

ITC Holdings Corp.
Form 10-Q
November 05, 2015

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2015

OR

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

Commission File Number: 001-32576

ITC HOLDINGS CORP.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Michigan

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or
Organization)

27175 Energy Way

Novi, MI 48377

(Address Of Principal Executive Offices, Including Zip Code)

32-0058047

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

(248) 946-3000

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

The number of shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, without par value, outstanding as of October 30, 2015 was 153,418,988.

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DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise noted or the context requires, all references in this report to:

ITC Holdings Corp. and its subsidiaries

“ITC Great Plains” are references to ITC Great Plains, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Grid Development, LLC;

“ITC Grid Development” are references to ITC Grid Development, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings;

“ITC Holdings” are references to ITC Holdings Corp. and not any of its subsidiaries;

“ITC Midwest” are references to ITC Midwest LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings;

“ITCTransmission” are references to International Transmission Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings;

“METC” are references to Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MTH;

“MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries” are references to ITCTransmission, METC and ITC Midwest together;

“MTH” are references to Michigan Transco Holdings, LLC, the sole member of METC and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings;

“Regulated Operating Subsidiaries” are references to ITCTransmission, METC, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains together; and

“We,” “our” and “us” are references to ITC Holdings together with all of its subsidiaries.

Other definitions

“Consumers Energy” are references to Consumers Energy Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CMS Energy Corporation;

“DTE Electric” are references to DTE Electric Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of DTE Energy Company;

“FERC” are references to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

“FPA” are references to the Federal Power Act;

“IP&L” are references to Interstate Power and Light Company, an Alliant Energy Corporation subsidiary;

“ITC Holdings’ annual report on Form 10-K” are references to the annual report on Form 10-K filed on February 26, 2015;

“kV” are references to kilovolts (one kilovolt equaling 1,000 volts);

“kW” are references to kilowatts (one kilowatt equaling 1,000 watts);

“LIBOR” are references to the London Interbank Offered Rate;

“MISO” are references to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., a FERC-approved RTO which oversees the operation of the bulk power transmission system for a substantial portion of the Midwestern United States and Manitoba, Canada, and of which ITCTransmission, METC and ITC Midwest are members;

“NERC” are references to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation;

“RTO” are references to Regional Transmission Organizations; and

“SPP” are references to Southwest Power Pool, Inc., a FERC-approved RTO which oversees the operation of the bulk power transmission system for a substantial portion of the South Central United States, and of which ITC Great Plains is a member.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ITC HOLDINGS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

(in thousands, except share data)	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$24,167	\$27,741
Accounts receivable	124,310	100,998
Inventory	29,491	30,892
Deferred income taxes	17,002	14,511
Regulatory assets	12,378	5,393
Prepaid and other current assets	11,598	7,281
Total current assets	218,946	186,816
Property, plant and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$1,466,591 and \$1,388,217, respectively)	5,890,138	5,496,875
Other assets		
Goodwill	950,163	950,163
Intangible assets (net of accumulated amortization of \$27,411 and \$24,917, respectively)	46,325	48,794
Regulatory assets	224,913	223,712
Deferred financing fees (net of accumulated amortization of \$16,504 and \$15,972, respectively)	30,222	30,311
Other	44,892	37,418
Total other assets	1,296,515	1,290,398
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,405,599	\$6,974,089
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$108,828	\$107,969
Accrued payroll	20,660	23,502
Accrued interest	41,642	50,538
Accrued taxes	26,048	41,614
Regulatory liabilities	43,607	39,972
Refundable deposits from generators for transmission network upgrades	2,657	10,376
Debt maturing within one year	694,327	175,000
Other	11,531	14,043
Total current liabilities	949,300	463,014
Accrued pension and postretirement liabilities	70,833	69,562
Deferred income taxes	746,179	656,562
Regulatory liabilities	210,811	160,070
Refundable deposits from generators for transmission network upgrades	9,039	9,384
Other	27,695	17,354
Long-term debt	3,709,878	3,928,586
Commitments and contingent liabilities (Note 11)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Common stock, without par value, 300,000,000 shares authorized, 156,177,085 and 155,140,967 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively	811,037	923,191

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Retained earnings	866,900	741,550
Accumulated other comprehensive income	3,927	4,816
Total stockholders' equity	1,681,864	1,669,557
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$7,405,599	\$6,974,089

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

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ITC HOLDINGS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)

(in thousands, except per share data)	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
OPERATING REVENUES	\$273,189	\$270,134	\$820,734	\$791,951
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Operation and maintenance	32,721	29,038	88,309	79,735
General and administrative	33,677	28,812	107,064	87,082
Depreciation and amortization	36,890	31,936	106,903	94,609
Taxes other than income taxes	20,463	19,205	61,629	57,474
Other operating (income) and expenses — net	(206)	(289)	(675)	(750)
Total operating expenses	123,545	108,702	363,230	318,150
OPERATING INCOME	149,644	161,432	457,504	473,801
OTHER EXPENSES (INCOME)				
Interest expense — net	51,398	47,328	150,070	138,491
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	(6,421)	(4,921)	(21,434)	(14,865)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	—	—	29,074
Other income	(384)	(244)	(804)	(618)
Other expense	1,372	761	2,969	3,696
Total other expenses (income)	45,965	42,924	130,801	155,778
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	103,679	118,508	326,703	318,023
INCOME TAX PROVISION	38,106	44,635	121,662	120,678
NET INCOME	\$65,573	\$73,873	\$205,041	\$197,345
Basic earnings per common share	\$0.42	\$0.47	\$1.32	\$1.26
Diluted earnings per common share	\$0.42	\$0.47	\$1.31	\$1.25
Dividends declared per common share	\$0.1875	\$0.1625	\$0.5125	\$0.4475
See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).				

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ITC HOLDINGS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED)

(in thousands)	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
NET INCOME	\$65,573	\$73,873	\$205,041	\$197,345
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME				
Derivative instruments, net of tax (Note 6)	(2,169	) 169	(910	) (413
Available-for-sale securities, net of tax (Note 6)	18	(86	) 21	24
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME, NET OF TAX	(2,151	) 83	(889	) (389
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$63,422	\$73,956	\$204,152	\$196,956
See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).				

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ITC HOLDINGS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

	Nine months ended	
	September 30,	
(in thousands)	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	\$205,041	\$197,345
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization expense	106,903	94,609
Recognition, refund and collection of revenue accruals and deferrals — including accrued interest	1,164	29,175
Deferred income tax expense	76,103	86,935
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	(21,434)	(14,865)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	29,074
Other	14,950	15,474
Changes in assets and liabilities, exclusive of changes shown separately:		
Accounts receivable	(24,523)	(24,057)
Inventory	1,401	1,423
Prepaid and other current assets	(4,317)	3,377
Accounts payable	(1,120)	(16,382)
Accrued payroll	(1,520)	(1,710)
Accrued interest	(8,896)	(18,161)
Accrued taxes	(15,566)	(3,156)
Other current liabilities	132	(13,486)
Other non-current assets and liabilities, net	57,970	(4,694)
Net cash provided by operating activities	386,288	360,901
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Expenditures for property, plant and equipment	(460,110)	(549,599)
Other	(14,969)	(2,667)
Net cash used in investing activities	(475,079)	(552,266)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Issuance of long-term debt	225,000	498,664
Borrowings under revolving credit agreements	909,400	1,397,800
Borrowings under term loan credit agreements	—	110,000
Net issuance of commercial paper	218,983	—
Retirement of long-term debt — including extinguishment of debt costs	—	(248,494)
Repayments of revolving credit agreements	(1,053,200)	(1,319,500)
Repayments under term loan credit agreements	—	(39,000)
Issuance of common stock	12,322	19,666
Dividends on common and restricted stock	(79,697)	(70,279)
Refundable deposits from generators for transmission network upgrades	3,458	5,833
Repayment of refundable deposits from generators for transmission network upgrades	(11,442)	(22,155)
Repurchase and retirement of common stock	(21,931)	(108,136)
Forward contracts of accelerated share repurchase program	(115,000)	(46,000)
Other	(2,676)	(9,713)
Net cash provided by financing activities	85,217	168,686
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(3,574)	(22,679)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of period	27,741	34,275
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of period	\$24,167	\$11,596

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

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NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

1. GENERAL

These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 included in ITC Holdings' annual report on Form 10-K for such period.

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared using accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Regulation S-X as they apply to interim financial information.

Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. These accounting principles require us to use estimates and assumptions that impact the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from our estimates.

The condensed consolidated financial statements are unaudited, but in our opinion include all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim period. The interim financial results are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for any other interim period or the fiscal year.

Supplementary Cash Flows Information

	Nine months ended September 30,	
(in thousands)	2015	2014
Supplementary cash flows information:		
Interest paid (net of interest capitalized)	\$153,350	\$154,410
Income taxes paid — net	49,599	25,744
Supplementary non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Additions to property, plant and equipment and other long-lived assets (a)	\$85,386	\$92,557
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	21,434	14,865

(a) Amounts consist of current liabilities for construction, labor and materials that have not been included in investing activities. These amounts have not been paid for as of September 30, 2015 or 2014, respectively, but have been or will be included as a cash outflow from investing activities for expenditures for property, plant and equipment when paid.

2. RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

Revenue Recognition

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued authoritative guidance requiring entities to apply a new model for recognizing revenue from contracts with customers. The guidance will supersede the current revenue recognition guidance and require entities to evaluate their revenue recognition arrangements using a five step model to determine when a customer obtains control of a transferred good or service. The guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017 and may be adopted using a full or modified retrospective application. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, cash flows, or financial position.

