lake Charles site. OpCo owns a 200-mile ethylene pipeline that runs from Mont Belvieu to our Longview site.

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In addition to ethylene supplied by OpCo, we also acquire ethylene from third parties in order to supply a portion of our ethylene requirements. We acquire butene and hexene to manufacture polyethylene and benzene to manufacture styrene. We receive butene and hexene at the Lake Charles site and hexene at the Longview site via rail car from several suppliers. We receive benzene via barges, ships and pipeline pursuant to short-term arrangements. We purchase butene and hexene pursuant to multi-year contracts, some of which are renewable for an additional term subject to either party to the contract notifying the other party that it does not wish to renew the contract. We purchase electricity for our Lake Charles facility under long-term industrial contracts.

Marketing, Sales and Distribution

We have an internal sales force that sells our products directly to our customers. Our polyethylene customers are some of the nation's largest producers of film and flexible packaging.

We and OpCo sell ethylene and ethylene co-products to external customers. OpCo's primary ethylene co-products are chemical grade propylene, crude butadiene, pyrolysis gasoline and hydrogen. Our and OpCo's sales are made under spot and long-term agreements.

We typically ship ethylene (through OpCo) and propylene via pipeline systems that connect OpCo's ethylene plants to numerous external customers. We also have storage agreements and exchange agreements that allow us and OpCo access to customers who are not directly connected to the pipeline system. OpCo ships crude butadiene and pyrolysis gasoline by rail or truck. Additionally, we transport our polyethylene and styrene by rail or truck. Further, styrene can be transported by barge or ship.

No single customer accounted for 10% or more of net sales for the Olefins segment in 2014.

Competition

The markets in which our Olefins business operates are highly competitive. We compete on the basis of customer service, product deliverability, quality, consistency, performance and price. Our competitors in the ethylene, polyethylene and styrene markets are typically some of the world's largest chemical companies, including Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, The Dow Chemical Company, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, INEOS Group Limited, LyondellBasell Industries, N.V. and NOVA Chemicals Corporation.

Vinyls Business

Products

Principal products in our integrated Vinyls segment include PVC, VCM, EDC, chlorine, caustic soda and, through OpCo, ethylene. We also manufacture and sell building products fabricated from PVC, including pipe, fittings, profiles and foundation building products, fence and deck, and window and door components. We manage our integrated Vinyls production chain, from the basic chemicals to finished building products, to optimize product margins and capacity utilization. Our primary North American chemical manufacturing facilities are located in our Calvert City and Geismar, Louisiana sites. Our Calvert City site includes an ethylene plant, which is owned by OpCo, a chlor-alkali plant, a VCM plant, a PVC plant and a large diameter PVC pipe plant. Our Geismar site includes a chlor-alkali plant, an EDC plant, a VCM plant and a PVC plant.

As of February 18, 2015, we owned 12 building product facilities and a 59% interest in a joint venture in China that produces PVC resin, building products and PVC film and sheet. In February 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire an additional 35.7% interest in this joint venture. For more information, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Recent Developments." The following table illustrates our production capacities at February 18, 2015 by principal product and the end uses of these products:

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Product ⁽¹⁾	Annual Capacity ⁽²⁾ (Millions of pounds)	End Uses
Specialty PVC	1,100	Automotive sealants, cable sheathing, medical applications and other consumer applications Construction materials including pipe, siding, profiles for
Commodity PVC	2,520	windows and doors, film and sheet for packaging and other consumer applications
VCM	3,320	PVC
Chlorine	2,200	VCM, organic/inorganic chemicals, bleach
Caustic Soda	2,420	Pulp and paper, organic/inorganic chemicals, neutralization, alumina
Ethylene ⁽³⁾	630	VCM
Building Products	1,220	Pipe: water and sewer, plumbing, irrigation, conduit; fittings; profiles and foundation building products; window and door components; fence and deck components

(1) EDC, a VCM intermediate product, is not included in the table.

Annual capacity excludes total capacity of 145 million pounds of PVC film and sheet, 300 million pounds of PVC (2) resin and 33 million pounds of building products from the joint venture in China (in which we have a 59% interest).

(3) Production capacity owned by OpCo.

PVC. PVC, the world's third most widely used plastic, is an attractive alternative to traditional materials such as glass, metal, wood, concrete and other plastic materials because of its versatility, durability and cost-competitiveness. PVC is produced from VCM, which is, in turn, made from chlorine and ethylene. PVC compounds are made by combining PVC resin with various additives in order to make either rigid and impact-resistant or soft and flexible compounds. The various compounds are then fabricated into end-products through extrusion, calendaring, injection-molding or blow-molding. Flexible PVC compounds are used for wire and cable insulation, medical films and packaging, flooring, wall coverings, automotive interior and exterior trims and packaging. Rigid extrusion PVC compounds are commonly used in window frames, vertical blinds and construction products, including pipe and siding.

Injection-molding PVC compounds are used in specialty products such as computer housings and keyboards, appliance parts and bottles. We have the capacity to produce 1.3 billion pounds and 600 million pounds of commodity PVC per year at our Calvert City facility and Geismar facility, respectively. In addition, we have the capacity to produce 1.1 billion pounds of specialty PVC and 620 million pounds of commodity PVC per year at our European facilities. We have the capacity to use a majority of our North American-produced PVC internally in the production of our building products. The remainder of our PVC, including the PVC produced at our European facilities, is sold to downstream fabricators and the international markets. In 2014, we completed the expansion of the existing PVC plant in Calvert City, which allowed us to take advantage of OpCo's increase in ethylene production at our Calvert City site and to provide additional PVC resin to meet the growing demands of our global customers. The expansion of the Calvert City PVC plant increased PVC resin capacity by approximately 200 million pounds annually.

VCM. VCM is used to produce PVC, solvents and PVC-related products. We use ethylene and chlorine to produce VCM. We have the capacity to produce 1.3 billion pounds of VCM per year at our Calvert City facility, 550 million pounds per year at our Geismar facility and 1.5 billion pounds per year at our European facilities. Substantially all of our VCM is used internally in our PVC operations.

Chlorine and Caustic Soda. We combine salt and electricity to produce chlorine and caustic soda, commonly referred to as chlor-alkali, at our Calvert City, Geismar, Gendorf, Germany and Knapsack, Germany facilities. We use our chlorine production in our VCM and EDC plants. We currently have the capacity to supply all of our chlorine

requirements internally. Our caustic soda is sold to external customers who use it for, among other things, the production of pulp and paper, organic and inorganic chemicals and alumina.

Ethylene. We use the ethylene we purchase that is produced by OpCo at Calvert City to produce VCM. OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant has the capacity to produce approximately 40% of the ethylene required for our total VCM production. We obtain the remainder of the ethylene we need for our Vinyls business from OpCo's Lake Charles plant and from third party purchases. In April 2014, we completed a feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant. With the completion of this project, OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant now utilizes relatively low-cost ethane feedstock and increased its capacity by approximately 180 million pounds annually. This expansion and feedstock conversion project

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enables us, through OpCo, to enhance our vinyl chain integration and leverage relatively low-cost ethane being developed in the Marcellus shale area.

Building Products. Products made from PVC are used in construction materials ranging from water and sewer systems to home and commercial applications for fence, deck, window and door systems. We manufacture and market water, sewer, irrigation and conduit pipe products under the "North American Pipe" brand and specialty pipe, fittings, profiles and foundation building products under the "North American Specialty Products" brand. We also manufacture and market PVC fence, decking, windows and door profiles under the "Westech Building Products" brand. All of our building products are sold to external customers. Predominantly all of the PVC we require for our building products is produced internally. We purchase the remainder of our PVC requirements at market prices. The combined capacity of our 12 building products plants is 1.2 billion pounds per year.

China Joint Venture. We own a 59% interest in Suzhou Huasu Plastics Co., Ltd., a joint venture based near Shanghai, China. Our joint venture partners are a local Chinese chemical company and a subsidiary of INEOS. In 1995, this joint venture constructed and began operating a PVC film plant that has a current annual capacity of 145 million pounds of PVC film. In 1999, the joint venture constructed and began operating a PVC resin plant that has an annual capacity of 300 million pounds of PVC resin. In 2008, the joint venture began producing building products with an annual capacity of 33 million pounds of product. In February 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire an additional 35.7% interest in this joint venture. For more information, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Recent Developments."

Feedstocks

We are highly integrated along our vinyls production chain. We produce most of the North American ethylene required by our Calvert City and Geismar facilities (through OpCo), and most of the VCM and all of the chlorine used in our Vinyls business. With the 2014 completion of the feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project, ethylene produced at OpCo's Calvert City facility currently utilizes relatively low-cost ethane feedstock. We purchase the ethylene required for our European facilities from a number of sources under various contracts. We have access to, and partially own, an ethylene pipeline in Germany. We purchase the salt required for our chlor-alkali plants pursuant to long-term contracts. We purchase electricity for our North American and European facilities under long-term industrial contracts.

Our Calvert City and Geismar facilities supply predominantly all of the PVC required for our building products plants. We may also purchase PVC at market prices, if needed. The remaining feedstocks for building products include pigments, fillers and stabilizers, which we purchase under short-term contracts based on prevailing market prices.

Marketing, Sales and Distribution

We have the capacity to use all of our chlorine internally to produce VCM and EDC, most of which, in turn, is used to produce PVC. We sell substantially all of our caustic soda production to external customers. We have the capacity to use a majority of our North American-produced PVC internally in the production of our building products. The remainder of our PVC, including the PVC produced at our European facilities, is sold to downstream fabricators and the international markets.

We are the second largest manufacturer of PVC pipe by capacity in the United States. We sell a majority of our PVC pipe through a combination of manufacturer's representatives and our internal sales force. We use an internal sales force to market and sell our fence, window and door profiles. We are also one of the largest manufacturers of PVC fence components by capacity in the United States.

No single customer accounted for 10% or more of net sales for the Vinyls segment in 2014.

Competition

The markets in which our Vinyls business operates are highly competitive. Competition in the vinyls market is based on product availability, product performance, customer service and price. We compete in the vinyls market with other producers including Formosa Plastics Corporation, Axiall Corporation, Oxy Chem, LP, Shintech, Inc., Mexichem, S.A.B. de C.V., INEOS Group Limited, Kem One SAS and Solvay S.A.

Competition in the building products market is based on on-time delivery, product quality, customer service, product consistency and price. We compete in the building products market with other producers and fabricators including Diamond Plastics Corporation and JM Eagle.

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Environmental and Other Regulation

As is common in our industry, obtaining, producing and distributing many of our products involves the use, storage, transportation and disposal of large quantities of toxic and hazardous materials, and our manufacturing operations require the generation and disposal of large quantities of hazardous wastes. We are subject to extensive, evolving and increasingly stringent international, national, state and local environmental laws, regulations and directives, which address, among other things, the following:

- emissions to the air;
- discharges to land or to surface and subsurface waters;
- other releases into the environment;
- remediation of contaminated sites;
- generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste materials; and
- maintenance of safe conditions in the workplace.

We are subject to environmental laws and regulations that can impose civil and criminal sanctions and that may require us to mitigate the effects of contamination caused by the release or disposal of hazardous substances into the environment. Under one law, the U.S. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), an owner or operator of property may be held strictly liable for remediating contamination without regard to whether that person caused the contamination, and without regard to whether the practices that resulted in the contamination were legal at the time they occurred. Because several of our production sites have a history of industrial use, it is impossible to predict precisely what effect these legal requirements will have on us.

The Federal Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act ("CAA") and its implementing regulations, as well as the corresponding state laws and regulations, impose permitting requirements and emission control requirements relating to specific air pollutants, as well as the requirement for certain facilities to maintain a risk management program to help prevent accidental releases of certain substances. Air quality standards promulgated pursuant to the CAA may require the installation of new or additional emission control equipment or changes in facility operations. If new controls or changes to operations are needed, the costs could be significant. In addition, failure to comply with the requirements of the CAA, its implementing regulations, and permits issued under the CAA, could result in fines, penalties or other sanctions.

Release Reporting. The release of hazardous substances or extremely hazardous substances into the environment is subject to release reporting requirements under federal and state environmental laws, including the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. If we fail to properly report a release, or if the release violates the law or our permits, it could cause us to become the subject of a governmental enforcement action or third-party claims, which could result in significant liability.

Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act ("CWA") and analogous state laws impose restrictions and strict controls with respect to the discharge of pollutants, including spills and leaks of oil and other substances, into waters of the U.S. Federal and state regulatory agencies can impose administrative, civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance with discharge permits or noncompliance with other requirements of the CWA and analogous state laws and regulations.

Waste Management. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") and analogous state laws establish stringent requirements for the generation, handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes. At facilities where hazardous wastes have been spilled, released into the environment, or disposed, these laws may require costly investigations, studies, and response actions, possibly including removal and re-disposal of any such wastes. RCRA also establishes extensive recordkeeping, reporting and permitting requirements. We generate large quantities of hazardous wastes in connection with our operations, and could incur significant liabilities under RCRA and similar laws for any mismanagement or other improper or unauthorized handling of such wastes.

European Regulations. Under the Industrial Emission Directive ("IED"), European Union member state governments are expected to adopt rules and implement environmental permitting programs relating to air, water and waste for industrial facilities. In this context, concepts such as BAT ("best available technique") are being explored. Future implementation of these concepts may result in technical modifications to our European facilities. In addition, under the Environmental Liability Directive, European Union member states can require the remediation of soil and groundwater contamination in certain circumstances, under the "polluter pays principle." We are unable to predict the

impact these requirements and concepts may have on our future costs of compliance.

Contract Disputes with Goodrich and PolyOne. In connection with the 1990 and 1997 acquisitions of the Goodrich Corporation ("Goodrich") chemical manufacturing facility in Calvert City, Goodrich agreed to indemnify us for any liabilities

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related to preexisting contamination at the site. For our part, we agreed to indemnify Goodrich for post-closing contamination caused by our operations. The soil and groundwater at the site, which does not include our nearby PVC facility, had been extensively contaminated under Goodrich's operations. In 1993, Goodrich spun off the predecessor of PolyOne Corporation ("PolyOne"), and that predecessor assumed Goodrich's indemnification obligations relating to preexisting contamination.

In 2003, litigation arose among us, Goodrich and PolyOne with respect to the allocation of the cost of remediating contamination at the site. The parties settled this litigation in December 2007, and the case was dismissed. In the settlement the parties agreed that, among other things: (1) PolyOne would pay 100% of the costs (with specified exceptions), net of recoveries or credits from third parties, incurred with respect to environmental issues at the Calvert City site from August 1, 2007 forward; (2) either we or PolyOne might, from time to time in the future (but not more than once every five years), institute an arbitration proceeding to adjust that percentage; and (3) we and PolyOne would negotiate a new environmental remediation utilities and services agreement to cover our provision to, or on behalf of, PolyOne of certain environmental remediation services at the site. The current environmental remediation activities at the Calvert City site do not have a specified termination date but are expected to last for the foreseeable future. The costs incurred by us that have been invoiced to PolyOne to provide the environmental remediation services were \$2.8 million and \$3.3 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively. By letter dated March 16, 2010, PolyOne notified us that it was initiating an arbitration proceeding under the settlement agreement. In this proceeding, PolyOne seeks to readjust the percentage allocation of costs and to recover approximately \$1.4 million from us in reimbursement of previously paid remediation costs. The arbitration is currently stayed.

State Administrative Proceedings. There are several administrative proceedings in Kentucky involving us, Goodrich and PolyOne related to the same manufacturing site in Calvert City. In 2003, the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet (the "Cabinet") re-issued Goodrich's RCRA permit which requires Goodrich to remediate contamination at the Calvert City manufacturing site. Both Goodrich and PolyOne challenged various terms of the permit in an attempt to shift Goodrich's clean-up obligations under the permit to us. We intervened in the proceedings. The Cabinet has suspended all corrective action under the RCRA permit in deference to a remedial investigation and feasibility study ("RIFS") being conducted, under the auspices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), pursuant to an Administrative Settlement Agreement ("AOC"), which became effective on December 9, 2009. See "Federal Administrative Proceedings" below. The proceedings have been postponed. Periodic status conferences will be held to evaluate whether additional proceedings will be required.

Federal Administrative Proceedings. In May 2009, the Cabinet sent a letter to the EPA requesting the EPA's assistance in addressing contamination at the Calvert City site under CERCLA. In its response to the Cabinet also in May 2009, the EPA stated that it concurred with the Cabinet's request and would incorporate work previously conducted under the Cabinet's RCRA authority into the EPA's cleanup efforts under CERCLA. Since 1983, the EPA has been addressing contamination at an abandoned landfill adjacent to our plant which had been operated by Goodrich and which was being remediated pursuant to CERCLA. The EPA has directed Goodrich and PolyOne to conduct additional investigation activities at the landfill and at our plant. In June 2009, the EPA notified us that we may have potential liability under section 107(a) of CERCLA at our plant site. Liability under section 107(a) of CERCLA is strict and joint and several. The EPA also identified Goodrich and PolyOne, among others, as potentially responsible parties at the plant site. We negotiated, in conjunction with the other potentially responsible parties, an AOC and an order to conduct a RIFS. On July 12, 2013, the parties submitted separate draft RIFS reports to the EPA. The EPA has hired a contractor to complete the remedial investigation report.

