

PICO HOLDINGS INC /NEW

Form 10-K/A

May 27, 2005

Table of Contents

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 10-K/A

Amendment No. 1

(MARK ONE)

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

OR

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

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 0-18786

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

**California
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)**

**94-2723335
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

**875 Prospect Street, Suite 301
La Jolla, California 92037
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)**

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code (858) 456-6022

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:
None**

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
Common Stock, \$.001 Par Value
(Title of Class)**

Edgar Filing: PICO HOLDINGS INC /NEW - Form 10-K/A

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

Approximate aggregate market value of the registrant's voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant (based on the closing sales price of such stock as reported in the NASDAQ National Market) on the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, was \$106,209,458.

On March 9, 2005, the registrant had 12,366,440 shares of common stock, \$.001 par value, outstanding, excluding 3,228,261 shares of common stock which are held by the registrant's subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A in connection with the registrant's 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be filed subsequent to the date hereof, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Report. Such Definitive Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the conclusion of the registrant's fiscal year ended December 31, 2004.

2

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K/A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
<u>PART I</u>	5
<u>Item 1. BUSINESS</u>	5
<u>Item 2. PROPERTIES</u>	21
<u>Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u>	21
<u>Item 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS</u>	21
<u>PART II</u>	22
<u>Item 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS</u>	22
<u>Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	24
<u>Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	25
<u>Item 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISKS</u>	64
<u>Item 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA</u>	64
<u>Item 9. CHANGE IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE</u>	103
<u>Item 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u>	103
<u>PART III</u>	105
<u>Item 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CODE OF ETHICS OF THE REGISTRANT</u>	105
<u>Item 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	105
<u>Item 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	105
<u>Item 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	105
<u>Item 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES</u>	105
<u>PART IV</u>	106

<u>Item 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES, AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K</u>	106
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	115
<u>EX-23.1</u>	
<u>EX-23.2</u>	
<u>EX-31.1</u>	
<u>EX-31.2</u>	
<u>EX-32.1</u>	
<u>EX-32.2</u>	

Table of Contents

2005 Restatement

Overview:

We are filing an amendment to PICO Holdings, Inc. Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2004, to amend and restate footnote disclosure with respect to stock-based compensation related to our stock appreciation rights. The restatement has no effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

For convenience and ease of reference, we are filing this Form 10-K/A in its entirety, as amended. However, this amendment amends and restates only those items of the previously filed 10-K which have been affected by the restatement as noted above. In order to preserve the nature and character of the disclosures set forth in such items as originally filed, no attempt has been made in this amendment to modify or update the disclosures in the original Form 10-K except as required to reflect the effects of the restatement. As a result, this Form 10-K/A contains forward-looking information, which has not been updated for events subsequent to the date of the original filing, and the Company directs you to its SEC filings made subsequent to that original filing date for additional information.

We have also restated our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q/A for the three months ended March 31, 2005, which is being amended and re-filed as of the date hereof to restate the same disclosure item noted above.

Table of Contents

PART I

This Annual Report on Form 10-K/A (including the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section) contains forward-looking statements regarding our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, including, without limitation, statements about our expectations, beliefs, intentions, anticipated developments, and other information concerning future matters. Words such as expects, anticipates, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates and similar expressions and variations of such words are intended to identify forward-looking statements, but are not the exclusive means of identifying forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A.

Although forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A reflect the good faith judgment of our management, such statements can only be based on facts and factors currently known by us. Consequently, forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, and the actual results and outcomes could differ from those discussed in or anticipated by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences in results and outcomes include, without limitation, those discussed under the heading Risk Factors below, as well as those discussed elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A. Readers are urged not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A. We undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect any event or circumstance that may arise after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A. Readers are urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made in this Annual Report, which attempt to advise interested parties of the risks and factors that may affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Introduction

PICO Holdings, Inc. (PICO and its subsidiaries are referred to as PICO, the Company, we, and our) is a diversified holding company. PICO seeks to acquire businesses and interests in businesses which we identify as undervalued based on fundamental analysis that is, our assessment of what the business is worth, based on the private market value of its assets, earnings, and cash flow. We prefer long-established businesses, with a history of operating successfully through industry cycles, recessions and geo-political disruptions, in basic, old economy industries. Typically, the business will be generating free cash flow and have a low level of debt, or, alternatively, strong interest coverage ratios or the ability to realize surplus assets. As well as being undervalued, the business must have special qualities such as unique assets, a potential catalyst for change, or be in an industry with attractive economics. We are also interested in acquiring businesses and interests in businesses where there is significant unrecognized value in land and other tangible assets.

We have acquired businesses and interests in businesses by the acquisition of private companies, and the purchase of shares in public companies, both directly through participation in financing transactions and through open market purchases. When we buy a business or an interest in a business, we have a long-term horizon, typically 5 years or more. Selected acquisitions may become core operations; however, we are prepared to sell businesses if the price received exceeds the return we expect to earn if we retain ownership. We expect that most of our businesses and interests in businesses will eventually be sold to other companies in the same industry seeking to expand or gain economies of scale.

Our objective is to generate superior long-term growth in shareholders' equity, as measured by book value per share. Over time, we anticipate that most of our net income and growth in shareholders' equity will come from realized

gains on the sale of businesses and interests in businesses, as opposed to ongoing operating earnings. Consequently, we anticipate that PICO's earnings will fluctuate from year to year, and that the results for any one year are not necessarily indicative of our future performance.

Table of Contents

Our business is separated into five major operating segments: Water resource & water storage operations, real estate operations in Nevada, Business Acquisitions & Financing, Insurance Operations in Run Off, and the operations of HyperFeed Technologies, Inc. (HyperFeed). Our Business Acquisitions & Financing segment contains businesses, interests in businesses, and other parent company assets. Each of these business segments is discussed in greater detail below.

Currently our major consolidated subsidiaries are:

Vidler Water Company, Inc. (Vidler), which develops and owns water rights and water storage operations in the southwestern United States, primarily in Nevada and Arizona;

Nevada Land & Resource Company, LLC (Nevada Land), which owns approximately 1 million acres of land in Nevada, and the mineral rights and water rights related to the property;

Citation Insurance Company, which is running off its historical property & casualty and workers compensation loss reserves, and Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio, which is running off its medical professional liability loss reserves; and

HyperFeed Technologies, which became a 51%-owned subsidiary in 2003. HyperFeed is a developer and provider of software, ticker plant technologies, and managed services to the financial markets industry.

In 2003, we closed on the sale of Sequoia Insurance Company (Sequoia), which is accounted for in our consolidated financial statements for 2003 and prior years as a discontinued operation. *See Discontinued Operations.*

The address of our main office is 875 Prospect Street, Suite 301, La Jolla, California 92037, and our telephone number is (858) 456-6022.

Our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports are made available on our website (www.picoholdings.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after the reports are electronically filed with the SEC. Our website also contains other material about PICO, and links to other sites, including some of the companies with which we are associated.

History

PICO was incorporated in 1981 and began operations in 1982. The company was known as Citation Insurance Group until a reverse merger with Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio on November 20, 1996. After the reverse merger, the former shareholders of Physicians owned approximately 80% of Citation Insurance Group, the Board of Directors and management of Physicians replaced their Citation counterparts, and Citation Insurance Group changed its name to PICO Holdings, Inc. You should be aware that some data on Bloomberg and other information services pre-dating the reverse merger relates to the old Citation Insurance Group only, and does not reflect the performance of Physicians prior to the merger.

Subsidiary Companies & Major Operating Segments

The following section describes our subsidiaries and operating segments. Unless otherwise indicated, we own 100% of each subsidiary.

Vidler Water Company, Inc.

Vidler is the leading private company in the water resource development business in the southwestern United States. PICO identified water resource development in the Southwest as an attractive business opportunity due to the continued growth in demand for water resulting from population growth, economic development, environmental requirements, and the claims of Native Americans. We develop new sources of water for municipal and industrial use, and necessary storage infrastructure to facilitate the efficient allocation of available water supplies. Vidler is not a water utility, and does not intend to enter into regulated utility activities.

The inefficient allocation of available water between agricultural users and municipal or industrial users, or the lack of available known water supply in a particular location, provide opportunities for Vidler:

the majority of water rights are currently owned or controlled by agricultural users, and in many locations there are insufficient water rights owned or controlled by municipal and industrial users to meet present and future demand;

certain areas of the Southwest experiencing rapid growth have insufficient supplies of known water to support future growth. Vidler identifies and develops new water supplies for communities with no other known water resources to support future growth;

currently there are not effective procedures in place for the transfer of water from private parties with excess supply in one state to end-users in other states. However, regulations and procedures are steadily being developed to facilitate the interstate transfer of water; and

Table of Contents

infrastructure to store water will be required to accommodate and allow interstate transfer, and transfers from wet years to dry years. Currently there is limited storage capacity in place.

We entered the water resource development business with the acquisition of Vidler in 1995. At the time, Vidler owned a limited quantity of water rights and related assets in Colorado. Since then, Vidler has acquired or developed:

additional water rights and related assets, predominantly in Arizona and Nevada. Vidler seeks to acquire water rights at prices consistent with their current use, with the expectation of an increase in value if the water right can be converted to a higher use. A water right is the legal right to divert water and put it to beneficial use. Water rights are assets which can be bought and sold. In some states, the use of the water can also be leased. The value of a water right depends on a number of factors, including location, the seniority of the right, and whether or not the right is transferable. The majority of Vidler's water rights are in Nevada and Arizona, the two states which are leading the nation in population growth and new home construction. Our objective is to monetize our water rights for municipal and industrial use in Arizona and Nevada. Typically, our water rights are the most competitive source of water to support new growth in municipalities and new industry in Arizona and Nevada; and

a water storage facility in Arizona and an interest in Semitropic, a water storage facility in California. At December 31, 2004, Vidler had net recharge credits representing approximately 63,000 acre-feet of water in storage on its own account at the Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility.

Vidler is engaged in the following activities:

supplying water to end-users in the Southwest, namely water utilities, municipalities, developers, or industrial users. The source of water could be from identifying and developing a new water supply, or a change in the use of water from agricultural to municipal and industrial use; and

development of storage and distribution infrastructure to generate cash flow from the purchase and storage of water for resale, and charging customers fees for recharge, or placing water into storage.

After an acquisition and development phase spanning several years, Vidler completed its first significant sales of water rights for industrial use in 2001 and municipal use in 2002. Vidler's priority is to either monetize or develop recurring cash flow from its most important assets by:

securing supply contracts utilizing its water rights in Arizona and Nevada; and

storing additional water at the Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility, and providing water supplies from net recharge credits already in storage.

Vidler has also entered into partnering arrangements with parties who have water assets but lack the capital or expertise to commercially develop these assets. Vidler continues to explore additional partnering opportunities throughout the Southwest.

This table details the water rights and water storage assets owned by Vidler at December 31, 2004. Please note that this is intended as a summary, and that some numbers are rounded. Item 7 of this Form 10-K/A contains more detail about these assets, recent developments affecting them, and the current outlook.

An acre-foot is a unit commonly used to measure the volume of water, being the volume of water required to cover one acre to a depth of one foot. As a rule of thumb, one acre-foot of water would sustain two families of four persons each for one year.

Name of asset & approximate location	Brief Description	Present commercial use
WATER RIGHTS		
Arizona:		
Harquahala Valley ground water basin La Paz & Maricopa Counties 75 miles northwest of metropolitan Phoenix	15,023 acres of land, plus 3,149 acres under Option 35,699 acre-feet of transferable ground water, plus 9,365 acre-feet under option State legislation allows Harquahala Valley ground water to be made available as assured municipal water supply to cities and communities in Arizona through agreements with the Central Arizona Ground Water Replenishment District	Leased to farmers

Table of Contents

Nevada:

Fish Springs Ranch, LLC (51% interest) & V&B, LLC (50% interest)	8,600 acres of deeded ranchland	Vidler is currently farming the property. Cattle graze on part of the property on a revenue-sharing basis
Washoe County, 40 miles north of Reno	8,000 acre-feet of permitted water rights, which are transferable to the Reno/Sparks area	

Lincoln County Agreement

Applications* for more than 100,000 acre-feet of water rights through an agreement with Lincoln County, of which it is currently anticipated that up to 40,000 acre-feet will be permitted and put to use in Lincoln County/northern Clark County.

