

WINDSTREAM CORP
Form 10-Q
August 08, 2013

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2013

or

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

Commission file number 1-32422

WINDSTREAM CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

20-0792300

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

4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas
(Address of principal executive offices)

72212

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (501) 748-7000

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES NO

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

YES NO

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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

· YES · NO

Number of common shares outstanding as of July 31, 2013 - 592,812,168

The Exhibit Index is located on page 65.



Table of Contents

WINDSTREAM CORPORATION
FORM 10-Q
TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page No. |
|--|-----------|
| <u>PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u> | |
| Item 1. <u>Financial Statements</u> | |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Income (Unaudited)</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited)</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity (Unaudited)</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Notes to Unaudited Interim Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | <u>7</u> |
| Item 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>40</u> |
| Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | <u>61</u> |
| Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>62</u> |
| <u>PART II – OTHER INFORMATION</u> | |
| Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>63</u> |
| Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>63</u> |
| Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | * |
| Item 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> | * |
| Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | * |
| Item 5. <u>Other Information</u> | * |
| Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u> | <u>63</u> |

*No reportable information under this item.

Table of Contents

WINDSTREAM CORPORATION
FORM 10-Q
PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (UNAUDITED)

| (Millions, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|
| | June 30, 2013 | 2012 | June 30, 2013 | 2012 |
| Revenues and sales: | | | | |
| Service revenues: | | | | |
| Business | \$912.8 | \$892.2 | \$1,827.1 | \$1,788.4 |
| Consumer | 327.0 | 335.7 | 655.1 | 671.6 |
| Wholesale | 150.7 | 173.6 | 302.6 | 357.1 |
| Other | 59.3 | 67.6 | 120.2 | 138.3 |
| Total service revenues | 1,449.8 | 1,469.1 | 2,905.0 | 2,955.4 |
| Product sales | 56.3 | 65.3 | 101.5 | 117.3 |
| Total revenues and sales | 1,506.1 | 1,534.4 | 3,006.5 | 3,072.7 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | |
| Cost of services (exclusive of depreciation and amortization included below) | 646.8 | 655.7 | 1,288.1 | 1,315.9 |
| Cost of products sold | 50.4 | 57.6 | 93.8 | 102.5 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 239.3 | 238.0 | 479.1 | 490.1 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 332.4 | 320.0 | 661.9 | 632.1 |
| Merger and integration costs | 6.8 | 19.4 | 11.9 | 41.7 |
| Restructuring charges | 2.7 | 10.3 | 7.6 | 11.2 |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,278.4 | 1,301.0 | 2,542.4 | 2,593.5 |
| Operating income | 227.7 | 233.4 | 464.1 | 479.2 |
| Other (expense) income, net | (1.7) | 3.2 | 0.6 | 9.8 |
| (Loss) gain on early extinguishment of debt | — | — | (13.8) | 1.9 |
| Interest expense | (162.0) | (153.5) | (330.9) | (310.0) |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes | 64.0 | 83.1 | 120.0 | 180.9 |
| Income taxes | 24.3 | 31.6 | 28.0 | 68.9 |
| Income from continuing operations | 39.7 | 51.5 | 92.0 | 112.0 |
| Discontinued operations | — | (0.5) | — | (0.6) |
| Net income | \$39.7 | \$51.0 | \$92.0 | \$111.4 |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share: | | | | |
| From continuing operations | \$0.06 | \$0.09 | \$0.15 | \$0.19 |
| From discontinued operations | — | — | — | — |
| Net income | \$0.06 | \$0.09 | \$0.15 | \$0.19 |

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

2

Table of Contents

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED)

| (Millions) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | June 30, | June 30, | June 30, | June 30, |
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Net income | \$39.7 | \$51.0 | \$92.0 | \$111.4 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | |
| Interest rate swaps: | | | | |
| Changes in designated interest rate swaps | 29.0 | (4.1) | 28.5 | (4.8) |
| Amortization of unrealized losses on de-designated interest rate swaps | 12.4 | 10.6 | 25.6 | 21.7 |
| Income tax expense | (15.9) | (2.5) | (20.7) | (6.5) |
| Unrealized holding gains on interest rate swaps | 25.5 | 4.0 | 33.4 | 10.4 |
| Postretirement and pension plans: | | | | |
| Change in net actuarial gain for postretirement plan | 4.2 | 3.2 | 4.2 | 3.2 |
| Plan curtailment | (5.5) | (9.6) | (25.3) | (9.6) |
| Amounts included in net periodic benefit cost: | | | | |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| Amortization of prior service credits | (2.0) | (2.9) | (4.8) | (6.0) |
| Income tax benefit | 1.5 | 3.2 | 9.8 | 4.3 |
| Change in postretirement and pension plans | (1.7) | (5.2) | (15.3) | (6.9) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 23.8 | (1.2) | 18.1 | 3.5 |
| Comprehensive income | \$63.5 | \$49.8 | \$110.1 | \$114.9 |

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

3

Table of Contents

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (UNAUDITED)

| (Millions, except par value) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$78.3 | \$132.0 |
| Restricted cash | 15.1 | 26.5 |
| Accounts receivable (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$37.7 and \$42.6, respectively) | 613.5 | 614.1 |
| Inventories | 69.9 | 75.0 |
| Deferred income taxes | 124.9 | 249.5 |
| Prepaid income taxes | 23.1 | 23.3 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 189.0 | 179.7 |
| Total current assets | 1,113.8 | 1,300.1 |
| Goodwill | 4,340.9 | 4,340.9 |
| Other intangibles, net | 2,163.0 | 2,311.3 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 5,835.4 | 5,862.7 |
| Other assets | 185.8 | 167.0 |
| Total Assets | \$13,638.9 | \$13,982.0 |
| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | \$76.8 | \$866.0 |
| Current portion of interest rate swaps | 29.5 | 29.0 |
| Accounts payable | 329.9 | 363.7 |
| Advance payments and customer deposits | 226.0 | 223.3 |
| Accrued dividends | 149.6 | 148.9 |
| Accrued taxes | 103.3 | 104.3 |
| Accrued interest | 129.2 | 113.6 |
| Other current liabilities | 288.1 | 319.6 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,332.4 | 2,168.4 |
| Long-term debt | 8,867.9 | 8,099.8 |
| Deferred income taxes | 1,827.0 | 1,896.3 |
| Other liabilities | 665.5 | 712.7 |
| Total liabilities | 12,692.8 | 12,877.2 |
| Commitments and Contingencies (See Note 6) | | |
| Shareholders' Equity: | | |
| Common stock, \$0.0001 par value, 1,000.0 shares authorized, 592.8 and 588.2 shares issued and outstanding, respectively | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 921.5 | 1,098.3 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 24.5 | 6.4 |
| Retained earnings | — | — |
| Total shareholders' equity | 946.1 | 1,104.8 |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | \$13,638.9 | \$13,982.0 |

