NEW YORK TIMES CO Form S-3ASR February 23, 2017 Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 22, 2017

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

The New York Times Company

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

New York (State or other Jurisdiction of

13-1102020 (I.R.S. Employer

Incorporation or Organization)

Identification No.)

620 Eighth Avenue

New York, New York 10018

(212) 556-1234

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant s principal executive offices)

Diane Brayton

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

The New York Times Company

620 Eighth Avenue

New York, New York 10018

(212) 556-1234

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Howard A. Kenny

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

101 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10178

(212) 309-6000

Approximate Date of Commencement of Proposed Sale of the Securities to the Public:

From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement, as determined by market conditions.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Proposed

Proposed

Amount of

Amount Maximum Maximum Title of Each Class of to be Offering Price Aggregate Securities to be Registered Registered(1) Per Unit(1) Offering Price(1)(2) Registration Fee(1)(2)

Class A common stock; preferred stock; debt securities; warrants; depositary shares; stock purchase contracts; stock purchase units; and units

(1) An unspecified aggregate initial offering price or number of securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered hereunder at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units or represented by depositary shares. In addition, securities registered hereunder may be sold either separately or as units comprised of one or more types of securities registered hereunder.

(2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.

PROSPECTUS

THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY

Class A Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Debt Securities,

Warrants, Depositary Shares, Stock Purchase Contracts,

Stock Purchase Units and Units

We, from time	e to time, may offer, issue and sell, together or separately:
sha	ares of our Class A common stock;
sha	ares of our preferred stock;
de	ebt securities, which will be our senior debt securities;
	arrants to purchase our debt securities, shares of our Class A common stock, shares of our preferred stock, depositary shares or curities of third parties or other rights;
de	epositary shares representing an interest in our preferred stock;
sto	ock purchase contracts to purchase shares of our Class A common stock, or preferred stock;
ob	ock purchase units, each representing ownership of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred securities or debt oligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities or any combination of the foregoing, securing the holder s obligation turchase our Class A common stock or preferred stock under the stock purchase contracts; and

units comprised of one or more of the securities listed above.

Our Class A common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol NYT.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. We will provide you with the specific terms of the securities to be offered in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also describe the specific manner in which we will offer these securities and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

We may sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. For additional information on the method of sale, refer to the section titled. Plan of Distribution below. The names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of any securities, the specific manner in which they may be offered and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in the prospectus supplement covering the sales of those securities. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In addition, selling stockholders, who will be named in a prospectus supplement, may offer and sell shares of our Class A common stock from time to time in such amounts, at such prices and on such terms as set forth in a prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares of our Class A common stock by any selling stockholders.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks set forth under the caption Risk Factors in our periodic reports referred to in the Documents Incorporated By Reference section in this prospectus, as well as any additional risk factors that may be contained in the relevant prospectus supplement to this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is February 22, 2017

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, using a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may sell from time to time any combination of the securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we will offer the securities. Each time these securities are sold, this prospectus will be accompanied by a prospectus supplement that describes the specific terms of these securities and the specific manner in which they may be offered. You should carefully read the prospectus supplement and this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the prospectus supplement and this prospectus before making your investment decision. The incorporated documents are described in this prospectus under Where You Can Find More Information and Documents Incorporated By Reference.

You should rely on the information provided in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement, including the documents incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed materially since those dates.

Unless the context otherwise requires or as otherwise indicated, when we refer to The New York Times Company, we mean the corporation by that name, and when we refer to the Company, we, us or our in this prospectus or when we otherwise refer to ourselves in this prospectus, we mean The New York Times Company and its consolidated subsidiaries.

THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY

We are a global media organization focused on creating, collecting and distributing high-quality news and information. Our continued commitment to premium content and journalistic excellence makes The New York Times brand a trusted source of news and information for readers and viewers across various platforms. Recognized widely for the quality of our reporting and content, our publications have been awarded many industry and peer accolades, including 119 Pulitzer Prizes and citations, more than any other news organization.