Partnership to supply water to the planned Coyote Springs development, which will be located approximately 40 miles north of Las Vegas. The developer expects the first houses to go up in 2007. The delivery of the water is expected to occur over the build-out of the project, which could be 25 years or more.

2,100 acre-feet of permitted water rights in the Tule Desert Groundwater Basin

570 acre-feet of permitted water rights at Meadow Valley, located in Lincoln and Clark counties

Clark County

Sandy Valley Near the Nevada / California state line In the Interstate 15 corridor	415 acre-feet of permitted water rights
	Application for 1,000 acre-feet of water rights

Muddy River water rights 221 acre-feet of water rights, plus approximately
 Approximately 35 miles east of Las Vegas, in 46 acre-feet under option
 the Interstate 15 corridor

**The numbers indicated for water rights applications are the maximum amount which we have filed for. In some cases, we anticipate that the actual permits received will be for smaller quantities.*

Colorado:

Colorado water rights 94 acre-feet of senior water rights Agreement to sell 94 acre-feet of senior water rights to the City of Golden, Colorado over a period of 11 years

185 acre-feet of senior water rights 66 acre-feet leased. The balance is available for sale or lease. Approximately 5.7 acre-feet were sold to residential users in Summit County in 2004.

WATER STORAGE

Arizona:

Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility An underground water storage facility with Vidler is currently buying water and storing it on its own account. At December 31, 2004, Vidler had net recharge credits equivalent to approximately 63,000 acre-feet of water in
 Harquahala Valley, Arizona estimated capacity exceeding 1 million acre-feet and annual recharge capability of up to 35,000 acre-feet

Storage at the Arizona Recharge Facility, as well as 3,250 acre-feet of water purchased but not yet recharged. In addition, Vidler has ordered approximately 35,750 acre-feet of water for purchase and recharge in 2005.

California:

Semitropic water storage facility

The right to store 30,000 acre-feet of water underground until 2035. This includes the right to minimum guaranteed recovery of approximately 2,700 acre-feet of water every year, and the right to recovery up to approximately 6,800 acre-feet in one year in certain circumstances

Table of Contents

Nevada Land & Resource Company, LLC

In April 1997, PICO paid \$48.6 million to acquire Nevada Land, which at the time owned approximately 1,352,723 acres of deeded land in northern Nevada, and the water, mineral, and geothermal rights related to the property. Much of Nevada Land's property is checker-boarded in square mile sections with publicly owned land. The lands generally parallel the Interstate 80 corridor and the Humboldt River from Fernley, in western Nevada, to Elko County, in northeast Nevada.

Nevada Land is the largest private landowner in the state of Nevada. According to census data, Nevada has experienced the most rapid population growth of any state in the United States for the past 18 years in a row. The population of Nevada increased 66% in the 10 years ended April 1, 2000, and increased another 15.7%, to approximately 2.3 million people, from 2000 to 2004. Most of the growth is centered in southern Nevada, which includes the city of Las Vegas and surrounding municipalities. Land available for private development in Nevada is relatively scarce, as governmental agencies own approximately 87% of the land in Nevada.

Before we acquired Nevada Land, the property had been under the ownership of a succession of railway companies, to whom it was a non-core asset. Accordingly, when we acquired the company, we believed that the commercial potential of the property had not been maximized.

After acquiring Nevada Land, we completed a highest and best use study which divided the land into seven major categories. We developed strategies to maximize the value of each type of asset, with the objective of monetizing assets once they had reached their highest and best use. These strategies include:

the sale of land and water rights. There is demand for land and water for a variety of purposes including residential development, residential estate living, farming, ranching, and from industrial users;

transactions where Nevada Land exchanges parcels of its land in return for land owned by other parties;

the development of water rights. Nevada Land has applied for additional water rights on land it owns and intends to improve. Where water rights are permitted, we anticipate that the value, productivity, and marketability of the related land will increase;

the development of land in and around growing municipalities; and

the management of mineral rights.

A cost basis has been assigned to each category of land and other asset, which, in aggregate, equals Nevada Land's original purchase price.

During the period from April 23, 1997 to December 31, 2004, Nevada Land received consideration of approximately \$33.5 million from the sale and exchange of land and the sale of water rights. This is comprised of \$31.6 million from the sale of land, \$752,000 of cash and land received in an exchange transaction, and \$1.1 million from the sale of water rights related to land that was sold. Over this period, we have divested approximately 363,000 acres of land at an average price of \$92 per acre, which compares to our average basis of \$42 in the acres disposed of. The average gross margin percentage on the disposal of land and water rights over this period is 54.1%. The average cost for the total land, water, and mineral assets acquired with Nevada Land was \$35 per acre.

At December 31, 2004, Nevada Land owned approximately 992,000 acres of former railroad land. In addition to the former railroad property, Nevada Land has acquired:

17,558 acres of land in a land exchange with a private landowner. This land is contiguous with Native American tribal lands and is culturally sensitive; and

Spring Valley Ranches, which is located approximately 40 miles east of Ely in White Pine County, Nevada. This property was purchased out of bankruptcy proceedings in 2000. We believe that the land has significant environmental value. The real estate assets consist of approximately 8,626 acres of deeded land and 500,000 acres of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management allotment land. There are 18,829 acre-feet of agricultural water rights related to the property.

We anticipate continuing to sell smaller parcels of land for residential, agricultural, and industrial use, and that significantly larger parcels of land which has environmental, cultural, or historical value, will be divested through exchange-type transactions. These transactions could be structured as outright sales or as exchanges for land which is either more marketable or suitable for future development.

In recent years, Nevada Land has filed additional applications for approximately 70,480 acre-feet of water rights on the Company's lands. The applications consist of:

on the former railroad lands, approximately 4,797 acre-feet of water rights have been certificated and permitted, and applications are pending for approximately 42,840 acre-feet of water use for agricultural, municipal, and industrial use; and

27,640 acre-feet of water rights for the beneficial use of irrigating another 6,910 acres of Spring Valley Ranches.

Table of Contents

Business Acquisitions and Financing

Our Business Acquisitions and Financing segment contains businesses, interests in businesses, and other parent company assets.

PICO seeks to acquire businesses which we identify as undervalued based on fundamental analysis—that is, our assessment of what the business is worth, based on the private market value of its assets, earnings, and cash flow. We prefer long-established businesses, with a history of operating successfully through industry cycles, recessions and wars, in basic old economy industries. Typically, the business will be generating free cash flow and have a low level of debt, or, alternatively, strong interest coverage ratios or the ability to realize surplus assets. As well as being undervalued, the business must have special qualities such as unique assets, a potential catalyst for change, or be in an industry with attractive economics. We are also interested in acquiring businesses and interests in businesses where there is significant unrecognized value in land and other tangible assets.

We have acquired businesses and interests in businesses through the acquisition of private companies, and the purchase of shares in public companies, both directly through participation in financing transactions and through open market purchases. When we buy a company, we have a long-term horizon, typically 5 years or more; however, we are prepared to sell companies if the price received exceeds the return we expect to earn if we retain ownership. We expect that most of our interests in businesses will eventually be sold to other companies in the same industry seeking to expand or gain economies of scale. Consistent with our focus on increasing our shareholders' equity and book value per share, we anticipate that most of the return from our interests in businesses will come from realized gains on the ultimate sale of our holding, rather than dividends, equity income, or operating earnings during our ownership.

When we acquire an interest in a public company, we are prepared to play an active role, for example encouraging companies to use proper financial criteria when making capital expenditure decisions, or by providing financing or strategic input.

At the time we acquire an interest in a public company, we believe that the intrinsic value of the underlying business significantly exceeds the current market capitalization. The gap between market price and intrinsic value may persist for several years, and the stock price may decline while our estimate of intrinsic value is stable or increasing. Sometimes, the gap is not eliminated until another party attempts to acquire the company, as was the case with our holding in Australian Oil & Gas Corporation Limited (AOG).

Between 1998 and 2002, we became the largest shareholder in AOG, an international provider of drilling services. We identified AOG as undervalued as rig utilization, which is critical to earnings and cash flow for drilling companies, had begun to recover in the U.S., but was still near cyclical lows in the international markets where AOG operates. Historically, there has been a time lag between recovery in rig utilization in the U.S. and in international markets.

We acquired our interest, at an average cost of approximately A\$1.35 per share, through open market purchases, the reinvestment of dividends, and assisting AOG with a financing in early 2002. AOG had secured two major new contracts with multinational oil companies, but needed to raise capital to purchase equipment necessary to perform the contracts. We provided AOG with a bridging loan facility, which was repaid with the proceeds of a rights offering which we partly underwrote. After AOG's expanded activities and earnings base became apparent, Ensign (Australia) Holdings Pty. Limited, a subsidiary of a Canadian oil services company which was already a shareholder in AOG, made a takeover offer for AOG at A\$1.70 per share. Ensign was overbid by a number of other companies, before lifting its bid several times and eventually acquiring AOG in July 2002 for A\$2.70 per share. Immediately prior to Ensign's first bid, AOG shares had been trading at A\$1.40. We believe that our active participation as shareholders was instrumental in achieving this positive outcome.

PICO began to invest in European companies in 1996. We have been accumulating shares in a number of undervalued asset-rich companies, particularly in Switzerland, which we believe will benefit from pan-European consolidation. At December 31, 2004, the market value (and carrying value) of our European portfolio was \$67.9 million. This includes our 22.3% interest in Jungfraubahn Holding AG (Jungfraubahn), which had a market value (and carrying value) of \$40.8 million at the end of 2004.

Before a substantial acquisition is made, after significant research and analysis, we must be convinced that for an acceptable level of risk there is sufficient value to provide the opportunity for superior returns. We also have a small portfolio of alternative investments where intrinsic value is more speculative, in an attempt to capitalize on areas of potentially greater growth without incurring undue risk. At December 31, 2004, the total before-tax carrying value of this portfolio was less than \$500,000.

During the late 1990 s, the businesses we acquired were primarily private companies and foreign public companies. During this period, we perceived that acquisitions in these areas carried less downside risk and offered greater upside potential than the acquisition opportunities available among publicly traded companies in North America.

Table of Contents

In the foreseeable future, our acquisition efforts are likely to be focused on domestic and foreign public companies, where we perceive greater scope for value creation than with private companies.

Insurance Operations in Run Off

Our Insurance Operations in Run Off segment is comprised of Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio and Citation Insurance Company.

Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio

Until 1995, Physicians and The Professionals Insurance Company (Professionals) wrote medical professional liability insurance, mostly in the state of Ohio.

Due to persistent uneconomic pricing by competitors, Physicians and Professionals were unable to generate adequate premium volume in 1994 and the early part of 1995. Faced with these market conditions, and the opportunity for higher returns from activities other than medical professional liability insurance, in 1995 we concluded that maximum value would be obtained by placing Physicians in run off. This means handling the claims arising from its historical business, but not writing new business. In addition, the future book of business essentially the opportunity to renew expiring policies was sold for \$6 million in cash.

After Physicians went into run off, the company expanded its insurance operations by acquisition:

in 1995, we purchased Sequoia Insurance Company, which primarily wrote commercial lines of insurance in California and Nevada. After the acquisition, we re-capitalized Sequoia, which provided the capital to support growth in the book of business; and

in 1996, Physicians completed a reverse merger with the parent company of Citation Insurance Company. At that time, Citation wrote various lines of commercial property and casualty insurance and workers compensation insurance, primarily in California and Arizona. The operations of Sequoia and Citation were combined, and eventually the business previously written by Citation was transferred to Sequoia. At the end of 2000, Citation ceased writing business and went into run off. In 2003, we sold Sequoia Insurance Company. *See Discontinued Operations later in Item 1.*

Physicians and Citation obtain the funds to pay claims from the maturity of fixed-income securities, the sale of investments, and collections from reinsurance companies (that is, specialized insurance companies who share in our claims risk).