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

4

Table of Contents

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

| (Millions) | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---|------------------------------|------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 |
| Cash Provided from Operations: | | |
| Net income | \$92.0 | \$111.4 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided from operations: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 661.9 | 632.1 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 33.0 | 25.3 |
| Share-based compensation expense | 22.8 | 13.7 |
| Deferred income taxes | 44.0 | 64.0 |
| Unamortized net premium on retired debt | (38.7 |) (16.2 |
| Amortization of unrealized losses on de-designated interest rate swaps | 25.6 | 21.6 |
| Plan curtailment and other, net | (22.8 |) (24.3 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net | | |
| Accounts receivable | (32.4 |) (22.0 |
| Income tax receivable | (0.3 |) 122.0 |
| Prepaid income taxes | 0.4 | (4.4 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | (24.2 |) (51.0 |
| Accounts payable | (33.8 |) (3.3 |
| Accrued interest | 15.6 | (28.4 |
| Accrued taxes | (1.0 |) (7.8 |
| Other current liabilities | (23.1 |) 4.3 |
| Other liabilities | (12.9 |) (2.3 |
| Other, net | 6.5 | 2.1 |
| Net cash provided from operations | 712.6 | 836.8 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities: | | |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | (472.2 |) (502.1 |
| Broadband network expansion funded by stimulus grants | (20.1 |) (37.8 |
| Changes in restricted cash | 11.4 | (6.1 |
| Grant funds received for broadband stimulus projects | 35.7 | 19.6 |
| Disposition of wireless assets | — | 57.0 |
| Other, net | — | 6.1 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (445.2 |) (463.3 |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: | | |
| Dividends paid on common shares | (296.3 |) (293.5 |
| Repayment of debt and swaps | (2,426.2 |) (1,003.9 |
| Proceeds of debt issuance | 2,435.0 | 750.0 |
| Debt issuance costs | (19.6 |) (2.4 |
| Payment under capital lease obligations | (8.2 |) (10.3 |
| Other, net | (5.8 |) (2.9 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (321.1 |) (563.0 |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (53.7 |) (189.5 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents: | | |
| Beginning of period | 132.0 | 227.0 |
| End of period | \$78.3 | \$37.5 |
| Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures: | | |
| Interest paid | \$294.1 | \$323.8 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Income taxes paid, net of refunds | \$3.9 | \$110.5 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

5

Table of Contents

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (UNAUDITED)

| (Millions, except per share amounts) | Common Stock and Additional Paid-In Capital | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income | Retained Earnings | Total |
|---|--|---|----------------------|------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | \$1,098.4 | \$6.4 | \$— | \$1,104.8 |
| Net income | — | — | 92.0 | 92.0 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | | |
| Change in postretirement and pension plans | — | (15.3 |) — | (15.3) |
| Amortization of unrealized losses on de-designated interest rate swaps | — | 15.8 | — | 15.8 |
| Changes in designated interest rate swaps | — | 17.6 | — | 17.6 |
| Comprehensive income | — | 18.1 | 92.0 | 110.1 |
| Share-based compensation expense | 13.5 | — | — | 13.5 |
| Stock options exercised | 0.4 | — | — | 0.4 |
| Stock issued to 401(k) plan | 20.4 | — | — | 20.4 |
| Taxes withheld on vested restricted stock and other | (6.4 |) — | — | (6.4) |
| Dividends of \$0.50 per share declared to stockholders | (204.7 |) — | (92.0 |) (296.7) |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | \$921.6 | \$24.5 | \$— | \$946.1 |

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

6

Table of Contents

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Background, Basis for Presentation and Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements:

Unless the context requires otherwise, the use of the terms "Windstream," "we," "us" and "our" in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q refers to Windstream Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Description of Business – We are a leading provider of advanced communications and technology solutions, including managed services and cloud computing, to businesses nationwide. In addition to business services, we offer broadband, voice and video services to consumers in primarily rural markets. We have operations in 48 states and the District of Columbia, a local and long-haul fiber network spanning approximately 115,000 miles, a robust business sales division and 25 data centers offering managed services and cloud computing.

Business service revenues include revenues from integrated voice and data services, advanced data, traditional voice and long-distance services to enterprise and small-business customers, and revenues from other carriers for special access circuits and fiber connections. Consumer service revenues are generated from the provision of high-speed Internet, voice and video services to consumers. Wholesale service revenues include switched access revenues, Universal Service Fund ("USF") revenues and voice and data services sold on a wholesale basis. Other service revenues include USF surcharge revenues, revenues from software, other miscellaneous services and consumer revenues generated in markets where we lease the connection to the customer premise. We no longer offer new consumer service in those areas.

Basis of Presentation – The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared based upon Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") rules that permit reduced disclosure for interim periods. Certain information and footnote disclosures have been condensed or omitted in accordance with those rules and regulations. The accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2012, was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. In our opinion, these financial statements reflect all adjustments that are necessary for a fair presentation of results of operations and financial condition for the interim periods shown including normal recurring accruals and other items. The results for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the full year. For a more complete discussion of significant accounting policies and certain other information, this report should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, which was filed with the SEC on February 20, 2013.

The preparation of financial statements, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("U.S. GAAP"), requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. The estimates and assumptions used in the accompanying consolidated financial statements are based upon management's evaluation of the relevant facts and circumstances as of the date of the consolidated financial statements. Actual results may differ from the estimates and assumptions used in preparing the accompanying consolidated financial statements, and such differences could be material.

Revision of Prior Period Financial Statements – In connection with the preparation of our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012, we became aware of and corrected an error in the accounting for certain promotional credits for new consumer customers. We have retrospectively adjusted financial information for all prior periods presented to reflect this correction. These errors were non-cash and did not affect our total operating cash flow for any period. We have concluded that the effect is immaterial to the unaudited quarterly financial information. See Notes 2 and 18 to the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the

year ended December 31, 2012 for further information.