Monetary Relief. Except as noted above, with respect to the settlement of the contract litigation among us, Goodrich and PolyOne, none of the court, the Cabinet nor the EPA has established any allocation of the costs of remediation among the various parties that are involved in the judicial and administrative proceedings discussed above. At this time, we are not able to estimate the loss or reasonable possible loss, if any, on our financial statements that could result from the resolution of these proceedings. Any cash expenditures that we might incur in the future with respect to the remediation of contamination at the site would likely be spread out over an extended period. As a result, we believe it is unlikely that any remediation costs allocable to us will be material in terms of expenditures made in any individual reporting period.

Potential Flare Modifications. For several years, the EPA has been conducting an enforcement initiative against petroleum refineries and petrochemical plants with respect to emissions from flares. A number of companies have entered into consent agreements with the EPA requiring both modifications to reduce flare emissions and the installation of additional equipment to better track flare operations and emissions. On April 21, 2014, we received a Clean Air Act Section 114 Information Request from the EPA which sought information regarding flares at the Calvert City and Lake Charles facilities. The EPA has informed us that the information provided leads the EPA to believe that some of the flares are out of compliance with applicable standards. The EPA has demanded that we conduct additional flare sampling and provide supplemental information. We are currently in negotiations with the EPA regarding these demands. The EPA has indicated that it is seeking a consent decree that would obligate us to take corrective actions relating to the alleged noncompliance. We have not agreed that any flares are out of compliance or that any corrective actions are warranted. Depending on the outcome of our negotiations

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with the EPA, additional controls on emissions from our flares may be required and these could result in increased capital and operating costs.

Louisiana Notice of Violations. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ("LDEQ") has issued notices of violations ("NOVs") regarding our assets for various air compliance issues. We are working with LDEQ to settle these claims, and a global settlement of all claims is being discussed. Such global settlement may result in a total civil penalty in excess of \$100,000.

Greenhouse Gases. Various jurisdictions have considered or adopted laws and regulations on greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions, with the general aim of reducing such emissions. The EPA currently requires certain industrial facilities to report their GHG emissions, and to obtain permits with stringent control requirements before constructing or modifying new facilities with significant GHG emissions. In the European Union, the Emissions Trading Scheme obligates certain emitters to obtain GHG emission allowances to comply with a cap and trade system for GHG emissions. As our chemical manufacturing processes result in GHG emissions, these and other GHG laws and regulations could affect our costs of doing business.

Chemical Safety. Assessments under government programs on chemical safety could adversely affect our business by increasing our costs of production and reducing demand for our products, through new requirements on the production, handling, labeling or use of those chemicals. For example, in the European Union, the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals ("REACH") is designed to identify the intrinsic properties of chemical substances, assess hazards and risks of the substances, and identify and implement risk management measures to protect humans and the environment. In the United States, the National Toxicology Program seeks to identify and select for study chemicals and other substances to evaluate potential human health hazards.

General. It is our policy to comply with all environmental, health and safety requirements and to provide safe and environmentally sound workplaces for our employees. In some cases, compliance can be achieved only by incurring capital expenditures. In 2014, we made capital expenditures of \$16.8 million related to environmental compliance. We estimate that we will make capital expenditures of approximately \$13.0 million in 2015 and \$14.6 million in 2016, respectively, related to environmental compliance. Capital expenditures related to environmental compliance have been relatively higher in 2014 in large part due to EPA regulations such as the PVC maximum achievable control technology ("MACT") rules and increasingly stringent requirements associated with environmental permits. We expect to incur further capital expenditures related to the PVC MACT rules and other EPA regulations in 2015 and 2016. The remainder of the 2015 and 2016 estimated amounts are related to equipment replacement and upgrades. We anticipate that stringent environmental regulations will continue to be imposed on us and the industry in general. Although we cannot predict with certainty future expenditures, management believes that our current spending trends will continue.

It is difficult to estimate the future costs of environmental protection and remediation because of many uncertainties, including uncertainties about the status of laws, regulations and information related to individual locations and sites and our ability to rely on third parties to carry out such remediation. Subject to the foregoing, but taking into consideration our experience regarding environmental matters of a similar nature and facts currently known, and except for the outcome of pending litigation and regulatory proceedings, which we cannot predict, but which could have a material adverse effect on us, we believe that capital expenditures and remedial actions to comply with existing laws governing environmental protection will not have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results.

Employees

As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately 3,550 employees in the following areas:

Category	Number
Olefins segment	800
Vinyls segment	2,600
Corporate and other	150

Approximately 28% of our employees are represented by labor unions, and all of these union employees are working under collective bargaining agreements. In the United States, approximately 10% of our employees are represented by labor unions and are working under collective bargaining agreements that will expire in 2019. In Europe, we have multiple collective bargaining agreements, with varying expiration years, covering different groups of our work force.

There have been no strikes or lockouts, and we have not experienced any work stoppages throughout our history. We believe that our relationship with our employees and unions is open and positive.

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Technology

Historically, our technology strategy has been to selectively acquire licenses from third-parties, and develop proprietary technology. Our selection process incorporates many factors, including the cost of the technology, our customers' requirements, raw material and energy consumption rates, product quality, capital costs, maintenance requirements and reliability. Most of the technology licensed from third-party providers is perpetual and has been paid in full. We own a patent portfolio of intellectual property developed by a focused research and process technology development group. After acquiring or developing a technology, we devote considerable effort to effectively employ the technology and further its development, with a view towards continuous improvement of our competitive position. Conversely, we have selectively granted licenses to our patented Energx[®] technology for LLDPE production and for proprietary LDPE reactor mixing technology. We have also, through Vinnolit prior to its acquisition, granted several licenses in the past on EDC/VCM technology, including the direct chlorination process and catalyst, and S-PVC process and technology.

Segment and Geographic Information

Information regarding sales, income from operations and assets attributable to our Olefins and Vinyls segments, and geographical information is presented in Note 21 to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

Available Information

Our Web site address is www.westlake.com. We make our Web site content available for information purposes only. It should not be relied upon for investment purposes, nor is it incorporated by reference in this Form 10-K. We make available on this Web site under "Investor Relations/SEC Filings," free of charge, our proxy statements, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those materials as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file those materials with, or furnish those materials to, the SEC. The SEC also maintains a Web site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding SEC registrants, including us.

We intend to satisfy the requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K to disclose any amendments to our Code of Ethics and any waiver from a provision of our Code of Ethics by posting such information on our Web site at www.westlake.com under "Investor Relations/Corporate Governance."

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Cyclicity in the petrochemical industry has in the past, and may in the future, result in reduced operating margins or operating losses.

Our historical operating results reflect the cyclical and volatile nature of the petrochemical industry. The industry is mature and capital intensive. Margins in this industry are sensitive to supply and demand balances both domestically and internationally, which historically have been cyclical. The cycles are generally characterized by periods of tight supply, leading to high operating rates and margins, followed by periods of oversupply primarily resulting from excess new capacity additions, leading to reduced operating rates and lower margins.

Moreover, profitability in the petrochemical industry is affected by the worldwide level of demand along with vigorous price competition which may intensify due to, among other things, new industry capacity. In general, weak economic conditions either in the United States, Europe or the rest of the world tend to reduce demand and put pressure on margins. It is not possible to predict accurately the supply and demand balances, market conditions and other factors that will affect industry operating margins in the future.

New olefins capacity additions in Asia, the Middle East and North America, a number of which have been announced in recent years, may lead to periods of over-supply and lower profitability. As a result, our Olefins segment operating margins may be negatively impacted.

PVC industry operating rates dropped from peak levels in the second half of 2006 to lower levels in 2014. In addition, continued slow recovery in the U.S. construction markets and budgetary constraints in municipal spending have contributed to lower North American demand for our vinyls products. Likewise, European industry production capacities currently exceed demand in the region, largely due to the weak economic environment in Europe. Looking forward, our Vinyls segment operating rates and margins may continue to be negatively impacted by the slow

recovery of the U.S. construction markets and the European economy.

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We sell commodity products in highly competitive markets and face significant competition and price pressure. We sell our products in highly competitive markets. Due to the commodity nature of many of our products, competition in these markets is based primarily on price and to a lesser extent on performance, product quality, product deliverability and customer service. As a result, we generally are not able to protect our market position for these products by product differentiation and may not be able to pass on cost increases to our customers. Accordingly, increases in raw material and other costs may not necessarily correlate with changes in prices for these products, either in the direction of the price change or in magnitude. Specifically, timing differences in pricing between raw material prices, which may change daily, and contract product prices, which in many cases are negotiated monthly or less often, sometimes with an additional lag in effective dates for increases, have had and may continue to have a negative effect on profitability. Significant volatility in raw material costs tends to place pressure on product margins as sales price increases could lag behind raw material cost increases. Conversely, when raw material costs decrease, customers could seek relief in the form of lower sales prices.

Volatility in costs of raw materials and energy may result in increased operating expenses and adversely affect our results of operations and cash flow.

Significant variations in the costs and availability of raw materials and energy may negatively affect our results of operations. These costs have risen significantly in the past due primarily to oil and natural gas cost increases. We purchase significant amounts of ethane feedstock, natural gas, ethylene and salt to produce several basic chemicals. We also purchase significant amounts of electricity to supply the energy required in our production processes. The cost of these raw materials and energy, in the aggregate, represents a substantial portion of our operating expenses. The prices of raw materials and energy generally follow price trends of, and vary with market conditions for, crude oil and natural gas, which are highly volatile and cyclical. Changes to regulatory policies applicable to the German energy sector for industrial users may also contribute to higher prices for industrial users of energy in the future. Our results of operations have been and could in the future be significantly affected by increases in these costs. Price increases increase our working capital needs and, accordingly, can adversely affect our liquidity and cash flow. In addition, because we utilize the first-in, first-out ("FIFO") method of inventory accounting, during periods of falling raw material prices and declining sales prices, our results of operations for a particular reporting period could be negatively impacted as the lower sales prices would be reflected in operating income more quickly than the corresponding drop in feedstock costs. We use derivative instruments in an attempt to reduce price volatility risk on some feedstock commodities. In the future, we may decide not to hedge any of our raw material costs or any hedges we enter into may not have successful results. Also, our hedging activities involve credit risk associated with our hedging counterparties, and a deterioration in the financial markets could adversely affect our hedging counterparties and their abilities to fulfill their obligations to us.

Lower prices of crude oil, such as those experienced in the second half of 2014, may lead to a reduction in the recent cost advantage for natural gas liquids-based ethylene crackers in North America, such as ours, as compared to naphtha-based ethylene crackers that use crude oil derivatives. As a result, our margins and cash flow have been and may continue to be negatively impacted. Higher natural gas prices could also adversely affect our ability to export products that we produce in the United States outside of the United States. In addition to the impact that this has on our exports from the United States, reduced competitiveness of U.S. producers also has in the past increased the availability of chemicals in North America, as U.S. production that would otherwise have been sold overseas was instead offered for sale domestically, resulting in excess supply and lower prices in North America. We could also face the threat of imported products from countries that have a cost advantage. Additionally, the export of natural gas liquids from the United States or greater restrictions on hydraulic fracturing could restrict the availability of our raw materials in the United States, thereby increasing our costs.

External factors beyond our control can cause fluctuations in demand for our products and in our prices and margins, which may negatively affect our results of operations and cash flow.

External factors beyond our control can cause volatility in raw material prices, demand for our products, product prices and volumes and deterioration in operating margins. These factors can also magnify the impact of economic cycles on our business and results of operations. Examples of external factors include:

- general economic conditions, including in the United States and Europe;

new capacity additions in North America, Asia and the Middle East;
the level of business activity in the industries that use our products;
competitor action;
technological innovations;
currency fluctuations;

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international events and circumstances;
war, terrorism and civil unrest;
governmental regulation, including in the United States and Europe;
severe weather and natural disasters; and
credit worthiness of customers and vendors.

We believe that events in the Middle East have had a particular influence on demand, prices and margins in the past and may continue to do so in the future. Recently, events in the Commonwealth of Independent States, particularly the political crisis in Ukraine and the devaluation of the Russian ruble, have had a negative influence on demand, prices and margins in Europe. In addition, a number of our products are highly dependent on durable goods markets, such as housing and construction, which are themselves particularly cyclical. The significant weakening of the U.S. residential housing market since 2006 and continued economic weakness in Europe has had an adverse effect on demand and margins for our products. If the global economy worsens in general, or the U.S. residential housing market or the European economy worsens in particular, demand for our products and our income and cash flow could be adversely affected to an even greater degree.

We may reduce production at or idle a facility for an extended period of time or exit a business because of high raw material prices, an oversupply of a particular product and/or a lack of demand for that particular product, which makes production uneconomical. Temporary outages sometimes last for several quarters or, in certain cases, longer and cause us to incur costs, including the expenses of maintaining and restarting these facilities. Factors such as increases in raw material costs or lower demand in the future may cause us to further reduce operating rates, idle facilities or exit uncompetitive businesses.

Hostilities in the Middle East, the Commonwealth of Independent States (including Ukraine) or elsewhere or the occurrence, or threat of occurrence, of terrorist attacks could adversely affect the economies of the United States, Europe and other developed countries. A lower level of economic activity could result in a decline in demand for our products, which could adversely affect our net sales and margins and limit our future growth prospects. Volatility in prices for crude oil and natural gas could also result in increased feedstock costs. Furthermore, sustained lower prices of crude oil, such as the prices experienced in the second half of 2014, may lead to lower margins in the United States. In addition, these risks could cause increased instability in the financial and insurance markets and could adversely affect our ability to access capital and to obtain insurance coverage that we consider adequate or is otherwise required by our contracts with third parties.

We operate internationally and are subject to related risks, including exchange rate fluctuations, exchange controls, political risk and other risks relating to international operations.

We operate internationally and are subject to the risks of doing business on a global basis. These risks include, but are not limited to, fluctuations in currency exchange rates, currency devaluations, imposition of trade barriers, imposition of tariffs and duties, restrictions on the transfer of funds, changes in law and regulatory requirements, involvement in judicial proceedings in unfavorable jurisdictions, economic instability and disruptions, political unrest and epidemics. Our operating results could be negatively affected by any of these risks.

A deterioration in global economic conditions may have a negative impact on our business and financial condition. A deterioration in global economic conditions, including continued economic weakness in Europe, may have a negative impact on our business and our financial condition. Our ability to access the capital markets may be severely restricted at a time when we would like, or need, to access such markets, which could have an impact on our flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. In addition, the availability of additional financing at cost effective interest rates cannot be assured. A deterioration in global economic conditions, including continued economic weakness in Europe, could have an impact on the lenders under our revolving credit facility or on our customers and suppliers, causing them to fail to meet their obligations to us. Additionally, a deterioration in global economic conditions could result in reduced demand for our products, which would have a negative impact on our revenues and profits. Further, reduced levels of accounts receivables and inventory may affect our credit facility borrowing base. Our credit facility allows us to borrow up to (1) 85% of the net amount of eligible accounts receivable, plus (2) the lesser of (a) 70% of the value of the lower of cost or market of eligible inventory, or (b) 85% of the appraised net orderly liquidation value of all eligible inventory, plus (3) 100% of cash held in an account with

the agent under the credit facility and subject to a control agreement with the agent, minus (4) such reserves as the agent may establish. Europe's economic recovery has been slow relative to the United States. If Europe does not experience a meaningful economic recovery, it may have a continued negative effect on our European business.

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Our inability to compete successfully may reduce our operating profits.

The petrochemical industry is highly competitive. Historically, there have been a number of mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs and joint ventures in the industry. This restructuring activity has resulted in fewer but more competitive producers, many of which are larger than we are and have greater financial resources than we do. Among our competitors are some of the world's largest chemical companies and chemical industry joint ventures. Competition within the petrochemical industry and in the manufacturing of building products is affected by a variety of factors, including:

- product price;
- technical support and customer service;
- quality;
- reliability of raw material and utility supply;
- availability of potential substitute materials; and
- product performance.

Changes in the competitive environment could have a material adverse effect on our business and our operations.

These changes could include:

- the emergence of new domestic and international competitors;
- the rate of capacity additions by competitors;
- changes in customer base due to mergers;
- the intensification of price competition in our markets;
- the introduction of new or substitute products by competitors; and
- the technological innovations of competitors.

Our production facilities process some volatile and hazardous materials that subject us to operating risks that could adversely affect our operating results.

We have four chemical manufacturing sites in the United States and six chemical manufacturing sites in Europe. Our operations are subject to the usual hazards associated with chemical and plastics manufacturing and the related use, storage, transportation and disposal of feedstocks, products and wastes, including:

- pipeline leaks and ruptures;
- explosions;
- fires;
- severe weather and natural disasters;
- mechanical failure;
- unscheduled downtime;
- labor difficulties;
- transportation interruptions;
- chemical spills;
- discharges or releases of toxic or hazardous substances or gases;
- storage tank leaks;
- other environmental risks;
- terrorist attacks; and
- political unrest.