Typically, most of the revenues of an insurance company in run off come from investment income on funds held as part of the insurance business. During the run off process, as claims are paid, both the loss reserve liabilities and the corresponding fixed-income investment assets decrease. Since interest income in this segment will decline over time, we are attempting to minimize segment overhead expenses as much as possible. For example, in recent years we have reduced head count and office space, and merged Professionals into Physicians, which simplified administration and reduced costs.

Although we regularly evaluate the strategic alternatives, we currently believe that the most advantageous option is for Physicians own claims personnel to manage the run off. We believe that this will ensure a high standard of claims handling for our policyholders and, from the Company's perspective, ensure the most careful examination of claims made to minimize loss and loss adjustment expense payments. If we were to reinsure Physicians entire book of business and outsource claims handling, this would involve giving up management of the corresponding investment assets.

Administering our own run off also provides us with the following opportunities:

we retain management of the associated investment portfolios. After we resumed direct management of our insurance company portfolios in 2000, we believe that the return on our portfolio assets has been attractive in absolute terms, and very competitive in relative terms. The fixed-income securities and unaffiliated common stocks in the run off insurance company investment portfolios generated total returns upwards of 20% in 2003 and 22% in 2004, including total returns for the stocks component in excess of 39% in 2003 and 41% in 2004. Since the claims reserves of the run off insurance companies effectively recognize the cost of paying and handling claims in future years, the investment return on the corresponding investment assets, less non-insurance expenses, will accrue to PICO. We aim to maximize this source of income; and

to participate in favorable development in our claims reserves if there is any, although this entails the corresponding risk that we could be exposed to unfavorable development.

Table of Contents

As the run off progresses, at an indeterminate time in the future, Physicians' claims reserves may diminish to the point where it is more cost-effective to outsource claims handling to a third party administrator.

At December 31, 2004, Physicians had \$16.4 million in medical professional liability loss reserves, net of reinsurance.

Citation Insurance Company

In 1996, Physicians completed a reverse merger with Citation's parent company. In the past, Citation wrote various lines of commercial property and casualty insurance and workers' compensation insurance, primarily in California and Arizona.

After the merger was completed, we identified redundancy between Sequoia and Citation, and combined the operations of the two companies. After we assumed management of Citation, we tightened underwriting standards significantly and did not renew much of the business which Citation had written previously. Eventually all business in California and Nevada was transitioned to Sequoia, and at the end of 2000 Citation ceased writing business and went into run off.

Prior to the reverse merger, Citation had been a direct writer of workers' compensation insurance. Since PICO did not wish to be exposed to that line of business, shortly after the merger was completed Citation reinsured 100% of its workers compensation business with a subsidiary, Citation National Insurance Company (CNIC), and sold CNIC to Fremont Indemnity Company (Fremont) in 1997. As part of the sale of CNIC, all assets and liabilities, including the assets which corresponded to the workers' compensation reserves reinsured with CNIC, and all records, computer systems, policy files, and reinsurance arrangements were transferred to Fremont. Fremont merged CNIC into Fremont, and administered and paid all of the workers' compensation claims which had been sold to it. From 1997 until the second quarter of 2003, Citation booked the losses reported by Fremont, and recorded an equal and offsetting reinsurance recoverable from Fremont, as an admitted reinsurer, for all losses and loss adjustment expenses. This resulted in no net impact on Citation's reserves and financial statements, and no net impact on PICO's consolidated financial statements.

On June 4, 2003, the California Department of Insurance obtained a conservation order over Fremont, and applied for a court order to liquidate Fremont. On July 2, 2003, the California Superior Court placed Fremont in liquidation. Since Fremont was no longer an admitted reinsurance company under the statutory basis of insurance accounting, Citation reversed the \$7.5 million reinsurance recoverable from Fremont in both its statutory basis and GAAP basis financial statements in the three months ended June 30, 2003 and year ended December 31, 2003. Citation was unsuccessful in court action to recover deposits reported as held by Fremont for Citation's insureds.

In September 2004, Citation entered into a third-party administration agreement with Cambridge Integrated Services, Inc. to administer the claims handling and claims payment for Citation's workers' compensation insurance run-off book of business.

At December 31, 2004, Citation had \$22.3 million in loss reserves, net of reinsurance. Citation's loss reserves consist of \$10.2 million for property and casualty insurance, principally in the artisans/contractors line of business, and \$12.1 million for workers' compensation insurance.

HyperFeed Technologies, Inc.

HyperFeed is a provider of ticker plant technologies and fully managed ticker plant services to the financial community. HyperFeed is a publicly traded company, based in Chicago, Illinois, and became a 51%-owned subsidiary of PICO Holdings on May 15, 2003, when we acquired direct ownership of a majority voting interest. HyperFeed

became a separate reporting segment from May 15, 2003. Previously, HyperFeed was part of the Business Acquisitions & Financing segment.

PICO first invested in HyperFeed in 1995 through the purchase of common stock. We invested further capital as debt, which was later converted to equity, and received warrants for providing financing. In 2000, 2001, and 2002, we further increased our holding through open market purchases, the conversion of preferred stock, and the exercise of warrants. On May 15, 2003, PICO purchased an additional 443,622.9 HyperFeed common shares in a private placement for \$1.2 million, or approximately \$2.705 per share (adjusted for the August 2003 1:10 reverse stock split). PICO now owns 1,546,311.7 HyperFeed common shares, representing a voting ownership of approximately 51%.

During 2002 and 2003, HyperFeed restructured its operations, culminating in the sale of its consolidated market data feed customers to Interactive Data Corporation for \$8.5 million on October 31, 2003.

Table of Contents

Discontinued Operations

Sequoia Insurance Company

On March 31, 2003, we closed on the sale of Sequoia. The gross sale proceeds were approximately \$43.1 million, consisting of \$25.2 million in cash and a dividend of \$17.9 million. The dividend included the common stocks previously held in Sequoia's investment portfolio with a value of \$16.4 million. The common stocks included in the dividend primarily consisted of a number of holdings in small-capitalization value stocks, which we believed were still undervalued based on the private market value of the underlying assets, earnings, and cash flow. These common stocks were added to the investment portfolio of Physicians, which was Sequoia's direct parent company.

Physicians acquired Sequoia in 1995. Sequoia's core business was property and casualty insurance in California and Nevada, focusing on the niche markets of commercial insurance for small to medium-sized businesses and farm insurance. Sequoia also wrote selected lines of personal insurance in California. During the period of our ownership, Sequoia's management applied a selective approach to underwriting, aiming to earn a profit from underwriting (that is, a profit before investment income), and implemented numerous initiatives to improve efficiency and reduce expenses. As a result, Sequoia consistently had loss ratios and combined ratios better than the industry averages. During 2000, 2001, and 2002, Sequoia generated increased average premiums per commercial policy, and significant growth in its book of business, with combined ratios of 106.3%, 105.4%, and 101.6%, in those respective years.

From April 1, 2000, when we resumed direct management of Sequoia's investment portfolio, the company's portfolio of unaffiliated stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents earned returns (that is, interest and dividend income plus realized and unrealized gains, before fees and taxes) of approximately 6.1% in the last nine months of 2000, 10.4% in 2001, 12.6% in 2002, and 2.5% in the first three months of 2003.

Despite these factors, Sequoia continued to generate a return on capital lower than our expectation, and we concluded that value would be maximized by sale of the company, particularly given the increasingly restrictive regulatory & rating environment, and the highly competitive marketplace.

HyperFeed Technologies, Inc.

During 2003, HyperFeed completed the sale of two businesses, which are now recorded as discontinued operations:

its retail trading business, PCQuote.com, which was sold for \$370,000 in June 2003; and

its consolidated market data feed customers, which were sold to Interactive Data Corporation, for \$8.375 million. HyperFeed received \$7 million in cash on closing, and \$500,000 during 2004. HyperFeed could realize an additional \$875,000 during 2005 if, and when, milestones are met.

Employees

At December 31, 2004, PICO had 84 employees. A total of 9 employees were engaged in land and related mineral rights and water rights operations; 5 in water rights and storage operations; 3 in property and casualty insurance operations; 2 in medical professional liability operations; and 17 in holding company activities. HyperFeed Technologies, Inc. has 48 employees.

Executive Officers

The executive officers of PICO are as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Ronald Langley	60	Chairman of the Board, Director
John R. Hart	45	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Richard H. Sharpe	49	Chief Operating Officer
James F. Mosier	57	General Counsel and Secretary
Maxim C. W. Webb	43	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
W. Raymond Webb	43	Vice President, Investments
John T. Perri	35	Vice President, Finance

Table of Contents

Except for Maxim C. W. Webb, W. Raymond Webb and John T. Perri, each executive officer of PICO was an executive officer of Physicians prior to the 1996 merger between Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio and Citation Insurance Group, the predecessors to PICO Holdings, Inc. Each became an officer of PICO in November 1996 as a result of the merger. Maxim C. W. Webb was an officer of Global Equity Corporation and became an officer of PICO upon the effective date of the PICO/Global Equity Corporation Combination in December 1998. W. Raymond Webb and John T. Perri were elected as officers of PICO in April 2003.

Mr. Langley has been Chairman of the Board of PICO since November 1996 and of Physicians since July 1995. Mr. Langley has been a Director of PICO since November 1996 and a Director of Physicians since 1993. Mr. Langley has been a Director of HyperFeed Technologies, Inc., formerly, PC Quote, Inc., (HyperFeed) since 1995 and a Director of Jungfraubahn Holding AG since 2000.

Mr. Hart has been President and Chief Executive Officer of PICO since November 1996 and of Physicians since July 1995. Mr. Hart has been a Director of PICO since November 1996 and a Director of Physicians since 1993. Mr. Hart has been a Director of HyperFeed since 1997.

Mr. Sharpe has served as Chief Operating Officer of PICO since November 1996, and in various executive capacities since joining Physicians in 1977.

Mr. Mosier has served as General Counsel and Secretary of PICO since November 1996 and of Physicians since October 1984 and in various other executive capacities since joining Physicians in 1981.

Mr. Maxim Webb has been Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of PICO since May 14, 2001. Mr. Webb served in various capacities with the Global Equity Corporation group of companies since 1993, including Vice President, Investments of Forbes Ceylon Limited from 1994 through 1996. Mr. Webb became an officer of Global Equity Corporation in November 1997 and Vice President, Investments of PICO on November 20, 1998.

Mr. Raymond Webb has been with the Company since August 1999 as Chief Investment Analyst and became Vice President, Investments in April 2003.

Mr. Perri has been Vice President, Finance of PICO since August 2003 and served in various capacities since joining the Company in 1998, including Financial Reporting Manager and Corporate Controller.

RISK FACTORS

In addition to the risks and uncertainties discussed in certain sections of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 and elsewhere in this document, the following risk factors should be considered carefully in evaluating PICO and its business. The statements contained in this Form 10-K/A that are not purely historical are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Exchange Act, including statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, intentions, plans or strategies regarding the future. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on information available to us on the date thereof, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

Because our operations are diverse, analysts and investors may not be able to evaluate our Company adequately, which may negatively influence our share price.

PICO is a diversified holding company with operations in land and related water rights and mineral rights; water rights and water storage; insurance operations in run-off; and business acquisitions and financing. Each of these areas is unique, complex in nature, and difficult to understand. In particular, the water resource business is a developing

industry within the western United States with very little historical data, very few experts and a limited following of analysts. Because we are complex, analysts and investors may not be able to adequately evaluate our operations, and PICO in total. This could cause them to make inaccurate evaluations of our stock, or to overlook PICO, in general. These factors could have a negative impact on the trading volume and price of our stock.