The Company has one reportable segment with businesses that include:

our websites, including NYTimes.com;

our newspaper, The New York Times (The Times);

our mobile applications, including The Times s core news applications, as well as interest-specific applications such as NYT Cooking, Crossword and others; and

related businesses, such as The Times news services division, product review and recommendation websites The Wirecutter and The Sweethome, digital archive distribution, NYT Live (our live events business) and other products and services under The Times brand.

We generate revenues principally from circulation and advertising. Circulation revenue is derived from the sale of subscriptions to our print, web and mobile products and single-copy sales of our print newspaper. Advertising revenue is derived from the sale of our advertising products and services on our print, web and mobile platforms. Our main operating costs primarily consist of employee-related costs.

Our principal executive office is at 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY, 10018 and our telephone number is (212) 556-1234. Our website is *http://www.nytco.com*. Information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and therefore is not part of this prospectus.

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RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the specific risks set forth under the caption Risk Factors in our periodic reports described in Documents Incorporated By Reference below and, if included in a prospectus supplement, under the caption Risk Factors in the prospectus supplement.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements that relate to future events or our future financial performance. We may also make written and oral forward-looking statements in our SEC filings and otherwise. We have tried, where possible, to identify such statements by using words such as believe, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, will, could, project, expressions in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance. Any forward-looking statements are and will be based upon our then-current expectations, estimates and assumptions regarding future events and are applicable only as of the dates of such statements. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

By their nature, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in any such statements. You should bear this in mind as you consider forward-looking statements. Factors that we think could, individually or in the aggregate, cause our actual results to differ materially from expected and historical results include those described in the section titled Risk Factors above as well as other risks and factors identified from time to time in our SEC filings.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act relating to the securities offered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of that registration statement, which includes additional information.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. These SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC s website at http://www.sec.gov.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, until the offering under this prospectus is completed:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 25, 2016, filed with the SEC on February 22, 2017; and

The description of our Class A common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 10 filed under Section 12 of the Exchange Act on April 28, 1967, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we are not incorporating any document or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules. Any statement made in a document incorporated by reference will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any subsequently filed document that also is incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement made in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained in any subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

You may request a copy of our filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

The New York Times Company

620 Eighth Avenue

New York, NY 10018

(212) 556-1234

Attn: Office of the Secretary

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds received from any offering of these securities for general corporate purposes, which may include the reduction of indebtedness, possible acquisitions and any other purposes that we may describe in a prospectus supplement. The precise amounts and timing of the application of proceeds will depend upon our funding requirements and the availability of other funds.

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CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The table below sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods presented. The following table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 25, 2016, which is incorporated by reference herein.

	For the Years Ended				
	December 25, 2016	December 27, 2015	December 28, 2014	December 29, 2013	December 30, 2012
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1)	2.37	2.90	1.67	2.58	4.94
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends (2)	2.37	2.90	1.67	2.58	4.94

- (1) Our policy is to classify interest expense recognized on uncertain tax positions as income tax expense. We have excluded interest expense recognized on uncertain tax positions from the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends.
- (2) We have authority to issue up to 200,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share; however, as of the dates for which information is presented in the above table no shares were outstanding and we did not have a preferred stock dividend obligation. Therefore, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is equal to the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

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DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the Class A common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, depositary shares, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units that we may offer and sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. However, at the time of an offering and sale, this prospectus together with the accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms of the securities being offered, including the specific types, amounts, prices and detailed terms of any of these securities.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The summary below and that contained in any prospectus supplement are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, each as amended. The terms of these securities also may be affected by the New York Business Corporation Law.

Description of Class A Common Stock

Our authorized common stock consists of 300,000,000 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.10 per share, and 812,757 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$0.10 per share. As of February 15, 2017, there were 160,384,114 shares of Class A common stock and 812,757 shares of Class B common stock issued and outstanding.