Going Concern

In August 2014, the FASB issued authoritative guidance on (1) how to perform a going concern assessment and (2) when going concern disclosures are required under GAAP. The guidance extends the responsibility for performing a going concern assessment to company management; previously this requirement existed only in auditing literature. The standard is expected to enhance the timeliness, clarity, and consistency of going concern disclosures. The guidance is effective for the annual period ending after December 15, 2016, and for interim periods and annual periods thereafter. Early application is permitted. We do not expect the standard to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements, including our disclosure.

Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis

In February 2015, the FASB issued authoritative guidance that amends the variable interest entity consolidation analysis under GAAP. The new standard was issued to improve targeted areas of consolidation guidance; though the FASB's

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deliberations were largely focused on the investment management industry, the standard is applicable for reporting entities across industries. Specifically, the guidance amends the consolidation analysis for limited partnerships, clarifies when fees paid to a decision maker should be a factor in the consolidation analysis and amends how variable interests held by related parties affect consolidation. The guidance is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2015. Early application is permitted. We do not expect the standard to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Amendment to the Balance Sheet Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs

In April 2015, the FASB issued authoritative guidance that amends the balance sheet presentation of debt issuance costs. This new standard requires debt issuance costs to be shown as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of the related debt, consistent with debt discounts. The guidance is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2015 and will be applied retrospectively. Early adoption is permitted. Upon transition, an entity is required to comply with the applicable disclosures for a change in an accounting principle. We are currently assessing the impact this guidance may have on our consolidated statements of financial position and disclosures. The standard will not impact our consolidated statements of operations or cash flows.

3. REGULATORY MATTERS

Start-Up, Development and Pre-Construction Regulatory Assets

ITC Great Plains made a filing with the FERC under Section 205 of the FPA in May 2013 to recover start-up, development and pre-construction expenses, including associated debt and equity carrying charges, in future rates. These expenses included certain costs incurred by ITC Great Plains for the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority (“KETA”) Project and the Kansas V-Plan Project prior to construction. On March 26, 2015, FERC accepted ITC Great Plains’ request to commence amortization of the authorized regulatory assets, subject to refund, as well as set the matter for hearing and settlement judge procedures. During the third quarter of 2015, ITC Great Plains and the settling parties reached an uncontested settlement agreement, which was certified by the presiding administrative law judge but remains subject to acceptance by FERC. As of September 30, 2015, we had a total of \$12.9 million (net of accumulated amortization of \$0.7 million) of regulatory assets for these expenses, including carrying charges. ITC Great Plains has included the unamortized balance of the regulatory assets in its rate base and commenced amortization over a 10-year period during the second quarter of 2015. The amortization expense will be recovered through ITC Great Plains’ cost-based formula rate template, subject to acceptance by FERC. We do not expect the final resolution of this matter to have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, cash flows or financial condition.

MISO Funding Policy for Generator Interconnections

On June 18, 2015, FERC issued an order initiating a proceeding, pursuant to Section 206 of the FPA, to examine MISO’s funding policy for generator interconnections, which allows a transmission owner to unilaterally elect to fund network upgrades and recover such costs from the interconnection customer. In this order, FERC suggested the MISO funding policy be revised to require mutual agreement between the interconnection customer and transmission owner to utilize the election to fund network upgrades. We do not expect the resolution of this proceeding to have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, cash flows or financial condition.

MISO Formula Rate Template Modification Filing

On October 30, 2015, ITC Transmission, METC and ITC Midwest (collectively, the “joint applicants”) requested modifications, pursuant to Section 205 of the FPA, to certain aspects of the joint applicants’ respective formula rate templates which included, among other things, changes to ensure that various income tax items are computed correctly for purposes of determining their revenue requirements. The joint applicants requested an effective date of January 1, 2016 for the proposed template changes. The formula rate templates, prior to any proposed modifications, include certain deferred income taxes on contributions in aid of construction in rate base that result in the joint applicants recovering excess amounts from customers. The recognition of this refund liability in the third quarter of 2015 resulted in a reduction in revenues of \$8.6 million, which includes amounts recovered for all historical periods through September 30, 2015, and an increase in interest expense of \$0.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015. This resulted in an estimated after-tax reduction to net income of \$5.5 million for the three and

nine months ended September 30, 2015. We do not expect the formula rate modifications, if accepted by FERC, to have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, cash flows or financial condition.

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Order on Formula Rate Protocols

In 2012, the FERC issued an order initiating a proceeding, pursuant to Section 206 of the FPA, to determine whether the formula rate protocols under the MISO Tariff are sufficient to ensure just and reasonable rates. Our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries were named in the order. In May 2013, the FERC issued an order that determined the formula rate protocols are insufficient to ensure just and reasonable rates and directed MISO and its member transmission owners (“TOs”) to file revised formula rate protocols. In September 2013, MISO and its TOs, including our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries, filed revised formula rate protocols which require our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries to provide additional information for certain aspects of the formula rates used to calculate their respective annual revenue requirements. In March 2014, the FERC issued an order conditionally accepting MISO and its TOs’ September 2013 filing and required a further compliance filing, which MISO and its TOs made in May 2014. On January 22, 2015, the FERC conditionally accepted the May 2014 compliance filing, subject to a further compliance filing, which was made on February 13, 2015. On August 21, 2015, the FERC issued an order accepting the February 13, 2015 compliance filing, effective January 2014. We do not expect these revised formula rate protocols to impact our consolidated results of operations, cash flows or financial condition.

Rate of Return on Equity and Capital Structure Complaints

See “Rate of Return on Equity and Capital Structure Complaints” in Note 11 for a discussion of the complaints.

Cost-Based Formula Rates with True-Up Mechanism

The transmission rates at our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries are set annually, using the FERC-approved formula rates, and the rates remain in effect for a one-year period. By completing their formula rate templates on an annual basis, our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries are able to adjust their transmission rates to reflect changing operational data and financial performance, including the amount of network load on their transmission systems (for our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries), operating expenses and additions to property, plant and equipment when placed in service, among other items. The FERC-approved formula rates use approved return on equity (“ROE”) rates and do not require further action or FERC filings for the calculated joint zone rates to go into effect, although the rates are subject to legal challenge at the FERC. Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries will continue to use formula rates to calculate their respective annual revenue requirements unless the FERC determines the rates to be unjust and unreasonable or another mechanism is determined by the FERC to be just and reasonable. See “Rate of Return on Equity and Capital Structure Complaints” in Note 11 for detail on ROE matters including incentive adders approved by FERC in 2015. Our cost-based formula rate templates include a true-up mechanism, whereby our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries compare their actual revenue requirements to their billed revenues for each year to determine any over- or under-collection of revenue requirements. Revenue is recognized for services provided during each reporting period based on actual revenue requirements calculated using the formula rate templates. Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries accrue or defer revenues to the extent that the actual revenue requirement for the reporting period is higher or lower, respectively, than the amounts billed relating to that reporting period. The amount of accrued or deferred revenues is reflected in customer bills within two years under the provisions of the formula rate templates. The net changes in regulatory assets and liabilities associated with our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries’ formula rate revenue accruals and deferrals, including accrued interest, were as follows during the nine months ended September 30, 2015:

(in thousands)	Total
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$(56,103)
Net refund of 2013 revenue deferrals and accruals, including accrued interest	26,366
Net revenue deferral for the nine months ended September 30, 2015	(25,983)
Net accrued interest payable for the nine months ended September 30, 2015	(1,547)
Balance as of September 30, 2015	\$(57,267)

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Regulatory assets and liabilities associated with our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' formula rate revenue accruals and deferrals and associated accrued interest are recorded in the condensed consolidated statements of financial position at September 30, 2015 as follows:

(in thousands)	Total
Current assets	\$12,378
Non-current assets	8,850
Current liabilities	(37,415)
Non-current liabilities	(41,080)
Balance as of September 30, 2015	\$(57,267)

4. GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill

At September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we had goodwill balances recorded at ITC Transmission, METC and ITC Midwest of \$173.4 million, \$453.8 million and \$323.0 million, respectively, which resulted from the ITC Transmission acquisition, the METC acquisition and ITC Midwest's asset acquisition, respectively.

Intangible Assets

We have recorded intangible assets as a result of the METC acquisition in 2006. The carrying value of these assets was \$31.9 million and \$34.2 million (net of accumulated amortization of \$26.5 million and \$24.2 million) as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

We have also recorded intangible assets for payments and obligations made by ITC Great Plains to certain TOs to acquire rights which are required under the SPP tariff to designate ITC Great Plains to build, own and operate projects within the SPP region, including the KETA Project and the Kansas V-Plan Project. The carrying amount of these intangible assets was \$14.4 million and \$14.6 million (net of accumulated amortization of \$0.9 million and \$0.7 million) as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

During the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, we recognized \$0.8 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, of amortization expense of our intangible assets and \$2.5 million for each of the nine month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. For each of the next five years, we expect the annual amortization of our intangible assets that have been recorded as of September 30, 2015 to be \$3.3 million per year.

5. DEBT

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

We may use derivative financial instruments, including interest rate swap contracts, to manage our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates. The use of these financial instruments mitigates exposure to these risks and the variability of our operating results. We are not a party to leveraged derivatives and do not enter into derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. The interest rate swaps listed below manage interest rate risk associated with the forecasted future issuance of fixed-rate debt related to the expected refinancing of the maturing ITC Holdings 5.875% Senior Notes, due September 30, 2016. As of September 30, 2015, ITC Holdings had \$139.3 million outstanding under the 5.875% Senior Notes.