If we do not successfully locate, select and manage investments and acquisitions, or if our investments or acquisitions otherwise fail or decline in value, our financial condition could suffer.

We invest in businesses that we believe are undervalued or that will benefit from additional capital, restructuring of operations or improved competitiveness through operational efficiencies. If a business in which we invest fails or its market value declines, we

Table of Contents

could experience a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, the results of operations and cash flows. Additionally, our failure to successfully locate, select and manage investment and acquisition opportunities could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, the results of operations and cash flows. Such business failures, declines in market values, and/or failure to successfully locate, select and manage investments and acquisitions could result in an inferior return on shareholders' equity. We could also lose part or all of our capital in these businesses and experience reductions in our net income, cash flows, assets and shareholders' equity.

Failure to successfully manage newly acquired companies could adversely affect our business.

Our management of the operations of acquired businesses requires significant efforts, including the coordination of information technologies, research and development, sales and marketing, operations, and finance. These efforts result in additional expenses and involve significant amounts of management's time. To successfully manage newly acquired companies, we must, among other things, continue to attract and retain key management and other personnel. The diversion of the attention of management from the day-to-day operations, or difficulties encountered in the integration process, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and the results of operations and cash flows. If we fail to integrate acquired businesses into our operations successfully, we may be unable to achieve our strategic goals and the value of your investment could suffer.

Our acquisitions may not achieve expected rates of return, and we may not realize the value of the funds we invest.

We will continue to make selective acquisitions, and endeavor to enhance and realize additional value to these acquired companies through our influence and control. You will be relying on the experience and judgment of management to locate, select and develop new acquisition and investment opportunities. Any acquisition could result in the use of a significant portion of our available cash, significant dilution to you, and significant acquisition-related charges. Acquisitions may also result in the assumption of liabilities, including liabilities that are unknown or not fully known at the time of the acquisition, which could have a material adverse effect on us.

We do not know of any reliable statistical data that would enable us to predict the probability of success or failure of our acquisitions and investments, or to predict the availability of suitable investments at the time we have available cash. We may not be able to find sufficient opportunities to make this business strategy successful. Additionally, when any of our acquisitions does not achieve acceptable rates of return or we do not realize the value of the funds invested, we may write-down the value of such acquisitions or sell the acquired businesses at a loss. We have made a number of acquisitions in the past that have been highly successful, and we have also made acquisitions that have lost either part or all of the capital invested. Further details of realized and unrealized gains and losses can be found in the Notes 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements and in Item 7A in this Form 10-K/A. Our ability to achieve an acceptable rate of return on any particular investment is subject to a number of factors which are beyond our control, including increased competition and loss of market share, quality of management, cyclical or uneven financial results, technological obsolescence, foreign currency risks and regulatory delays.

We may make investments and acquisitions that may yield low or negative returns for an extended period of time, which could temporarily or permanently depress our return on investments.

We generally make investments and acquisitions that tend to be long term in nature. We acquire businesses that we believe to be undervalued or may benefit from additional capital, restructuring of operations or management or improved competitiveness through operational efficiencies with our existing operations. We may not be able to develop acceptable revenue streams and investment returns. We may lose part or all of our investment in these assets. The negative impacts on cash flows, income, assets and shareholders' equity may be temporary or permanent. We make investments for the purpose of enhancing and realizing additional value by means of appropriate levels of

shareholder influence and control. This may involve restructuring of the financing or management of the entities in which we invest and initiating or facilitating mergers and acquisitions. These processes can consume considerable amounts of time and resources. Consequently, costs incurred as a result of these investments and acquisitions may exceed their revenues and/or increases in their values for an extended period of time until we are able to develop the potential of these investments and acquisitions and increase the revenues, profits and/or values of these investments. Ultimately, however, we may not be able to develop the potential of these assets that we originally anticipated.

We may not be able to sell our investments when it is advantageous to do so and we may have to sell these investments at a discount.

No active market exists for some of the companies in which we invest. We invest in private companies that are not as liquid as investments in public companies. Additionally, some of our investments may be in restricted or unregistered stock of U.S. public

Table of Contents

companies. Moreover, even our investments for which there is an established market are subject to dramatic fluctuations in their market price. These illiquidity factors may affect our ability to divest some of our investments and could affect the value that we receive for the sale of such investments.

Our acquisitions of and investments in foreign companies subject us to additional market and liquidity risks which could affect the value of our stock.

We have acquired, and may continue to acquire, shares of stock in foreign public companies. Typically, these foreign companies are not registered with the SEC and regulation of these companies is under the jurisdiction of the relevant foreign country. The respective foreign regulatory regime may limit our ability to obtain timely and comprehensive financial information for the foreign companies in which we have invested. In addition, if a foreign company in which we invest were to take actions which could be deleterious to its shareholders, foreign legal systems may make it difficult or time-consuming for us to challenge such actions. These factors may affect our ability to dispose of our foreign investments or realize the full fair value of our foreign investments. In addition, investments in foreign countries may give rise to complex cross-border tax issues. We aim to manage our tax affairs efficiently, but given the complexity of dealing with domestic and foreign tax jurisdictions, we may have to pay tax in both the U.S. and in foreign countries, and we may be unable to offset any U.S. tax liabilities with foreign tax credits. If we are unable to manage our foreign tax issues, our financial condition and the results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Variations in physical availability of water, along with environmental and legal restrictions and legal impediments, could impact profitability from our water rights.

The water rights held by us and the transferability of these rights to other uses and places of use are governed by the laws concerning water rights in the states of Arizona, Colorado and Nevada. The volumes of water actually derived from the water rights applications or permitted rights may vary considerably based upon physical availability and may be further limited by applicable legal restrictions. As a result, the amounts of acre-feet anticipated from the water rights applications or permitted rights do not in every case represent a reliable, firm annual yield of water, but in some cases describe the face amount of the water right claims or management's best estimate of such entitlement. Legal impediments may exist to the sale or transfer of some of these water rights, which in turn may affect their commercial value. If we were unable to transfer or sell our water rights, we will not be able to make a profit, we will not have enough cash receipts to cover cash needs, and we may lose some or all of our value in our water rights acquisitions.

Water we lease or sell may be subject to regulation as to quality by the United States Environmental Protection Agency acting pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. While environmental regulations do not directly affect us, the regulations regarding the quality of water distributed affects our intended customers and may, therefore, depending on the quality of our water, impact the price and terms upon which we may in the future sell our water rights.

Our future water revenues are uncertain and depend on a number of factors, which may make our revenue streams and profitability volatile.

We engage in various water rights acquisition, management, development, and sale and lease activities. Accordingly, our long-term future profitability will be primarily dependent on our ability to develop and sell or lease water and water rights, and will be affected by various factors, including timing of acquisitions, transportation arrangements, and changing technology. To the extent we possess junior or conditional water rights, such rights may be subordinated to superior water right holders in periods of low flow or drought.

In addition to the risk of delays associated with receiving all necessary regulatory approvals and permits, we may also encounter unforeseen technical difficulties which could result in construction delays and cost increases with respect to our water and water storage development projects.

Our profitability is significantly affected by changes in the market price of water. In the future, water prices may fluctuate widely as demand is affected by climatic, demographic and technological factors.

Our water activities may become concentrated in a limited number of assets, making our growth and profitability vulnerable to fluctuations in local economies and governmental regulations.

In the future, we anticipate that a significant amount of Vidler's revenues and asset value will come from a limited number of assets, including our water rights in the Harquahala Valley and the Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility. Although we continue to

Table of Contents

acquire and develop additional water assets, in the foreseeable future we anticipate that our revenues will still be derived from a limited number of assets, primarily located in Arizona and Nevada.

Our water sales may meet with political opposition in certain locations, thereby limiting our growth in these areas.

The transfer of water rights from one use to another may affect the economic base of a community and will, in some instances, be met with local opposition. Moreover, certain of the end users of our water rights, namely municipalities, regulate the use of water in order to manage growth. If we are unable to effectively transfer water rights, our liquidity will suffer and our revenues would decline.

The market values of our real estate and water assets are linked to external growth factors.

The real estate and water assets we hold have market values that are significantly affected by the growth in population and the general state of the local economies where our real estate and water assets are located, primarily in the states of Arizona and Nevada.

In certain circumstances, we finance sales of real estate and water assets, and we secure such financing through deeds of trust on the property, which are only released once the financing has been fully paid off.

Purchasers of our real estate and water assets may default on their financing obligations and the market value of the secured property may be affected by the factors noted above. Accordingly, such defaults and declines in market values may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and the results of operations and cash flows.

If we underestimate the amount of insurance claims, our financial condition could be materially misstated and our financial condition could suffer.

Our insurance subsidiaries may not have established reserves that are adequate to meet the ultimate cost of losses arising from claims. It has been, and will continue to be, necessary for our insurance subsidiaries to review and make appropriate adjustments to reserves for claims and expenses for settling claims. Inadequate reserves could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and the results of operations and cash flows. Inadequate reserves could cause our financial condition to fluctuate from period to period and cause our financial condition to appear to be better than it actually is for periods in which insurance claims reserves are understated. In subsequent periods when we discover the underestimation and pay the additional claims, our cash needs will be greater than expected and our financial results of operations for that period will be worse than they would have been had our reserves been accurately estimated originally.

The inherent uncertainties in estimating loss reserves are greater for some insurance products than for others, and are dependent on:

the length of time in reporting claims;

the diversity of historical losses among claims;

the amount of historical information available during the estimation process;

the degree of impact that changing regulations and legal precedents may have on open claims; and

the consistency of reinsurance programs over time.

Because medical malpractice liability, commercial property and casualty, and workers' compensation claims may not be completely paid off for several years, estimating reserves for these types of claims can be more uncertain than estimating reserves for other types of insurance. As a result, precise reserve estimates cannot be made for several years following the year for which reserves were initially established.

During the past several years, the levels of the reserves for our insurance subsidiaries have been very volatile. We have had to significantly increase and decrease these reserves in the past several years.

Furthermore, we have reinsurance agreements on all of our insurance books of business with reinsurance companies. We base the level of reinsurance purchased on our direct reserves on our assessment of the overall direct underwriting risk.

We attempt to ensure that we have acceptable net risk, but it is possible that we may underestimate the amount of reinsurance required to achieve the desired level of net claims risk.

Table of Contents

In addition, while we carefully review the creditworthiness of the companies we have reinsured part, or all, of our initial direct underwriting risk with, our reinsurers could default on amounts owed to us for their portion of the direct insurance claim. Our insurance subsidiaries, as direct writers of lines of insurance, have ultimate responsibility for the payment of claims, and any defaults by reinsurers may result in our established reserves not being adequate to meet the ultimate cost of losses arising from claims.

Significant increases in the reserves may be necessary in the future, and the level of reserves for our insurance subsidiaries may be volatile in the future. These increases or volatility may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and the results of operations and cash flows.

State regulators could require changes to our capitalization and/or to the operations of our insurance subsidiaries, and/or place them into rehabilitation or liquidation.

Beginning in 1994, Physicians and Citation became subject to the provisions of the Risk-Based Capital for Insurers Model Act which has been adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for the purpose of helping regulators identify insurers that may be in financial difficulty. The Model Act contains a formula which takes into account asset risk, credit risk, underwriting risk and all other relevant risks. Under this formula, each insurer is required to report to regulators using formulas which measure the quality of its capital and the relationship of its modified capital base to the level of risk assumed in specific aspects of its operations. The formula does not address all of the risks associated with the operations of an insurer. The formula is intended to provide a minimum threshold measure of capital adequacy by individual insurance company and does not purport to compute a target level of capital. Companies which fall below the threshold will be placed into one of four categories: Company Action Level, where the insurer must submit a plan of corrective action; Regulatory Action Level, where the insurer must submit such a plan of corrective action, the regulator is required to perform such examination or analysis the Superintendent of Insurance considers necessary and the regulator must issue a corrective order; Authorized Control Level, which includes the above actions and may include rehabilitation or liquidation; and Mandatory Control Level, where the regulator must rehabilitate or liquidate the insurer. All companies risk-based capital results as of December 31, 2004 exceed the Company Action Level.