The shares of Class A common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol NYT . Computershare is the transfer agent and registrar of the shares of common stock.

The shares of Class A common stock, when issued against full payment of the purchase price, will be fully paid and nonassessable (except to the extent provided in Section 630 of the New York Business Corporation Law).

Our Class A common stock is not redeemable, does not have any conversion rights and is not subject to call. Holders of shares of Class A common stock have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any additional securities that we may issue. The holders of Class A common stock are entitled to receive dividends, if any, as and when declared from time to time by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available for distribution. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of Class A common stock will be entitled to participate equally and ratably, with the holders of our Class B common stock, in proportion to the number of shares held, in our net assets available for distribution to holders of common stock.

The holders of the Class A common stock are entitled to one vote for each share thereof held by them in the election of 30% of the Board of Directors proposed to be elected at any meeting of stockholders held for that purpose (or the nearest larger whole number if such percentage is not a whole number), voting separately and as a class. The holders of Class B common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held by them in the election of the balance of the Board of Directors, voting separately and as a class. The holders of our Class A common stock and the holders of our Class B common stock are entitled to one vote for each share thereof, voting together and not as separate classes, upon:

the reservation of any shares of capital stock for options granted or to be granted to our officers, directors or employees;

the acquisition of the stock or assets of any other company in the following circumstances:

If any officer, director or holder of 10% or more of any class of shares of our voting securities has an interest, directly or indirectly, in the company or assets to be acquired or in the consideration to be paid in the transaction;

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If the transaction involves the issuance of Class A common stock or Class B common stock or securities convertible into either, or any combination of the three, and if the aggregate number of shares of common stock so to be issued together with the common stock which could be issued upon conversion of such securities approximates (in the reasonable judgment of the Board of Directors) 20% of the aggregate number of shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock outstanding immediately prior to such transaction; or

If the transaction involves issuance of Class A common stock or Class B common stock and any additional consideration, and if the value of the aggregate consideration so to be issued (including the value of any common stock which may be issuable in the future in accordance with the terms of the transaction) has in the reasonable judgment of the Board of Directors a combined fair value of approximately 20% or more of the aggregate market value of shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock outstanding immediately prior to such transaction; and

any proposal submitted to a vote of stockholders in connection with the ratification of the selection of our auditors. Pursuant to our certificate of incorporation, except as described above and as otherwise required by the laws of the State of New York, the entire voting power is vested solely and exclusively in the holders of our Class B common stock, the holders of Class B common stock being entitled to one vote for each share thereof held upon all matters requiring a vote of stockholders, and the holders of the Class A common stock shall have no voting power, and shall not have the right to participate in any meeting of stockholders or to have notice thereof.

Each share of Class B common stock may at any time be converted, at the option of the holder, into one fully paid and non-assessable (except to the extent provided in Section 630 of the New York Business Corporation Law) share of Class A common stock. When shares of Class B common stock have been converted, under the terms of our certificate of incorporation, they are cancelled and not reissued.

Description of Preferred Stock

The following description of our preferred stock will apply generally to any future preferred stock that we may offer, but is not complete. We will describe the particular terms of any class or series of these securities in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our authorized preferred stock consists of 200,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, in one or more series and with rights, preferences, limitations or restrictions, including dividend rights, voting rights, conversion rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences, that may be fixed or designated by our Board of Directors pursuant to the certificate of incorporation and the provisions set forth in the laws of the State of New York.