According to some experts, global climate change could result in heightened hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico and other weather and natural disaster hazards worldwide. If this materializes, severe weather and natural disaster hazards could pose an even greater risk for our facilities, particularly those in Louisiana.

All these hazards can cause personal injury and loss of life, catastrophic damage to or destruction of property and equipment and environmental damage, and may result in a suspension of operations and the imposition of civil or criminal penalties. We could become subject to environmental claims brought by governmental entities or third parties. A loss or

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shutdown over an extended period of operations at any one of our chemical manufacturing facilities would have a material adverse effect on us. We maintain property, business interruption and casualty insurance that we believe is in accordance with customary industry practices, but we cannot be fully insured against all potential hazards incident to our business, including losses resulting from war risks or terrorist acts. As a result of market conditions, premiums and deductibles for certain insurance policies can increase substantially and, in some instances, certain insurance may become unavailable or available only for reduced amounts of coverage. If we were to incur a significant liability for which we were not fully insured, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial position.

We may pursue acquisitions, dispositions and joint ventures and other transactions that may impact our results of operations and financial condition.

We seek opportunities to maximize efficiency and create stockholder value through various transactions. These transactions may include various domestic and international business combinations, purchases or sales of assets or contractual arrangements or joint ventures that are intended to result in the realization of synergies, the creation of efficiencies or the generation of cash to reduce debt. In this regard, we regularly consider acquisition opportunities that would be consistent or complementary to our existing business strategies. To the extent permitted under our credit facility, the indenture governing our senior notes and other debt agreements, some of these transactions may be financed by additional borrowings by us. Although we would pursue these transactions because we expect them to yield longer-term benefits if the efficiencies and synergies we expect are realized, they could adversely affect our results of operations in the short term because of the costs associated with such transactions and because they may divert management's attention from existing business operations. Other transactions may advance future cash flows from some of our businesses, thereby yielding increased short-term liquidity, but consequently resulting in lower cash flows from these operations over the longer term. These transactions may not yield the business benefits, synergies or financial benefits anticipated by management. Integration of acquired operations can lead to restructuring charges or other costs. We may have difficulties integrating the operations of acquired businesses, including the operations of Vinnolit and new acquisitions.

Our operations and assets are subject to extensive environmental, health and safety laws and regulations.

We use large quantities of hazardous substances and generate large quantities of hazardous wastes and emissions in our manufacturing operations. Due to the large quantities of hazardous substances and wastes, our industry is highly regulated and monitored by various environmental regulatory authorities. As such, we are subject to extensive international, national, state and local laws, regulations and directives pertaining to pollution and protection of the environment, health and safety, which govern, among other things, emissions to the air, discharges onto land or waters, the maintenance of safe conditions in the workplace, the remediation of contaminated sites, and the generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste materials. Some of these laws, regulations and directives are subject to varying and conflicting interpretations. Many of these laws, regulations and directives provide for substantial fines and potential criminal sanctions for violations and require the installation of costly pollution control equipment or operational changes to limit pollution emissions or reduce the likelihood or impact of hazardous substance releases, whether permitted or not. For example, all of our petrochemical facilities in the United States and Europe may require improvements to comply with certain changes in process safety management requirements.

For example, on April 17, 2012, the EPA promulgated MACT standards for major sources and generally available control technology ("GACT") standards for area sources of PVC production. The rule sets emission limits and work practice standards for total organic air toxics and for three specific air toxics: vinyl chloride, chlorinated di-benzo dioxins and furans ("CD/DF"), and hydrogen chloride and includes requirements to demonstrate initial and continuous compliance with the emission standards. This rule or other new or proposed rules may result in an increase in regulations, which could increase our costs or reduce our production, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flow. In addition, we cannot accurately predict future developments, such as increasingly strict environmental and safety laws or regulations, and inspection and enforcement policies, as well as resulting higher compliance costs, which might affect the handling, manufacture, use, emission, disposal or remediation of products, other materials or hazardous and non-hazardous waste, and we cannot predict with certainty the extent of our future liabilities and costs under environmental, health and safety laws and

regulations. These liabilities and costs may be material.

Our operations produce GHG emissions, which have been the subject of increased scrutiny and regulation. In 2005, the Kyoto Protocol to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which establishes a binding set of emission targets for GHG emissions, became binding on the countries that had ratified it. International discussions are underway to develop a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol after its expiration in 2020. Legislation to regulate GHG emissions has also been introduced in the United States Congress, and there has been a wide-ranging policy debate regarding the impact of these gases and possible means for their regulation. Some of the proposals would require industries to meet stringent new

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standards that would require substantial reductions in carbon emissions. Those reductions could be costly and difficult to implement.

Various jurisdictions have considered or adopted laws and regulations on GHG emissions, with the general aim of reducing such emissions. The EPA currently requires certain industrial facilities to report their GHG emissions, and to obtain permits with stringent control requirements before constructing or modifying new facilities with significant GHG emissions. In the European Union, the Emissions Trading Scheme obligates certain emitters to obtain GHG emission allowances to comply with a cap and trade system for GHG emissions. As our chemical manufacturing processes result in GHG emissions, these and other GHG laws and regulations could affect our costs of doing business.

Under the IED, European Union member state governments are expected to adopt rules and implement environmental permitting programs relating to air, water and waste for industrial facilities. In this context, concepts such as BAT are being explored. Future implementation of these concepts may result in technical modifications in our European facilities. In addition, under the Environmental Liability Directive, European Union member states can require the remediation of soil and groundwater contamination in certain circumstances, under the "polluter pays principle." We are unable to predict the impact these requirements and concepts may have on our future costs of compliance. We also may face liability for alleged personal injury or property damage due to exposure to chemicals or other hazardous substances at our facilities or to chemicals that we otherwise manufacture, handle or own. Although these types of claims have not historically had a material impact on our operations, a significant increase in the success of these types of claims could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flow.

Environmental laws may have a significant effect on the nature and scope of, and responsibility for, cleanup of contamination at our current and former operating facilities, the costs of transportation and storage of raw materials and finished products, the costs of reducing emissions and the costs of the storage and disposal of wastewater. CERCLA, similar state laws and certain European directives impose joint and several liability for the costs of remedial investigations and actions on the entities that generated waste, arranged for disposal of the wastes, transported to or selected the disposal sites and the past and present owners and operators of such sites. All such potentially responsible parties (or any one of them, including us) may be required to bear all of such costs regardless of fault, legality of the original disposal or ownership of the disposal site. In addition, CERCLA, similar state laws and certain European directives could impose liability for damages to natural resources caused by contamination. Although we seek to take preventive action, our operations are inherently subject to accidental spills, discharges or other releases of hazardous substances that may make us liable to governmental entities or private parties. This may involve contamination associated with our current and former facilities, facilities to which we sent wastes or by-products for treatment or disposal and other contamination. Accidental discharges may occur in the future, future action may be taken in connection with past discharges, governmental agencies may assess damages or penalties against us in connection with any past or future contamination, or third parties may assert claims against us for damages allegedly arising out of any past or future contamination. In addition, we may be liable for existing contamination related to certain of our facilities for which, in some cases, we believe third parties are liable in the event such third parties fail to perform their obligations. For further discussion of such existing contamination, see Item 1, "Business—Environmental and Other Regulation."

Capital projects are subject to risks, including delays and cost overruns, which could have an adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

We have announced capital expansion plans for our Lake Charles facility. Expansion projects may be subject to delays or cost overruns, including delays or cost overruns resulting from any one or more of the following:

- unexpectedly long delivery times for, or shortages of, key equipment, parts or materials;
- shortages of skilled labor and other personnel necessary to perform the work;
- delays and performance issues;
- failures or delays of third-party equipment vendors or service providers;
- unforeseen increases in the cost of equipment, labor and raw materials;
- work stoppages and other labor disputes;

- unanticipated actual or purported change orders;
- disputes with contractors and suppliers;
- design and engineering problems;
- latent damages or deterioration to equipment and machinery in excess of engineering estimates and assumptions;

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financial or other difficulties of our contractors and suppliers;

interference from adverse weather conditions; and

difficulties in obtaining necessary permits or in meeting permit conditions.

Significant cost overruns or delays could materially affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Additionally, capital expenditures for these projects could materially exceed our planned capital expenditures.

Our level of debt could adversely affect our ability to operate our business.

As of December 31, 2014, we had total outstanding debt of \$764.0 million, and our debt represented approximately 19% of our total capitalization. Our annual interest expense for 2014 was \$37.4 million, net of interest capitalized of \$7.1 million. Our level of debt and the limitations imposed on us by our existing or future debt agreements could have significant consequences on our business and future prospects, including the following:

a portion of our cash flow from operations will be dedicated to the payment of interest and principal on our debt and will not be available for other purposes, including the payment of dividends;

we may not be able to obtain necessary financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, debt service requirements or other purposes;

our less leveraged competitors could have a competitive advantage because they have greater flexibility to utilize their cash flow to improve their operations;

we may be exposed to risks inherent in interest rate fluctuations because some of our borrowings are at variable rates of interest, which would result in higher interest expense in the event of increases in interest rates;

we could be vulnerable in the event of a downturn in our business that would leave us less able to take advantage of significant business opportunities and to react to changes in our business and in market or industry conditions; and

should we pursue additional expansions of existing assets or acquisition of third party assets, we may not be able to obtain additional liquidity at cost effective interest rates.

These factors could be magnified or accelerated to the extent we were to finance future acquisitions with significant amounts of debt.

To service our indebtedness and fund our capital requirements, we will require a significant amount of cash. Our ability to generate cash depends on many factors beyond our control.

Our ability to make payments on and to refinance our indebtedness and to fund planned capital expenditures and pay cash dividends will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future, including any distributions that we may receive from Westlake Partners. This is subject to general economic, financial, currency, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

Our business may not generate sufficient cash flow from operations, we may not receive sufficient distributions from Westlake Partners, currently anticipated cost savings and operating improvements may not be realized on schedule and future borrowings may not be available to us under our credit facility in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our indebtedness or to fund our other liquidity needs. We also generate revenues denominated in currencies other than that of our indebtedness and may have difficulty converting those revenues into the currency of our indebtedness. We may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness on or before maturity. In addition, we may not be able to refinance any of our indebtedness, including our credit facility and our senior notes, on commercially reasonable terms or at all. All of these factors could be magnified if we were to finance any future acquisitions with significant amounts of debt.

Our credit facility and the indenture governing our senior notes impose significant operating and financial restrictions, which may prevent us from capitalizing on business opportunities and taking some actions.

Our credit facility and the indenture governing our senior notes impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions limit our ability to:

pay dividends on, redeem or repurchase our capital stock;

make investments and other restricted payments;

incur additional indebtedness or issue preferred stock;

create liens;

permit dividend or other payment restrictions on our restricted subsidiaries;

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• sell all or substantially all of our assets or consolidate or merge with or into other companies;
• engage in transactions with affiliates; and
• engage in sale-leaseback transactions.

These limitations are subject to a number of important qualifications and exceptions. However, the effectiveness of many of these restrictions in the indenture governing our senior notes is currently suspended under the indenture because our senior notes are currently rated investment grade by at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies.

Our credit facility also requires us to maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio or maintain a specified amount of availability under the credit facility to avoid certain restrictions. These covenants may adversely affect our ability to finance future business opportunities or acquisitions. A breach of any of these covenants could result in a default in respect of the related debt. If a default occurred, the relevant lenders could elect to declare the debt, together with accrued interest and other fees, to be immediately due and payable and proceed against any collateral securing that debt. In addition, any acceleration of debt under our credit facility will constitute a default under some of our other debt, including the indenture governing our senior notes.

Regulations concerning the transportation of hazardous chemicals and the security of chemical manufacturing facilities could result in higher operating costs.

Targets such as chemical manufacturing facilities may be at greater risk of terrorist attacks than other targets. As a result, the chemical industry responded to the issues surrounding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 by implementing initiatives relating to the security of chemicals industry facilities and the transportation of hazardous chemicals. Simultaneously, local, state, national and international governments put into effect a regulatory process that led to new regulations impacting the security of chemical plant locations and the transportation of hazardous chemicals. Our business or our customers' businesses could be adversely affected because of the cost of complying with these regulations.

We may have difficulties integrating the operations of acquired businesses, including the operations of Vinnolit. If we are unable to integrate or to successfully manage the Vinnolit operations and other businesses that we have acquired or that we may acquire in the future, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected. We may not be able to realize the operating efficiencies, synergies, cost savings or other benefits expected from the acquisitions for a number of reasons, including the following:

- we may fail to integrate the businesses we acquire into a cohesive, efficient enterprise;

our resources, including management resources, are limited and may be strained if we engage in a large acquisition or a significant number of acquisitions, and acquisitions may divert our management's attention from initiating or carrying out programs to save costs or enhance revenues; and

• our failure to retain key employees and contracts of the businesses we acquire.

Future acquisitions could lead to significant restructuring or other changes. Prior to the Vinnolit acquisition, we did not have any operations in Europe. We may face additional difficulties integrating the Vinnolit business since it is a new area of operations for us.

Regulations related to "conflict minerals" could adversely impact our business.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 ("Dodd-Frank Act") contains provisions to improve transparency and accountability concerning the supply of certain minerals, known as conflict minerals, originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries (collectively, the "Covered Countries"). The term "conflict minerals" encompasses tantalum, tin, tungsten (and their ores) and gold.

In August 2012, pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, the SEC adopted new annual disclosure and reporting requirements applicable to any company that files periodic public reports with the SEC, if any conflicts minerals are necessary to the functionality or production of a product manufactured, or contracted to be manufactured, by that company. These new annual reporting requirements require companies to describe reasonable country of origin inquiries, due diligence measures and the results of those activities and related determinations.

Because we have a highly complex, multi-layered supply chain, we may incur significant costs to comply with these requirements. In addition, the implementation of procedures to comply with these requirements could adversely affect

the sourcing, supply and pricing of materials, including components, used in our products. Our suppliers (or suppliers to our suppliers) may not be able or willing to provide all requested information or to take other steps necessary to ensure that no

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conflict minerals financing or benefiting armed groups are included in materials or components supplied to us for our manufacturing purposes. Also, we may encounter challenges to satisfy customers that may require all of the components of products purchased by them to be certified as conflict free. If we are not able to meet customer certification requirements, customers may choose to disqualify us as a supplier. In addition, since the applicability of the new conflict minerals requirements is limited to companies that file periodic reports with the SEC, not all of our competitors will need to comply with these requirements unless they are imposed by customers. As a result, those competitors may have cost and other advantages over us.

Our operations could be adversely affected by labor relations.

The vast majority of our employees in Europe, and some of our employees in the United States, are represented by labor unions and works councils. Our operations, particularly in Europe, may be adversely affected by strikes, work stoppages and other labor disputes.

We have unfunded pension plan liabilities related to our European operations.

As a result of the Vinnolit acquisition, we have certain non-U.S. defined benefit pension plans covering current and former employees associated with our European operations that we have not funded and are not obligated to fund under applicable law. As of December 31, 2014, the projected benefit obligation under these plans was approximately \$122.7 million. We will require future operating cash flow to fund these pension plan liabilities. We may not generate sufficient cash to satisfy these obligations.

The trading price of our common stock may negatively impact us.

Volatility in the capital and credit markets may cause downward pressure on stock prices and credit availability. The market value of our common stock is a factor in determining whether our goodwill is impaired. If the market value of our common stock declines significantly, it may result in an impairment of goodwill. A decline in the market value of our common stock could also negatively impact us in other ways, including making it more difficult for us to raise any equity capital.

Failure to adequately protect critical data and technology systems could materially affect our operations.

Information technology system failures, network disruptions and breaches of data security could disrupt our operations by causing delays or cancellation of customer orders, impede the manufacture or shipment of products or cause standard business processes to become ineffective, resulting in the unintentional disclosure of information or damage to our reputation. While we have taken steps to address these concerns by implementing network security and internal control measures, there can be no assurance that a system failure, network disruption or data security breach will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flow.

Our property insurance has only partial coverage for acts of terrorism and, in the event of terrorist attack, we could lose net sales and our facilities.

As a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and other events, our insurance carriers created certain exclusions for losses from terrorism from our property insurance policies. While separate terrorism insurance coverage is available, premiums for full coverage are very expensive, especially for chemical facilities, and the policies are subject to high deductibles. Available terrorism coverage typically excludes coverage for losses from acts of war and from acts of foreign governments as well as nuclear, biological and chemical attacks. We have determined that it is not economically prudent to obtain full terrorism insurance, especially given the significant risks that are not covered by such insurance. Where feasible we have secured some limited terrorism insurance coverage on our property where insurers have included it in their overall programs. In the event of a terrorist attack impacting one or more of our facilities, we could lose the net sales from the facilities and the facilities themselves, and could become liable for any contamination or for personal or property damage due to exposure to hazardous materials caused by any catastrophic release that may result from a terrorist attack.