Interest Rate Swaps	Notional Amount	Fixed Rate	Original Term	Effective Date
(Amounts in millions)				
August 2014 swap	\$25.0	3.217	% 10 years	September 2016
October 2014 swap	25.0	3.075	% 10 years	September 2016
January 2015 swap	25.0	2.301	% 10 years	September 2016
Total	\$75.0			

The 10-year term interest rate swaps call for ITC Holdings to receive interest quarterly at a variable rate equal to LIBOR and to pay interest semi-annually at various fixed rates effective for the 10-year period beginning September 30, 2016 after the agreements have been terminated. The agreements include a mandatory early termination provision and will be terminated no later than the effective date of the interest rate swaps of September 30, 2016. The interest rate swaps have been determined to be highly effective at offsetting changes in the fair value of the forecasted interest cash flows associated with the expected

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debt issuance attributable to changes in benchmark interest rates from the trade date of the interest rate swaps to the issuance date of the debt obligation.

As of September 30, 2015, there has been no material ineffectiveness recorded in the condensed consolidated statement of operations. The interest rate swaps qualify for hedge accounting treatment, whereby any gain or loss recognized from the trade date to the effective date for the effective portion of the hedge is recorded net of tax in accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”). This amount will be accumulated and amortized as a component of interest expense over the life of the forecasted debt. As of September 30, 2015, the fair value of the derivative instruments was a liability of \$4.1 million recorded to other current liabilities. None of the interest rate swaps contain credit-risk-related contingent features. Refer to Note 10 for additional fair value information.

ITC Midwest

On April 7, 2015, ITC Midwest issued \$225.0 million aggregate principal amount of 3.83% First Mortgage Bonds, Series G, due 2055. The proceeds from the issuance were used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of borrowings under ITC Midwest’s revolving credit agreement. ITC Midwest’s First Mortgage Bonds are issued under its first mortgage and deed of trust and secured by a first mortgage lien on substantially all of its property.

ITC Holdings

On June 8, 2015, pursuant to the authorization by the Board of Directors, ITC Holdings established an ongoing commercial paper program for the issuance and sale of unsecured commercial paper in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$400.0 million outstanding at any one time. As of September 30, 2015, ITC Holdings had approximately \$219.0 million of commercial paper issued and outstanding under the program, with a weighted-average interest rate of 0.450% and weighted average remaining days to maturity of 5 days. The proceeds from the issuance were used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of borrowings under ITC Holdings’ revolving credit agreement. The amount outstanding as of September 30, 2015 was classified as debt maturing within one year in the consolidated statements of financial position.

Revolving Credit Agreements

At September 30, 2015, ITC Holdings and its Regulated Operating Subsidiaries had the following unsecured revolving credit facilities available:

(amounts in millions)	Total Available Capacity	Outstanding Balance (a)	Unused Capacity	Weighted Average Interest Rate on Outstanding Balance	Commitment Fee Rate (b)	
ITC Holdings	\$400.0	\$21.8	\$378.2	(c) 1.4%	(d) 0.175	%
ITC Transmission	100.0	41.8	58.2	1.2%	(e) 0.10	%
METC	100.0	9.3	90.7	1.2%	(e) 0.10	%
ITC Midwest	250.0	38.5	211.5	1.2%	(e) 0.10	%
ITC Great Plains	150.0	57.6	92.4	1.2%	(e) 0.10	%
Total	\$1,000.0	\$169.0	\$831.0			

(a) Included within long-term debt.

(b) Calculation based on the average daily unused commitments, subject to adjustment based on the borrower’s credit rating.

ITC Holdings’ revolving credit agreement may be used for general corporate purposes, including to repay commercial paper issued pursuant to the commercial paper program described above, if necessary. While

(c) outstanding commercial paper does not reduce available capacity under ITC Holdings’ revolving credit agreement, the unused capacity under this agreement adjusted for the commercial paper outstanding was \$159.2 million as of September 30, 2015.

(d) Loan bears interest at a rate equal to LIBOR plus an applicable margin of 1.25% or at a base rate, which is defined as the higher of the prime rate, 0.50% above the federal funds rate or 1.00% above the one month LIBOR, plus an

applicable margin of 0.25%, subject to adjustments based on ITC Holdings' credit rating.

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Loans bear interest at a rate equal to LIBOR plus an applicable margin of 1.00% or at a base rate, which is defined (e) as the higher of the prime rate, 0.50% above the federal funds rate or 1.00% above the one month LIBOR, subject to adjustments based on the borrower's credit rating.

Covenants

Our debt instruments contain numerous financial and operating covenants that place significant restrictions on certain transactions, such as incurring additional indebtedness, engaging in sale and lease-back transactions, creating liens or other encumbrances, entering into mergers, consolidations, liquidations or dissolutions, creating or acquiring subsidiaries, selling or otherwise disposing of all or substantially all of our assets and paying dividends. In addition, the covenants require us to meet certain financial ratios, such as maintaining certain debt to capitalization ratios and maintaining certain interest coverage ratios. As of September 30, 2015, we were not in violation of any debt covenant.

6. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

The changes in stockholders' equity for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were as follows:

(in thousands, except share and per share data)	Common Stock		Retained Earnings	Accumulated	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount		Other Income (Loss)	
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2014	155,140,967	\$923,191	\$741,550	\$4,816	\$1,669,557
Net income	—	—	205,041	—	205,041
Repurchase and retirement of common stock	(667,487)	(21,931)	—	—	(21,931)
Dividends declared (\$0.5125 per share)	—	—	(79,691)	—	(79,691)
Stock option exercises	1,165,435	10,599	—	—	10,599
Shares issued under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan	55,905	1,723	—	—	1,723
Issuance of restricted stock	254,711	—	—	—	—
Forfeiture of restricted stock	(53,197)	—	—	—	—
Issuance of performance shares	287,464	—	—	—	—
Forfeiture of performance shares	(6,713)	—	—	—	—
Share-based compensation, net of forfeitures	—	12,461	—	—	12,461
Forward contracts of accelerated share repurchase program	—	(115,000)	—	—	(115,000)
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	(889)	(889)
Other	—	(6)	—	—	(6)
BALANCE, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015	156,177,085	\$811,037	\$866,900	\$3,927	\$1,681,864

The changes in stockholders' equity for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 were as follows:

(in thousands, except share and per share data)	Common Stock		Retained Earnings	Accumulated	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount		Other Income (Loss)	
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2013	157,500,795	\$1,014,435	\$592,970	\$6,327	\$1,613,732
Net income	—	—	197,345	—	197,345
Repurchase and retirement of common stock	(3,018,225)	(108,136)	—	—	(108,136)
Dividends declared on common stock (\$0.4475 per share)	—	—	(70,279)	—	(70,279)
Stock option exercises	977,491	18,095	—	—	18,095
Shares issued under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan	53,056	1,571	—	—	1,571
Issuance of restricted stock	305,718	—	—	—	—
Forfeiture of restricted stock	(87,536)	—	—	—	—
Share-based compensation, net of forfeitures	—	11,009	—	—	11,009

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Forward contract of accelerated share repurchase program	—	(46,000)	—	—	(46,000)
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	(389)	(389)
BALANCE, SEPTEMBER 30, 2014	155,731,299	\$890,974	\$720,036	\$ 5,938	\$1,616,948

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Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

The following table provides the components of changes in AOCI for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

(in thousands)	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Balance at the beginning of period	\$6,078	\$5,855	\$4,816	\$6,327
Derivative instruments				
Reclassification of net loss relating to interest rate cash flow hedges from AOCI to interest expense — net (net of tax of \$100 and \$88 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and net of tax of \$261 and \$243 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively)	111	122	372	340
Reclassification of loss relating to interest rate cash flow hedges from AOCI to loss on extinguishment of debt (net of tax of \$83 for the nine months ended September 30, 2014)	—	—	—	117
(Loss) gain on interest rate swaps relating to interest rate cash flow hedges (net of tax of \$1,639 and \$34 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and net of tax of \$920 and \$621 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively)	(2,280	) 47	(1,282	) (870
Derivative instruments, net of tax	(2,169	) 169	(910	) (413
Available-for-sale securities				
Unrealized net gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities (net of tax of \$13 and \$63 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and net of tax of \$15 and \$16 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively)	18	(86	) 21	24
Available-for-sale securities, net of tax	18	(86	) 21	24
Total other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax	(2,151	) 83	(889	) (389
Balance at the end of period	\$3,927	\$5,938	\$3,927	\$5,938

Share Repurchase Program

In April 2014, the Board of Directors authorized and ITC Holdings announced a share repurchase program for up to \$250.0 million, which expires in December 2015. Pursuant to such authorization, ITC Holdings completed an accelerated share repurchase from June 2014 to December 2014 in which 3.6 million shares were repurchased and retired for a total of \$130.0 million.

On September 30, 2015, ITC Holdings entered into an accelerated share repurchase program for \$115.0 million with Barclays Bank PLC (“Barclays”) (the “ASR program”), which is part of the share repurchase program described above. Under the ASR program, ITC Holdings paid \$115.0 million to Barclays on September 30, 2015 and received an initial delivery of 2.8 million shares on October 1, 2015. The fair market value of the initial delivery of shares was \$92.0 million, based on the closing market price of \$33.34 per share at the commencement of the ASR program. The final number of shares delivered under the ASR program will be based on the volume-weighted average share price of our common stock during the term of the transaction, less an agreed upon discount and adjusted for the initial share delivery. The ASR program is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. As of September 30, 2015, the \$92.0 million pertaining to the initial delivery of shares and the remaining \$23.0 million under the ASR program meet the criteria to be accounted for as a physically settled forward contract and a forward contract indexed to our stock, respectively, and qualify as equity instruments. Therefore, ITC Holdings recorded the entire \$115.0 million payment as a reduction to common stock as of September 30, 2015.