The designations, relative rights, preferences and limitations of the preferred stock of each series will be fixed by our Board of Directors and stated in resolutions adopted by our Board of Directors relating to such series as follows:

the number of shares to constitute the series and the distinctive designation thereof;

the dividend rate or rates to which the shares of the series shall be entitled and whether dividends shall be cumulative and, if so, the date from which dividends shall accumulate, and the quarterly dates on which dividends, if declared, shall be payable;

whether the shares of the series are redeemable, the limitations and restrictions in respect of such redemptions, the manner of selecting shares of the series for redemption if less than all shares are to be redeemed, and the amount per share, including the premium if any, which the holders of shares of the

series shall be entitled to receive upon the redemption thereof, which amount may vary at different redemption dates and may be different in respect of shares redeemed through the operation of any retirement or sinking fund and in respect of shares otherwise redeemed;

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whether the holders of shares of the series are entitled to receive, in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, an amount equal to the dividends accumulated and unpaid thereon, whether or not earned or declared, but without interest:

whether the shares of the series are subject to the operation of a purchase, retirement or sinking fund and, if so, whether the fund is cumulative or noncumulative, the extent to and the manner in which the fund shall be applied to the purchase or redemption of the shares of the series for retirement or to other corporate purposes, and the terms and provisions in respect of the operation thereof;

whether the shares of the series are convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of stock of any other class or series thereof or of any other series of the same class, and if so convertible or exchangeable, the price or prices or the rate or rates of conversion or exchange and the method, if any, of adjusting the same;

the voting powers, if any, of the shares of the series in addition to the voting powers provided by law; and

any other rights, preferences, limitations or restrictions not inconsistent with law or the provisions of our certificate of incorporation. Holders of preferred stock will have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any additional securities that we may issue.

In the event of any voluntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of any series of preferred stock shall be entitled to receive in full out of our assets, including our capital, before any amount shall be paid or distributed among the holders of the common stock or any other shares ranking junior to such series, the amounts fixed by the Board of Directors with respect to such series and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After payment to the holders of the preferred stock of the full preferential amounts to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock, as such, shall have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

If liquidating distributions shall have been made in full to all holders of preferred stock, our remaining assets shall be distributed among the holders of any other classes or series of capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective numbers of shares.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

Please note that in this section, references to we, us, ours or our refer only to The New York Times Company and not to its subsidiaries. Also, it this section, references to holders mean those who own debt securities registered in their own names on the books maintained by us or the trustee for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in debt securities registered in street name or in debt securities issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in our debt securities should read the sections below entitled Legal Ownership of Debt Securities.

General

The debt securities offered by this prospectus will be our senior obligations and will rank equally with all of our other senior indebtedness. The debt securities will be issued under an indenture to be entered into between us and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, as supplemented from time to time. A form of the indenture is filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You can obtain a copy of the indenture and any indenture supplements by following the directions outlined in Where You Can Find More Information , or by contacting the indenture trustee, The Bank of New York Mellon.

The following briefly summarizes the material provisions of the indenture and the debt securities, other than pricing and related terms that will be disclosed in an accompanying prospectus supplement for a particular series. You should read the more detailed provisions of the indenture, including the defined terms. You should also read the particular terms of a series of debt securities, which will be described in more detail in an accompanying prospectus supplement. So that you may easily locate the more detailed provisions, the numbers in parentheses below refer to sections in the indenture. Wherever particular sections or defined terms of the indenture are referred to, such sections or defined terms are incorporated into this prospectus by reference, and the statement in this prospectus is qualified by that reference.

The indenture provides that our senior debt securities may be issued in one or more series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount and with terms not inconsistent with the indenture, in each case, as we authorize from time to time. We also have the right, from time to time, to issue debt securities of any series previously issued. (Section 3.01)

Information in the Prospectus Supplement

The prospectus supplement for any offered series of debt securities will describe the following terms, as applicable:

the title or designation;
the aggregate principal amount offered and authorized denominations;
the maturity date or dates;
any sinking fund or other provision for payment of the debt securities prior to their stated maturity;
whether the debt securities are fixed rate debt securities or floating rate debt securities or original issue discount debt securities;
if the debt securities are fixed rate debt securities, the yearly rate at which the debt security will bear interest, if any;
if the debt securities are floating rate debt securities, the method of calculating the interest rate:

if the debt securities are original issue discount debt securities, their yield to maturity;