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We will be controlled by our principal stockholder and its affiliates as long as they own a majority of our common stock, and our other stockholders will be unable to affect the outcome of stockholder voting during that time. Our interests may conflict with those of the principal stockholder and its affiliates, and we may not be able to resolve these conflicts on terms possible in arms-length transactions.

As long as TTWF LP (the "principal stockholder") and its affiliates (the "principal stockholder affiliates") own a majority of our outstanding common stock, they will be able to exert significant control over us, and our other stockholders, by themselves, will not be able to affect the outcome of any stockholder vote. As a result, the principal stockholder, subject to any fiduciary duty owed to our minority stockholders under Delaware law, will be able to control all matters affecting us (some of which may present conflicts of interest), including:

- the composition of our board of directors and, through the board, any determination with respect to our business direction and policies, including the appointment and removal of officers and the determination of compensation;
- any determinations with respect to mergers or other business combinations or the acquisition or disposition of assets;
- our financing decisions, capital raising activities and the payment of dividends; and
- amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or amended and restated bylaws.

The principal stockholder will be permitted to transfer a controlling interest in us without being required to offer our other stockholders the ability to participate or realize a premium for their shares of common stock. A sale of a controlling interest to a third party may adversely affect the market price of our common stock and our business and results of operations because the change in control may result in a change of management decisions and business policy. Because we have elected not to be subject to Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, the principal stockholder may find it easier to sell its controlling interest to a third party than if we had not so elected.

In addition to any conflicts of interest that arise in the foregoing areas, our interests may conflict with those of the principal stockholder affiliates in a number of other areas, including:

- business opportunities that may be presented to the principal stockholder affiliates and to our officers and directors associated with the principal stockholder affiliates, and competition between the principal stockholder affiliates and us within the same lines of business;
- the solicitation and hiring of employees from each other; and
- agreements with the principal stockholder affiliates relating to corporate services that may be material to our business.

We may not be able to resolve any potential conflicts with the principal stockholder affiliates, and even if we do, the resolution may be less favorable than if we were dealing with an unaffiliated party, particularly if the conflicts are resolved while we are controlled by the principal stockholder affiliates. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the principal stockholder affiliates have no duty to refrain from engaging in activities or lines of business similar to ours and that the principal stockholder affiliates will not be liable to us or our stockholders for failing to present specified corporate opportunities to us.

Cautionary Statements about Forward Looking Statements

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor provisions for forward-looking information. Certain of the statements contained in this Form 10-K are forward-looking statements. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this Form 10-K that address activities, events or developments that we expect, project, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "believes," "intends," "may," "should," "could," "anticipates," "expected" or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategies or trends. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot give any assurances that these expectations will prove to be correct. Forward-looking statements relate to matters such as:

- future operating rates, margins, cash flow and demand for our products;
- industry market outlook, including the price of crude oil;
- production capacities;
- currency devaluation;
- our ability to borrow additional funds under our credit facility;
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our ability to meet our liquidity
needs;

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our ability to meet debt obligations under our debt instruments;
 our intended quarterly dividends;
 future capacity additions and expansions in the industry;
 timing, funding and results of capital projects, such as the expansion program at our Lake Charles facility;
 results of acquisitions, such as the Vinnolit acquisition;
 health of our customer base;
 pension plan obligations, funding requirements and investment policies;
 compliance with present and future environmental regulations and costs associated with environmentally related penalties, capital expenditures, remedial actions and proceedings, including any new laws, regulations or treaties that may come into force to limit or control carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions or to address other issues of climate change;
 effects of pending legal proceedings; and
 timing of and amount of capital expenditures.

We have based these statements on assumptions and analyses in light of our experience and perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors we believe were appropriate in the circumstances when the statements were made. Forward-looking statements by their nature involve substantial risks and uncertainties that could significantly impact expected results, and actual future results could differ materially from those described in such statements. While it is not possible to identify all factors, we continue to face many risks and uncertainties. Among the factors that could cause actual future results to differ materially are the risks and uncertainties discussed under "Risk Factors" and those described from time to time in our other filings with the SEC including, but not limited to, the following:

general economic and business conditions;
 the cyclical nature of the chemical industry;
 the availability, cost and volatility of raw materials and energy;
 uncertainties associated with the United States, European and worldwide economies, including those due to political tensions and unrest in the Middle East, the Commonwealth of Independent States (including Ukraine) and elsewhere;
 current and potential governmental regulatory actions in the United States and Europe and regulatory actions and political unrest in other countries;
 industry production capacity and operating rates;
 the supply/demand balance for our products;
 competitive products and pricing pressures;
 instability in the credit and financial markets;
 access to capital markets;
 terrorist acts;
 operating interruptions (including leaks, explosions, fires, weather-related incidents, mechanical failure, unscheduled downtime, labor difficulties, transportation interruptions, spills and releases and other environmental risks);
 changes in laws or regulations;
 technological developments;
 our ability to integrate acquired businesses;
 foreign currency exchange risks;
 our ability to implement our business strategies; and
 creditworthiness of our customers.

Many of such factors are beyond our ability to control or predict. Any of the factors, or a combination of these factors, could materially affect our future results of operations and the ultimate accuracy of the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of our future performance, and our actual results and future developments may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Management cautions against putting undue reliance

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on forward-looking statements or projecting any future results based on such statements or present or prior earnings levels. Every forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of the particular statement, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

Our manufacturing facilities and principal products are set forth below. Except as noted, we own each of these facilities.

Location	Principal Products
Lake Charles, Louisiana	Ethylene, polyethylene, styrene
Longview, Texas ⁽¹⁾	Polyethylene, polyethylene wax
Calvert City, Kentucky ⁽²⁾	PVC, VCM, EDC, chlorine, caustic soda, ethylene, PVC pipe
Geismar, Louisiana	PVC, VCM, EDC, chlorine, caustic soda
Gendorf, Bavaria, Germany ⁽¹⁾	PVC, VCM, EDC, chlorine, caustic soda
Burghausen, Bavaria, Germany ⁽¹⁾	PVC
Knapsack, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany ⁽¹⁾	PVC, VCM, EDC, chlorine, caustic soda
Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany ⁽¹⁾	PVC
Schkopau, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany ⁽¹⁾	PVC
Hillhouse, Lancashire, United Kingdom ⁽¹⁾	PVC
Booneville, Mississippi	PVC pipe
Greensboro, Georgia	PVC pipe
Janesville, Wisconsin	PVC pipe
Leola, Pennsylvania	PVC pipe
Litchfield, Illinois ⁽³⁾	PVC pipe
Wichita Falls, Texas	PVC pipe
Yucca, Arizona	PVC pipe
Lodi, California	PVC pipe and fittings
McPherson, Kansas	PVC pipe and fittings
Evansville, Indiana	Fence and deck components
Calgary, Alberta, Canada ⁽⁴⁾	Window and door components

(1) We lease the land on which our facilities are located.

(2) We lease a portion of the land on which our Calvert City facility is located.

(3) Facility currently idled.

(4) We lease our Calgary facility.

Olefins

Our Lake Charles site consists of three tracts on over 1,400 acres in Lake Charles, each within two miles of one another. The site includes two ethylene plants, which are owned by OpCo, two polyethylene plants and a styrene monomer plant. The combined capacity of OpCo's two Lake Charles ethylene plants is approximately 2.7 billion pounds per year. The capacity of our two polyethylene plants is approximately 1.5 billion pounds per year and the capacity of our styrene plant is approximately 570 million pounds per year. One of our polyethylene plants has two production units that use gas phase technology with the capability to manufacture both LLDPE and HDPE. Prior to the initial public offering of Westlake Partners, we completed the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site and its conversion to 100% ethane feedstock capability. OpCo currently plans to upgrade and expand the capacity of the Petro 1 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site during the first half of 2016.

Our Lake Charles site includes a marine terminal that provides for worldwide shipping capabilities. The site also is located near rail transportation facilities, which allows for efficient delivery of raw materials and prompt shipment of our

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products to customers. In addition, the site is connected by pipeline systems to our ethylene feedstock sources in both Texas and Louisiana. Within the site, OpCo's ethylene plants are connected by pipeline systems to our polyethylene and styrene plants.

Our Longview site consists of three polyethylene plants, a specialty polyethylene wax plant, and a 200-mile ethylene pipeline owned by OpCo that runs from Mont Belvieu to our Longview site. The plants are located inside a large Eastman Chemical Company ("Eastman") facility where Eastman produces a number of other chemical products. We can access ethylene to support our polyethylene operations either by purchasing ethylene from Eastman at the site or by transporting ethylene from OpCo's Lake Charles plant into the Gulf Coast grid and by transporting ethylene through our ethylene pipeline into our Longview facility. The technologies we use to produce polyethylene at Longview are similar to the technologies that we employ at Lake Charles. The Longview facility has a total capacity of 1.1 billion pounds per year.

Vinyls

Our Calvert City site is situated on approximately 590 acres on the Tennessee River in Kentucky and includes an ethylene plant, which is owned by OpCo, a chlor-alkali plant, a VCM plant, a PVC plant and a large diameter PVC pipe plant. The capacity of OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant is 630 million pounds per year and the capacity of our chlor-alkali plant is 550 million pounds of chlorine and 605 million pounds of caustic soda per year. Our chlorine plant utilizes efficient, state-of-the-art membrane technology. Our VCM plant has a capacity of 1.3 billion pounds per year and our Calvert City PVC plant has a capacity of 1.3 billion pounds per year. In April 2014, we completed a feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant. With the completion of this project, OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant now utilizes relatively low-cost ethane feedstock. In addition, in 2014, we completed the expansion of the existing PVC plant in Calvert City, which allowed us to take advantage of OpCo's increase in ethylene production at our Calvert City site and to provide additional PVC resin to meet the growing demands of our global customers.

Our vinyls facility in Geismar is situated on 184 acres on the Mississippi River and includes a chlor-alkali plant, a VCM plant and a PVC plant. Our Geismar chlor-alkali plant is designed to produce up to 700 million pounds of chlorine and 770 million pounds of caustic soda per year. Our chlorine plant utilizes efficient, state-of-the-art membrane technology. Our Geismar VCM plant has a capacity of 550 million pounds per year, and our Geismar PVC plant has a capacity of 600 million pounds per year.

Our European vinyls manufacturing sites consist of five facilities in Germany and one facility in the United Kingdom, and include two state-of-the-art membrane chlor-alkali plants, two VCM plants and six PVC plants. The chlor-alkali plants have a combined capacity of 950 million pounds of chlorine and 1.0 billion pounds of caustic soda per year, the VCM plants have a combined capacity of 1.5 billion pounds per year and the PVC plants have a combined capacity of 1.7 billion pounds per year.

As of February 18, 2015, we owned 12 building products plants, consisting of eight PVC pipe plants, two specialty PVC pipe and foundation building products plants and two profiles plants producing PVC fence, decking, windows and door profiles. The majority of our plants are strategically located near major markets and serve customers throughout the United States and Canada. The combined capacity of our building product plants is 1.2 billion pounds per year.

We believe our current facilities and announced expansions are adequate to meet the requirements of our present and foreseeable future operations.

Headquarters

Our principal executive offices are located in Houston, Texas. Our office space is leased, at market rates, from an affiliate of our principal stockholder. See Note 17 to the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K and "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" in our proxy statement to be filed with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A with respect to our 2015 annual meeting of stockholders (the "Proxy Statement").

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

In addition to the matters described under Item 1, "Business—Environmental and Other Regulation," we are involved in various legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business. We do not believe that any of these legal proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosure

Not Applicable.

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Executive Officers of the Registrant

James Chao (age 67). Mr. Chao has been our Chairman of the Board of Directors since July 2004 and became a director in June 2003. From May 1996 to July 2004, he served as our Vice Chairman. Mr. Chao also has responsibility for the oversight of our Vinyls business. Mr. Chao has over 40 years of global experience in the chemical industry. In addition, Mr. Chao has been the Chairman of the Board of Westlake Partners' general partner since its formation in March 2014. From June 2003 until November 2010, Mr. Chao was the executive chairman of Titan Chemicals Corp. Bhd. He has served as a Special Assistant to the Chairman of China General Plastics Group and worked in various financial, managerial and technical positions at Mattel Incorporated, Developmental Bank of Singapore, Singapore Gulf Plastics Pte. Ltd. and Gulf Oil Corporation. Mr. Chao, along with his brother Albert Chao, assisted their father T.T. Chao in founding Westlake Chemical Corporation. Mr. Chao is on the board of Baylor College of Medicine and KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program). Mr. Chao received his B.S. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Columbia University.

Albert Chao (age 65). Mr. Chao has been our President since May 1996 and a director since June 2003. Mr. Chao became our Chief Executive Officer in July 2004. Mr. Chao has over 40 years of global experience in the chemical industry. In 1985, Mr. Chao assisted his father T.T. Chao and his brother James Chao in founding Westlake Chemical Corporation, where he served as Executive Vice President until he succeeded James Chao as President. In addition, Mr. Chao has been the President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Westlake Partners' general partner since its formation in March 2014. He has held positions in the Controller's Group of Mobil Oil Corporation, in the Technical Department of Hercules Incorporated, in the Plastics Group of Gulf Oil Corporation and has served as Assistant to the Chairman of China General Plastics Group and Deputy Managing Director of a plastics fabrication business in Singapore. Mr. Chao is a trustee of Rice University. Mr. Chao received a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University and an M.B.A. from Columbia University.

M. Steven Bender (age 58). Mr. Bender has been our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since February 2008. From February 2007 to February 2008, Mr. Bender served as our Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and from June 2005 to February 2007, he served as our Vice President and Treasurer. In addition, Mr. Bender has been the Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and a director of Westlake Partners' general partner since its formation in March 2014. From June 2002 until June 2005, Mr. Bender served as Vice President and Treasurer of KBR, Inc., and from 1996 to 2002 he held the position of Assistant Treasurer for Halliburton Company. Prior to that, he held various financial positions within that company. Additionally, he was employed by Texas Eastern Corporation for over a decade in a variety of increasingly responsible audit, finance and treasury positions. Mr. Bender received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University. Mr. Bender is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Robert F. Buesinger (age 58). Mr. Buesinger has been our Senior Vice President, Vinyls since joining us in April 2010. Prior to joining us, Mr. Buesinger served as the General Manager and President of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company L.P.'s Performance Pipe Division from February 2010 to March 2010. From June 2008 to January 2010, Mr. Buesinger held the position of General Manager in the Alpha Olefins and Poly Alpha Olefins business of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company L.P. From April 2005 to May 2008, he served as the President and Managing Director of Chevron Phillips Singapore Chemicals Pte. Ltd. and Asia Region General Manager for Chevron Phillips Chemical Company L.P. Prior to that, he held various technical and sales management positions within that company. Mr. Buesinger holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Tulane University.

David R. Hansen (age 64). Mr. Hansen has been our Senior Vice President, Administration, since September 1999 and served as Vice President, Human Resources from 1993 to 1999. From August 2003 until July 2004 he was also our Secretary. In addition, Mr. Hansen has been the Senior Vice President, Administration, of Westlake Partners' general partner since July 2014. Prior to joining us in 1990, Mr. Hansen served as Director of Human Resources & Administration for Agrico Chemical Company and held various human resources and administrative management positions within the Williams Companies. He has over 30 years of administrative management experience in the oil, gas, energy, chemicals, pipeline, plastics and computer industries. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in

Social Science from the University of Utah and has completed extensive graduate work toward an M.S. in Human Resources Management.

Jeffrey L. Taylor (age 61). Mr. Taylor has been our Senior Vice President, Polyethylene since April 2008. From January 2003 to April 2008, Mr. Taylor served as our Vice President, Polyethylene. Mr. Taylor joined us in March 2002 as Manager, Polyethylene Marketing. Mr. Taylor joined us after a 25-year career with Chevron Phillips Chemical Company where he served as the Vice President, Polyethylene, Americas from 2000 to 2001 and Marketing Manager-Polyethylene from 1999 to 2000. During his career, he has held a variety of sales, marketing, operations and general management assignments. He is a graduate of the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Business Administration and a B.A. in Mathematics.

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Lawrence E. (Skip) Teel (age 56). Mr. Teel has been our Senior Vice President, Olefins since July 2014. In addition, Mr. Teel has been the Senior Vice President, Olefins of Westlake Partners' general partner since July 2014. From July 2012 to July 2014, Mr. Teel served as our Vice President, Olefins. Mr. Teel joined us in September 2009 as Director, Olefins and Feedstock after a 23-year career with Lyondell Chemical Company where he served as the Vice President, Refining from August 2006 to May 2008. From 2001 to 2006, Mr. Teel held the position of Director, Corporate Planning and Business Development at Lyondell Chemical Company. During his career, he has held a variety of marketing, operations and general management assignments. Mr. Teel received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from New Mexico State University and an M.S. in Finance from the University of Houston.

L. Benjamin Ederington (age 44). Mr. Ederington has been our Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since October 2013. In addition, Mr. Ederington has been the Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and a director of Westlake Partners' general partner since its formation in March 2014. Prior to joining Westlake, he held a variety of senior legal positions at LyondellBasell Industries, N.V. and its predecessor companies, LyondellBasell Industries AF SCA and Lyondell Chemical Company, including most recently as Associate General Counsel, Commercial & Strategic Transactions from March 2010 to September 2013, interim Director of Government Affairs from March 2010 to April 2011 and Lead Counsel, Chemicals from December 2007 to March 2010. He began his legal career more than 18 years ago at the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, LLP. Mr. Ederington holds a B.A. from Yale University and received his J.D. from Harvard University.