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7. SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

Long-Term Incentive Plan Grants

On May 19, 2015, pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan (“LTIP”), we granted 473,200 options to purchase shares of our common stock with an exercise price of \$35.91 per share, which was the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant. The options vest in three equal annual installments with the first installment vesting on May 19, 2016. In addition, on May 19, 2015, pursuant to the LTIP, we granted 189,299 shares of restricted stock and 287,464 performance shares. One-half of the payout of the performance shares will be based on an external measure for total shareholder return (“TSR”) relative to a predetermined peer group and the remainder will be based on adjusted diluted earnings per share (“EPS”) growth. Payout of the performance shares will range from 0% to 200% of the target number of shares granted, plus additional dividend equivalent shares as described below. The fair value for performance shares with the relative TSR condition was determined using a Monte Carlo simulation valuation model, whereas the fair value for performance shares with the EPS growth condition was based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date.

Holders of outstanding restricted stock and performance shares have all the rights of a holder of common stock of ITC Holdings, including dividend and voting rights. However, performance shares earn and accumulate dividend equivalents, which are settled in the form of additional shares upon vesting of the related award. Dividend equivalents paid on performance shares that do not vest will be forfeited. Restricted stock holders receive cash dividends at each dividend payment date. The restricted stock and performance shares generally vest three years after the grant date. Holders of restricted stock and performance shares may not sell, transfer or pledge their respective shares until vesting occurs.

Stock Option Exercises

We issued 1,165,435 and 1,011,750 shares of our common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, respectively, due to the exercise of stock options.

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8. EARNINGS PER SHARE

We report both basic and diluted EPS. Our restricted stock contain rights to receive nonforfeitable dividends and thus, are participating securities requiring the two-class method of computing EPS. A reconciliation of both calculations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 is presented in the following table:

(in thousands, except share, per share data and percentages)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,		
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Numerator:					
Net income	\$65,573	\$73,873	\$205,041	\$197,345	
Less: dividends declared and paid — common and restricted shares	(29,230)	(25,296)	(79,697)	(70,279))
Undistributed earnings	36,343	48,577	125,344	127,066	
Percentage allocated to common shares (a)	99.3	% 99.2	% 99.3	% 99.2	%
Undistributed earnings — common shares	36,089	48,188	124,467	126,049	
Add: dividends declared and paid — common shares	29,036	25,100	79,136	69,708	
Numerator for basic and diluted earnings per common share	\$65,125	\$73,288	\$203,603	\$195,757	
Denominator:					
Basic earnings per common share — weighted average common shares outstanding	154,836,673	154,386,994	154,348,478	155,661,516	
Incremental shares for stock options and employee stock purchase plan — weighted average assumed conversion	687,035	1,364,896	1,104,516	1,470,041	
Diluted earnings per common share — adjusted weighted average shares and assumed conversion	155,523,708	155,751,890	155,452,994	157,131,557	
Per common share net income:					
Basic	\$0.42	\$0.47	\$1.32	\$1.26	
Diluted	\$0.42	\$0.47	\$1.31	\$1.25	

(a) Weighted average common shares outstanding	154,836,673	154,386,994	154,348,478	155,661,516	
Weighted average restricted shares (participating securities)	1,040,212	1,230,250	1,127,490	1,295,812	
Total	155,876,885	155,617,244	155,475,968	156,957,328	
Percentage allocated to common shares	99.3	% 99.2	% 99.3	% 99.2	%

The incremental shares for stock options and employee stock purchase plan (“ESPP”) shares are included in the diluted EPS calculation using the treasury stock method, unless the effect of including them would be anti-dilutive. The outstanding stock options and ESPP shares and the anti-dilutive stock options and ESPP shares excluded from the diluted EPS calculations were as follows:

	2015	2014
Outstanding stock options and ESPP shares (as of September 30)	3,857,429	4,637,551
Anti-dilutive stock options and ESPP shares (for the three and nine months ended September 30)	1,059,106	642,507

In addition, the performance shares discussed in Note 7 are not included in the diluted EPS calculation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 because the performance metric had not been met or was not substantively measurable as of September 30, 2015.

Impacts of the Accelerated Share Repurchase Program

The forward contracts under the ASR program of \$115.0 million are excluded from the diluted earnings per share calculation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 due to the anti-dilutive impact on earnings per share. The initial

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delivery of 2.8 million shares received on October 1, 2015 and the final settlement amount expected by the end of 2015 will reduce the basic shares outstanding as of December 31, 2015. See further discussion on the ASR program in Note 6 to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

9. RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND ASSETS HELD IN TRUST

Pension Plan Benefits

We have a qualified defined benefit pension plan (“retirement plan”) for eligible employees, comprised of a traditional final average pay plan and a cash balance plan. The traditional final average pay plan is noncontributory, covers select employees, and provides retirement benefits based on years of benefit service, average final compensation and age at retirement. The cash balance plan is also noncontributory, covers substantially all employees, and provides retirement benefits based on eligible compensation and interest credits. Our funding practice for the retirement plan is to contribute amounts necessary to meet the minimum funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, plus additional amounts as we determine appropriate. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, we contributed \$4.1 million to the retirement plan. We do not expect to make any additional contributions to this plan in 2015.

We also have two supplemental nonqualified, noncontributory, defined benefit pension plans for selected management employees (the “supplemental benefit plans” and collectively with the retirement plan, the “pension plans”). The supplemental benefit plans provide for benefits that supplement those provided by the retirement plan. We contributed \$9.4 million to the supplemental benefit plans during the nine months ended September 30, 2015. We do not expect to make any additional contributions to these plans in 2015.

Net periodic benefit cost for the pension plans, by component, was as follows for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

(in thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Service cost	\$1,624	\$1,267	\$4,872	\$3,800
Interest cost	924	901	2,772	2,703
Expected return on plan assets	(960	) (885	) (2,879	) (2,655
Amortization of prior service credit	(10	) (11	) (31	) (32
Amortization of unrecognized loss	1,061	386	3,182	1,158
Net pension cost	\$2,639	\$1,658	\$7,916	\$4,974

Other Postretirement Benefits

We provide certain postretirement health care, dental, and life insurance benefits for eligible employees. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, we contributed \$6.9 million to the postretirement benefit plan. We expect to make estimated additional contributions of \$2.2 million to the postretirement benefit plan in 2015.

Net postretirement benefit plan cost, by component, was as follows for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

(in thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Service cost	\$2,121	\$1,462	\$6,364	\$4,385
Interest cost	620	498	1,858	1,494
Expected return on plan assets	(463	) (341	) (1,389	) (1,022
Amortization of unrecognized loss	125	—	375	—
Net postretirement cost	\$2,403	\$1,619	\$7,208	\$4,857

Defined Contribution Plan

We also sponsor a defined contribution retirement savings plan. Participation in this plan is available to substantially all employees. We match employee contributions up to certain predefined limits based upon eligible compensation and the employee’s contribution rate. The cost of this plan was \$0.8 million and \$0.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$3.2 million and \$3.0 million for the nine months ended

September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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10. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The measurement of fair value is based on a three-tier hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions. Changes in economic conditions or model-based valuation techniques may require the transfer of financial instruments from one fair value level to another. In such instances, the transfer is reported at the beginning of the reporting period. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, there were no transfers between levels.

Our assets and liabilities measured at fair value subject to the three-tier hierarchy at September 30, 2015, were as follows:

(in thousands)	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Financial assets measured on a recurring basis:			
Cash and cash equivalents — cash equivalents	\$49	\$—	\$—
Mutual funds — fixed income securities	35,928	—	—
Mutual funds — equity securities	877	—	—
Financial liabilities measured on a recurring basis:			
Interest rate swap derivatives	—	(4,136)	—
Total	\$36,854	\$(4,136)	\$—

Our assets and liabilities measured at fair value subject to the three-tier hierarchy at December 31, 2014, were as follows:

(in thousands)	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Financial assets measured on a recurring basis:			
Cash and cash equivalents — cash equivalents	\$5,452	\$—	\$—
Mutual funds — fixed income securities	26,715	—	—
Mutual funds — equity securities	667	—	—
Financial liabilities measured on a recurring basis:			
Interest rate swap derivatives	—	(1,934)	—
Total	\$32,834	\$(1,934)	\$—

As of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we held certain assets and liabilities that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. The assets consist of investments recorded within cash and cash equivalents and other long-term assets, including investments held in a trust associated with our supplemental nonqualified, noncontributory, retirement benefit plans for selected management employees. Our cash and cash equivalents consist of money market mutual funds that are administered similar to money market funds recorded at cost plus accrued interest to approximate fair value. Our mutual funds consist primarily of publicly traded mutual funds and are recorded at fair value based on observable trades for identical securities in an active market. Changes in the observed trading prices and liquidity of money market funds are monitored as additional support for determining fair value, and losses are recorded in earnings for investments classified as trading securities and other comprehensive income for investments classified as available for sale if fair value falls below recorded cost.

The liability related to derivatives consist of interest rate swaps as discussed in Note 5. The fair value of our interest rate swap derivatives as of September 30, 2015 is determined based on a discounted cash flow (“DCF”) method using LIBOR swap rates which are observable at commonly quoted intervals.

We also held non-financial assets that are required to be measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis. These consist of goodwill and intangible assets. We did not record any impairment charges on long-lived assets and no other significant events occurred requiring non-financial assets and liabilities to be measured at fair value (subsequent to initial recognition) during the nine months ended September 30, 2015. For additional information on our goodwill and intangible assets, please refer to the notes to the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 included in our Form 10-K for such period and to Note 4 of this Form 10-Q.