7

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Background, Basis for Presentation and Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements, Continued:

The following table presents the effect of the revision on our consolidated statements of income for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012:

| (Millions, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | | Six Months Ended | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| | As Previously Reported | Effect of Revision | As Revised | As Previously Reported | Effect of Revision | As Revised |
| Consumer service revenues | \$336.6 | \$(0.9) | \$335.7 | \$674.6 | \$(3.0) | \$671.6 |
| Total service revenues | 1,470.0 | (0.9) | 1,469.1 | 2,958.4 | (3.0) | 2,955.4 |
| Product sales | 67.8 | (2.5) | 65.3 | 124.6 | (7.3) | 117.3 |
| Total revenues and sales | 1,537.8 | (3.4) | 1,534.4 | 3,083.0 | (10.3) | 3,072.7 |
| Selling, general, and administrative (a) | 236.0 | 2.0 | 238.0 | 488.1 | 2.0 | 490.1 |
| Operating income | 238.8 | (5.4) | 233.4 | 491.5 | (12.3) | 479.2 |
| Income taxes | 33.8 | (2.2) | 31.6 | 73.8 | (4.9) | 68.9 |
| Income from continuing operations | 54.7 | (3.2) | 51.5 | 119.4 | (7.4) | 112.0 |
| Net income | 54.2 | (3.2) | 51.0 | 118.8 | (7.4) | 111.4 |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share: | | | | | | |
| Net income | \$.09 | \$— | \$.09 | \$.20 | (\$0.01) | \$.19 |

(a) The "As Previously Reported" amounts include \$2.1 million of reclassifications to conform with the current presentation.

Additionally, certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year financial statement presentation. These reclassifications did not impact net income or comprehensive income.

Recently Adopted Accounting Standards

Balance Sheet Offsetting – Effective January 1, 2013, we adopted authoritative guidance related to balance sheet offsetting. This guidance requires enhanced disclosures for financial instruments and derivative instruments that are subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement. Other than the additional disclosure requirements, the adoption of these changes had no impact on our consolidated financial statements. See Note 4 for the required disclosures.

Comprehensive Income – Effective January 1, 2013, we adopted authoritative guidance requiring additional disclosure of the effect of significant reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income in the respective line items in our consolidated statements of income if the amount being reclassified is required under U.S. GAAP to be reclassified in its entirety to net income. For other amounts that are not required under U.S. GAAP to be reclassified in their entirety to net income in the same reporting period, an entity is required to cross-reference other disclosures required under U.S. GAAP that provide additional detail about those amounts. Other than the additional disclosure requirements, the adoption of these changes had no impact on our consolidated financial statements. See Note 9 for the required disclosures.

Recently Issued Authoritative Guidance

Unrecognized tax benefits - In July 2013, the FASB issued new accounting guidance that requires that unrecognized tax benefits be classified as an offset to deferred tax assets to the extent of any net operating loss carryforwards, similar tax loss carryforwards, or tax credit carryforwards available at the reporting date in the applicable tax

jurisdiction to settle any additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position. An exception would apply if the tax law of the tax jurisdiction does not require us to use, and we do not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose. Accordingly, this guidance will have no impact to our consolidated financial statements.

8

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Background, Basis for Presentation and Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements, Continued:

Liabilities – In February 2013, the FASB issued authoritative guidance for the recognition, measurement, and disclosure of obligations resulting from joint and several liability arrangements for which the total amount of the obligation is fixed at the reporting date, as the sum of the amount the reporting entity agreed to pay on the basis of its arrangement among its co-obligors plus any additional amount the reporting entity expects to pay on behalf of its co-obligors. This guidance requires disclosure of the nature and amount of the obligations, as well as other information about the obligations. This guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2013, including interim periods therein and requires retrospective application. This guidance is not expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

2. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets:

Goodwill represents the excess of cost over the fair value of net identifiable tangible and intangible assets acquired through various business combinations. The cost of acquired entities at the date of the acquisition is allocated to identifiable assets, and the excess of the total purchase price over the amounts assigned to identifiable assets has been recorded as goodwill.

In accordance with authoritative guidance, goodwill is to be assigned to a company's reporting units and tested for impairment at least annually using a consistent measurement date, which for us is January 1st of each year. As of January 1, 2013, we determined that we have one reporting unit to test for impairment, which includes all of our operations. We assessed impairment of our goodwill based upon step one of the authoritative guidance by evaluating the carrying value of our shareholders' equity against the current fair market value of our outstanding equity, which was estimated to be equal to our current market capitalization plus a control premium of 20.0 percent. This premium is estimated through a review of recent market observable transactions involving telecommunications companies. As of January 1, 2013, the fair market value of our equity, both including and excluding the control premium, exceeded its carrying value, and accordingly, goodwill is considered not impaired and step two of the impairment test is unnecessary.

Intangible assets were as follows at:

| (Millions) | June 30, 2013 | | | December 31, 2012 | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | Gross Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Value | Gross Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Value |
| Franchise rights | \$1,285.1 | \$(179.0) | \$1,106.1 | \$1,285.1 | \$(157.6) | \$1,127.5 |
| Customer lists | 1,914.0 | (872.4) | 1,041.6 | 1,914.0 | (747.6) | 1,166.4 |
| Cable franchise rights | 39.8 | (26.5) | 13.3 | 39.8 | (25.9) | 13.9 |
| Other | 37.9 | (35.9) | 2.0 | 37.9 | (34.4) | 3.5 |
| Balance | \$3,276.8 | \$(1,113.8) | \$2,163.0 | \$3,276.8 | \$(965.5) | \$2,311.3 |

Intangible asset amortization methodology and useful lives were as follows as of June 30, 2013:

| Intangible Assets | Amortization Methodology | Estimated Useful Life |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Franchise rights | straight-line | 30 years |
| Customer lists | sum of years digits | 9 - 15 years |
| Cable franchise rights | straight-line | 15 years |
| Other | straight-line | 1 - 3 years |

Amortization expense for intangible assets subject to amortization was \$73.9 million and \$148.3 million for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2013, as compared to \$85.5 million and \$173.6 million for the same periods in 2012. Amortization expense for intangible assets is expected to be \$142.8 million for the remainder of 2013.