Andrew Kenner (age 50). Mr. Kenner has been our Vice President, Manufacturing since July 2008. Mr. Kenner joined us after a 19-year career at Valero Energy Corporation where he served as Vice President and General Manager of Valero's Delaware City Refinery from September 2005 to July 2008. From August 2004 to September 2005, Mr. Kenner held the position of Vice President and General Manager of Valero's Houston Refinery. Mr. Kenner holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M University and a M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

George J. Mangieri (age 64). Mr. Mangieri has been our Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer since February 2007. From April 2000 to February 2007, he was Vice President and Controller. In addition, Mr. Mangieri has been the Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer of Westlake Partners' general partner since its formation in March 2014. Prior to joining us, Mr. Mangieri served as Vice President and Controller of Zurn Industries, Inc. from 1998 to 2000. He previously was employed as Vice President and Controller for Imo Industries, Inc. in New Jersey, and spent over 10 years in public accounting with Ernst & Young LLP, where he served as Senior Manager. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Monmouth College and is a Certified Public Accountant.

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PART II

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

Price Range of Common Stock

As of February 18, 2015, there were 42 holders of record of our common stock. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "WLK." Set forth below are the high and low closing prices for our common stock, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange composite tape for the periods indicated and the cash dividends declared in these periods.

	High	Low	Cash Dividends Declared
Year Ended December 31, 2014			
4th Quarter	\$83.43	\$53.67	\$0.1650
3rd Quarter	97.96	84.22	0.1650
2nd Quarter	84.77	62.36	0.1260
1st Quarter	68.73	57.66	0.1260
Year Ended December 31, 2013			
4th Quarter ⁽¹⁾	\$61.04	\$52.48	\$0.1125
3rd Quarter ⁽¹⁾	53.41	48.86	0.1125
2nd Quarter ⁽¹⁾	48.97	39.31	0.0938
1st Quarter ⁽¹⁾	48.61	40.87	0.0938

On February 14, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized a two-for-one split of our common stock. Stockholders of record as of February 28, 2014 were entitled to one additional share for every share outstanding, which was distributed on March 18, 2014. Per share data for the prior year periods have been restated to reflect the effect of a two-for-one stock split.

Our credit facility and the indenture governing our senior notes restrict our ability to pay dividends or other distributions on our equity securities. However, the effectiveness of these restrictions in the indenture governing the senior notes is currently suspended because the senior notes are currently rated investment grade by at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Debt" for additional information.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table provides information on our purchase of equity securities during the quarter ended December 31, 2014:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs ⁽¹⁾
October 2014	245,316	\$78.93	245,316	\$ 13,234,000
November 2014	124,844	\$65.32	124,844	\$ 255,080,000
December 2014	65,506	\$60.00	65,506	\$ 251,150,000
Total	435,666	\$72.18	435,666	

On August 22, 2011, we announced the authorization by our Board of Directors of a \$100.0 million stock repurchase program. As of December 31, 2014, 1,924,713 shares (on a post-split basis) of our common stock had been acquired at an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$98.9 million. On November 21, 2014, our Board of Directors approved a new \$250.0 million stock repurchase program. Transaction fees and commissions are not reported in the average price paid per share in the table above. Decisions regarding the amount and the timing of purchases under the program will be

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influenced by our cash on hand, our cash flow from operations, general market conditions and other factors. These programs may be discontinued by our Board of Directors at any time.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

Securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans are as follows:

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	1,179,402	\$24.89	5,927,625
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	1,179,402	\$24.89	5,927,625

Other information regarding our equity compensation plans is set forth in the section entitled "Executive Compensation" in our Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Table of ContentsItem 6. Selected Financial and Operational Data ⁽¹⁾

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
(dollars in thousands, except share amounts, per share data and volume data)					
Statement of Operations Data:					
Net sales	\$4,415,350	\$3,759,484	\$3,571,041	\$3,619,848	\$3,171,787
Gross profit	1,317,350	1,101,438	736,960	559,006	482,683
Selling, general and administrative expenses	193,359	147,974	121,609	112,210	104,319
Income from operations	1,123,991	953,464	615,351	446,796	378,364
Interest expense	(37,352)	(18,082)	(43,049)	(50,992)	(39,875)
Debt retirement costs	—	—	(7,082)	—	—
Gain from sales of equity securities	—	—	16,429	—	—
Other (expense) income, net ⁽²⁾	(2,721)	6,790	3,520	5,628	4,471
Income before income taxes	1,083,918	942,172	585,169	401,432	342,960
Provision for income taxes	398,902	331,747	199,614	142,466	121,567
Net income	685,016	610,425	385,555	258,966	221,393
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	6,493	—	—	—	—
Net income attributable to Westlake Chemical Corporation	\$678,523	\$610,425	\$385,555	\$258,966	\$221,393
Earnings Per Share Attributable to Westlake Chemical Corporation: ⁽³⁾					
Basic	\$5.09	\$4.57	\$2.89	\$1.95	\$1.68
Diluted	\$5.07	\$4.55	\$2.88	\$1.94	\$1.67
Weighted average shares outstanding ⁽³⁾					
Basic	133,111,230	133,224,256	132,578,858	131,854,842	130,945,750
Diluted	133,643,414	133,779,250	133,282,990	132,600,316	131,353,328
Balance Sheet Data (end of period):					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$880,601	\$461,301	\$790,078	\$825,901	\$630,299
Marketable securities	—	239,388	124,873	—	—
Restricted cash	—	—	—	96,283	150,288
Working capital ⁽⁴⁾	1,474,107	1,244,224	1,352,903	1,391,561	1,152,382
Total assets	5,213,990	4,060,909	3,412,196	3,266,821	2,954,144
Total debt	763,997	763,879	763,761	764,563	764,482
Total Westlake Chemical Corporation stockholders' equity	2,911,511	2,418,603	1,872,256	1,756,312	1,505,070
Cash dividends declared per share ^{(3) (5)}	\$0.5820	\$0.4125	\$2.1363	\$0.1373	\$0.1210
Other Operating Data:					
Cash flow from:					
Operating activities	\$1,032,376	\$752,729	\$612,087	\$358,935	\$282,958
Investing activities	(773,205)	(1,002,238)	(466,971)	(202,785)	(80,275)
Financing activities	164,640	(79,268)	(180,939)	39,452	182,024
Depreciation and amortization	208,486	157,808	144,541	131,397	128,732
Capital expenditures	431,104	679,222	386,882	176,843	81,269
EBITDA ⁽⁶⁾	1,329,756	1,118,062	772,759	583,821	511,567

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	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(dollars in thousands, except share amounts, per share data and volume data)				
External Sales Volume (millions of pounds):					
Olefins Segment					
Polyethylene	2,364	2,244	2,230	2,272	2,320
Styrene, feedstock and other	941	1,094	925	753	938
Vinyls Segment					
PVC, caustic soda and other	3,174	1,995	1,822	1,749	1,542
Building products	572	487	423	403	593

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- The historical selected financial and operational data should be read together with Item 7, Management's
- (1) Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data included in this Form 10-K.
- Other (expense) income, net is composed of interest income, income or loss from equity method investments,
- (2) foreign exchange currency gains or losses, impairment of equity method investment, management fee income and other gains and losses.
- On February 14, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized a two-for-one split of our common stock. Stockholders of record as of February 28, 2014 were entitled to one additional share for every share outstanding, which was
- (3) distributed on March 18, 2014. All share amounts and per share data for the prior years have been restated to reflect the effect of a two-for-one stock split.
- (4) Working capital equals current assets less current liabilities.
- (5) Cash dividends declared for the year ended December 31, 2012 includes a special dividend of \$1.875 per share (on a post-split basis) paid on December 12, 2012.
- (6) EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure) is calculated as net income before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization. The body of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States is commonly referred to as "GAAP." For this purpose a non-GAAP financial measure is generally defined by the SEC as one that purports to measure historical and future financial performance, financial position or cash flows, but excludes or includes amounts that would not be so adjusted in the most comparable GAAP measures. We have included EBITDA in this Form 10-K because our management considers it an important supplemental measure of our performance and believes that it is frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in the evaluation of companies in our industry, some of which present EBITDA when reporting their results. We regularly evaluate our performance as compared to other companies in our industry that have different financing and capital structures and/or tax rates by using EBITDA. EBITDA allows for meaningful company-to-company performance comparisons by adjusting for factors such as interest expense, depreciation and amortization and taxes, which often vary from company to company. In addition, we utilize EBITDA in evaluating acquisition targets. Management also believes that EBITDA is a useful tool for measuring our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures and working capital requirements, and EBITDA is commonly used by us and our investors to measure our ability to service indebtedness. EBITDA is not a substitute for the GAAP measures of earnings or of cash flow and is not necessarily a measure of our ability to fund our cash needs. In addition, it should be noted that companies calculate EBITDA differently and, therefore, EBITDA as presented in this Form 10-K may not be comparable to EBITDA reported by other companies. EBITDA has material limitations as a performance measure because it excludes (1) interest expense, which is a necessary element of our costs and ability to generate revenues because we have borrowed money to finance our operations, (2) depreciation, which is a necessary element of our costs and ability to generate revenues because we use capital assets and (3) income taxes,

which is a necessary element of our operations. We compensate for these limitations by relying primarily on our GAAP results and using EBITDA only supplementally. The following table reconciles EBITDA to net income (loss) and to cash flow from operating activities.

Table of ContentsReconciliation of EBITDA to Net Income and
to Cash Flow from Operating Activities

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(dollars in thousands)				
EBITDA	\$1,329,756	\$1,118,062	\$772,759	\$583,821	\$511,567
Less:					
Provision for income taxes	(398,902)	(331,747)	(199,614)	(142,466)	(121,567)
Interest expense	(37,352)	(18,082)	(43,049)	(50,992)	(39,875)
Depreciation and amortization	(208,486)	(157,808)	(144,541)	(131,397)	(128,732)
Net income	685,016	610,425	385,555	258,966	221,393
Changes in operating assets and liabilities and other	273,083	34,453	244,683	76,898	40,134
(Income) loss from equity method investments	(424)	199	3,005	(427)	(2,212)
Windfall tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements	(6,704)	(5,449)	(11,967)	(3,361)	(326)
Deferred income taxes	58,967	93,732	(5,793)	14,114	14,153
Write-off of debt issuance costs	—	—	1,277	—	—
Impairment of equity method investment	6,747	—	—	—	—
Impairment of long-lived assets	—	—	—	1,975	—
Gain from sales of equity securities	—	—	(16,429)	—	—
Loss from disposition of fixed assets	4,181	5,039	3,886	1,375	581
Stock-based compensation expense	9,261	6,966	6,127	6,391	6,164
Amortization of debt issuance costs	1,673	1,459	1,514	1,683	2,154
Provision for doubtful accounts	301	5,514	229	1,321	917
Other loss, net	275	391	—	—	—
Cash flows from operating activities	\$1,032,376	\$752,729	\$612,087	\$358,935	\$282,958

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

Overview

We are a vertically integrated global manufacturer and marketer of petrochemicals, polymers and fabricated building products. Our two principal operating segments are Olefins and Vinyls. We use the majority of our internally-produced basic chemicals to produce higher value-added chemicals and building products.

Consumption of the basic chemicals that we manufacture in the commodity portions of our olefins and vinyls processes has increased significantly since we began operations in 1986. Our olefins and vinyls products are some of the most widely used chemicals in the world and are upgraded into a wide variety of higher value-added chemical products used in many end-markets. Petrochemicals are typically manufactured in large volume by a number of different producers using widely available technologies. The petrochemical industry exhibits cyclical commodity characteristics, and margins are influenced by changes in the balance between supply and demand and the resulting operating rates, the level of general economic activity and the price of raw materials. The cycle is generally characterized by periods of tight supply, leading to high operating rates and margins, followed by a decline in operating rates and margins primarily as a result of excess new capacity additions. Due to the significant size of new plants, capacity additions are built in large increments and typically require several years of demand growth to be absorbed.

Since 2009 and continuing through 2014, a cost advantage for ethane-based ethylene producers over naphtha-based ethylene producers has allowed a strong export market for polyethylene, ethylene derivatives and higher margins for North American chemical producers, including Westlake. Continued strong global demand for polyethylene has resulted in improved operating margins and cash flow for our Olefins segment in recent years. Looking forward, new olefins capacity additions in Asia, the Middle East and North America, a number of which have been announced in recent years, may lead to periods of over-supply and lower profitability. As a result, our Olefins segment operating margins may be negatively impacted. However, with the significant drop in crude oil prices beginning the third quarter of 2014 and potentially continuing through 2015, we expect a reduction in the cost advantage enjoyed by North American ethane-based ethylene producers in 2015. Further, falling crude oil prices may create volatility in the North American and global markets, which may result in reduced prices and margins in 2015. On the other hand, our European operations rely primarily on feedstock derived from naphtha-based ethylene crackers and may benefit from lower crude oil prices.

Continued slow recovery in the U.S. construction markets and budgetary constraints in municipal spending have contributed to lower North American demand for our vinyls products, which may continue to negatively impact our Vinyls segment operating rates and margins. Likewise, European industry production capacities currently exceed demand in the region, largely due to the weak economic environment in Europe. However, since late 2010, the PVC industry in North America has experienced an increase in PVC resin export demand, driven largely by more competitive feedstock and energy cost positions in North America. As a consequence, North American PVC resin industry operating rates have improved since 2010, largely due to higher PVC resin export shipments. In addition, the completion of our new world-scale Geismar chlor-alkali plant and the ethane feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant have contributed to improved operating margins and cash flow for our Vinyls segment.

The economic environment in the United States and globally appears to be slowly improving. However, depending on the performance of the global economy in the remainder of 2015 and beyond, our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows may still be negatively impacted. In addition, the European economy has been slower to recover than the U.S. economy. As we continue to manage our business in this environment, including the slowdown in construction activity in the United States and economic weakness in Europe, we have taken steps designed to address the changes in demand and margins in our Vinyls segment and its resulting impact on our operations by matching production with sales demand and continuing to operate our plants in an efficient manner. In addition, we continue to seek to manage our costs effectively.

We purchase significant amounts of ethane feedstock, natural gas, ethylene and salt from external suppliers for use in production of basic chemicals in the olefins and vinyls chains. We also purchase significant amounts of electricity to supply the energy required in our production processes. While we have agreements providing for the supply of ethane

feedstock, natural gas, ethylene, salt and electricity, the contractual prices for these raw materials and energy vary with market conditions and may be highly volatile. Factors that have caused volatility in our raw material prices in the past, and which may do so in the future include:

- the availability of feedstock from shale gas and oil drilling;
- supply and demand for crude oil;
- shortages of raw materials due to increasing demand;
- ethane and liquefied natural gas exports;

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capacity constraints due to higher construction costs for investments, construction delays, strike action or involuntary shutdowns;

the general level of business and economic activity; and

the direct or indirect effect of governmental regulation.

Significant volatility in raw material costs tends to put pressure on product margins as sales price increases could lag behind raw material cost increases. Conversely, when raw material costs decrease, customers may seek immediate relief in the form of lower sales prices. We currently use derivative instruments to reduce price volatility risk on feedstock commodities and lower overall costs. Normally, there is a pricing relationship between a commodity that we process and the feedstock from which it is derived. When this pricing relationship deviates from historical norms, we have from time to time entered into derivative instruments and physical positions in an attempt to take advantage of this relationship.

Our historical results have been significantly affected by our plant production capacity, our efficient use of that capacity and our ability to increase capacity. Since our inception, we have followed a disciplined growth strategy that focuses on plant acquisitions, new plant construction and internal expansion. We evaluate each expansion project on the basis of its ability to produce sustained returns in excess of our cost of capital and its ability to improve efficiency or reduce operating costs. We also regularly look at acquisition opportunities that would be consistent with or complimentary to our overall business strategies. Depending on the size of the acquisition, any such acquisitions could require external financing.

As noted above in Item 1A, "Risk Factors," we are subject to extensive environmental regulations, which may impose significant additional costs on our operations in the future. Further, concern about GHG emissions and their possible effects on climate change has led to the enactment of regulations, and to proposed legislation and additional regulations, that could affect us in the form of increased cost of feedstocks and fuel, other increased costs of production and decreased demand for our products. While we do not expect any of these enactments or proposals to have a material adverse effect on us in the near term, we cannot predict the longer-term effect of any of these regulations or proposals on our future financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Recent Developments

In February 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire INEOS Chlor Vinyls Holdings B.V.'s 35.7% interest in Suzhou Huasu Plastics Co., Ltd., a PVC joint venture based near Shanghai. We currently own a 59% interest in this joint venture. The completion of this acquisition is subject to government approvals.