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Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fixed Rate Debt

Based on the borrowing rates obtained from third party lending institutions currently available for bank loans with similar terms and average maturities from active markets, the fair value of our consolidated long-term debt and debt maturing within one year, excluding revolving and term loan credit agreements and commercial paper, was \$4,073.8 million and \$3,985.6 million at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. These fair values represent Level 2 under the three-tier hierarchy described above. The total book value of our consolidated long-term debt and debt maturing within one year, excluding revolving and term loan credit agreements and commercial paper, was \$3,855.2 million and \$3,629.8 million at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

Revolving and Term Loan Credit Agreements

At September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we had a consolidated total of \$330.0 million and \$473.8 million, respectively, outstanding under our revolving and term loan credit agreements, which are variable rate loans. The fair value of these loans approximates book value based on the borrowing rates currently available for variable rate loans obtained from third party lending institutions. These fair values represent Level 2 under the three-tier hierarchy described above.

Other Financial Instruments

The carrying value of other financial instruments included in current assets and current liabilities, including cash and cash equivalents, special deposits and commercial paper, approximates their fair value due to the short-term nature of these instruments.

11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Environmental Matters

Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' operations are subject to federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, which impose limitations on the discharge of pollutants into the environment, establish standards for the management, treatment, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and of solid and hazardous wastes, and impose obligations to investigate and remediate contamination in certain circumstances. Liabilities to investigate or remediate contamination, as well as other liabilities concerning hazardous materials or contamination, such as claims for personal injury or property damage, may arise at many locations, including formerly owned or operated properties and sites where wastes have been treated or disposed of, as well as at properties currently owned or operated by our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries. Such liabilities may arise even where the contamination does not result from noncompliance with applicable environmental laws. Under some environmental laws, such liabilities may also be joint and several, meaning that a party can be held responsible for more than its share of the liability involved, or even the entire share. Although environmental requirements generally have become more stringent and compliance with those requirements more expensive, we are not aware of any specific developments that would increase our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' costs for such compliance in a manner that would be expected to have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial position or liquidity.

Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' assets and operations also involve the use of materials classified as hazardous, toxic or otherwise dangerous. Many of the properties our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries own or operate have been used for many years, and include older facilities and equipment that may be more likely than newer ones to contain or be made from such materials. Some of these properties include aboveground or underground storage tanks and associated piping. Some of them also include large electrical equipment filled with mineral oil, which may contain or previously have contained polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' facilities and equipment are often situated close to or on property owned by others so that, if they are the source of contamination, others' property may be affected. For example, aboveground and underground transmission lines sometimes traverse properties that our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries do not own, and, at some of our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' transmission stations, transmission assets (owned or operated by our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries) and distribution assets (owned or operated by our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' transmission customer) are commingled.

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Some properties in which our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries have an ownership interest or at which they operate are, and others are suspected of being, affected by environmental contamination. Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries are not aware of any pending or threatened claims against them with respect to environmental contamination, or of any investigation or remediation of contamination at any properties, that entail costs likely to materially affect them. Some facilities and properties are located near environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.

Claims have been made or threatened against electric utilities for bodily injury, disease or other damages allegedly related to exposure to electromagnetic fields associated with electric transmission and distribution lines. While our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries do not believe that a causal link between electromagnetic field exposure and injury has been generally established and accepted in the scientific community, if such a relationship is established or accepted, the liabilities and costs imposed on our business could be significant. We are not aware of any pending or threatened claims against our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries for bodily injury, disease or other damages allegedly related to exposure to electromagnetic fields and electric transmission and distribution lines that entail costs likely to have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial position or liquidity.

Litigation

We are involved in certain legal proceedings before various courts, governmental agencies and mediation panels concerning matters arising in the ordinary course of business. These proceedings include certain contract disputes, regulatory matters and pending judicial matters. We cannot predict the final disposition of such proceedings. We regularly review legal matters and record provisions for claims that are considered probable of loss.

Michigan Sales and Use Tax Audit

The Michigan Department of Treasury has conducted sales and use tax audits of ITCTransmission for the audit periods April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008 and October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2013. The Michigan Department of Treasury has denied ITCTransmission's claims of the industrial processing exemption from use tax that it has taken beginning January 1, 2007. The exemption claim denials resulted in use tax assessments against ITCTransmission. ITCTransmission filed administrative appeals to contest these use tax assessments.

In a separate, but related case involving a Michigan-based public utility that made similar industrial processing exemption claims, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in July 2015 that the electric system, which involves altering voltage, constitutes an exempt, industrial processing activity. However, the ruling further held the electric system is also used for other functions that would not be exempt, and remanded the case to the Michigan Court of Claims to determine how the exemption applies to assets that are used in electric distribution activities. ITCTransmission is assessing the recent ruling in light of its specific facts, but cannot estimate the amount or timing of any potential tax assessments or refunds. ITCTransmission believes that the industrial processing exemption will apply to a significant portion and potentially all of the equipment purchases for which it claimed exemption, but it is reasonably possible that portions of the use tax assessments could be sustained upon resolution of this matter.

The amount of use tax liability associated with the exemptions taken by ITCTransmission through September 30, 2015 is estimated to be approximately \$17.1 million including interest. This amount includes approximately \$10.3 million, including interest, assessed for the audit periods noted above. ITCTransmission has not recorded this contingent liability as of September 30, 2015. METC has also taken the industrial processing exemption, estimated to be approximately \$10.1 million for periods still subject to audit and METC has also not recorded any contingent liabilities as of September 30, 2015 associated with this matter. In the event it becomes appropriate to record additional use tax liability relating to this matter, ITCTransmission and METC would record the additional use tax primarily as an increase to the cost of property, plant and equipment, which is a component of revenue requirement, as the majority of purchases for which the exemption was taken relate to equipment purchases associated with capital projects.

Rate of Return on Equity and Capital Structure Complaints

On November 12, 2013, the Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity, Coalition of MISO Transmission Customers, Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers, Indiana Industrial Energy Consumers, Inc., Minnesota Large Industrial Group, and Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group (collectively, the "complainants") filed a complaint with the FERC under Section 206 of the FPA (the "Complaint"), requesting that the FERC find the current 12.38% MISO

regional base ROE rate (the “base ROE”) for all MISO TOs, including ITC Transmission, METC and ITC Midwest, to no longer be just and reasonable. The complainants sought a FERC order reducing the base ROE used in our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries’ formula transmission rates to 9.15%. The Complaint also alleged that the rates of any MISO TO using a capital structure with greater

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than 50% for the equity component are likewise not just and reasonable (our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries use their actual capital structures, which target 60% equity, as FERC had previously authorized). The Complaint also alleged the ROE adders currently approved for certain ITC Holdings operating companies, including an adder currently charged by ITCTransmission for being a member of an RTO and adders charged by ITCTransmission and METC for being independent transmission owners, are no longer just and reasonable, and sought to have them eliminated.

On June 19, 2014, in a separate Section 206 complaint against the regional base ROE rate for ISO New England TOs, FERC adopted a new methodology for establishing base ROE rates for electric transmission utilities. The new methodology is based on a two-step discounted cash flow analysis (“two-step DCF”) that uses both short-term and long-term growth projections in calculating ROE rates for a proxy group of electric utilities. The previous methodology used only short-term growth projections. FERC also reiterated that it can apply discretion in determining how ROE rates are established within a zone of reasonableness and reiterated its policy for limiting the overall ROE rate for any company, including the base and all applicable adders, at the high end of the zone of reasonableness set by the two-step DCF methodology. The new method presented in the ISO New England ROE case will be used in resolving the MISO ROE case.

On October 16, 2014, FERC granted the complainants’ request in part by setting the base ROE for hearing and settlement procedures, while denying all other aspects of the Complaint. FERC found that the complainants failed to show that the use of actual or FERC-approved capital structures that include more than 50% equity are unjust and unreasonable. FERC also denied the request to terminate ITCTransmission’s and METC’s ROE incentives. The order reiterated that any TO’s total ROE rate is limited by the top end of a zone of reasonableness and the TO’s ability to implement the full amount of previously granted ROE adders may be affected by the outcome of the hearing. FERC set the refund effective date as November 12, 2013.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, the MISO TOs engaged in the ordered FERC settlement procedures with the complainants but were not able to reach resolution. On January 5, 2015, the Chief Judge issued an order which terminated settlement procedures and set the matter for hearing, with an initial decision within 47 weeks of the order. On April 6, 2015, the MISO TOs filed expert witness testimony in the Complaint proceeding supporting the existing base ROE as just and reasonable. However, in the event that FERC elects to change the base ROE, the testimony included a recommendation of 11.39% base ROE for the period of November 12, 2013 through February 12, 2015 (the “Initial Refund Period”). In resolving the Complaint, we expect FERC to establish a new base ROE to determine any potential refund liability for the Initial Refund Period. The new base ROE as well as any ROE adders, subject to the limitations of the top end of any zone of reasonableness that is established, are expected to be used to calculate the refund liability for the Initial Refund Period.

On February 12, 2015, an additional complaint was filed with the FERC under Section 206 of the FPA (the “Second Complaint”) by Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, Mississippi Delta Energy Agency, Clarksdale Public Utilities Commission, Public Service Commission of Yazoo City and Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., seeking a FERC order to reduce the base ROE used in our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries’ formula transmission rates to 8.67% with an effective date of February 12, 2015. On March 11, 2015, the MISO TOs filed an answer to the Second Complaint with the FERC supporting the current base ROE as just and reasonable. On June 18, 2015, FERC accepted the Second Complaint and set it for hearing and settlement procedures. FERC also set the refund effective date for the Second Complaint as February 12, 2015.

On October 20, 2015, the MISO TOs filed expert witness testimony in the Second Complaint proceeding supporting the existing base ROE as just and reasonable. However, in the event that FERC elects to change the base ROE, the testimony included a recommendation of 10.75% base ROE for the period of February 12, 2015 through May 11, 2016 (the “Second Refund Period”). The data ultimately used to establish any new base ROE will be filed by the parties to the Second Complaint in January 2016 for the period ending December 31, 2015. In resolving the Second Complaint, we expect FERC to establish a new base ROE to determine any potential refund liability for the Second Refund Period. The base ROE established by FERC for the Second Complaint as well as any ROE adders, subject to the limitations of the top end of any zone of reasonableness established, are expected to be used to calculate the refund liability for the Second Refund Period.