Amortization expense for intangible assets subject to amortization is estimated to be \$256.2 million, \$223.1 million, \$185.0 million, \$157.2 million and \$130.2 million in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Long-term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations:

Long-term debt was as follows at:

| (Millions) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Issued by Windstream Corporation: | | |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche A2 – variable rates, due July 17, 2013 | \$— | \$19.5 |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche A3 – variable rates, due December 30, 2016 | 398.1 | 408.8 |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche A4 – variable rates, due August 8, 2017 | 285.0 | 292.5 |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche B – variable rates, due July 17, 2013 | — | 280.9 |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche B2 – variable rates, due December 17, 2015 | — | 1,042.9 |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche B3 – variable rates, due August 8, 2019 | 594.0 | 597.0 |
| Senior secured credit facility, Tranche B4 – variable rates, due January 23, 2020 | 1,338.3 | — |
| Debentures and notes, without collateral: | | |
| 2013 Notes – 8.125%, due August 1, 2013 (a) | 800.0 | 800.0 |
| 2017 Notes – 7.875%, due November 1, 2017 | 1,100.0 | 1,100.0 |
| 2018 Notes – 8.125%, due September 1, 2018 | 400.0 | 400.0 |
| 2019 Notes – 7.000%, due March 15, 2019 | 500.0 | 500.0 |
| 2020 Notes – 7.750%, due October 15, 2020 | 700.0 | 700.0 |
| 2021 Notes – 7.750%, due October 1, 2021 | 450.0 | 450.0 |
| 2022 Notes – 7.500%, due June 1, 2022 | 500.0 | 500.0 |
| 2023 Notes – 7.500%, due April 1, 2023 | 600.0 | 600.0 |
| 2023 Notes – 6.375%, due August 1, 2023 | 700.0 | — |
| Issued by subsidiaries of Windstream: | | |
| Windstream Holdings of the Midwest, Inc. – 6.75%, due April 1, 2028 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Cinergy Communications Company – 6.58%, due January 1, 2022 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| PAETEC 2017 Notes – 8.875%, due June 30, 2017 | — | 650.0 |
| Debentures and notes, without collateral: | | |
| Windstream Georgia Communications LLC – 6.50%, due November 15, 2013 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| PAETEC 2018 Notes – 9.875%, due December 1, 2018 | 450.0 | 450.0 |
| Premium on long-term debt, net | 17.3 | 62.1 |
| | 8,944.7 | 8,965.8 |
| Less current maturities (a) | (76.8 |) (866.0 |
| Total long-term debt | \$8,867.9 | \$8,099.8 |

On August 1, 2013, we repaid at maturity all of the outstanding \$800.0 million aggregate principal amount of these senior unsecured notes utilizing available borrowings under our revolving credit agreements. As a result of this (a) refinancing, the 2013 Notes have been reclassified from current maturities to long-term debt in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2013.

Senior Secured Credit Facility

On January 23, 2013, we incurred new borrowings of \$1,345.0 million of Tranche B4 senior secured credit facility due January 23, 2020; the proceeds of which were used to repay \$19.5 million of the credit facility Tranche A2 and \$280.9 million Tranche B term loans due in July 2013 and \$1,042.9 million of the credit facility Tranche B2 term loans due in December 2015, plus accrued interest. Debt issuance costs associated with the new borrowings were \$11.9 million. Of this amount, \$5.7 million was recorded in other assets in the consolidated balance sheet and will be

amortized into interest expense over the life of the borrowings. The remaining \$6.2 million of debt issuance costs were recorded to interest expense in the first quarter of 2013 in accordance with debt modification accounting.

10

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Long-term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations, Continued:

Revolving line of credit - During the first six months of 2013, we borrowed \$390.0 million under the revolving line of credit in our senior secured credit facility and later repaid all \$390.0 million. Letters of credit are deducted in determining the total amount available for borrowing under the revolving line of credit. Accordingly, the total amount outstanding under the letters of credit and the indebtedness incurred under the revolving line of credit may not exceed \$1,250.0 million. Considering letters of credit of \$15.7 million, the amount available for borrowing under the revolving line of credit was \$1,234.3 million at June 30, 2013.

The variable interest rate on our revolving line of credit ranged from 2.45 percent to 4.50 percent, and the weighted average rate on amounts outstanding was 2.63 percent during the first six months of 2013, as compared to variable interest rates during the first six months of 2012, which ranged from 2.49 percent to 4.50 percent with a weighted average rate on amounts outstanding of 2.53 percent. The revolving line of credit will expire December 17, 2015.

Debentures and notes, without collateral Issued in 2013

2023 Notes - On January 23, 2013, we completed the private placement of \$700.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 6.375 percent senior unsecured notes due August 1, 2023, at an issue price at par to yield 6.375 percent ("the 2023 Notes"). Proceeds from the private placement, together with available cash were used to pay the consideration for the tender offer and consent solicitation announced by Windstream on January 8, 2013 to purchase for cash any and all of the outstanding 8.875 percent notes due June 30, 2017 ("PAETEC 2017 Notes"), which we acquired in connection with our acquisition of PAETEC, together with related fees and expenses. The remaining net proceeds of the notes offering, together with available cash, were used to redeem all of the remaining outstanding PAETEC Notes. Interest is paid semi-annually. Debt issuance costs associated with the new borrowings were \$13.9 million, which were recorded in other assets on the balance sheet and will be amortized into interest expense over the life of the borrowings.

Debentures and notes Repaid in 2013

PAETEC 2017 Notes - In connection with our acquisition of PAETEC Holding Corp ("PAETEC") on November 30, 2011, we assumed PAETEC 2017 Notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$650.0 million. Interest is payable semi-annually.

On January 8, 2013, we announced a tender offer to purchase for cash any and all of the outstanding \$650.0 million aggregate principal amount of PAETEC 2017 Notes. As of February 6, 2013, approximately \$588.5 million outstanding of the PAETEC 2017 Notes had been tendered. On or prior to the early tender deadline of January 22, 2013, we paid total consideration of \$1,080 per 1,000 aggregate principal amount of PAETEC 2017 Notes, which included a \$30 early tender payment, plus accrued and unpaid interest. For the period beginning after the early tender deadline, but on or prior to the expiration date, we paid total consideration of \$1,050 per 1,000 aggregate principal amount of PAETEC 2017 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest. We settled the redemption of the remaining \$61.5 million outstanding principal amount at a price equal to 100 percent of the remaining principal thereof, plus the applicable premium, and accrued and unpaid interest on February 25, 2013.