In March 2014, we formed Westlake Partners to operate, acquire and develop ethylene production facilities and related assets. On August 4, 2014, Westlake Partners completed its initial public offering of 12,937,500 common units at a price of \$24.00 per unit. Net proceeds to Westlake Partners from the sale of the units was approximately \$286.1 million, net of underwriting discounts, structuring fees and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$24.4 million. Westlake Partners' assets consist of a 10.6% limited partner interest in OpCo, as well as the general partner interest in OpCo. Prior to the IPO, OpCo's assets were wholly owned by us. OpCo's assets include (1) two ethylene production facilities at our Lake Charles site; (2) one ethylene production facility at our Calvert City site; and (3) a 200-mile common carrier ethylene pipeline that runs from Mont Belvieu to our Longview site. We retained an 89.4% limited partner interest in OpCo, a 52.2% limited partner interest in Westlake Partners (common and subordinated units), a general partner interest in Westlake Partners and incentive distribution rights. OpCo used the net proceeds from the purchase of its limited partner interest to establish a cash reserve of approximately \$55.4 million for turnaround expenditures, to reimburse us approximately \$151.7 million for capital expenditures incurred with respect to certain of the assets contributed to OpCo and to repay intercompany debt of approximately \$78.9 million. The initial public offering represented the sale of 47.8% of the common units in Westlake Partners.

On July 31, 2014, we acquired Vinnolit from several entities associated with Advent International Corporation. Vinnolit is headquartered in Ismaning, Germany and is an integrated global leader in specialty PVC resins, with a combined annual capacity of 1.7 billion pounds of PVC, including specialty paste and suspension grades, 1.5 billion pounds of VCM and 1.0 billion pounds of caustic soda.

In April 2014, we completed a feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant. With the completion of this project, OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant now utilizes relatively low-cost ethane

feedstock and increased its capacity by approximately 180 million pounds annually. This expansion and feedstock conversion project enables us, through OpCo, to enhance our vinyl chain integration and leverage relatively low-cost ethane being developed in the Marcellus shale area.

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On February 14, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized a two-for-one split of our common stock. Stockholders of record as of February 28, 2014 were entitled to one additional share for every share outstanding, which was distributed on March 18, 2014.

Results of Operations

Segment Data

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(dollars in thousands, except per share data)		
Net external sales			
Olefins			
Polyethylene	\$1,922,535	\$1,750,292	\$1,658,551
Styrene, feedstock and other	801,155	803,377	841,427
Total Olefins	2,723,690	2,553,669	2,499,978
Vinyls			
PVC, caustic soda and other	1,203,332	800,658	743,275
Building products	488,328	405,157	327,788
Total Vinyls	1,691,660	1,205,815	1,071,063
Total	\$4,415,350	\$3,759,484	\$3,571,041
Income (loss) from operations			
Olefins	\$1,013,825	\$833,249	\$552,762
Vinyls	142,740	154,684	85,942
Corporate and other	(32,574)	) (34,469	) (23,353
Total income from operations	1,123,991	953,464	615,351
Interest expense	(37,352)	) (18,082	) (43,049
Debt retirement costs	—	—	(7,082
Gain from sales of equity securities	—	—	16,429
Other (expense) income, net	(2,721)	) 6,790	3,520
Provision for income taxes	398,902	331,747	199,614
Net income	685,016	610,425	385,555
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	6,493	—	—
Net income attributable to Westlake Chemical Corporation	\$678,523	\$610,425	\$385,555
Diluted earnings per share ⁽¹⁾	\$5.07	\$4.55	\$2.88

(1) Per share data for the prior years have been restated to reflect the effect of a two-for-one stock split on March 18, 2014. See Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements for additional information.

	Year Ended December 31,			2013		
	2014			Average Sales	Volume	Price
Product sales price and volume percentage change from prior year						
Olefins	+7.4	%	-0.8	%	+3.3	% -1.1
Vinyls	+0.6	%	+39.7	%	+1.5	% +11.1
Company average	+5.2	%	+12.2	%	+2.8	% +2.5

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	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Average industry prices ⁽¹⁾			
Ethane (cents/lb)	9.0	8.8	13.4
Propane (cents/lb)	24.7	23.7	23.7
Ethylene (cents/lb) ⁽²⁾	58.4	57.1	56.9
Polyethylene (cents/lb) ⁽³⁾	108.8	101.0	94.3
Styrene (cents/lb) ⁽⁴⁾	82.1	83.2	77.0
Caustic (\$/short ton) ⁽⁵⁾	589.4	604.2	575.0
Chlorine (\$/short ton) ⁽⁶⁾	233.5	250.8	264.8
PVC (cents/lb) ⁽⁷⁾	68.8	60.8	55.3

(1) Industry pricing data was obtained through IHS Chemical. We have not independently verified the data.

(2) Represents average North American spot prices of ethylene over the period as reported by IHS Chemical.

(3) Represents average North American contract prices of polyethylene low density film over the period as reported by IHS Chemical.

(4) Represents average North American contract prices of styrene over the period as reported by IHS Chemical.

Represents average North American undiscounted contract prices of caustic soda over the period as reported by IHS Chemical. During the first quarter of 2013, IHS Chemical discontinued the previous caustic soda industry index that we used. For comparability, the average 2012 caustic data is based on the current index.

(6) Represents average North American contract prices of chlorine (into chemicals) over the period as reported by IHS Chemical.

(7) Represents average North American contract prices of PVC over the period as reported by IHS Chemical.

Summary

For the year ended December 31, 2014, net income attributable to Westlake Chemical Corporation was \$678.5 million, or \$5.07 per diluted share, on net sales of \$4,415.4 million. This represents an increase in net income of \$68.1 million, or \$0.52 per diluted share, from 2013 net income attributable to Westlake Chemical Corporation of \$610.4 million, or \$4.55 per diluted share, on net sales of \$3,759.5 million. Net income for the year ended December 31, 2014 was negatively impacted by Westlake Partners formation and initial public offering costs and the Vinnolit acquisition and associated costs aggregating approximately \$26.0 million, after tax, and the recognition of the tax impact of current changes in state tax rates and other discrete tax items of \$14.8 million. Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2014 increased \$655.9 million to \$4,415.4 million compared to net sales for 2013 of \$3,759.5 million, primarily due to sales contributed by Vinnolit, our specialty PVC resin business, and North American Specialty Products, our specialty PVC pipe business, which we acquired in July 2014 and May 2013, respectively, higher sales prices for most of our major products and higher ethylene, caustic and polyethylene sales volumes, partially offset by lower ethylene co-products and styrene sales volumes. Income from operations was \$1,124.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to \$953.5 million for 2013, an increase of \$170.5 million. Income from operations benefited mainly from improved olefins integrated product margins, primarily as a result of higher polyethylene sales prices and the increased ethylene production at our Lake Charles facility after the first quarter 2013 completion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit expansion and its conversion to 100% ethane feedstock capability. The increase in income from operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 was partially offset by lost sales, lower production rates, unabsorbed fixed manufacturing costs and other costs associated with the maintenance turnaround at our Calvert City and Gendorf facilities and OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant's feedstock conversion and expansion project.

2014 Compared with 2013

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$655.9 million, or 17.4%, to \$4,415.4 million in 2014 from \$3,759.5 million in 2013. This increase was mainly attributable to sales contributed by Vinnolit and North American Specialty Products, higher sales prices for most of our major products and higher ethylene, caustic and polyethylene sales volumes,

partially offset by lower ethylene co-products and styrene sales volumes. Ethylene co-products sales volumes were lower in 2014, as compared to the prior year, primarily due to the planned shut-down of OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant as a result of the feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project, and the change to ethane feedstock currently utilized at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant following the completion of such project in early 2014. Average sales prices for 2014 increased by 5.2% as compared to 2013. Overall sales volume increased by 12.2% in 2014 as compared to 2013.

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Gross Profit. Gross profit margin percentage increased to 29.8% in 2014 from 29.3% in 2013. The improvement in gross profit margin percentage was mainly due to the improved olefins integrated product margins, primarily as a result of higher polyethylene sales prices and the increased ethylene production at our Lake Charles facility after the first quarter 2013 completion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit expansion and its conversion to 100% ethane feedstock capability. In addition, olefins integrated product margins benefited from an increase in sales prices that outpaced increases in feedstock and energy costs in 2014, as compared to the prior year. Our raw material cost in both segments normally tracks industry prices, which experienced an increase of 2.3% and 4.2% for ethane and propane, respectively, in 2014 as compared to 2013. Sales prices increased an average of 5.2% for 2014 as compared to 2013. The gross profit margin for 2014 was negatively impacted by lost sales, lower production rates, unabsorbed fixed manufacturing costs and other costs associated with the maintenance turnaround at our Calvert City and Gendorf facilities and OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant's feedstock conversion and expansion project.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$45.4 million, or 30.7%, in 2014 as compared to 2013. The increase was mainly attributable to general and administrative costs incurred by Vinnolit for the period from July 31, 2014 to December 31, 2014, an increase in payroll and related labor costs, including incentive compensation, and an increase in consulting and professional fees, partially offset by a decrease in the provision for doubtful accounts.

Interest Expense. Interest expense increased by \$19.3 million to \$37.4 million in 2014 from \$18.1 million in 2013, largely due to decreased capitalized interest on major capital projects in 2014 as compared to 2013. Debt balances during 2014 remained relatively unchanged compared to 2013.

Other (Expense) Income, Net. Other (expense) income, net was net expense of \$2.7 million in 2014 compared to net income of \$6.8 million in 2013, primarily attributable to higher losses on foreign exchange and the partial impairment of an equity method investment, partially offset by higher income from our other equity method investments and net realized gains from the sales and maturities of available-for-sale securities.

Income Taxes. The effective income tax rate was 36.8% in 2014 as compared to 35.2% in 2013. The effective income tax rate for 2014 was above the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35.0% primarily due to state income taxes, partially offset by state tax credits and the domestic manufacturing deduction. The effective income tax rate for 2013 was above the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35.0% primarily due to state income taxes, mostly offset by state tax credits and the domestic manufacturing deduction.

Olefins Segment

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$170.0 million, or 6.7%, to \$2,723.7 million in 2014 from \$2,553.7 million in 2013, mainly due to higher sales prices and sales volumes for most of our major products, partially offset by lower styrene sales volumes. Average sales prices for the Olefins segment increased by 7.4% in 2014 as compared to 2013, while average sales volumes decreased marginally by 0.8% in 2014 as compared to 2013.

Income from Operations. Income from operations was \$1,013.8 million in 2014 as compared to \$833.2 million in 2013. This increase was predominantly driven by improved olefins integrated product margins, primarily as a result of the increased ethylene production at our Lake Charles facility after the first quarter 2013 completion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit expansion and its conversion to 100% ethane feedstock capability. In addition, olefins integrated product margins benefited from an increase in sales prices that outpaced increases in feedstock and energy costs as average sales prices for the Olefins segment increased by 7.4% in 2014 as compared to 2013. Trading activity for 2014 resulted in a loss of \$9.7 million as compared to a gain of \$5.4 million for 2013. Income from operations for 2013 was negatively impacted by the lost production and the expensing of \$19.9 million related to unabsorbed fixed manufacturing costs and other costs associated with the turnaround and expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit.

Vinyls Segment

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$485.9 million, or 40.3%, to \$1,691.7 million in 2014 from \$1,205.8 million in 2013. This increase was primarily attributable to sales contributed by Vinnolit and North American Specialty Products, higher caustic sales volumes and higher PVC resin sales prices, partially offset by lower OpCo ethylene co-products sales volumes. OpCo's ethylene co-products sales volumes were lower in 2014, as compared to 2013, primarily due to the planned shutdown of OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant as a result of the feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project and the ethane feedstock currently utilized at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant

following the completion of such project. Average sales prices for the Vinyls segment increased marginally by 0.6% in 2014 as compared to 2013, while average sales volumes increased by 39.7% in 2014 as compared to 2013. Income from Operations. Income from operations was \$142.7 million in 2014 as compared to \$154.7 million in 2013. This decrease was mainly caused by lost sales, lower production rates and the expensing of \$27.1 million related to unabsorbed

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fixed manufacturing costs and other costs associated with the maintenance turnaround at our Gendorf and Calvert City facilities and OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant's feedstock conversion and expansion project. In addition, income from operations for 2014 was negatively impacted by the effect of selling higher cost Vinnolit inventory recorded at fair value and the severe winter weather experienced in early 2014, which resulted in significantly higher propane feedstock costs. The decrease was partially offset by lower feedstock costs at OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant following the completion of the feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project and the change in feedstock utilized from propane feedstock to lower-cost ethane feedstock, as compared to the prior year.

2013 Compared with 2012

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$188.5 million, or 5.3%, to \$3,759.5 million in 2013 from \$3,571.0 million in 2012. This increase was mainly attributable to higher sales volumes and sales prices for styrene, caustic and PVC resin, higher polyethylene sales prices and sales contributed by North American Specialty Products, partially offset by lower feedstock, ethylene and ethylene co-products sales volumes. Ethylene and ethylene co-product sales volumes were lower primarily due to the first quarter 2013 turnaround and expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site. Average sales prices for 2013 increased by 2.8% as compared to 2012. Overall sales volume increased by 2.5% in 2013 as compared to 2012.

Gross Profit. Gross profit margin percentage increased to 29.3% in 2013 from 20.6% in 2012. The improvement in gross profit margin percentage was predominantly due to lower ethane costs and higher sales prices for most of our major products. The 2013 gross profit margin also benefited from higher styrene sales volumes. Our raw material costs in both segments normally track industry prices, which experienced a decrease of 34.3% for ethane in 2013 as compared to 2012. Sales prices increased an average of 2.8% for 2013 as compared to 2012.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$26.4 million, or 21.7%, in 2013 as compared to 2012. The increase was mainly attributable to an increase in payroll and related labor costs, including incentive compensation, an increase in the provision for doubtful accounts and the amortization of intangible assets for our specialty PVC pipe business.

Interest Expense. Interest expense decreased by \$24.9 million to \$18.1 million in 2013 from \$43.0 million in 2012, largely due to increased capitalized interest on major capital projects and lower average interest rates in 2013 as compared to 2012. Debt balances during 2013 remained relatively unchanged compared to 2012.

Other Income, Net. Other income, net increased by \$3.3 million to \$6.8 million in 2013 from \$3.5 million in 2012, primarily attributable to higher income from our equity method investments and the settlement of a claim against a supplier during 2013, partially offset by lower interest income in 2013.

Income Taxes. The effective income tax rate was 35.2% in 2013 as compared to 34.1% in 2012. The effective income tax rate for 2013 was above the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35.0% primarily due to state income taxes, mostly offset by state tax credits and the domestic manufacturing deduction. The effective income tax rate for 2012 was below the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35.0% primarily due to the domestic manufacturing deduction and state income tax credits, offset by state income taxes.

Olefins Segment

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$53.7 million, or 2.1%, to \$2,553.7 million in 2013 from \$2,500.0 million in 2012, mainly due to higher sales volumes for styrene and higher sales prices for polyethylene and styrene, partially offset by lower feedstock, ethylene and ethylene co-products sales volumes. Ethylene and ethylene co-product sales volumes were lower primarily due to the first quarter 2013 turnaround and expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit. Styrene sales volumes for 2012 were negatively impacted by a planned outage of our styrene plant in Lake Charles. Average sales prices for the Olefins segment increased by 3.3% in 2013 as compared to 2012, while average sales volumes decreased by 1.1% in 2013 as compared to 2012.

Income from Operations. Income from operations was \$833.2 million in 2013 as compared to \$552.8 million in 2012. This increase was mainly attributable to higher olefins integrated product margins as compared to 2012, primarily as a result of significantly lower ethane costs. Income from operations for 2013 was negatively impacted by the lost production and the expensing of \$19.9 million related to unabsorbed fixed manufacturing costs and other costs associated with the turnaround and expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit. Trading activity for 2013 resulted in a gain of \$5.4 million as compared to a loss of \$11.6 million for 2012.

Vinyls Segment

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$134.7 million, or 12.6%, to \$1,205.8 million in 2013 from \$1,071.1 million in 2012. This increase was primarily attributable to higher sales volumes and sales prices for PVC resin and caustic and sales

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contributed by North American Specialty Products. Average sales prices for the Vinyls segment increased by 1.5% in 2013 as compared to 2012, while average sales volumes increased by 11.1% in 2013 as compared to 2012.

Income from Operations. Income from operations was \$154.7 million in 2013, an increase of \$68.8 million when compared to the 2012 income from operations of \$85.9 million. This increase was predominantly driven by lower feedstock costs, higher sales volumes for PVC resin and higher operating rates as compared to 2012, partially offset by pre-operating expenses incurred for the Geismar chlor-alkali plant of \$11.1 million and North American Specialty Products' acquisition-related costs, including the effect of selling higher cost inventory recorded at fair value, of \$5.8 million, or \$0.03 per diluted share, after tax. Income from operations for 2012 was negatively impacted by the lost production, lost sales and unabsorbed manufacturing and other costs associated with the unscheduled shut down at our Geismar vinyls facility.