We believe it is probable that refunds will be required for these matters and as of September 30, 2015, the estimated range of refunds on a pre-tax basis is expected to be from \$88.0 million to \$158.9 million for the period from November 12, 2013 through September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries had recorded an aggregate estimated regulatory liability of \$88.0 million and \$47.8 million, respectively, representing the low end of the range of potential refunds as of those dates, as there is no best estimate within the range of refunds. The recognition of this estimated liability resulted in a reduction in revenues of \$18.0 million, \$38.8 million and \$46.9 million and an increase in interest expense of \$0.5 million, \$1.4 million and \$0.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, respectively. This resulted in an estimated after-tax reduction to net income of \$11.2

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million, \$24.5 million and \$28.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, respectively. No amounts related to these complaints were recorded as of or for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Based on the estimated range of refunds identified above, we believe that it is reasonably possible that these matters could result in an additional estimated pre-tax refund of up to \$70.9 million (or a \$43.0 million estimated after-tax reduction of net income) in excess of the amount recorded as of September 30, 2015. It is also possible the outcome of these matters could differ from the estimated range of losses and materially affect our results of operations due to the uncertainty of the calculation of an authorized base ROE along with the zone of reasonableness under the newly adopted two-step DCF methodology, which is subject to significant discretion by the FERC. As of September 30, 2015, our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries had a total of approximately \$2.8 billion of equity in their collective capital structures for ratemaking purposes. Based on this level of aggregate equity, we estimate that each 10 basis point reduction in the authorized ROE would reduce annual consolidated net income by approximately \$2.8 million.

In a separate but related matter, in November 2014, METC, ITC Midwest and other MISO TOs filed a request with FERC under FPA Section 205 for authority to include a 50 basis point incentive adder for RTO participation in each of the TOs' formula rates. On January 5, 2015, FERC approved the use of this incentive adder, effective January 6, 2015. Additionally, ITC Midwest filed a request with FERC under FPA Section 205 in January 2015 for authority to include a 100 basis point incentive adder for independent transmission ownership, which is currently authorized for ITC Transmission and METC. On March 31, 2015, FERC approved the use of a 50 basis point incentive adder for independence, effective April 1, 2015. On April 30, 2015, ITC Midwest filed a request with FERC for clarification and rehearing on the approved incentive adder for independence. The RTO participation incentive adder will be applied to METC's and ITC Midwest's base ROEs and the independence incentive adder will be applied to ITC Midwest's base ROE in establishing their total authorized ROE rates, subject to the limitations of the top end of any zone of reasonableness that is established. Collection of these recently approved incentive adders is being deferred pending the outcome of the complaints relating to the base ROE.

12. SEGMENT INFORMATION

We identify reportable segments based on the criteria set forth by the FASB regarding disclosures about segments of an enterprise, including the regulatory environment of our subsidiaries and the business activities performed to earn revenues and incur expenses. The following tables show our financial information by reportable segment:

	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
OPERATING REVENUES:				
(in thousands)				
Regulated Operating Subsidiaries	\$273,012	\$270,062	\$820,452	\$792,058
ITC Holdings and other	334	254	720	438
Intercompany eliminations	(157)	(182)	(438)	(545)
Total Operating Revenues	\$273,189	\$270,134	\$820,734	\$791,951
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES:				
(in thousands)				
Regulated Operating Subsidiaries	\$138,532	\$151,758	\$436,990	\$440,537
ITC Holdings and other	(34,853)	(33,250)	(110,287)	(122,514)
Total Income Before Income Taxes	\$103,679	\$118,508	\$326,703	\$318,023
NET INCOME:				
(in thousands)				
Regulated Operating Subsidiaries	\$85,971	\$93,015	\$269,491	\$269,865
ITC Holdings and other	65,573	73,873	205,041	197,345
Intercompany eliminations	(85,971)	(93,015)	(269,491)	(269,865)
Total Net Income	\$65,573	\$73,873	\$205,041	\$197,345

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TOTAL ASSETS:	September	December
(in thousands)	30,	31,
	2015	2014
Regulated Operating Subsidiaries	\$7,282,357	\$6,867,411
ITC Holdings and other	4,128,485	3,944,318
Reconciliations / Intercompany eliminations (a)	(4,005,243)	(3,837,640)
Total Assets	\$7,405,599	\$6,974,089

Reconciliation of total assets results primarily from differences in the netting of deferred tax assets and liabilities at (a) our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries as compared to the classification in our condensed consolidated statements of financial position.

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

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

Our reports, filings and other public announcements contain certain statements that describe our management's beliefs concerning future business conditions, plans and prospects, growth opportunities and the outlook for our business and the electric transmission industry based upon information currently available. Such statements are "forward-looking" statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Wherever possible, we have identified these forward-looking statements by words such as "will," "may," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "estimates," "expects," "projects," "likely" and similar phrases. These forward-looking statements are based upon assumptions our management believes are reasonable. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause our actual results, performance and achievements to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these statements, including, among others, the risks and uncertainties listed in Item 1A Risk Factors of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, and the following:

Certain elements of our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' formula rates can be and have been challenged, which could result in lowered rates and/or refunds of amounts previously collected and thus have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our actual capital investment may be lower than planned, which would cause a lower than expected rate base and therefore our revenues and earnings compared to our current expectations. In addition, we expect to invest in strategic development opportunities to improve the efficiency and reliability of the transmission grid, but we cannot assure you that we will be able to initiate or complete any of these investments. In addition, we expect to incur expenses related to the pursuit of development opportunities which may be higher than forecasted.

The regulations to which we are subject may limit our ability to raise capital and/or pursue acquisitions, development opportunities or other transactions or may subject us to liabilities.

Changes in energy laws, regulations or policies could impact our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

If amounts billed for transmission service for our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' transmission systems are lower than expected, or our actual revenue requirements are higher than expected, the timing of collection of our revenues would be delayed.

Each of our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries depends on its primary customer for a substantial portion of its revenues, and any material failure by those primary customers to make payments for transmission services could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

A significant amount of the land on which our assets are located is subject to easements, mineral rights and other similar encumbrances. As a result, we must comply with the provisions of various easements, mineral rights and other similar encumbrances, which may adversely impact their ability to complete construction projects in a timely manner. We contract with third parties to provide services for certain aspects of our business. If any of these agreements are terminated, we may face a shortage of labor or replacement contractors to provide the services formerly provided by these third parties.

Hazards associated with high-voltage electricity transmission may result in suspension of our operations or the imposition of civil or criminal penalties.

We are subject to environmental regulations and to laws that can give rise to substantial liabilities from environmental contamination.

We are subject to various regulatory requirements, including reliability standards; contract filing requirements; reporting, recordkeeping and accounting requirements; and transaction approval requirements. Violations of these requirements, whether intentional or unintentional, may result in penalties that, under some circumstances, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Acts of war, terrorist attacks, cyber attacks, natural disasters, severe weather and other catastrophic events may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

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• ITC Holdings is a holding company with no operations, and unless we receive dividends or other payments from our subsidiaries, we may be unable to pay dividends and fulfill our other cash obligations.

• We have a considerable amount of debt and our reliance on debt financing may limit our ability to fulfill our debt obligations and/or to obtain additional financing.

• Certain provisions in our debt instruments limit our financial and operating flexibility.

• Adverse changes in our credit ratings may negatively affect us.

• Provisions in our Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, Michigan corporate law and our debt agreements may impede efforts by our shareholders to change the direction or management of our company.

• Provisions in our Articles of Incorporation restrict market participants from voting or owning 5% or more of the outstanding shares of our capital stock.

Because our forward-looking statements are based on estimates and assumptions that are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control or are subject to change, actual results could be materially different and any or all of our forward-looking statements may turn out to be wrong. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made and can be affected by assumptions we might make or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many factors mentioned in our discussion in this report will be important in determining future results. Consequently, we cannot assure you that our expectations or forecasts expressed in such forward-looking statements will be achieved. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly update any of our forward-looking or other statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

OVERVIEW

Through our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries, we operate high-voltage systems in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and portions of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma that transmit electricity from generating stations to local distribution facilities connected to our systems. Our business strategy is to operate, maintain and invest in transmission infrastructure in order to enhance system integrity and reliability, to reduce transmission constraints and to upgrade the transmission networks to support new generating resources interconnecting to our transmission systems. We also are pursuing development projects not within our existing systems, which are likewise intended to improve overall grid reliability, reduce transmission constraints and facilitate interconnections of new generating resources, as well as enhance competitive wholesale electricity markets.

As electric transmission utilities with rates regulated by the FERC, our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries earn revenues through tariff rates charged for the use of their electric transmission systems by our customers, which include investor-owned utilities, municipalities, cooperatives, power marketers and alternative energy suppliers. As independent transmission companies, our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries are subject to rate regulation only by the FERC. The rates charged by our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries are established using cost-based formula rate templates as discussed in Note 3 to the condensed consolidated financial statements under "— Cost-Based Formula Rates with True-Up Mechanism."

Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' primary operating responsibilities include maintaining, improving and expanding their transmission systems to meet their customers' ongoing needs, scheduling outages on system elements to allow for maintenance and construction, maintaining appropriate system voltages and monitoring flows over transmission lines and other facilities to ensure physical limits are not exceeded.