Premium on Long-term Debt, Net of Discounts

The premium on long-term debt, net of discounts is primarily due to the debt issuance premium recorded on the debt acquired in the PAETEC acquisition, partially offset by the net discount recorded on debt in the table above. The

premium and discount balances are amortized using the interest method over the life of the related debt instrument.

Debt Compliance

The terms of our credit facility and indentures include customary covenants that, among other things, require us to maintain certain financial ratios and restrict our ability to incur additional indebtedness. These financial ratios include a maximum leverage ratio of 4.50 to 1.0 and a minimum interest coverage ratio of 2.75 to 1.0. In addition, the covenants include restrictions on dividend and certain other types of payments. The terms of the indentures assumed in connection with the acquisition of PAETEC include restrictions on the ability of the subsidiary to incur additional indebtedness, including a maximum leverage ratio, with the most restrictive being 4.75 to 1.0. As of June 30, 2013, we were in compliance with all of our covenants.

In addition, certain of our debt agreements contain various covenants and restrictions specific to the subsidiary that is the legal counterparty to the agreement. Under our long-term debt agreements, acceleration of principal payments would occur upon payment default, violation of debt covenants not cured within 30 days, a change in control including a person or group

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Long-term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations, Continued:

obtaining 50 percent or more of our outstanding voting stock, or breach of certain other conditions set forth in the borrowing agreements. We were in compliance with these covenants as of June 30, 2013.

Maturities for debt outstanding as of June 30, 2013 for each of the twelve month periods ended June 30, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 were \$76.8 million, \$92.6 million, \$892.6 million, \$329.3 million and \$1,299.6 million, respectively.

(Loss) Gain on Extinguishment of Debt

During the six month period ended June 30, 2013, we retired all \$650.0 million of the outstanding PAETEC 2017 Notes. The PAETEC 2017 Notes were purchased using proceeds of the 2023 Notes. We also amended our senior secured credit facility including issuance of Tranche B4, the proceeds of which were used to repay Tranche A2, Tranche B and Tranche B2 during the first quarter. The retirements and a portion of the credit facility amendment were accounted for under the extinguishment method, and as a result, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$13.8 million during the six month period ended June 30, 2013.

During 2012, we retired all \$300.0 million of the outstanding 9.500 percent notes due July 15, 2015 ("PAETEC 2015 Notes"). The PAETEC 2015 Notes were purchased using borrowings on our revolving line of credit. The retirements were accounted for under the extinguishment method, and as a result, we recognized a gain on extinguishment of debt of \$1.9 million during the six month period ended June 30, 2012.

The (loss) gain on extinguishment of debt was as follows for the six month period ended June 30:

| (Millions) | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Senior secured credit facility: | | |
| Unamortized debt issuance costs on original issuance | \$(2.5) |) \$— |
| Loss on early extinguishment for senior secured credit facility | (2.5) |) — |
| PAETEC 2017 Notes: | | |
| Premium on early redemption | (51.5) |) — |
| Third-party fees for early redemption | (1.0) |) — |
| Unamortized premium on original issuance | 41.2 |) — |
| Loss on early extinguishment for PAETEC 2017 Notes | (11.3) |) — |
| PAETEC 2015 Notes: | | |
| Premium on early redemption | — |) (14.3) |
| Unamortized premium on original issuance | — |) 16.2 |
| Gain on early extinguishment for PAETEC 2015 Notes | — |) 1.9 |
| Total (loss) gain on early extinguishment of debt | \$(13.8) |) \$1.9 |

Capital Lease Obligations

We lease facilities and equipment for use in our operations. These facilities and equipment are included in outside communications plant in property, plant and equipment in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Lease agreements that include a bargain purchase option, transfer of ownership, contractual lease term equal to or greater than 75 percent of the remaining estimated economic life of the leased facilities or equipment or minimum lease payments equal to or greater than 90 percent of the fair value of the leased facilities or equipment are accounted for as capital leases in accordance with authoritative guidance for capital leases. These capital lease obligations are included

in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets within other liabilities and other current liabilities.

12

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Long-term Debt and Capital Lease Obligations, Continued:

Future minimum lease payments under capital lease obligations were as follows for the twelve months ended June 30:

| Year | (Millions) |
|---|------------|
| 2014 | \$21.6 |
| 2015 | 16.2 |
| 2016 | 10.4 |
| 2017 | 4.1 |
| 2018 | 0.9 |
| Thereafter | 3.9 |
| Total future payments | 57.1 |
| Less: Amounts representing interest | 5.5 |
| Present value of minimum lease payments | \$51.6 |

Interest Expense

Interest expense was as follows for the three and six month periods ended June 30:

| (Millions) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Interest expense related to long-term debt | \$148.7 | \$141.7 | \$302.8 | \$284.8 |
| Impact of interest rate swaps | 15.2 | 13.6 | 31.1 | 27.8 |
| Interest on capital leases and other obligations | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Less capitalized interest expense | (2.5) | (2.6) | (4.3) | (4.4) |
| Total interest expense | \$162.0 | \$153.5 | \$330.9 | \$310.0 |

4. Derivatives:

We enter into interest rate swap agreements to mitigate the interest rate risk inherent in our variable rate senior secured credit facility. We account for our derivative instruments using authoritative guidance for recognition, measurement and disclosures about derivative instruments and hedging activities, including when a derivative or other financial instrument can be designated as a hedge. This guidance requires recognition of all derivative instruments at fair value, and accounting for the changes in fair value depends on whether the derivative has been designated as, qualifies as and is effective as a hedge. We record changes in fair value of the effective portions of cash flow hedges as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) in the current period. Any ineffective portion of our hedges is recognized in earnings in the current period.

In 2006, we entered into four pay fixed, receive variable interest rate swap agreements to serve as cash flow hedges of the interest rate risk inherent in our senior secured credit facility. We renegotiated the four interest rate swap agreements on December 3, 2010, and again on August 21, 2012, each time lowering the fixed interest rate paid and extending the maturity.