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, or how such date or dates will be determined, and the interest payment dates and any related record dates;

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if other than in U.S. Dollars, the currency or currency unit in which payment will be made;

any provisions for the payment of additional amounts for taxes;

the denominations in which the currency or currency unit of the securities will be issuable if other than denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be convertible;

the terms and conditions on which the debt securities may be redeemed at our option;

any obligation we may have to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities at the option of a holder upon the happening of any event and the terms and conditions of redemption, purchase or repayment;

the names and duties of any co-indenture trustees, depositaries, auction agents, authenticating agents, calculation agents, paying agents, transfer agents or registrars for the debt securities;

any material provisions of the applicable indenture described in this prospectus that do not apply to the debt securities;

the place where we will pay principal and interest;

additional provisions, if any, relating to the defeasance of the debt securities;

any United States federal income tax consequences relating to the offered securities, if material;

the dates on which premiums, if any, will be paid;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of this deferral period; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities.

We will issue the debt securities only in registered form. (Section 3.02) As currently anticipated, debt securities of a series will trade in book-entry form, and global securities will be issued in physical (paper) form, as described below under Legal Ownership of Debt Securities.

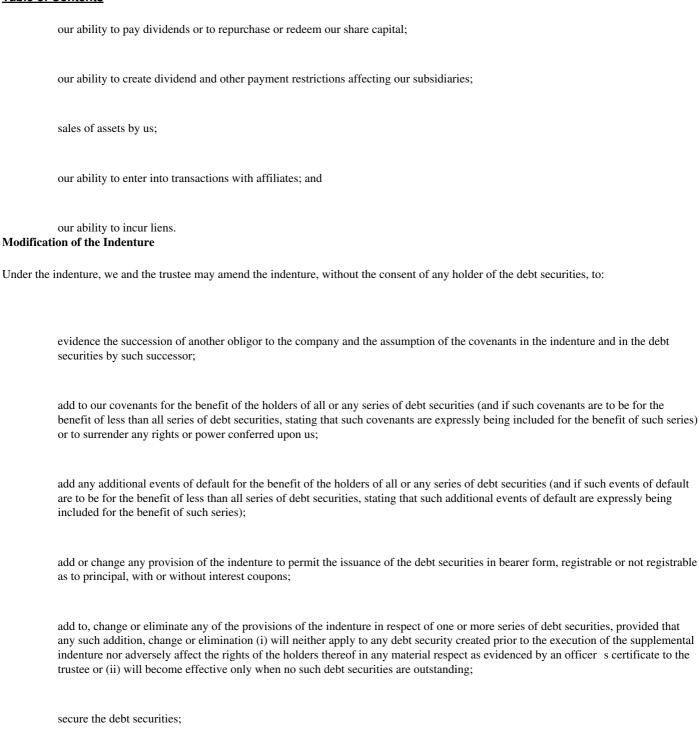
Covenants

Merger and Sale of Assets

We may not, in a single transaction or a series of related transactions:

consolidate or merge with or into any other person or permit any other person to consolidate or merge with or into us; or
transfer, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets,
unless, in either such case:
in a transaction in which we do not survive or in which we sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, the successor entity to us is organized under the laws of the United States, or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and expressly assumes, by supplemental indentures, all of our obligations under the indentures;
immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default on the debt securities exists; and
an officer s certificate and an opinion of counsel concerning certain matters are delivered to the trustee. (Section 8.01) <i>Other Covenants</i>
In addition, any offered series of debt securities may have additional covenants that will be described in the prospectus supplement, limiting or restricting, among other things:
our ability to incur indebtedness;
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into us, or the transfer, sale, lease or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, in conformity with the limitations set forth in the indenture;

reflect our consolidation or merger with or into any other person or permit the consolidation or merger of any other person with or

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establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series as permitted in the indenture;

permit the