We derive nearly all of our revenues from providing electric transmission service over our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries' transmission systems to investor-owned utilities, such as DTE Electric, Consumers Energy and IP&L, and to other entities such as alternative electricity suppliers, power marketers and other wholesale customers that provide electricity to end-use consumers and from transaction-based capacity reservations on our transmission systems.

Significant recent matters that influenced our financial position and results of operations and cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 or that may affect future results include:

• Our capital investment of \$497.3 million at our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, resulting primarily from our focus on improving system reliability, increasing system capacity and upgrading the transmission network to support new generating resources;

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Debt issuance as described in Note 5 to the condensed consolidated financial statements and borrowings under our revolving and term loan credit agreements in 2015 and 2014 to fund capital investment at our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries and for general corporate purposes, resulting in higher interest expense;

Establishment of a commercial paper program as described in Note 5 to the condensed consolidated financial statements, which provides an additional source of liquidity for our working capital needs;

- Debt maturing within one year of \$694.3 million as of September 30, 2015 and the potentially higher interest rates associated with the additional financing required to repay this debt;

Recognition of an estimated contingent liability for the potential refunds relating to the rate of return on equity (“ROE”) and capital structure complaints as described in Note 11 to the condensed consolidated financial statements, which resulted in a total estimated pre-tax reduction of revenue and interest of \$18.5 million and \$40.2 million and an estimated after-tax reduction to net income of \$11.2 million and \$24.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively;

Recognition of refund liability related to the formula rate template modification filing described in Note 3 to the condensed consolidated financial statements, which resulted in a total estimated pre-tax reduction of revenues and interest of \$9.4 million and an estimated after-tax reduction to net income of \$5.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015; and

The accelerated share repurchase program (“ASR program”) executed in September 2015 for \$115.0 million which is part of the share repurchase program of up to \$250.0 million authorized by the Board of Directors in April 2014 and expiring in December 2015 as described in Note 6 to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

These items are discussed in more detail throughout Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Capital Project Updates and Other Recent Developments

ITC Great Plains Regulatory Assets

ITC Great Plains made a filing with the FERC under Section 205 of the FPA in May 2013 to recover start-up, development and pre-construction expenses, including associated debt and equity carrying charges, in future rates as discussed in Note 3 of the condensed consolidated financial statements. These expenses included certain costs incurred by ITC Great Plains for the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority Project and the Kansas V-Plan Project prior to construction. On March 26, 2015, FERC accepted ITC Great Plains’ request to commence amortization of the authorized regulatory assets, subject to refund, as well as set the matter for hearing and settlement judge procedures. During the third quarter of 2015, ITC Great Plains and the settling parties reached an uncontested settlement agreement, which was certified by the presiding administrative law judge but remains subject to acceptance by FERC. As of September 30, 2015, we had a total of \$12.9 million (net of accumulated amortization of \$0.7 million) of regulatory assets for these expenses, including carrying charges. ITC Great Plains has included the unamortized balance of the regulatory assets in its rate base and commenced amortization over a 10-year period during the second quarter of 2015. The amortization expense will be recovered through ITC Great Plains’ cost-based formula rate template, subject to acceptance by FERC. We do not expect the final resolution of this matter to have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, cash flows or financial condition.

Development Bonuses

We recognized general and administrative expenses of \$0.3 million and \$10.1 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and \$0.3 million and \$2.5 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively, for bonuses for certain development projects, including the successful completion of certain milestones relating to projects at ITC Great Plains. Specifically, the Kansas V-Plan Project was placed in-service in December 2014 and the resulting development bonus was approved and paid during the three months ended March 31, 2015. It is reasonably possible that future development-related bonuses may be authorized and awarded for these or other development projects.

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Multi-Value Projects

2011 MISO Multi-Value Projects

In December 2011, MISO approved a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (“MVPs”) which includes portions of four MVPs that we will construct, own and operate. The four MVPs are located in south central Minnesota, northern and southeast Iowa, southwest Wisconsin, and northeast Missouri and are in various stages of construction and included in ITC Midwest’s capital investment amounts. We currently estimate ITC Midwest will invest approximately \$800 million in the four MVPs from 2014 through 2018.

Thumb Loop Project

The Thumb Loop Project, an additional MVP, is located in ITCTransmission’s region and consists of a 140-mile, double-circuit 345 kV transmission line and related substations that will serve as the backbone of the transmission system needed to accommodate future wind development projects in the Michigan counties of Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair. Construction activities commenced for the Thumb Loop Project in 2012. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Thumb Loop Project, which consisted of 62 miles and 20 miles of transmission line, respectively, were placed in-service in September 2013 and May 2014, respectively. The third and final phase, which consisted of 56 miles of transmission line, was placed in-service in May 2015. Through September 30, 2015, ITCTransmission has invested \$497.8 million in the Thumb Loop Project and any further investment to complete this project is not expected to be material.

Rate of Return on Equity and Capital Structure Complaints

On November 12, 2013, certain parties filed a joint complaint with the FERC under Section 206 of the FPA (the “Complaint”), requesting that the FERC find the current 12.38% MISO regional base ROE rate (the “base ROE”) for all MISO TOs, including ITCTransmission, METC and ITC Midwest to no longer be just and reasonable. The complainants sought a FERC order reducing the base ROE used in our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries’ formula transmission rates to 9.15%, reducing the equity component of our capital structure from the FERC approved 60% to 50% and terminating the ROE adders currently approved for certain ITC Holdings operating companies, including adders currently utilized by ITCTransmission and METC.

We believe that the current ROE encourages transmission investment and offsets the burdens associated with maintaining the independent transmission business model and RTO membership. ITCTransmission, METC and ITC Midwest filed responses during the first quarter of 2014, separately and together with other MISO TOs, that seek dismissal of the Complaint for its failure to satisfy the requirements of FPA Section 206 and the FERC’s accompanying Rules, or denial of the Complaint on the merits, with prejudice.

On October 16, 2014, FERC granted the complainants’ request in part by setting the base ROE for hearing and settlement procedures, while denying all other aspects of the Complaint. FERC found that the complainants failed to show that the use of actual or FERC-approved capital structures that include more than 50% equity are unjust and unreasonable. FERC also denied the request to terminate ITCTransmission’s and METC’s ROE incentives. The order reiterated that any TO’s total ROE rate is limited by the top end of a zone of reasonableness and the TO’s ability to implement the full amount of previously granted ROE adders may be affected by the outcome of the hearing. FERC set the refund effective date as November 12, 2013.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, the MISO TOs engaged in the ordered FERC settlement procedures with the complainants but were not able to reach resolution. On January 5, 2015, the Chief Judge issued an order which terminated settlement procedures and set the matter for hearing, with an initial decision within 47 weeks of the order. On April 6, 2015, the MISO TOs filed expert witness testimony in the Complaint proceeding supporting the existing base ROE as just and reasonable. However, in the event that FERC elects to change the base ROE, the testimony included a recommendation of 11.39% base ROE for the period of November 12, 2013 through February 12, 2015 (the “Initial Refund Period”). In resolving the Complaint, we expect FERC to establish a new base ROE to determine any potential refund liability for the Initial Refund Period. The new base ROE as well as any ROE adders, subject to the limitations of the top end of any zone of reasonableness that is established, are expected to be used to calculate the refund liability for the Initial Refund Period.

On February 12, 2015, an additional complaint was filed with the FERC under Section 206 of the FPA (the “Second Complaint”) by separate complainants, seeking a FERC order to reduce the base ROE used in our MISO Regulated

Operating Subsidiaries' formula transmission rates to 8.67% with an effective date of February 12, 2015. On March 11, 2015, the MISO TOs filed an answer to the Second Complaint with the FERC supporting the current base ROE as just and reasonable. On

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June 18, 2015, FERC accepted the Second Complaint and set it for hearing and settlement procedures. FERC also set the refund effective date for the Second Complaint as February 12, 2015.

On October 20, 2015, the MISO TOs filed expert witness testimony in the Second Complaint proceeding supporting the existing base ROE as just and reasonable. However, in the event that FERC elects to change the base ROE, the testimony included a recommendation of 10.75% base ROE for the period of February 12, 2015 through May 11, 2016 (the “Second Refund Period”). The data ultimately used to establish any new base ROE will be filed by the parties to the Second Complaint in January 2016 for the period ending December 31, 2015. In resolving the Second Complaint, we expect FERC to establish a new base ROE to determine any potential refund liability for the Second Refund Period. The base ROE established by FERC for the Second Complaint as well as any ROE adders, subject to the limitations of the top end of any zone of reasonableness established, are expected to be used to calculate the refund liability for the Second Refund Period.

We believe it is probable that refunds will be required for these matters and as of September 30, 2015, the estimated range of refunds on a pre-tax basis is expected to be from \$88.0 million to \$158.9 million for the period from November 12, 2013 through September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries had recorded an aggregate estimated regulatory liability of \$88.0 million and \$47.8 million, respectively, representing the low end of the range of potential refunds as of those dates, as there is no best estimate within the range of refunds. The recognition of this estimated liability resulted in a reduction in revenues of \$18.0 million, \$38.8 million and \$46.9 million and an increase in interest expense of \$0.5 million, \$1.4 million and \$0.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, respectively. This resulted in an estimated after-tax reduction to net income of \$11.2 million, \$24.5 million and \$28.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, respectively. No amounts related to these complaints were recorded as of or for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Based on the estimated range of refunds identified above, we believe that it is reasonably possible that these matters could result in an additional estimated pre-tax refund of up to \$70.9 million (or a \$43.0 million estimated after-tax reduction of net income) in excess of the amount recorded as of September 30, 2015. It is also possible the outcome of these matters could differ from the estimated range of losses and materially affect our results of operations due to the uncertainty of the calculation of an authorized base ROE along with the zone of reasonableness under the newly adopted two-step DCF methodology, which is subject to significant discretion by the FERC. As of September 30, 2015, our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries had a total of approximately \$2.8 billion of equity in their collective capital structures for ratemaking purposes. Based on this level of aggregate equity, we estimate that each 10 basis point reduction in the authorized ROE would reduce annual consolidated net income by approximately \$2.8 million.