As a result of the August 21, 2012 transaction, we reduced our fixed interest rate paid from 4.553 percent to 3.391 percent effective October 17, 2012. The fixed interest rate paid includes a component which serves to settle the liability existing on our swaps at the time of the transaction. The variable rate received resets on the seventeenth day of each month to the one-month London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"). Our swaps had a notional value of \$906.3 million as of June 30, 2013, which will amortize to \$900.0 million on July 17, 2013, where they will remain

until maturity on October 17, 2019.

On May 31, 2013, we entered into six new pay fixed, receive variable interest rate swap agreements, designated as cash flow hedges of the previously unhedged interest rate risk inherent in our senior secured credit facilities. These swaps have a fixed notional value of \$750.0 million and mature on June 17, 2016. The fixed rate paid ranges from 1.026 to 1.04 percent plus a fixed spread of 2.75 percent. The variable rate received resets on the seventeenth day of each month to the one-month LIBOR subject to a minimum rate of 0.75 percent.

13

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Derivatives, Continued:

The current swaps are designated as cash flow hedges of the benchmark LIBOR interest rate risk created by the variable rate cash flows paid on our senior secured credit facility, which have varying maturity dates from December 30, 2016 to January 23, 2020. We are hedging probable variable cash flows which extend up to four years beyond the maturity of certain components of our variable rate debt. Consistent with past practice, we expect to extend or otherwise replace these components of our debt with variable rate debt.

We recognize all derivative instruments at fair value in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets as either assets or liabilities, depending on the rights or obligations under the related contracts.

Set forth below is information related to our interest rate swap agreements:

| (Millions, except for percentages) | June 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | |
|---|------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Designated portion, measured at fair value: | | | | |
| Other assets | \$0.8 | | \$— | |
| Other current liabilities | \$(29.5 |) | \$(29.0 |) |
| Other non-current liabilities | \$(51.5 |) | \$(91.2 |) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | \$28.5 | | \$(14.7 |) |
| De-designated portion, unamortized value: | | | | |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | \$(35.1 |) | \$(45.9 |) |
| Weighted average fixed rate paid | 3.57 | % | 4.26 | % |
| Variable rate received | 0.19 | % | 0.21 | % |

We assess our derivatives for effectiveness each quarter and recognized \$1.0 million and \$2.2 million as an increase to earnings, included in other (expense) income, net related to ineffectiveness of our cash flow hedges for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2013.

Our original four swaps are off-market swaps, meaning they contain an embedded financing element. Our swap counterparties recover this financing through an incremental charge in our fixed rate over what we would be charged for an on-market swap. As such, a portion of our swaps' cash payment represents the rate we would pay on a hypothetical on-market interest rate swap and is recognized in interest expense. The remaining portion represents the repayment of the embedded financing element and reduces our swap liability.

All or a portion of the change in fair value of our interest rate swap agreements recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income may be recognized in earnings in certain situations. If we extinguish all of our variable rate debt, or a portion of our variable rate debt such that our variable rate interest received on our swaps exceeds the variable rate interest paid on our debt, we would recognize in earnings all or portion of the change in fair value of our swaps. In addition, we may recognize the change in fair value of our swaps in earnings if we determine it is no longer probable that we will have future variable rate cash flows to hedge against or if a swap agreement is terminated prior to maturity. We have assessed our counterparty risk and determined that no substantial risk of default exists as of June 30, 2013. Each counterparty is a bank with a current credit rating at or above A.

We expect to recognize losses of \$7.8 million, net of taxes, in interest expense in the next twelve months related to the unamortized value of the de-designated portion of interest rate swap agreements at June 30, 2013. Payments on our swaps are presented in the financing activities section of our consolidated statements of cash flows.

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form 10-Q

Changes in value of these instruments were as follows for the six month periods ended June 30:

| (Millions) | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|--------|----------|
| Changes in fair value of effective portion, net of tax (a) | \$17.6 | \$(3.0) |
| Amortization of unrealized losses on de-designated interest rate swaps, net of tax (a) | \$15.8 | \$13.4 |

(a) Included as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) and will be reclassified into earnings as the hedged transaction affects earnings.

14

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Derivatives, Continued:

Our agreements with each of the derivative counterparties contain cross-default provisions, whereby if we were to default on certain of our indebtedness, we could also be declared in default on our derivative obligations and may be required to net settle any outstanding derivative liability positions with our counterparties. In addition, certain of the agreements with our counterparties contain provisions where if a specified event or condition, such as a merger, occurs that materially changes our creditworthiness in an adverse manner, we may be required to fully collateralize our derivative obligations. At June 30, 2013, we had not posted any collateral related to our interest rate swap agreements.

Balance Sheet Offsetting

We are party to master netting arrangements, which are designed to reduce credit risk by permitting net settlement of transactions, with counterparties. We do not, however, offset assets and liabilities under these arrangements for financial statement presentation purposes.

The following tables present the assets and liabilities subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement as of June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012. As of December 31, 2012, all of our swap agreements with our counterparties were in a liability position and, accordingly, there were no assets to be recognized in the consolidated balance sheet as of that date.

Information pertaining to derivative assets was as follows:

| (Millions) | Gross Amount of Recognized Assets | Net Amount of Assets presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets | Gross Amounts Not Offset in the Consolidated Balance Sheets | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|------------|
| | | | Financial Instruments | Cash Collateral Received | Net Amount |
| June 30, 2013: | | | | | |
| Derivatives | \$0.8 | \$0.8 | \$(0.6) | \$— | \$0.2 |

Information pertaining to derivative liabilities was as follows:

| (Millions) | Gross Amount of Recognized Liabilities | Net Amount of Liabilities presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets | Gross Amounts Not Offset in the Consolidated Balance Sheets | | |
|--------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------|------------|
| | | | Financial Instruments | Cash Collateral Received | Net Amount |
| June 30, 2013: | | | | | |
| Derivatives | \$81.0 | \$81.0 | \$(0.6) | \$— | \$80.4 |
| December 31, 2012: | | | | | |
| Derivatives | \$120.2 | \$120.2 | \$— | \$— | \$120.2 |

5. Fair Value Measurements:

Fair value of financial and non-financial assets and liabilities is defined as an exit price, representing the amount that would be received to sell an asset or transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. Authoritative guidance defines the following three tier hierarchy for assessing the inputs used in fair value measurements:

Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – Observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Fair Value Measurements, Continued:

The highest priority is given to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority is given to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurement). Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and liabilities and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels.