Cash Flows**Operating Activities**

Operating activities provided cash of \$1,032.4 million in 2014 compared to \$752.7 million in 2013. The \$279.7 million increase in cash flows from operating activities was mainly due to an increase in income from operations and a decrease in the use of cash for working capital purposes, as compared to 2013. Income from operations increased by \$170.5 million in 2014 as compared to 2013 primarily as a result of higher olefins integrated product margins as compared to the prior year, partially offset by lost sales, lower production rates, unabsorbed fixed manufacturing costs and other costs associated with the maintenance turnaround at our Calvert City and Gendorf facilities and OpCo's Calvert City ethylene plant's feedstock conversion and expansion project. Cash flows from operating activities for 2014 were also negatively impacted by costs associated with the formation and initial public offering of Westlake Partners and costs associated with the Vinnolit acquisition. Cash flows from operating activities for 2013 were negatively impacted by deferred turnaround costs from the turnaround of the Petro 2 ethylene unit. Changes in components of working capital, which we define for purposes of this cash flow discussion as net accounts receivable, inventories, prepaid expenses and other current assets, less accounts payable and accrued liabilities, provided cash of \$69.6 million in 2014, compared to \$63.2 million of cash used in 2013, a favorable change of \$132.8 million. The change was mainly attributable to a decrease in inventory during 2014 as compared to 2013, primarily due to less higher-cost propane held in inventory, as raw materials or in finished goods, at the end of the year. In addition, Vinnolit's inventory decreased during the period from July 31, 2014 to December 31, 2014 as higher cost inventory recorded at fair value was sold.

Operating activities provided cash of \$752.7 million in 2013 compared to \$612.1 million in 2012. The \$140.6 million increase in cash flows from operating activities was mainly due to an increase in income from operations and an increase in deferred income taxes, partially offset by an increase in the use of cash for working capital and deferred turnaround costs from the turnaround of the Petro 2 ethylene unit, as compared to 2012. Income from operations increased by \$338.1 million in 2013 as compared to 2012 primarily as a result of higher olefins and vinyls integrated product margins. Deferred income taxes increased mainly due to a tax benefit related to increased tax depreciation associated with the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site and the start up of our new Geismar chlor-alkali plant. Changes in components of working capital used cash of \$63.2 million in 2013, compared to \$115.5 million of cash provided in 2012, an unfavorable change of \$178.7 million. The change was primarily caused by an increase in inventory during the 2013 period and higher accounts receivable balances largely attributable to an increase in average sales prices and sales volumes during 2013 as compared to 2012.

Investing Activities

Net cash used for investing activities during 2014 was \$773.2 million as compared to net cash used of \$1,002.2 million in 2013, primarily related to lower capital expenditures in 2014 compared to 2013. Capital expenditures were \$431.1 million in 2014 compared to \$679.2 million in 2013, a decrease mainly attributable to the completion of the new chlor-alkali plant at our Geismar site in December 2013. Capital expenditures in 2014 were mainly incurred on the feedstock conversion and ethylene expansion project and PVC plant expansion project at our Calvert City site and the planned upgrade and expansion of the Petro 1 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site. Capital expenditures in 2013 were mainly incurred on the construction of the new Geismar chlor-alkali plant, the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site and the feedstock conversion and ethylene furnaces modernization projects at our Calvert

City site. The remaining capital expenditures in 2014 and 2013 primarily related to projects to improve production capacity or reduce costs, maintenance and safety projects and environmental projects at our various facilities. We used \$611.1 million, net of cash acquired, for the acquisition of Vinnolit. Purchases of securities in 2014 totaled \$117.3 million and were comprised of corporate and U.S. government debt securities and equity securities. We also received aggregate proceeds of \$342.0 million from the sales and maturities of our investments in 2014. The 2013 activity was primarily related to the acquisition of our specialty PVC pipe business and the purchases of, and the receipt of proceeds from the maturities of, short-term commercial paper.

Net cash used for investing activities during 2013 was \$1,002.2 million as compared to net cash used of \$467.0 million in 2012. The increase was primarily related to higher capital expenditures in 2013 than in 2012, the acquisition of our specialty

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PVC pipe business for \$178.3 million and increased investment in marketable securities in 2013. Capital expenditures were \$679.2 million in 2013 compared to \$386.9 million in 2012. The higher capital expenditures in 2013 were largely attributable to the construction of the new chlor-alkali plant at our Geismar site, the feedstock conversion, PVC plant expansion and ethylene furnaces modernization projects at our Calvert City site and the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site. Capital expenditures in 2012 were mainly incurred on the construction of the new Geismar chlor-alkali plant and the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site. The remaining capital expenditures in 2013 and 2012 primarily related to projects to improve production capacity or reduce costs and maintenance, safety and environmental projects at our various facilities. Purchases of securities in 2013 totaled \$367.2 million and were comprised of short-term commercial paper and corporate and U.S. government debt securities. We also received aggregate proceeds of \$252.5 million from sales and maturities of securities in 2013.

Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities during 2014 was \$164.6 million as compared to net cash used of \$79.3 million in 2013. Net proceeds from the issuance of Westlake Partners common units was \$286.1 million. The initial public offering represented the sale of 47.8% of the common units in Westlake Partners. See Note 18 to the consolidated financial statements for further discussion of Westlake Partners and its initial public offering. The remaining 2014 activity was primarily related to the \$77.7 million payment of cash dividends, the \$52.6 million of cash used for the repurchases of shares of our common stock, distributions to the public unit holders of Westlake Partners common units and fees incurred in connection with the amendment and restatement of our revolving credit facility in July 2014, partially offset by proceeds of \$5.5 million from the exercise of stock options. The 2013 activity was mainly related to the \$55.2 million payment of cash dividends and the \$32.9 million of cash used for the repurchases of shares of our common stock, partially offset by proceeds from the exercise of stock options.

Net cash used for financing activities during 2013 was \$79.3 million as compared to net cash used of \$180.9 million in 2012. The 2013 activity was primarily related to a \$55.2 million payment of cash dividends and \$32.9 million of repurchases of shares of our common stock, partially offset by proceeds of \$3.4 million from the exercise of stock options. The 2012 activity was mainly related to proceeds received from the issuance of \$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of 3.60% senior notes due 2022 (the "3.60% Notes Due 2022"), which was offset by the optional redemption of \$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of 6 ⁵/₈% senior notes due 2016, the draw-down of our restricted cash and the receipt of proceeds from the exercise of stock options. The 2012 proceeds were more than offset by the \$285.5 million payment of cash dividends, which included a special dividend payment of approximately \$250.6 million, repurchases of shares of our common stock and debt issuance costs associated with the issuance of our 3.60% Notes Due 2022.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity and Financing Arrangements

Our principal sources of liquidity are from cash and cash equivalents, cash from operations, short-term borrowings under our revolving credit facility and our long-term financing.

In April 2011, we announced an expansion program to increase the ethane-based ethylene capacity of both of the ethylene units at our Lake Charles site. We completed the expansion of the Petro 2 ethylene unit in the first quarter of 2013. OpCo currently plans to upgrade and expand the capacity of its Petro 1 ethylene unit at our Lake Charles site during the first half of 2016. This project is currently estimated to cost in the range of \$275.0 million to \$335.0 million and is expected to add approximately 250 million pounds of ethylene capacity. The additional capacity from this expansion is expected to provide ethylene for existing internal uses and may also be sold in the merchant market. This capital project is expected to be funded with cash on hand, cash flow from operations, and, if necessary, borrowings under each of our and OpCo's revolving credit facility and other external financing. As of December 31, 2014, OpCo had incurred a total cost of approximately \$53.1 million on this capital project.

In August 2011, our Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program totaling \$100.0 million (the "2011 Program"). As of December 31, 2014, we had repurchased 1,924,713 shares of our common stock (on a post-split basis) for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$98.9 million under the 2011 Program. During the three months ended December 31, 2014, we repurchased 435,666 shares of our common stock (on a post-split basis) for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$31.4 million under the 2011 Program. On November 21, 2014, we

announced that our Board of Directors approved an additional \$250.0 million share repurchase program (the "2014 Program"). Purchases under the 2011 and 2014 Programs may be made either through the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. Decisions regarding the amount and the timing of purchases under the 2011 and 2014 Programs will be influenced by our cash on hand, our cash flow from operations, general market conditions and other factors. The 2011 and 2014 Programs may be discontinued by our Board of Directors at any time.

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We believe that our sources of liquidity as described above will be adequate to fund our normal operations and ongoing capital expenditures. Funding of any potential large expansions or any potential acquisitions would likely necessitate and therefore depend on our ability to obtain additional financing in the future. We may not be able to access additional liquidity at cost effective interest rates due to the volatility of the commercial credit markets.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

As of December 31, 2014, our cash and cash equivalents totaled \$880.6 million. In addition, we have a revolving credit facility available to supplement cash if needed, as described under "Debt" below.

Debt

As of December 31, 2014, our long-term debt, including current maturities, totaled \$764.0 million, consisting of \$250.0 million principal amount of 3.60% Notes Due 2022 (less the unamortized discount of \$0.9 million), \$100.0 million of 6 ½% senior notes due 2029, \$250.0 million of 6 ¾% senior notes due 2032, \$89.0 million of 6 ½% senior notes due 2035 (the "6 ½% GO Zone Senior Notes Due 2035"), \$65.0 million of 6 ½% senior notes due 2035 (the "6 ½% IKE Zone Senior Notes Due 2035") (collectively, but excluding the 3.60% Notes Due 2022, the "Senior Notes") and a \$10.9 million loan from the proceeds of tax-exempt waste disposal revenue bonds (supported by an \$11.3 million letter of credit). The 6 ½% senior notes due 2029, the 6 ¾% senior notes due 2032, the 6 ½% GO Zone Senior Notes Due 2035 and the 6 ½% IKE Zone Senior Notes Due 2035 evidence and secure our obligations to the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facility and Development Authority (the "Authority"), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, under four loan agreements relating to the issuance of \$100.0 million, \$250.0 million, \$89.0 million and \$65.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Authority's tax-exempt revenue bonds, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, debt outstanding under the tax-exempt waste disposal revenue bonds bore interest at a variable rate. As of December 31, 2014, we were in compliance with all of the covenants with respect to the 3.60% Notes Due 2022, the Senior Notes, our waste disposal revenue bonds and our revolving credit facility. Our ability to make payments on our indebtedness and to fund planned capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future, which is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. Based on our current level of operations and unless we were to undertake a new expansion or large acquisition, we believe our cash flow from operations, available cash and available borrowings under our revolving credit facility will be adequate to meet our normal operating needs for the foreseeable future.

Revolving Credit Facility

We have a \$400.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility. The facility includes a provision permitting us to increase the size of the facility, up to four times, in increments of at least \$25.0 million each (up to a maximum of \$200.0 million) under certain circumstances if certain lenders agree to commit to such an increase.

The facility allows us to borrow up to (1) 85% of the net amount of eligible accounts receivable, plus (2) the lesser of (a) 70% of the value of the lower of cost or market of eligible inventory, or (b) 85% of the appraised net orderly liquidation value of all eligible inventory, plus (3) 100% of cash held in an account with the agent under the credit facility and subject to a control agreement with the agent, minus (4) such reserves as the agent may establish. The facility includes a \$400.0 million sub-limit for letters of credit, and any outstanding letters of credit will be deducted from availability under the facility.

At December 31, 2014, we had no borrowings outstanding under the revolving credit facility. Any borrowings under the facility will bear interest at either LIBOR plus a spread ranging from 1.25% to 1.75%, provided that so long as we are rated investment grade, the margin for LIBOR loans will not exceed 1.50%, or a base rate plus a spread ranging from 0.0% to 0.50%. The revolving credit facility also requires an unused commitment fee of 0.25% per annum. All interest rates under the facility are subject to monthly grid pricing adjustments based on prior month average daily loan availability. The revolving credit facility matures on July 17, 2019. As of December 31, 2014, we had outstanding letters of credit totaling \$31.4 million and borrowing availability of \$368.6 million under the revolving credit facility.

Our revolving credit facility generally restricts our ability to make distributions unless, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to the distribution, the borrowing availability under the facility equals or exceeds the greater of (1) 20% of the commitments under the facility and (2) \$80.0 million; or the borrowing availability under the facility equals or exceeds the greater of (1) 15% of the commitments under the facility and (2) \$60.0 million, and our fixed charge

coverage ratio is at least 1.0:1 . However, we may make specified distributions up to an aggregate of \$78.8 million in 2015, to be increased by 5% in each fiscal year thereafter, on an aggregate basis, for each fiscal year.

In order to make acquisitions or investments, our revolving credit facility provides that (1) we must maintain a minimum borrowing availability of at least the greater of \$60.0 million or 15% of the total bank commitments under our revolving credit

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facility or (2) we must maintain a minimum borrowing availability of at least the greater of \$50.0 million or 12.5% of the total bank commitments under our revolving credit facility and meet a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.0:1 under our revolving credit facility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may make investments in the aggregate up to the greater of \$50.0 million and 1.25% of tangible assets and acquisitions in the aggregate up to the greater of \$100.0 million and 2.5% of tangible assets, if, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to the acquisition or investment, either (X) the borrowing availability under the facility equals or exceeds the greater of (A) 12.5% of the total bank commitments under the facility and (B) \$50.0 million, but is less than the greater of (A) 15% of the total bank commitments and (B) \$60.0 million, or (Y) our fixed charge coverage ratio is at least 1.0:1.

The revolving credit facility contains other customary covenants and events of default that impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions, among other things, provide limitations on the occurrence of additional indebtedness and our ability to create liens, to engage in certain affiliate transactions and to engage in sale-leaseback transactions.

3.60% Senior Notes due 2022

In July 2012, we issued \$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of the 3.60% Notes Due 2022. The 3.60% Notes Due 2022 are unsecured and were issued with an original issue discount of \$1.2 million. There is no sinking fund and no scheduled amortization of the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 prior to maturity. We may optionally redeem the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 at any time and from time to time prior to April 15, 2022 (three months prior to the maturity date) for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest and a discounted "make whole" payment. On or after April 15, 2022, we may optionally redeem the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest. The holders of the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 may require us to repurchase the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 at a price of 101% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of repurchase, upon the occurrence of both a "change of control" and, within 60 days of such change of control, a "below investment grade rating event" (as such terms are defined in the indenture governing the 3.60% Notes Due 2022). All of our domestic subsidiaries that guarantee other indebtedness of ours or of another guarantor of the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 in excess of \$5.0 million are guarantors of the 3.60% Notes Due 2022.

The indenture governing the 3.60% Notes Due 2022 contains customary events of default and covenants that will restrict our and certain of our subsidiaries' ability to (1) incur certain secured indebtedness, (2) engage in certain sale-leaseback transactions and (3) consolidate, merge or transfer all or substantially all of our assets.

GO Zone Bonds

In December 2010, the Authority completed the offering of \$89.0 million of 6 ½% tax-exempt revenue bonds due November 1, 2035 under the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (the "GO Zone Act"). The bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company at any time prior to November 1, 2020 for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest and a discounted "make whole" payment. On or after November 1, 2020, the bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest.

In July 2010, the Authority completed the reoffering of \$100.0 million of 6 ½% tax-exempt revenue bonds due August 1, 2029 under the GO Zone Act. The bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company at any time prior to August 1, 2020 for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest and a discounted "make whole" payment. On or after August 1, 2020, the bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest.

In December 2007, the Authority issued \$250.0 million of 6 ¾% tax-exempt revenue bonds due November 1, 2032 under the GO Zone Act. The bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company at any time prior to November 1, 2017 for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest and a discounted "make whole" payment. On or after November 1, 2017, the bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest.

Each series of the bonds is subject to redemption and the holders may require the bonds to be repurchased upon a change of control or a change in or loss of the current tax status of the bonds. In addition, the bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company if certain events have occurred in connection with the operation of the projects for which the bond proceeds may be used, including if the Company has determined

that the continued operation of any material portion of the projects would be impracticable, uneconomical or undesirable for any reason.

In connection with each offering of the bonds, we entered into a loan agreement with the Authority pursuant to which we agreed to pay all of the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the bonds and certain other amounts to the Authority. The net proceeds from the offerings were lent by the Authority to us. We used the proceeds to expand, refurbish and maintain certain of

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our facilities in the Louisiana Parishes of Calcasieu and Ascension. The bonds are unsecured and rank equally in right of payment with other existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness. All domestic restricted subsidiaries that guarantee other debt of ours or of another guarantor of the Senior Notes in excess of \$5.0 million are guarantors of the bonds. As of December 31, 2014, we had drawn all the proceeds from the 6 ½% bonds due 2029, 6 ¾% bonds due 2032 and 6 ½% bonds due 2035.

IKE Zone Bonds

In December 2010, the Authority completed the offering of \$65.0 million of 6 ½% tax-exempt revenue bonds due November 1, 2035 under Section 704 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company at any time prior to November 1, 2020 for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest and a discounted "make whole" payment. On or after November 1, 2020, the bonds are subject to optional redemption by the Authority upon the direction of the Company for 100% of the principal plus accrued interest. The bonds are subject to redemption, repurchase by the holders upon a change of control or a change in or loss of the current tax status of the bonds and optional redemption by the Authority under terms substantially similar to the terms for the GO Zone Bonds.