In a separate but related matter, in November 2014, METC, ITC Midwest and other MISO TOs filed a request with FERC under FPA Section 205 for authority to include a 50 basis point incentive adder for RTO participation in each of the TOs’ formula rates. On January 5, 2015, FERC approved the use of this incentive adder, effective January 6, 2015. Additionally, ITC Midwest filed a request with FERC under FPA Section 205 in January 2015 for authority to include a 100 basis point incentive adder for independent transmission ownership, which is currently authorized for ITCTransmission and METC. On March 31, 2015, FERC approved the use of a 50 basis point incentive adder for independence, effective April 1, 2015. On April 30, 2015, ITC Midwest filed a request with FERC for clarification and rehearing on the approved incentive adder for independence. The RTO participation incentive adder will be applied to METC’s and ITC Midwest’s base ROEs and the independence incentive adder will be applied to ITC Midwest’s base ROE in establishing their total authorized ROE rates, subject to the limitations of the top end of any zone of reasonableness that is established. Collection of these recently approved incentive adders is being deferred pending the outcome of the complaints relating to the base ROE.

Accelerated Share Repurchase Program

On September 30, 2015, ITC Holdings entered into an accelerated share repurchase program for \$115.0 million with Barclays Bank PLC (“Barclays”), which is part of the share repurchase program described in Note 6 to the condensed consolidated financial statements. Under the ASR program, ITC Holdings paid \$115.0 million to Barclays on

September 30, 2015 and received an initial delivery of 2.8 million shares on October 1, 2015. The fair market value of the initial share delivery was \$92.0 million, based on the closing market price of \$33.34 per share at the commencement of the ASR agreement. The final number of shares delivered under the ASR agreement will be based on the volume-weighted average share price of our common stock during the term of the transaction, less an agreed upon discount and adjusted for the initial share delivery. The ASR program is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. See further discussion in Note 6 and Note 8 to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MISO Formula Rate Template Modification Filing**

On October 30, 2015, ITC Transmission, METC and ITC Midwest (collectively, the “joint applicants”) requested modifications, pursuant to Section 205 of the FPA, to certain aspects of the joint applicants’ respective formula rate templates which included, among other things, changes to ensure that various income tax items are computed correctly for purposes of determining their revenue requirements. The joint applicants requested an effective date of January 1, 2016 for the proposed template changes. The formula rate templates, prior to any proposed modifications, include certain deferred income taxes on contributions in aid of construction in rate base that result in the joint applicants recovering excess amounts from customers. The recognition of this refund liability in the third quarter of 2015 resulted in a reduction in revenues of \$8.6 million, which includes amounts recovered for all historical periods through September 30, 2015, and an increase in interest expense of \$0.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015. This resulted in an estimated after-tax reduction to net income of \$5.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015. We do not expect the formula rate modifications, if accepted by FERC, to have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, cash flows or financial condition.

Cost-Based Formula Rates with True-Up Mechanism

Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries calculate their revenue requirements using cost-based formula rate templates and are effective without the need to file rate cases with the FERC, although the rates are subject to legal challenge at the FERC. Under these formula rate templates, our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries recover expenses and earn a return on and recover investments in property, plant and equipment on a current rather than a lagging basis. The formula rate templates utilize forecasted expenses, property, plant and equipment, point-to-point revenues, network load at our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries and other items for the upcoming calendar year to establish projected revenue requirements for each of our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries that are used as the basis for billing for service on their systems from January 1 to December 31 of that year. Our cost-based formula rate templates include a true-up mechanism, whereby our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries compare their actual revenue requirements to their billed revenues for each year to determine any over- or under-collection of revenue. The over- or under-collection typically results from differences between the projected revenue requirement used as the basis for billing and actual revenue requirement at each of our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries, or from differences between actual and projected monthly peak loads at our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries. In the event billed revenues in a given year are more or less than actual revenue requirements, which are calculated primarily using information from that year’s FERC Form No. 1, our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries will refund or collect additional revenues, with interest, within a two-year period such that customers pay only the amounts that correspond to actual revenue requirements for that given period. This annual true-up ensures that our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries recover their allowed costs and earn their allowed returns.

Revenue Accruals and Deferrals — Effects of Monthly Peak Loads

For our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries, monthly peak loads are used for billing network revenues, which currently is the largest component of our operating revenues. One of the primary factors that impacts the revenue accruals and deferrals at our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries is actual monthly peak loads experienced as compared to those forecasted in establishing the annual network transmission rate. Under their cost-based formula rates that contain a true-up mechanism, our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries accrue or defer revenues to the extent that their actual revenue requirement for the reporting period is higher or lower, respectively, than the amounts billed relating to that reporting period. Although monthly peak loads do not impact operating revenues recognized, network load affects the timing of our cash flows from transmission service. The monthly peak load of our MISO Regulated Operating Subsidiaries is affected by many variables, but is generally impacted by weather and economic conditions and is seasonally shaped with higher load in the summer months when cooling demand is higher.

ITC Great Plains does not receive revenue based on a peak load or a dollar amount per kW each month and therefore peak load does not have a seasonal effect on its operating cash flows. The SPP tariff applicable to ITC Great Plains is billed ratably each month based on its annual projected revenue requirement posted annually by SPP.

Capital Investment and Operating Results Trends

We expect our actual revenue requirements for our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries to increase over the long term, which should result in a long term upward trend in revenues and earnings subject to the impact of any required

refunds as a result of the resolution of the complaints relating to base ROE as described in Note 11 to the condensed consolidated financial statements. The primary factor that is expected to continue to increase our actual revenue requirements in future years is increased rate base that would result from our anticipated capital investment, in excess of depreciation, from our Regulated

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Operating Subsidiaries' long-term capital investment programs to improve reliability, increase system capacity and upgrade the transmission network to support new generating resources. In addition, our capital investment efforts relating to development initiatives are based on establishing an ongoing pipeline of projects that would position us for long-term growth. Investments in property, plant and equipment, when placed in service upon completion of a capital project, are added to the rate base of our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries.

Our Regulated Operating Subsidiaries strive for high reliability of their systems and to improve system accessibility for all generation resources. The FERC requires compliance with certain reliability standards and may take enforcement actions against violators, including the imposition of substantial fines. NERC is responsible for developing and enforcing these mandatory reliability standards. We continually assess our transmission systems against standards established by NERC, as well as the standards of applicable regional entities under NERC that have been delegated certain authority for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards. We believe we meet the applicable standards in all material respects, although further investment in our transmission systems and an increase in maintenance activities will likely be needed to maintain compliance, improve reliability and address any new standards that may be promulgated.

We also assess our transmission systems against our own planning criteria that are filed annually with the FERC. Based on our planning studies, we see needs to make capital investments to (1) rebuild existing property, plant and equipment; (2) upgrade the system to address demographic changes that have impacted transmission load and the changing role that transmission plays in meeting the needs of the wholesale market, including accommodating the siting of new generation or to increase import capacity to meet changes in peak electrical demand; (3) relieve congestion in the transmission systems; and (4) achieve state and federal policy goals, such as renewable generation portfolio standards. The following table shows our expected and actual capital investment for each of the Regulated Operating Subsidiaries and our development initiatives:

(in millions)	Long-term Capital Investment Program	Actual Capital Investment for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 (a)	Forecasted Capital Investment for the year ending December 31, 2015
Source of Investment	2014-2018		
ITC Transmission	\$647	\$120.2	\$180 — 190
METC	546	91.6	155 — 170
ITC Midwest (b)	1,991	273.9	370 — 385
ITC Great Plains	194	11.6	10 — 15
Development and other (c)	1,122	4.1	0 — 5
Total	\$4,500	\$501.4	\$715 — 765

Capital investment amounts differ from cash expenditures for property, plant and equipment included in our condensed consolidated statements of cash flows due in part to differences in construction costs incurred compared (a) to cash paid during that period, as well as payments for major equipment inventory that are included in cash expenditures but not included in capital investment until transferred to construction work in progress, among other factors.

(b) ITC Midwest's investment program includes the 2011 MISO MVPs as discussed above under "Capital Project Updates and Other Recent Developments."

Development and other includes initiatives to upgrade the existing transmission grid and regional transmission facilities, primarily to improve overall grid reliability, reduce transmission constraints, enhance competitive (c) markets and facilitate interconnections of new generating resources, including wind generation and other renewable resources necessary to achieve state and federal policy goals. Additionally, we may pursue other non-traditional transmission investment opportunities not described above.

Investments in property, plant and equipment could vary due to, among other things, the impact of actual loads, forecasted loads, regional economic conditions, weather conditions, union strikes, labor shortages, material and equipment prices and availability, our ability to obtain any necessary financing for such expenditures, limitations on

the amount of construction that can be undertaken on our systems at any one time, regulatory approvals for reasons relating to rate construct, environmental, siting, regional planning, cost recovery or other issues or as a result of legal proceedings, variances between estimated and actual costs of construction contracts awarded and the potential for greater competition. In addition, investments in transmission network upgrades for generator interconnection projects could change from prior estimates significantly due to changes in the MISO queue for generation projects and other factors beyond our control.

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RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Results of Operations and Variances

(in thousands)	Three months ended		Increase (decrease)	Percentage increase (decrease)	Nine months ended		Increase (decrease)	Percentage increase (decrease)
	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014			September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014		
OPERATING REVENUES	\$273,189	\$270,134	\$3,055	1.1	%	\$820,734	\$	