Our non-financial assets and liabilities, including property, plant and equipment, goodwill, intangible assets and asset retirement obligations, are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis. No event occurred during the six month period ended June 30, 2013 requiring these non-financial assets and liabilities to be subsequently recognized at fair value.

Our financial instruments consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, long-term debt and interest rate swaps. The carrying amount of cash, restricted cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable was estimated by management to approximate fair value due to the relatively short period of time to maturity for those instruments. Cash equivalents, long-term debt and interest rate swaps are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. We had no cash equivalents as of June 30, 2013 or December 31, 2012.

The fair values of our interest rate swaps and long-term debt were determined using the following inputs at:

| (Millions) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Recorded at Fair Value in the Financial Statements: | | |
| Derivatives: | | |
| Interest rate swap assets - Level 2 | \$0.8 | \$— |
| Interest rate swap liabilities - Level 2 | (81.0) |) 120.2 |
| | \$(80.2) |) \$120.2 |
| Not Recorded at Fair Value in the Financial Statements: (a) | | |
| Long-term debt, including current maturities - Level 1 | \$6,435.8 | \$6,140.5 |
| Long-term debt, including current maturities - Level 2 | 2,719.0 | 3,273.5 |
| | \$9,154.8 | \$9,414.0 |

(a) Recognized at carrying value of \$8,944.7 million and \$8,965.8 million in long-term debt, including current maturities, on the consolidated balance sheets as of June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively.

The fair values of our interest rate swaps are determined based on the present value of expected future cash flows using observable, quoted LIBOR swap rates for the full term of the swaps. We also incorporate credit valuation adjustments to appropriately reflect both our own non-performance risk and non-performance risk of the respective counterparties. As of June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the fair values of our interest rate swaps were reduced by \$6.2 million and \$16.1 million, respectively, to reflect non-performance risk.

The fair value of the corporate bonds was calculated based on quoted market prices of the specific issuances in an active market when available. The fair values of our other debt were estimated based on appropriate market interest rates being applied to this debt. In calculating the fair market value of the Windstream Holdings of the Midwest, Inc., an appropriate market price for the same or similar instruments in an active market is used considering credit quality, nonperformance risk and maturity of the instrument.

We do not have any assets or liabilities measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3). We recognize transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy as of the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers within the fair value hierarchy during the six month period ended June 30, 2013.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Commitments and Contingencies:

On June 22, 2009, a putative class action lawsuit was filed in Kentucky federal district court on behalf of current and former customers in Kentucky. The complaint alleged that we overcharged customers because we collected a gross receipts surcharge ("GRS") in violation of state and federal statutes and tariffs and common law. The court referred the state tariff issues to the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Kentucky PSC"). In 2011, the federal court ruled that the GRS was a rate that should have been listed in our federal tariffs prior to its collection and that class certification was proper. Based on that ruling, in the third quarter 2011, we accrued an amount that was not material and that represented the amount of loss estimable and probable at the time. On May 4, 2012, the Kentucky PSC issued an order also finding the GRS was a rate that should have been in our local retail tariff before being assessed on certain types of services. We appealed the order to state court in Franklin County, Kentucky, primarily asserting that the Kentucky PSC erred in classifying the GRS as a rate. Additionally, on July 22, 2012, the federal court formally certified a class of all retail and wholesale Windstream customers assessed the GRS on services subject to our federal tariff. We filed an interlocutory appeal of the class certification with the Sixth Circuit. On November 1, 2012, the Sixth Circuit denied the appeal, holding that the matter was not ripe for a decision.

On March 29, 2013, we entered into a proposed class settlement and the settlement terms are subject to objections from individual class members and approval of the federal court. The settlement was preliminarily approved by the court on June 14, 2013. The court established a notice plan to class members about the proposed settlement, a deadline for objections of October 11, 2013, and a final hearing date on October 31, 2013. The final settlement is not expected to be material in excess of the amount we currently have accrued.

We are party to various other legal proceedings. Although the ultimate resolution of these various proceedings cannot be determined at this time, management does not believe that such proceedings, individually or in the aggregate, will have a material adverse effect on the future consolidated results of income, cash flows or our financial condition.

In addition, management is currently not aware of any environmental matters that, individually or in the aggregate, would have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial condition or our results of operations.

7. Employee Benefit Plans and Postretirement Benefits:

We maintain a non-contributory qualified defined benefit pension plan. Future benefit accruals for all eligible nonbargaining employees covered by the pension plan have ceased. We also maintain supplemental executive retirement plans that provide unfunded, non-qualified supplemental retirement benefits to a select group of management employees. Additionally, we provide postretirement healthcare and life insurance benefits for eligible employees. Employees share in, and we fund, the costs of these plans as benefits are paid.

The components of pension benefit expense (including provision for executive retirement agreements) were as follows for the three and six month periods ended June 30:

| (Millions) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Benefits earned during the period | \$2.6 | \$2.3 | \$5.3 | \$5.0 |
| Interest cost on benefit obligation | 13.2 | 14.5 | 26.3 | 29.0 |
| Net actuarial loss | 3.7 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 2.7 |
| Amortization of prior service credit | (0.1) | (0.1) | (0.1) | (0.1) |
| Expected return on plan assets | (17.1) | (18.2) | (34.1) | (36.5) |
| Net periodic benefit expense | \$2.3 | \$1.2 | \$1.1 | \$0.1 |

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. Employee Benefit Plans and Postretirement Benefits, Continued:

The components of postretirement benefit income were as follows for the three and six month periods ended June 30 :

| (Millions) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Interest cost on benefit obligation | \$0.3 | \$0.4 | \$0.7 | \$0.9 |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| Amortization of prior service credit | (1.9) | (2.8) | (4.7) | (5.9) |
| Plan curtailments | (5.6) | (9.6) | (25.7) | (9.6) |
| Net periodic benefit income | \$(7.1) | \$(11.1) | \$(28.9) | \$(13.4) |

During the first half of 2013, we made changes to our postretirement medical plan, eliminating medical and prescription drug subsidies primarily for certain active participants effective August 1, 2013 or January 1, 2014. As a result, we remeasured the plan and recognized curtailment gains of \$25.7 million, of which \$19.6 million was recognized in cost of services expenses and \$6.1 million was recognized in selling, general and administrative expenses, with the offsetting effects recorded as reductions in accumulated other comprehensive income of \$25.3 million and other liabilities of \$0.4 million.