If we are required to register as an investment company, then we will be subject to a significant regulatory burden.

At all times we intend to conduct our business so as to avoid being regulated as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. However, if we were required to register as an investment company, our ability to use debt would be substantially reduced, and we would be subject to significant additional disclosure obligations and restrictions on our operational activities. Because of the additional requirements imposed on an investment company with regard to the distribution of earnings, operational activities and the use of debt, in addition to increased expenditures due to additional reporting responsibilities, our cash available for investments would be reduced. The additional expenses would reduce income. These factors would adversely affect our business, financial condition, and the results of operations and cash flows.

We are directly impacted by international affairs, which directly exposes us to the adverse effects of any foreign economic or governmental instability.

As a result of global investment diversification, our business, financial condition, the results of operations and cash flows may be adversely affected by:

exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates;

the imposition of governmental controls;

the need to comply with a wide variety of foreign and U.S. export laws;

political and economic instability;

trade restrictions;

changes in tariffs and taxes;

volatile interest rates;

changes in certain commodity prices;

exchange controls which may limit our ability to withdraw money;

the greater difficulty of administering business overseas; and

general economic conditions outside the United States.

Changes in any or all of these factors could result in reduced market values of investments, loss of assets, additional expenses, reduced investment income, reductions in shareholders' equity due to foreign currency fluctuations and a reduction in our global diversification.

Table of Contents

Fluctuations in the market price of our common stock may affect your ability to sell your shares.

The trading price of our common stock has historically been, and is expected to be, subject to fluctuations. The market price of the common stock may be significantly impacted by:

- quarterly variations in financial performance and condition;
- shortfalls in revenue or earnings from levels forecast by securities analysts;
- changes in estimates by such analysts;
- product introductions;
- our competitors' announcements of extraordinary events such as acquisitions;
- litigation; and
- general economic conditions.

Our results of operations have been subject to significant fluctuations, particularly on a quarterly basis, and our future results of operations could fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter and from year to year. Causes of such fluctuations may include the inclusion or exclusion of operating earnings from newly acquired or sold operations. At December 31, 2004, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ National Market was \$20.77 per share, compared to \$13.24 at December 31, 2002. On a quarterly basis between these two dates, closing prices have ranged from a high of \$22.00 to a low of \$12.01.

Statements or changes in opinions, ratings, or earnings estimates made by brokerage firms or industry analysts relating to the markets in which we do business or relating to us specifically could result in an immediate and adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

We may not be able to retain key management personnel we need to succeed, which could adversely affect our ability to make sound investment decisions.

We rely on the services of several key executive officers. If they depart, it could have a significant adverse effect. Messrs. Langley and Hart, our Chairman and CEO, respectively, are key to the implementation of our strategic focus, and our ability to successfully develop our current strategy is dependent upon our ability to retain the services of Messrs. Langley and Hart.

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The preparation of our financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. We regularly evaluate our estimates, which are based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The result of these evaluations forms the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities and the reported amount of revenues and expenses that are not readily apparent from other sources. The carrying values of assets and liabilities and the reported amount of revenues and expenses may differ by using different assumptions. In addition, in future periods, in order to incorporate all known experience at that time, we may have to revise assumptions previously made which may change the value of previously reported

assets and liabilities. This potential subsequent change in value may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and the results of operations and cash flows. See *Critical Accounting Policies* in Item 7.

Repurchases of our common stock could have a negative effect on our cash flows and our stock price.

Our Board of Directors has authorized the repurchase of up to \$10 million of our common stock. The stock purchases may be made from time to time at prevailing prices through open market, or negotiated transactions, depending on market conditions, and will be funded from available cash resources of the company. Such a repurchase program may have a negative impact on our cash flows, and could result in market pressure to sell our common stock. (Refer to our Liquidity and Capital Resources in Item 7).

Future changes in financial accounting standards may cause adverse unexpected revenue fluctuations and affect our reported results of operations.

A change in accounting standards could have a significant effect on our reported results and may even affect our reporting transactions completed before the change is effective. New accounting pronouncements and varying interpretations of

Table of Contents

pronouncements have occurred and may occur in the future. Changes to existing rules or the questioning of current practices may adversely affect our reported financial results or the way we conduct our business.

For example, changes requiring that we record compensation expense in the statement of operations for stock appreciation rights using the fair value method, or changes in existing taxation rules related to stock appreciation rights, could have a significant negative effect on our reported results as a result of the variability of factors used to establish the fair value of stock appreciation rights. In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement 123 (Revised) which will take effect from the beginning of the first interim or annual reporting period that begins after June 15, 2005. SFAS 123 (Revised) will require PICO to re-measure its stock appreciation rights liability each reporting period from the effective date using a fair value basis until the awards are settled. This future accounting treatment could negatively impact our reported earnings.

Compliance with changing regulation of corporate governance and public disclosure may result in additional expenses.

Changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, new SEC regulations and NASDAQ Stock Market rules, are creating uncertainty for companies such as ours. These new or changed laws, regulations and standards are subject to varying interpretations in many cases due to their lack of specificity, and as a result, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and governing bodies, which could result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and higher costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to disclosure and governance practices. We are committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and public disclosure. As a result, our efforts to comply with evolving laws, regulations and standards have resulted in, and are likely to continue to result in, increased general and administrative expenses and a diversion of management time and attention from revenue-generating activities to compliance activities. In particular, our efforts to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the related regulations regarding our required assessment of our internal controls over financial reporting and our external auditors' audit of that assessment has required the commitment of substantial financial and managerial resources. In addition, it has become more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance, and we have purchased coverage at substantially higher cost than in the past. We expect these efforts to require the continued commitment of significant resources. Further, our board members, chief executive officer, and chief financial officer could face an increased risk of personal liability in connection with the performance of their duties. As a result, we may have difficulty attracting and retaining qualified board members and executive officers, which could harm our business. If our efforts to comply with new or changes laws, regulations, and standards differ from the activities intended by regulatory or governing bodies due to ambiguities related to practice, our reputation could be harmed.

Absence of dividends could reduce our attractiveness to investors.

Some investors favor companies that pay dividends, particularly in market downturns. We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain any future earnings for funding growth and, therefore, we do not currently anticipate paying cash dividends on our common stock.

We may need additional capital in the future to fund the growth of our business, and financing may not be available.

We currently anticipate that our available capital resources and operating income will be sufficient to meet our expected working capital and capital expenditure requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, we cannot assure you that such resources will be sufficient to fund the long-term growth of our business. We may raise additional funds through public or private debt or equity financings if such financings become available on favorable

terms, but such financing may dilute our stockholders. We cannot assure you that any additional financing we need will be available on terms favorable to us, or at all. If adequate funds are not available or are not available on acceptable terms, we may not be able to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities or otherwise respond to competitive pressures. In any such case, our business, operating results or financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Litigation may harm our business or otherwise distract our management.

Substantial, complex or extended litigation could cause us to incur large expenditures and distract our management. For example, lawsuits by employees, stockholders or customers could be very costly and substantially disrupt our business. Disputes from time to time with such companies or individuals are not uncommon, and we cannot assure that that we will always be able to resolve such disputes out of court or on terms favorable to us.

Table of Contents

THE FOREGOING FACTORS, INDIVIDUALLY OR IN AGGREGATE, COULD MATERIALLY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OPERATING RESULTS AND CASH FLOWS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION AND COULD MAKE COMPARISON OF HISTORIC OPERATING RESULTS AND CASH FLOWS AND BALANCES DIFFICULT OR NOT MEANINGFUL.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

PICO leases approximately 6,354 square feet in La Jolla, California for its principal executive offices.

Physicians leases approximately 1,892 square feet of office space in Columbus, Ohio for its headquarters. Citation leases office space for a claims office in Orange County, California. Vidler and Nevada Land lease office space in Carson City, Nevada. HyperFeed leases 15,000 square feet of office space in Chicago, Illinois, approximately 11,000 square feet of office space at two sites in Aurora, Illinois, approximately 3,000 square feet of office space in New York City and approximately 1,300 square feet of office space in San Francisco, California. Vidler and Nevada Land hold significant investments in land, water rights and mineral rights in the southwestern United States. We continually evaluate our current and future space capacity in relation to our business needs. We believe that our existing facilities are suitable and adequate to meet our current business requirements. *See Item 1-Business-Introduction.*

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is subject to various litigation that arises in the ordinary course of its business. Members of PICO's insurance group are frequently a party in claims proceedings and actions regarding insurance coverage, all of which PICO considers routine and incidental to its business. Based upon information presently available, management is of the opinion that such litigation will not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial position, the results of operations or cash flows of the Company. Neither PICO nor its subsidiaries are parties to any potential material pending legal proceedings other than the following:

In 2000, PICO Holdings loaned a total of \$2.2 million to Dominion Capital Pty. Ltd. (Dominion Capital), a private Australian company. In 2001, \$1.2 million of the loans became past due. Negotiations between PICO and Dominion Capital to reach a settlement agreement on both the overdue loan of \$1.2 million and the other loan of \$1 million proved unsuccessful. Accordingly, PICO commenced legal actions through the Australian courts against Dominion Capital to recover the total amount due to PICO Holdings. Due to the inherent uncertainty involved in pursuing a legal action and our ability to realize the assets collateralizing the loans, PICO recorded an allowance for the total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million for the loans and interest. PICO has been awarded summary judgment in relation to the principal and interest on the \$1.2 million loan and, as a result, Dominion Capital has been placed in receivership. A trial was held in July 2003 concerning both loans. The Company received the Court's decision in August 2004 and was unsuccessful in its actions. In August 2004, the Company filed an appeal with the Australian Court of Appeal. After filing the appeal, PICO and the individual who was the majority shareholder of Dominion Capital entered into a deed of settlement and release agreement. Under this agreement, both parties have agreed to discharge each other from any further claims and obligations, including PICO discontinuing its appeal that was filed in the Australian Court of Appeal.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

No matters were submitted to a vote of the Company's shareholders during the fourth quarter of 2004.

Table of Contents**PART II****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

The common stock of PICO is traded on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol PICO. The following table sets out the high and low daily closing sale prices as reported on the NASDAQ National Market. These reported prices reflect inter-dealer prices without adjustments for retail markups, markdowns or commissions.

	2004		2003	
	High	Low	High	Low
1st Quarter	\$ 16.60	\$ 15.31	\$ 14.39	\$ 12.01
2nd Quarter	\$ 19.04	\$ 15.38	\$ 14.37	\$ 12.78
3rd Quarter	\$ 19.04	\$ 17.12	\$ 14.04	\$ 12.83
4th Quarter	\$ 22.00	\$ 18.57	\$ 16.17	\$ 13.10

On March 9, 2005, the closing sale price of PICO's common stock was \$25.21 and there were approximately 686 holders of record.

PICO has not declared or paid any dividends in the last two years, and does not expect to pay any dividends in the foreseeable future.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

On July 17, 2003, the Company's shareholders approved the PICO Holdings, Inc. 2003 Stock Appreciation Rights (SAR) program, which replaced the stock option and call option programs previously in place. The stock options and call options held by directors, employees, and consultants were surrendered and, after shareholders' approval, replaced with SAR with the same exercise price. There are now no stock options or call options outstanding.

All SAR are fully vested; however, a holder may only exercise a maximum of 20% of the SAR initially received in any twelve month period, except with the permission of the Company's Compensation Committee. When a SAR is exercised, the holder will receive a cash payment equal to the difference between the market value of the underlying stock and the exercise price of the SAR. No shares of stock are issued.