In connection with the offering of the bonds, we entered into a loan agreement with the Authority pursuant to which we agreed to pay all of the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the bonds and certain other amounts to the Authority. The net proceeds from the offering were lent by the Authority to us. We used the proceeds to expand, refurbish and maintain certain of our facilities in the Louisiana Parish of Calcasieu. The 6 ½% IKE Zone Senior Notes Due 2035 are unsecured and rank equally in right of payment with other existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness. All domestic restricted subsidiaries that guarantee other debt of ours or of another guarantor of the Senior Notes in excess of \$5.0 million are guarantors of the 6 ½% IKE Zone Senior Notes Due 2035. As of December 31, 2014, we had drawn all the proceeds from the 6 ½% IKE Zone Senior Notes Due 2035.

The indentures governing the Senior Notes contain customary covenants and events of default. Accordingly, these agreements generally impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions, among other things, provide limitations on incurrence of additional indebtedness, the payment of dividends, certain investments and acquisitions and sales of assets. However, the effectiveness of certain of these restrictions is currently suspended because the Senior Notes are currently rated investment grade by at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies. The most significant of these provisions, if it were currently effective, would restrict us from incurring additional debt, except specified permitted debt (including borrowings under our credit facility), when our fixed charge coverage ratio is below 2.0:1. These limitations are subject to a number of important qualifications and exceptions, including, without limitation, an exception for the payment of our regular quarterly dividend of up to \$0.10 per share. If the restrictions were currently effective, distributions in excess of \$100.0 million would not be allowed unless, after giving pro forma effect to the distribution, our fixed charge coverage ratio is at least 2.0:1 and such payment, together with the aggregate amount of all other distributions after January 13, 2006, is less than the sum of 50% of our consolidated net income for the period from October 1, 2003 to the end of the most recent quarter for which financial statements have been filed, plus 100% of net cash proceeds received after October 1, 2003 as a contribution to our common equity capital or from the issuance or sale of certain securities, plus several other adjustments.

Revenue Bonds

In December 1997, we entered into a loan agreement with a public trust established for public purposes for the benefit of the Parish of Calcasieu, Louisiana. The public trust issued \$10.9 million principal amount of tax-exempt waste disposal revenue bonds in order to finance our construction of waste disposal facilities for an ethylene plant. The waste disposal revenue bonds expire in December 2027 and are subject to redemption and mandatory tender for purchase prior to maturity under certain conditions. Interest on the waste disposal revenue bonds accrues at a rate determined by a remarketing agent and is payable quarterly. The interest rate on the waste disposal revenue bonds at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was 0.05% and 0.09%, respectively.

Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

In addition to long-term debt, we are required to make payments relating to various types of obligations. The following table summarizes our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2014 relating to long-term debt, operating

leases, capital leases, pension benefits funding, post-retirement healthcare benefits, purchase obligations and interest payments for the next five years and thereafter. The amounts do not include deferred charges and other items classified in other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet due to the uncertainty of the future payment schedule.

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	Payment Due by Period				
	Total	2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	Thereafter
	(dollars in millions)				
Contractual Obligations					
Long-term debt	\$764.0	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$764.0
Operating leases	745.9	39.2	73.5	52.6	580.6
Capital leases	2.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.1
Pension benefits funding	122.9	2.7	6.3	7.4	106.5
Post-retirement healthcare benefits	15.7	1.8	4.1	3.9	5.9
Purchase obligations	4,149.2	481.5	520.8	286.6	2,860.3
Interest payments	673.2	42.4	84.8	84.8	461.2
Total	\$6,473.3	\$567.9	\$690.0	\$435.8	\$4,779.6
Other Commercial Commitments					
Standby letters of credit	\$31.4	\$31.4	\$—	\$—	\$—

Long-Term Debt. Long-term debt consists of the 3.60% Notes Due 2022, the 6 ½% senior notes due 2029, the 6 ¾% senior notes due 2032, the 6 ½% GO Zone Senior Notes Due 2035, the 6 ½% IKE Zone Senior Notes Due 2035 and the tax-exempt waste disposal revenue bonds.

Operating Leases. We lease various facilities and equipment under noncancelable operating leases (primarily related to rail car leases and land) for various periods.

Capital Leases. This includes scheduled installments of principal and imputed interest on our capital lease obligations.

Pension Benefits Funding. We have defined benefit pension plans which cover certain eligible employees in the United States and non-U.S. countries. See the discussion in Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements for more information.

Post-retirement Healthcare Benefits. We provide post-retirement healthcare benefits to the employees of two subsidiaries who meet certain minimum age and service requirements. See the discussion in Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements for more information.

Purchase Obligations. Purchase obligations include agreements to purchase goods and services that are enforceable and legally binding and that specify all significant terms, including a minimum quantity and price. We are party to various obligations to purchase goods and services, including commitments to purchase various feedstock, utilities, nitrogen, oxygen, product storage, pipeline usage and logistic support, in each case in the ordinary course of our business, as well as various purchase commitments for our capital projects. The amounts shown in the table above reflect our estimates based on the contractual quantities and the prices in effect under contractual agreements as of December 31, 2014.

Interest Payments. Interest payments are based on interest rates in effect at December 31, 2014 and assume contractual amortization payments.

Standby Letters of Credit. This includes (1) our obligation under an \$11.3 million letter of credit issued in connection with the \$10.9 million tax-exempt waste disposal revenue bonds and (2) other letters of credit totaling \$20.1 million issued to support commercial obligations and obligations under our insurance programs, including workers' compensation claims.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None.

Critical Accounting Policies

Critical accounting policies are those that are important to our financial condition and require management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgments. Different amounts would be reported under different operating conditions or under alternative assumptions. We have evaluated the accounting policies used in the preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements and related notes and believe those policies are reasonable and appropriate.

We apply those accounting policies that we believe best reflect the underlying business and economic events, consistent with GAAP. Our more critical accounting policies include those related to long-lived assets, fair value estimates, accruals for long-term employee benefits, accounts receivable, income taxes and environmental and legal obligations. Inherent in such

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policies are certain key assumptions and estimates. We periodically update the estimates used in the preparation of the financial statements based on our latest assessment of the current and projected business and general economic environment. Our significant accounting policies are summarized in Note 1 to the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K. We believe the following to be our most critical accounting policies applied in the preparation of our financial statements.

Long-Lived Assets. Key estimates related to long-lived assets include useful lives, recoverability of carrying values and existence of any retirement obligations. Such estimates could be significantly modified. The carrying values of long-lived assets could be impaired by significant changes or projected changes in supply and demand fundamentals (which would have a negative impact on operating rates or margins), new technological developments, new competitors with significant raw material or other cost advantages, adverse changes associated with the United States and world economies, the cyclical nature of the chemical and refining industries and uncertainties associated with governmental actions.

We evaluate long-lived assets for potential impairment indicators whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable, including when negative conditions such as significant current or projected operating losses exist. Our judgments regarding the existence of impairment indicators are based on legal factors, market conditions and the operational performance of our businesses. Actual impairment losses incurred could vary significantly from amounts estimated. Long-lived assets assessed for impairment are grouped at the lowest level for which identifiable cash flows are largely independent of the cash flows of other assets and liabilities. Additionally, future events could cause us to conclude that impairment indicators exist and that associated long-lived assets of our businesses are impaired. Any resulting impairment loss could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

The estimated useful lives of long-lived assets range from two to 35 years. Depreciation and amortization of these assets, including amortization of deferred turnaround costs, under the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives totaled \$208.5 million, \$157.8 million and \$144.5 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. If the useful lives of the assets were found to be shorter than originally estimated, depreciation or amortization charges would be accelerated.

We defer the costs of planned major maintenance activities, or turnarounds, and amortize the costs over the period until the next planned turnaround of the affected unit. Total costs deferred on turnarounds were \$0.3 million, \$59.1 million and \$16.5 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Amortization in 2014, 2013 and 2012 of previously deferred turnaround costs was \$19.2 million, \$17.7 million and \$17.0 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, deferred turnaround costs, net of accumulated amortization, totaled \$51.4 million. Expensing turnaround costs as incurred would likely result in greater variability of our quarterly operating results and would adversely affect our financial position and results of operations.

Additional information concerning long-lived assets and related depreciation and amortization appears in Notes 5 and 6 to the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

Fair Value Estimates. We develop estimates of fair value to allocate the purchase price paid to acquire a business to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in an acquisition, to assess impairment of long-lived assets, goodwill and intangible assets and to record marketable securities, derivative instruments and pension plan assets. We use all available information to make these fair value determinations, including the engagement of third-party consultants. At December 31, 2014, our recorded goodwill was \$62.0 million, which was associated with the acquisitions of our specialty PVC pipe business and our Longview facilities. In addition, we record all derivative instruments, pension plan assets and certain marketable securities at fair value. The fair value of these items is determined by quoted market prices or from observable market-based inputs. See Notes 10 and 13 to the consolidated financial statements for more information.

Long-Term Employee Benefit Costs. Our costs for long-term employee benefits, particularly pension and postretirement medical and life benefits, are incurred over long periods of time and involve many uncertainties over those periods. The net periodic benefit cost attributable to current periods is based on several assumptions about such future uncertainties and is sensitive to changes in those assumptions. It is our responsibility, often with the assistance of independent experts, to select assumptions that represent the best estimates of those uncertainties. It is also our

responsibility to review those assumptions periodically and, if necessary, adjust the assumptions to reflect changes in economic or other factors.

Accounting for employee retirement plans involves estimating the cost of benefits that are to be provided in the future and attempting to match, for each employee, that estimated cost to the period worked. To accomplish this, we rely extensively on advice from actuaries, and we make assumptions about inflation, investment returns, mortality, employee turnover and discount rates that ultimately impact amounts recorded. Changes in these assumptions may result in different expense and liability amounts. Two of the more significant assumptions relate to the discount rate for measuring benefit obligations and the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets. At December 31, 2014, the projected pension benefit obligations for U.S. and non-U.S. plans were calculated using assumed weighted average discount rates of 3.5% and 1.9%, respectively. The discount rates were determined using a benchmark pension discount curve and applying spot rates from the curve to each year of

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expected benefit payments to determine the appropriate discount rate. The return on asset assumption of 7.0% for U.S. plans is based on historical asset returns, anticipated future performance of the investments and financial markets and input from our third-party independent actuary and the pension fund trustee. The non-U.S. plans are unfunded and, therefore, have no plan assets. As a result of the strong returns on U.S. plan assets during 2014 and the funding relief provided by the enactment of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, we expect the minimum funding requirements for the U.S. pension plans to decrease in 2015. Additional information on the 2015 funding requirements and key assumptions underlying these benefit costs appear in Note 10 to the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

The following table reflects the sensitivity of the benefit obligation of our pension plans to changes in the actuarial assumptions:

	2014	
	U.S. Plans	Non-U.S. Plans
	(dollars in millions)	
Projected benefit obligation, end of year	\$67.0	\$122.7
Discount rate increases by 100 basis points	59.6	103.8
Discount rate decreases by 100 basis points	76.0	147.1

Assumed healthcare trend rates do not have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the healthcare plans because benefits for participants are capped at a fixed amount.

While we believe that the amounts recorded in the consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K related to these retirement plans are based on the best estimates and judgments available, the actual outcomes could differ from these estimates.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. In our determination of the allowance for doubtful accounts, and consistent with our accounting policy, we estimate the amount of accounts receivable that we believe are unlikely to be collected and we record an expense of that amount. Estimating this amount requires us to analyze the financial strength of our customers, and, in our analysis, we combine the use of historical experience, our accounts receivable aged trial balance and specific collectibility analysis. We review our allowance for doubtful accounts quarterly. Balances over 90 days past due and accounts determined by our analysis of financial strength of customers to be high risk are reviewed individually for collectibility. By its nature, such an estimate is highly subjective and it is possible that the amount of accounts receivable that we are unable to collect may be different than the amount initially estimated.

Income Taxes. We utilize the liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under the liability method, deferred tax assets or liabilities are recorded based upon temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their carrying values for financial reporting purposes. Deferred tax expense or benefit is the result of changes in the deferred tax assets and liabilities during the period. Valuation allowances are recorded against deferred tax assets when it is considered more likely than not that the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

Environmental and Legal Obligations. We consult with various professionals to assist us in making estimates relating to environmental costs and legal proceedings. We accrue an expense when we determine that it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount is reasonably estimable. While we believe that the amounts recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements related to these contingencies are based on the best estimates and judgments available, the actual outcomes could differ from our estimates. Additional information about certain legal proceedings and environmental matters appears in Note 20 to the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 1 to the audited consolidated financial statements for a full description of recent accounting pronouncements, including expected dates of adoption and estimated effects on results of operations and financial condition, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Commodity Price Risk

A substantial portion of our products and raw materials are commodities whose prices fluctuate as market supply and demand fundamentals change. Accordingly, product margins and the level of our profitability tend to fluctuate with changes in the business cycle. We try to protect against such instability through various business strategies. Our strategies include ethylene

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product feedstock flexibility and moving downstream into the olefins and vinyls products where pricing is more stable. We use derivative instruments in certain instances to reduce price volatility risk on feedstocks and products. Based on our open derivative positions at December 31, 2014, a hypothetical \$0.10 increase in the price of a gallon of ethane would have increased our income before taxes by \$14.4 million and a hypothetical \$0.10 increase in the price of a MMBtu of natural gas would have decreased our income before taxes by \$0.3 million. Additional information concerning derivative commodity instruments appears in Notes 12 and 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

Interest Rate Risk

We are exposed to interest rate risk with respect to fixed and variable rate debt. At December 31, 2014, we had variable rate debt of \$10.9 million outstanding. All of the debt outstanding under our revolving credit facility (none was outstanding at December 31, 2014) and our loan relating to the tax-exempt waste disposal revenue bonds are at variable rates. We do not currently hedge our variable interest rate debt, but we may do so in the future. The average variable interest rate for our variable rate debt of \$10.9 million as of December 31, 2014 was 0.05%. A hypothetical 100 basis point increase in the average interest rate on our variable rate debt would increase our annual interest expense by approximately \$0.1 million. Also, at December 31, 2014, we had \$754.0 million aggregate principal amount of fixed rate debt. We are subject to the risk of higher interest cost if and when this debt is refinanced. If interest rates were 1% higher at the time of refinancing, our annual interest expense would increase by approximately \$7.5 million.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

We are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risk associated with our international operations. However, the effect of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates caused by our international operations has not had a material impact on our overall operating results. We may engage in activities to mitigate our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk in certain instances through the use of currency exchange derivative instruments, including forward exchange contracts, or spot purchases. A forward exchange contract obligates us to exchange predetermined amounts of specified currencies at a stated exchange rate on a stated date.

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Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

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Financial statement schedules not included in this Form 10-K have been omitted because they are not applicable or because the required information is shown in the financial statements or notes thereto.	

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The management of Westlake Chemical Corporation is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Westlake's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Westlake management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013). Based on its assessment, Westlake's management has concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2014 based on those criteria.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company acquired all the equity interests in Vinnolit Holdings GmbH and its subsidiary companies ("Vinnolit"). In accordance with the SEC's published guidance, because the Company acquired Vinnolit during the current fiscal year, management has excluded Vinnolit from its assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. Vinnolit's total assets and total net sales represent 15.7% and 9.8%, respectively, of the related consolidated financial statement amounts as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited the financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has also audited the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 as stated in their report that appears on the following page.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders
of Westlake Chemical Corporation:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the accompanying index present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Westlake Chemical Corporation and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule listed in the accompanying index presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedule, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedule, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

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

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

As described in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, management has excluded Vinnolit Holdings GmbH from its assessment of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 because it was acquired by the Company in a purchase business combination during 2014. We have also excluded Vinnolit Holdings GmbH from our audit of internal control over financial reporting. Vinnolit Holdings GmbH is a wholly-owned subsidiary whose total assets and total net sales represent 15.7% and 9.8%, respectively, of the related consolidated financial statement amounts as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Houston, Texas
February 25, 2015

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CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(in thousands of dollars, except par values and share amounts)	
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$880,601	\$461,301
Marketable securities	—	239,388
Accounts receivable, net	560,666	428,457
Inventories	525,776	471,879
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	11,807	13,888
Deferred income taxes	32,437	34,169
Total current assets	2,011,287	1,649,082
Property, plant and equipment, net	2,757,557	2,088,014
Equity investments	61,305	66,875
Other assets, net		
Intangible assets, net	218,431	159,046
Deferred charges and other assets, net	165,410	97,892
Total other assets, net	383,841	256,938
Total assets	\$5,213,990	\$4,060,909
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$261,062	\$249,613
Accrued liabilities	276,118	155,245
Total current liabilities	537,180	404,858
Long-term debt	763,997	763,879
Deferred income taxes	536,066	437,976
Other liabilities	174,859	35,593
Total liabilities	2,012,102	1,642,306
Commitments and contingencies (Notes 7 and 20)		