We believe that the accounting treatment for SAR is more transparent than for stock options. The change in the in the money amount (i.e., the difference between the market value of PICO stock and the exercise price of the SAR) of SAR outstanding during each accounting period is recorded through the consolidated statements of operations. An increase in the in the money amount of SAR is recorded as an expense, and a decrease in the in the money amount of SAR will be recorded as a reduction in expenses. Previously, we disclosed the fair value of outstanding stock options but, in accordance with GAAP, we did not expense this value in our statement of operations.

For 2003, a total expense of \$6 million before taxes for SAR was recorded, based on the last sale price of \$15.67 for PICO stock on December 31, 2003. This consists of a \$3.5 million charge on the initial adoption of the SAR program on July 17, 2003, and a \$2.5 million expense to record the increase in the in the money amount of SAR during the period from the adoption of the SAR Program through the end of 2003. The \$3.5 million pre-tax charge expensed the in the money amount of SAR outstanding from the date that the call options and stock options converted to SAR were originally issued, through to July 17, 2003. After the related tax effect, the 2003 SAR expense reduced book value per share by approximately 1.7% as of December 31, 2003.

For 2004, a total expense of \$9.9 million before taxes for SAR was recorded, based on the last sale price of \$20.77 for PICO stock on December 31, 2004, and \$113,000 in payments for 39,625 SAR exercised during 2004. After the related tax effect, the cumulative SAR expense reduced book value per share by approximately 4.2% as of December 31, 2004.

As of December 31, 2004, the Company has a total of 1,923,156 SAR outstanding, with a weighted average exercise price of \$12.59. Of this total, 1,895,656 SAR, with a weighted average exercise price of \$12.55, were granted to the Company's officers. A total of 80,000 SAR remain available for issuance.

Table of Contents

Plan Category	(a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights by Officers	(b) Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights granted to Officers	(c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders.(1)			
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders.(2)			41,317
Total			41,317

(1) On July 17, 2003, the Company's shareholders voted to adopt the PICO Holdings, Inc. 2003 Stock Appreciation Rights Program (the "SAR Program") to replace the Company's stock option plans and call option agreements. The maximum number of SARs issuable under the SAR program may not exceed 2,042,781. 1,962,781 SARs were issued to the prior option holders upon adoption of the SAR program at an exercise price equal to that of the surrendered options (weighted average exercise price \$12.63). Upon exercise of the SAR, the holder is entitled to a cash benefit equal to the difference between the exercise price and the then current market price of PICO stock. Accordingly, no securities, options or warrants will be issued by the Company on any exercise of the SAR. (See Stock-Based Compensation section in Note 1 to the Company's consolidated financial statements Nature of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies)

(2) The Directors' and Officers' Deferred Compensation Arrangements are described in Note 15 to the Company's notes to the consolidated financial statements. (Related-Party Transactions)

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Period	(a) Total number of shares purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1)	(d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (1)

10/1/04 -10/31/04	1,185	\$	19.10
11/1/04 -11/31/04			
12/1/04 -12/31/04			

Note: Shares listed above are part of a deferred compensation plan for certain directors and officers of PICO Holdings, Inc. These deferred compensation plans are not part of a publicly announced plan and the maximum number of shares to repurchase is unknown since the election to defer their compensation can be increased or decreased at any time by the participating directors and officers.

- (1) In October 2002, PICO's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$10 million of PICO common stock. The stock purchases may be made from time to time at prevailing prices through open market or negotiated transactions, depending on market conditions, and will be funded from available cash. As of December 31, 2004, no stock had been repurchased under this authorization.

Table of Contents**ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table presents the Company's selected consolidated financial data. The information set forth below is not necessarily indicative of the results of future operations and should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Form 10-K/A and the consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto included elsewhere in this document.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	(In thousands, except share data)				
OPERATING RESULTS					
Revenues:					
Premium income earned (charged)			\$ (42)	\$ 980	\$ 1,695
Net investment income (loss)	\$ 9,065	\$ 8,116	9,595	1,161	(1,694)
Sale of real estate and water assets	10,879	19,751	15,232	17,106	5,478
Other income	8,183	5,011	4,489	4,313	4,200
Total revenues	\$ 28,127	\$ 32,878	\$ 29,274	\$ 23,560	\$ 9,679
Income (loss) before discontinued operations, and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle					
	\$ (10,636)	\$ (13,622)	\$ 1,110	\$ 3,778	\$ (7,290)
Income from discontinued operations, net					
	78	10,384	2,834	2,317	953
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principles, net					
			1,985	(981)	(4,964)
Net income (loss)	\$ (10,558)	\$ (3,238)	\$ 5,929	\$ 5,114	\$ (11,301)
PER COMMON SHARE BASIC AND DILUTED:					
Income (loss) from continuing operations					
	\$ (0.86)	\$ (1.10)	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.30	\$ (0.63)
Income from discontinued operations					
	0.01	0.84	0.23	0.19	0.08
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle					
			0.16	(0.08)	(0.43)
Net income (loss)	\$ (0.85)	\$ (0.26)	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.41	\$ (0.97)
Weighted Average Shares Outstanding					
	12,368,068	12,375,933	12,375,466	12,384,682	11,604,120
	Year Ended December 31,				
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	(In thousands, except per share data)				
FINANCIAL CONDITION					

Edgar Filing: PICO HOLDINGS INC /NEW - Form 10-K/A

Assets (1)	\$ 354,631	\$ 330,897	\$ 265,587	\$ 270,742	\$ 295,682
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 55,944	\$ 60,864	\$ 52,703	\$ 61,538	\$ 84,384
Bank and other borrowings (1)	\$ 18,021	\$ 15,377	\$ 14,636	\$ 14,596	\$ 15,550
Discontinued operations, net (liabilities) assets	\$ (752)	\$ (1,351)	\$ 37,332	\$ 33,266	\$ 29,255
Total liabilities and minority interest (1)	\$ 113,942	\$ 99,566	\$ 81,888	\$ 96,110	\$ 122,802
Shareholders' equity	\$ 239,929	\$ 229,160	\$ 221,032	\$ 207,899	\$ 202,105
Book value per share	\$ 19.40	\$ 18.52	\$ 17.86	\$ 16.81	\$ 16.31

Note: Book value per share is computed by dividing shareholders' equity by the net of total shares issued less shares held as treasury shares.

(1) Excludes balances classified as discontinued operations.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The consolidated financial statements and other portions of this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, including Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, reflect the effects of:

- (1) presenting Sequoia Insurance Company and two businesses sold by HyperFeed Technologies, Inc. as discontinued operations. *See Note 2 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Discontinued Operations* ; and
- (2) presenting HyperFeed Technologies, Inc. as a separate segment beginning May 15, 2003. *See Note 4 of Notes To Consolidated Financial Statements, Consolidation of HyperFeed Technologies, Inc.*

COMPANY SUMMARY, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

VIDLER WATER COMPANY, INC.

BACKGROUND

We believe that continuing trends in Nevada and Arizona indicate strong future demand for Vidler's water rights and water storage assets.

Based on census figures, in the three years ended July 1, 2003, the population of Clark County, Nevada, which includes metropolitan Las Vegas, increased 14.6% to almost 1.6 million residents. Around 70,000 people are moving to the area annually. Currently Las Vegas takes most of its water supply from Lake Mead. Due to the continued growth in demand for water and 5 years of drought, the level of Lake Mead has reached 50 year lows. Accordingly, Las Vegas is aggressively seeking to conserve water (e.g., rules have been introduced restricting water use in new homes) and to diversify its sources of water supply. At the same time, the increasing cost of housing in Las Vegas is leading to more rapid growth in outlying areas within commuting distance.

Over time, we believe that these factors will lead to demand for water in parts of southern Nevada where Vidler owns or has an interest in water rights, including southern Lincoln County/northern Clark County and Sandy Valley and Muddy River in Clark County. If growth management initiatives are introduced in Las Vegas, this will lead to even more rapid growth in the areas surrounding metropolitan Las Vegas.

In Arizona, the continued growth of the municipalities surrounding Phoenix in Maricopa County is likely to lead to strong demand for Vidler's water rights in the Harquahala Valley. According to census estimates, the population of Maricopa County increased 9.5% in the three years to July 1, 2003, to almost 3.4 million residents. Many of the municipalities surrounding Phoenix/Scottsdale where the growth is concentrated, do not receive allotments of water from the Colorado River, and are therefore forced to find alternative supplies of water.

Due to the low level of Lake Mead, the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada may be required to take no more than their current allotments of water from the Colorado River. This is likely to increase demand for the net recharge credits owned by Vidler, representing water which Vidler has in storage in its Arizona Recharge Facility. We also anticipate demand from developers and other entities to store water for various purposes, including back-up water supply for dry years by developers, and assured water supply for new development projects.

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) is a three-county water district servicing the most populous parts of the state, including Maricopa County. A 2003 CAWCD study predicted that CAWCD will be able to use 9 million acre-feet of water from Arizona s Colorado River supplies in the years from 2004 through 2050, assuming average annual precipitation. The CAWCD also estimated that 8.6 million acre-feet will be required over the same period by the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, the authority responsible for protecting groundwater supplies in the CAWCD three-county service area. The CAWCD also estimated demand of 3.5 million acre-feet from the Arizona Water Bank for various purposes (e.g., use in Nevada), and a further 4.3 million acre-feet to replenish groundwater reserves. Based on these forecasts, Arizona appears to be faced with a shortfall of 7.4 million acre-feet of water in the period through 2050, which will require CAWCD to purchase additional supplies.

Table of Contents

The Southern Nevada Water Authority has released a master water resource plan (which can be viewed at www.snwa.com) to develop and deliver water supplies to meet regional growth demands. This plan consists of (1) the storage of water, including up to 1.25 million acre-feet in Arizona, combined with (2) the development of further water resources in Nevada. We believe that Vidler's assets are favorably positioned to contribute to the water resource solutions required in the Southwest.

WATER RIGHTS

Arizona

At December 31, 2004, Vidler owned or had the right to acquire approximately 45,064 acre-feet of transferable ground water in the **Harquahala Valley**, approximately 75 miles northwest of metropolitan Phoenix, Arizona. Vidler owns 35,699 acre-feet, and we have the option to purchase a further 9,365 acre-feet. We believe that Vidler's water rights in the Harquahala Valley represent the most practical and competitive source of water to support the growth of greater metropolitan Phoenix, which is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation.

Vidler's water rights in the Harquahala Valley are primarily located in Maricopa County. According to census data, the population of Maricopa County increased 9.5% in the three years ended July 1, 2003, with the addition of approximately 97,000 people per year. Vidler anticipates that there will be municipal demand for water from the Harquahala Valley to support the growth of the west side cities in Maricopa County, which are part of greater metropolitan Phoenix.

Any new residential development in Arizona must obtain a permit from the Arizona Department of Water Resources certifying a designated assured water supply sufficient to sustain the development for at least 100 years. The Harquahala Valley ground water meets the designation of assured water supply. In order for the Harquahala Valley ground water to be used by municipalities in the heavily populated parts of Arizona, the water must be wheeled, or transported, from the Harquahala Valley to the end users. The Arizona State Legislature has passed legislation which allows Harquahala Valley ground water to be made available as assured water supply to cities and communities in Arizona through agreements with the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District.

The Arizona State Legislature has passed several pieces of legislation which recognize the Harquahala Valley ground water as a future municipal supply for the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. In 1991, the expansion of irrigated farming in the Valley was prohibited, and the transfer of the ground water to municipalities was authorized. In order to protect the Harquahala Valley ground water from large commercial and industrial users which were moving into the Basin, legislation was enacted in 2000 placing restrictions on commercial and industrial users utilizing more than 100 acre-feet of water annually. These users are required to purchase irrigable land and to withdraw the water that they need from the land at no more than 3 acre-feet per annum per acre of land.

In 2001 and 2002, Vidler completed its first sales of Harquahala Valley ground water for industrial use and municipal use:

in March 2001, Vidler sold 6,496.5 acre-feet of water rights and 2,589 acres of land to an industrial user, for \$9.4 million;

in March 2002, Vidler sold 3,645 acre-feet of water rights and 1,215 acres of land to golf course developers near Scottsdale, for \$5.2 million; and

in May 2002, Vidler sold 480 acre-feet of water rights and 240 acres of land to an industrial user, for \$1 million.

Vidler is working on further sales of Harquahala Valley ground water. We expect demand from communities and developers in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area who need to secure further water to support expected growth. In addition, as the boundaries of the greater Phoenix metropolitan area push out, this is likely to lead to demand for water to support growth within the Harquahala Valley itself.

Nevada

Vidler has acquired water rights in northern Nevada through the purchase of ranch properties, filing applications for new water rights, and entering into partnering arrangements with parties owning water rights, which they wish to maximize the value of.

Nevada is the state experiencing the most rapid population growth and new home construction in the United States. The population is concentrated in southern Nevada, which includes the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

Table of Contents

1. Lincoln County

Vidler is working jointly with Lincoln County to locate and develop water resources in Lincoln County, Nevada. Lincoln County and Vidler have filed applications for more than 100,000 acre-feet of water rights with the intention of supplying water for residential, commercial, and industrial use, as contemplated by the County's approved master plan. We believe that this is the only known new source of water for Lincoln County. Vidler anticipates that up to 40,000 acre-feet of water rights will ultimately be permitted from these applications, and put to use in Lincoln County and northern Clark County.

Under the Lincoln County Land Act, more than 13,300 acres of federal land in southern Lincoln County near the fast growing City of Mesquite was offered for sale on February 9, 2005. According to press reports, the eight parcels offered sold to various developers for approximately \$47.5 million. The land was sold without environmental approvals, water, and city services, which will be required before development can proceed. Additional water supply will be required in Lincoln County if this land is to be developed.

In 1998, Lincoln/Vidler filed for 14,000 acre-feet of water rights for industrial use from the Tule Desert Groundwater Basin. In November 2002, the Nevada State Engineer granted an application for 2,100 acre-feet of water rights, and ruled that another 7,244 acre-feet could be granted, but would be held in abeyance while Lincoln/Vidler pursues additional studies. In 2001, Lincoln/Vidler reached conditional agreement to sell an electricity-generating company between 6,700 and 9,000 acre-feet of water, at \$3,300 per acre-foot, for a new power plant to be located in southern Lincoln County on a site which was to be acquired from Nevada Land. Due to the unprecedented instability in the energy market and capital market conditions affecting the electricity sector, the electricity-generating company decided not to move forward with the project. Recognizing that a permitted site with permitted water rights will have value once the energy market stabilizes, Vidler purchased the project for \$50,000 in February 2003. Energy companies and utilities are currently reviewing the project.

The Lincoln County undertaking is an example of a transaction where Vidler can partner with an entity, in this case a government entity, to provide the necessary capital and skills to commercially develop water assets, thereby providing a significant economic benefit to the partner where one previously did not exist.

Coyote Springs

The Coyote Springs community is a planned mixed-use development to be located approximately 40 miles north of Las Vegas, at the junction of U.S. Highway 93 and State Highway 168. Coyote Springs is the largest privately-held property for development in southern Nevada. The developer, Coyote Springs Investment, LLC (CSIL), has received entitlements for approximately 50,000 residential units, 6 golf courses, and 1,200 acres of retail and commercial development on 13,100 acres in Clark County. CSIL expects to receive additional entitlements for its 29,800 acres in Lincoln County. Based on the entitlements obtained so far, it is estimated that the community will require approximately 35,000 acre-feet of permanent water. Additional water will be required as further entitlements are obtained. It is expected that full absorption of the residential units will take 25 years or more.

Pardee Homes has agreed to be the master residential developer on the first phase of the development. Construction of a golf course has begun, and CSIL has stated that the first houses should start going up in 2007.

During 2004, Vidler entered into a partnership with CSIL to supply various water resources required to support the development. We anticipate that Lincoln County/Vidler could provide the majority of the water required for the project from jointly filed applications for water rights in various basins in Lincoln County. To provide water until permitted supplies are available, the Vidler/CSIL partnership could use net recharge credits owned by Vidler in the Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility, subject to approval by the relevant Nevada and Arizona water authorities.

The Coyote Springs project is an example of how Vidler's water rights in Nevada and water storage facility in Arizona could potentially interact to provide water solutions in southern Nevada.

2. Sandy Valley, Nevada

In June 2002, the Nevada State Engineer awarded Vidler 415 acre-feet of water rights near Sandy Valley, Nevada. Vidler has filed another application for 1,000 acre-feet.

Table of Contents

The water rights awarded to Vidler are the only known water to support future growth in Sandy Valley and surrounding areas in southwestern Nevada near the California state line, including Primm, Nevada. Primm is a resort town on the border between California and Nevada, in the Interstate 15 corridor. Primm requires additional water to support future growth, which could result from expansion of the existing hotel/casino and retail/commercial operations.

3. Muddy River water rights

The Muddy River is a perennial river fed by the Muddy Springs in southern Nevada, originating in Nevada and flowing into Lake Mead. Currently, Muddy River water rights are utilized for agriculture and electricity generation; however, in the future, we anticipate that Muddy River water rights may be utilized to support development in southern Nevada. The Southern Nevada Water Authority has been acquiring Muddy River water rights as a water resource to support future growth in Clark County, Nevada.

At December 31, 2004, Vidler owned approximately 221 acre-feet of Muddy River water rights, and had the right to acquire an additional 45.6 acre-feet.

4. Fish Springs Ranch

In 2000, Vidler purchased a 51% interest in Fish Springs Ranch, LLC (Fish Springs) and a 50% interest in V&B, LLC. These companies own the Fish Springs Ranch and other properties totaling approximately 8,600 acres in Honey Lake Valley in Washoe County, 45 miles north of Reno, Nevada. Approximately 8,000 acre-feet of permitted water rights associated with Fish Springs Ranch are transferable to the Reno/Sparks area. The water rights at Fish Springs have been identified as the most economical and proven new source of supply to support new growth in the North Valley communities of Washoe County. The Nevada State Demographer estimates that, in the three years ended July 1, 2004, the population of Washoe County (including Reno/Sparks) increased by 8.6% to approximately 383,000 people.

Vidler is holding discussions with a number of potential users for the Fish Springs water rights, including developers and industrial users. There is strong demand for water in the North Valleys, and few alternative sources of supply. The future demand of the North Valleys area is estimated to exceed 12,000 acre-feet annually. If water from Fish Springs could be supplied to the North Valleys, this would reduce their reliance on Truckee River water which comes through Reno, thereby providing environmental benefits and additional water to support growth in and around Reno, an area which has been experiencing consistent growth.

In October 2002, the Regional Water Planning Committee accepted the North Valley Water Supply Comparison report. This study re-evaluated the feasibility and potential cost of supplying future North Valley s water demands with continued exportation of water from the Truckee River Basin, or, alternatively, meeting the demands from Fish Springs and two other basins. The study indicated that ground water from Fish Springs would be the most economical source of supply. Alternatively, if the capacity of nearby transmission lines can be expanded, we believe that Fish Springs Ranch would be an attractive site for gas-fired electricity generation.

5. Big Springs Ranch and West Wendover, Nevada

In December 2003, Vidler closed on the sale of approximately 37,500 acres of deeded ranch land and the related water rights at Big Springs Ranch for \$2.8 million. The ranch land was located approximately 65 miles east of Elko, in northeastern Nevada.

In December 2003, in a separate but related transaction, Vidler closed on the sale of approximately 6,500 acres of developable land near West Wendover, Nevada for \$12 million. West Wendover is adjacent to the Nevada/Utah border in the Interstate 80 corridor. The land at West Wendover was acquired in 1999 through a land exchange with the Bureau of Land Management, under which Vidler gave up approximately 70,500 acres of ranch land at Big Springs Ranch in return for the parcels of developable land.

The assets at Big Springs Ranch and West Wendover were different in nature from Vidler's remaining assets in Arizona and Nevada, in that the land comprised the bulk of the value of Big Springs Ranch and West Wendover, with the water rights being a lesser component.

Table of Contents

Colorado

Vidler is completing the process of monetizing its water rights in Colorado, through sale or lease:

in 2000, Vidler closed on the sale of various water rights and related assets to the City of Golden, Colorado for \$1 million, and granted the City options to acquire other water rights over the next 15 years. The City exercised options to acquire water assets for \$145,000 in 2002, \$146,000 in 2003, and \$142,000 in 2004. If the remaining options are exercised, the present value of the aggregate purchase price is approximately \$1.1 million;

during 2002, Vidler closed on the sale of its interest in Cline Ranch for \$2.1 million and the sale of 86 acre-feet of water rights for \$3.1 million;

in 2003, Vidler closed on the sale of the Wet Mountain water rights for \$414,000; and

in 2004, Vidler closed on the sale of approximately 6.5 acre-feet of water rights for \$266,000 to residential users in Summit County, Colorado.

Discussions are continuing to either lease or sell the remaining water rights in Colorado, which are listed in the table in the Vidler section of Item 1, Business.

WATER STORAGE

1. Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility

During 2000, Vidler completed the second stage of construction at its facility to bank, or store, water underground in the Harquahala Valley, and received the necessary permits to operate a full-scale water recharge facility. Recharge is the process of placing water into storage underground. Vidler has the permitted right to recharge 100,000 acre-feet of water per year at the Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility, and anticipates being able to store in excess of 1 million acre-feet of water in the aquifer underlying much of the valley. When needed, the water will be recovered, or removed from storage, by ground water wells.

Vidler has the only permitted, complete private water storage facility in Arizona. Given that Arizona is the only southwestern state with surplus flows of Colorado River water available for storage, we believe that Vidler is the only private water storage facility where it is practical to bank, or store, water for users in other states, which is known as interstate banking. Having a permitted water storage facility also allows Vidler to acquire, and store, surplus water for re-sale in future years.

The Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility is the first privately owned water storage facility for the Colorado River system, which is a primary source of water for the Lower Division States of Arizona, California, and Nevada. The water storage facility is strategically located adjacent to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) aqueduct, a conveyance canal running from Lake Havasu to Phoenix and Tucson. The water to be recharged will come from surplus flows of CAP water. We believe that proximity to the CAP is a competitive advantage, because it minimizes the cost of water conveyance.

Vidler is able to provide storage for users located both within Arizona and out-of-state. Potential users include industrial companies, developers, and local governmental political subdivisions in Arizona, and out-of-state users such as municipalities and water agencies in Nevada and California. The Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) has the responsibility for intrastate and interstate storage of water for governmental entities.

Vidler has not yet stored water for customers at the facility, but the company has been recharging water for its own account since 1998, when the pilot plant was constructed. At the end of 2004, Vidler had net recharge credits representing approximately 63,000 acre-feet of water in storage at the facility, and had purchased a further 3,250 acre-feet which was recharged in 2005. In addition, Vidler has ordered another 35,750 acre-feet for purchase and recharge in 2005. Vidler purchased the water from the CAP, and intends to resell this water at an appropriate time.

Subject to approval by water authorities in Nevada and Arizona, Vidler could supply net recharge credits to the Coyote Springs project. Vidler is in discussions with a number of developers and other entities which, combined with the Coyote Springs partnership, could lead to the sale of all of Vidler's net recharge credits.

Table of Contents

If customers which already own water want to store it at Vidler's site, we intend to charge a fee based on the amount of water recharged, and then an additional fee when the water is recovered. The storage revenues generated will depend on the quantity of water which the AWBA and private users store at the facility. The quantity of water stored will depend on a number of factors, including the availability of water and available storage capacity at publicly owned facilities.

We believe that a number of events in recent years have increased the scarcity value of the project's storage capacity. At a public hearing in 2000, the AWBA disclosed that the Bureau of Reclamation has indicated that, before permits are issued for new facilities to store water for interstate users, extensive environmental impact studies will be required. The AWBA also indicated that the first priority for publicly owned storage capacity in Arizona is to store water for Arizona users. At the same hearing, the states of California and Nevada again confirmed that their demand for storage far exceeds the total amount of storage available at existing facilities in Arizona. Consequently, interstate users will need to rely, at least in part, on privately owned storage capacity.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority Water Resource Plan, which can be viewed at www.snwa.com, calls for 1.25 million acre-feet of water to be stored in Arizona in order to meet forecast demand. The AWBA is currently finalizing agreements to store water on behalf of Nevada. Once these agreements have been concluded, the AWBA can begin to negotiate storage for California. The AWBA will be able to store water at existing publicly owned sites and at the Vidler Arizona Recharge Facility, which is one of the largest water storage facilities. Under an agreement which expired in 2004, Vidler had agreed on a price of \$48.00 per acre-foot of water recharged for users represented by the AWBA.

In addition to the potential demand from the public users represented by the AWBA, demand from private users could potentially utilize up to 100% of the site's storage capacity.

Once Vidler has concluded agreements to store water, it will know the rate at which customers will need to be able to recover water. At that time, Vidler will be able to design, construct, and finance the final stage of the project which will allow full-scale recovery. The users of the facility will bear the capital cost of the improvements required to recover water at commercial rates.

Vidler anticipates being able to recharge 35,000 acre-feet of water per year at the facility, and to store in excess of 1 million acre-feet of water in the aquifer. Vidler's estimate of the aquifer's storage volume is primarily based on a hydrological report prepared by an independent engineering firm for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District in 1990, which concluded that there is storage capacity of 3.7 million acre-feet.

Recharge and recovery capacity is critical, because it indicates how quickly water can be put into storage or recovered from storage. In wet years, it is important to have a high recharge capacity, so that as much available water as possible may be stored. In dry years, the crucial factor is the ability to recover water as quickly as possible. There is a long history of farmers recovering significant quantities of water from the Harquahala Valley ground water aquifer for irrigation purposes.

2. Semitropic

Vidler originally had an 18.5% right to participate in the Semitropic Water Banking and Exchange Program, which operates a 1,000,000 acre-foot water storage facility at Semitropic, near the California Aqueduct, northwest of Bakersfield, California.

The strategic value of the guaranteed right to recover an amount of water from Semitropic every year—even in drought years—became clear to water agencies, developers, and other parties seeking a reliable water supply. For

example, developers of large residential projects in Kern County and Los Angeles County must be able to demonstrate that they have sufficient back-up supplies of water in the case of a drought year before they are permitted to begin development. Accordingly, during 2001, Vidler took advantage of current demand for water storage capacity with guaranteed recovery, and began to sell its interest in Semitropic. The strategic value of the guaranteed right to recover water was again highlighted by two court decisions in February 2003 which held that developers could not rely on water from state water projects.

In May 2001, Vidler closed the sale of 29.7% of its original interest (i.e., approximately 55,000 acre-feet of water storage capacity) to The Newhall Land and Farming Company for \$3.3 million, resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$1.6 million.

In September 2001, Vidler closed the sale of another 54.1% of its original interest (i.e., approximately 100,000 acre-feet of water storage capacity) to the Alameda County Water District for \$6.9 million, resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$4.1 million.

Table of Contents

Vidler's remaining interest includes approximately 30,000 acre-feet of storage capacity. We have the guaranteed right to recover a minimum of approximately 2,700 acre-feet every year. In some circumstances, we have the right to recover up to approximately 6,800 acre-feet in any one year. We are considering various alternatives for the remaining interest, including sale to developers or industrial users. Currently Vidler is not storing any water at Semitropic for third parties. Vidler is required to make annual payments of approximately \$530,000 under its agreement with Semitropic Water Storage District.

Other Projects

Vidler routinely evaluates the purchase of further water-righted properties in Arizona and Nevada. Vidler also continues to be approached by parties who are interested in obtaining a water supply, or discussing joint ventures to commercially develop water assets and/or develop water storage facilities in Arizona, Nevada, and other southwestern states. We have the resources and relationships to respond to new business opportunities which are consistent with our strategic objectives.

NEVADA LAND & RESOURCE COMPANY, LLC

The majority of Nevada Land's revenues come from the sale of land and the related water rights. In addition, various types of recurring revenue are generated from use of the Nevada Land's properties, including leasing, easements, and mineral royalties. Nevada Land also generates interest revenue from land sales contracts where Nevada Land has provided partial financing, and from temporary investment of the proceeds of land sales.

Nevada Land recognizes revenue from land sales, and the resulting gross profit or loss, when transactions close. On closing, the entire sales price is recorded as revenue, and a gross margin is recognized depending on the cost basis attributed to the land which was sold. Since the date of closing determines the accounting period in which the sales revenue and gain are recorded, Nevada Land's reported revenues and income fluctuate from period to period, depending on the dates when specific transactions close.

In 2004, Nevada Land generated \$10.5 million in revenues from the sale of approximately 121,000 acres of former railroad land. The average sales price of \$87 per acre compares to our average basis of \$35 per acre in the parcels which were sold. In 2004, 40.1% of land sales were settled for cash, and Nevada Land provided partial financing for the remainder. Vendor financing is collateralized by the land conveyed, typically carries a 10% interest rate, and is subject to a minimum 20% down payment.

In 2004, land sales were significantly higher than in recent years. The \$10.5 million in total sales consisted of 33 individual sales transactions, reflecting demand for various types of land with various uses, including rural-suburban-urban living, desert lands, and ranching.

During 2004, the market for many types of real estate in Nevada was buoyant. We believe that higher prices for land in and around municipalities has increased the demand for, and in some locations the price of, property 50 miles or more from municipalities, which our lands typically are. It can take a year or more to complete a land sale transaction, the timing of land sales is unpredictable, and historically the level of land sales has fluctuated from year to year. Accordingly, it should not be assumed that the higher level of sales in 2004 can be maintained.

BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS AND FINANCING

This section describes the most significant interests in public companies included in this segment during 2004.

Excluding HyperFeed, we estimate that the common stock interests in public companies reported in this segment generated a total return (i.e., realized and unrealized gains, plus dividends received, in U.S. dollars) of approximately 39% in 2004, compared to approximately 29% in 2003.

Conversion of Swiss Franc amounts to U.S. dollars

Income statement items (revenues, expenses, gains, and losses) for foreign operations are translated into U.S. dollars using the average rate of exchange for the year, and balance sheet items (assets and liabilities) are translated at the actual exchange rate at the balance sheet date.

Table of Contents

For the convenience of the reader, the average Swiss Franc exchange rate for 2004 used for income statement items was CHF1.2279 to the U.S. dollar (2003: CHF1.3280), and the actual Swiss Franc exchange rate at December 31, 2004 used for balance sheet items was CHF1.1395 (December 31, 2003: CHF1.2402).

1. HyperFeed Technologies, Inc.

In 2001, 2002, and 2003 until May 15, PICO's investment in HyperFeed common shares was recorded in this segment using the equity method under Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 18, The Equity Method of Accounting for Investments in Common Stock. Since May 15, 2003, when HyperFeed became a consolidated subsidiary, its results have been recorded in a separate segment, HyperFeed Technologies; however, PICO's investment in HyperFeed warrants is still recorded in the Business Acquisitions and Financing segment.

After adjusting for HyperFeed's 1:10 reverse stock split in August 2003, PICO holds warrants to buy approximately 310,616 shares of HyperFeed common stock at an average price of \$15.75 per share, exercisable by April 2005. At December 31, 2004, the price of HyperFeed's common stock was \$2.70, and the warrants were carried at estimated fair value of zero.

2. Jungfraubahn Holding AG

PICO owns 1.3 million shares (adjusted for the 10:1 stock split during 2004) of Jungfraubahn, which represents approximately 22.3% of that company. At December 31, 2004, the market (carrying) value of our holding was \$40.8 million.

In September 2002, we increased our holding to more than 20% of Jungfraubahn, and became the largest shareholder in that company. Despite the increase in our shareholding to more than 20%, we continue to account for this investment under SFAS No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities. At this time, we do not believe that we have the requisite ability to exercise significant influence over the financial and operating policies of Jungfraubahn, and therefore do not apply the equity method of accounting.

In February 2005, Jungfraubahn issued a press release containing an initial review of 2004 operations, using Swiss accounting principles. The full text is available on Jungfraubahn's website www.jungfraubahn.com. The contents of Jungfraubahn's website are not incorporated in this 10-K/A.

In the press release, Jungfraubahn indicated that it expected passenger traffic revenues of approximately CHF (Swiss Francs) 89.6 million (US\$73 million) for 2004, a 4% increase year over year, and a financial result similar to that of the previous year. Jungfraubahn went on to say that the 2004/2005 winter season is progressing positively with a 9.1% increase in guests in the Jungfrau region through to the end of January 2005, and that forward bookings from tour operators put the company in a confident mood for the summer season.

In August 2004, Jungfraubahn announced its results for the six months to June 30, 2004. Reported revenues were CHF 56.3 million (US\$44.9 million). Net income was CHF 5.4 million (US\$4.2 million), or approximately CHF 0.93 per share (US\$0.74), a 23% increase year over year.

Jungfraubahn announced its results for the 2003 financial year in May 2004, so the 2004 results will not be released until after this 10-K/A has been filed. Revenues were CHF 111.9 million (US\$84.2 million), and net income was CHF 13.5 million (US\$10.1 million), or CHF 2.3 per share (US\$1.74). Jungfraubahn's operating activities generated net cash flow of CHF 31.1 million (US\$23.5 million).

In the most recent published balance sheet December 31, 2003 Jungfraubahn had shareholders equity of CHF 309.8 million, or approximately CHF 53.1 (US\$42.80) book value per share. At December 31, 2004, Jungfraubahn s stock price was CHF 35.5 (US\$ 31.15). At December 31, 2003, Jungfraubahn s stock price was CHF 25.4 (US\$ 20.48).

3. Other European Investments

Raetia Energie AG

PICO owns approximately 80,000 shares in Raetia Energie, which is a producer of hydro electricity. At December 31, 2004, our investment in Raetia Energie had a basis of \$4.2 million, and a market value of \$17.2 million.

Table of Contents

We first purchased this stock in 1997, increased our holding in 1998, 2002 & 2003, and sold part of our holding in 2004. Over the life of the investment so far, we have generated a total return (i.e., realized and unrealized gains, plus dividends received in U.S. dollars) upwards of 325%.

During 2003, the carrying value of our holding appreciated by \$5.8 million (almost 105%) in U.S. dollars. In 2004, our holding in Raetia generated a total return of \$6.5 million (almost 58%), consisting of approximately \$6.3 million in realized and unrealized gains, and \$194,000 in dividends.

Accu Holding AG

PICO has acquired 29,294 shares in Accu Holding, which represents a voting ownership interest of approximately 29.2%. Due to a number of factors, we do not have the ability to exercise significant influence over Accu Holding's activities, so the investment is carried at market value under SFAS No. 115.

Accu Holding manufactures batteries at two plants in Switzerland. Following a decline in demand for batteries during the 2001-2003 economic slowdown, Accu adjusted its production and cost structure. Accu is also preparing to redevelop the site of a former factory near Zurich, which could have significant value.

Our initial holding (14,164 shares) in Accu had a cash cost of approximately \$5 million. During 2004, we subscribed for our full entitlement in, and partly underwrote, a 1:1 rights offering at CHF100 per share, acquiring an additional 15,130 shares for approximately \$1.2 million.

The Accu stock price declined significantly during 2002, 2003, and 2004. As explained in the Business Financing and Acquisitions portion of Results of Operations Years Ended December 31, 2004, 2003, and 2002, we regularly review stocks which have declined in price from our cost. If we determine that the decline in market value is other-than-temporary, we record a charge which writes our basis in the investment down from its original cost to current carrying value, which typically is the market price at the balance sheet date.