We contributed \$1.7 million to the postretirement plan during the six month period ended June 30, 2013, and expect to contribute an additional \$1.0 million for postretirement benefits throughout the remainder of 2013, excluding amounts that will be funded by participant contributions to the plans.

We also recorded \$9.3 million and \$10.8 million in the six month period ended June 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, related to the employee savings plan, which was included in cost of services and selling, general and administrative in our consolidated statements of income. Additionally, we contributed \$20.4 million of Windstream stock for the 2012 annual matching contribution during the six month period ended June 30, 2013.

8. Merger, Integration and Restructuring Charges:

We incur a significant amount of costs to complete a merger or acquisition and integrate its operations into our business, which are presented as merger and integration expense in our results of operations. These costs include transaction costs, such as accounting, legal and broker fees; severance and related costs; IT and network conversion; rebranding; and consulting fees. Our 2011 acquisition of PAETEC Holding Corp ("PAETEC") and 2010 acquisitions of NuVox Inc. ("NuVox"), Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc. ("Iowa Telecom"), Q-Comm Corporation ("Q-Comm") and Hosted Solutions Acquisitions, LLC ("Hosted Solutions"), (collectively known as the "Acquired Companies"), drive merger and integration costs for the periods presented.

Restructuring charges are sometimes incurred as a result of evaluations of our operating structure. Among other things, these evaluations explore opportunities for task automation, network efficiency and the balancing of our workforce based on the current needs of our customers. Severance, lease exit costs and other related charges are included in restructuring charges.

The following is a summary of the merger, integration and restructuring charges recorded for the three and six month periods ended June 30:

| (Millions) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Merger and integration costs: | | | | |

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Transaction costs associated with acquisitions | \$— | \$3.8 | \$— | \$7.1 |
| Employee related transition costs | 2.0 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 14.3 |
| Information technology conversion costs | 3.5 | 2.0 | 4.9 | 3.4 |
| Rebranding, consulting and other costs | 1.3 | 9.5 | 3.3 | 16.9 |
| Total merger and integration costs | 6.8 | 19.4 | 11.9 | 41.7 |
| Restructuring charges | 2.7 | 10.3 | 7.6 | 11.2 |
| Total merger, integration and restructuring charges | \$9.5 | \$29.7 | \$19.5 | \$52.9 |

18

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. Merger, Integration and Restructuring Charges, Continued:

Merger, integration and restructuring charges decreased net income \$6.0 million and \$12.2 million for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2013 as compared to \$18.4 million and \$32.7 million for the same periods in 2012, giving consideration to tax benefits on deductible items.

The following is a summary of the activity related to the liabilities associated with our merger, integration and restructuring charges at June 30:

| (Millions) | 2013 | |
|---|--------|---|
| Balance, beginning of period | \$20.3 | |
| Merger, integration and restructuring charges | 19.5 | |
| Cash outlays during the period | (27.2 |) |
| Balance, end of period | \$12.6 | |

As of June 30, 2013, we had unpaid merger, integration and restructuring liabilities totaling \$12.6 million, which consisted of \$1.9 million of accrued severance costs primarily associated with the integration of the Acquired Companies, \$1.8 million primarily associated with the restructuring initiatives, and \$8.9 million related to other integration activities. Each of these payments will be funded through operating cash flows.

9. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income:

Accumulated other comprehensive income balances, net of tax, were as follows:

| (Millions) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 | |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Pension and postretirement plans | \$28.6 | \$43.9 | |
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) on interest rate swaps: | | | |
| Designated portion | 17.6 | (9.1 |) |
| De-designated portion | (21.7 |) (28.4 |) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | \$24.5 | \$6.4 | |

Changes in accumulated other comprehensive income balances, net of tax, were as follows:

| (Millions) | Gains (Losses) on Interest Rate Swaps | Pension and Postretirement Plans | Total |
|---|---|--|--------|
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | \$(37.5 |) \$43.9 | \$6.4 |
| Other comprehensive income before reclassifications | 17.6 | 2.7 | 20.3 |
| Amounts reclassified from other accumulated comprehensive income (a) | 15.8 | (18.0 |) (2.2 |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | \$(4.1 |) \$28.6 | \$24.5 |

(a) See separate table below for details about these reclassifications.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, Continued:

Reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income were as follows for the six month period ended June 30, 2013:

| Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income Components | (Millions) Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income | Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income |
|---|--|---|
| Losses on interest rate swaps: | | |
| Amortization of unrealized losses on de-designated interest rate swaps | \$25.6 | Interest expense |
| | 25.6 | Income from continuing operations before income taxes |
| | (9.8) |) Income taxes |
| | 15.8 |) Net income |
| Pension and postretirement plans: | | |
| Plan curtailments | (25.3) |) (a) |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss | 0.8 |) (a) |
| Amortization of prior service credits | (4.8) |) (a) |
| | (29.3) |) Income from continuing operations before income taxes |
| | 11.3 |) Income taxes |
| | (18.0) |) Net income |
| Total reclassification for the period, net of tax | \$(2.2) |) Net income |

(a) These accumulated other comprehensive income components are included in the computation of net periodic benefit income. See Note 7 for additional details.

10. Earnings per Share:

We compute basic earnings per share by dividing net income applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each period. Our non-vested restricted shares containing a non-forfeitable right to receive dividends on a one-to-one per share ratio to common shares are considered participating securities, and the impact is included in the computation of earnings per share pursuant to the two-class method. Calculations of earnings per share under the two-class method exclude from the numerator any dividends paid or owed on participating securities and any undistributed earnings considered to be attributable to participating securities. The related participating securities are similarly excluded from the denominator.

Diluted earnings per share are computed by dividing net income applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of common shares adjusted to include the effect of potentially dilutive securities. Potentially dilutive securities include incremental shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding stock options and warrants. Diluted earnings per share exclude all potentially dilutive securities if their effect is anti-dilutive.

We also issue performance-based restricted stock units as part of our share-based compensation plan. These restricted stock units contain a forfeitable right to receive dividends. Because dividends attributable to these shares are forfeited if the vesting provisions are not met, they are considered non-participating restricted shares and are not dilutive under the two class method until the performance conditions have been satisfied. As of June 30, 2013, the performance conditions for the outstanding restricted stock units have not yet been satisfied. Options and warrants granted in conjunction with the acquisition of PAETEC are included in the computation of dilutive earnings per share using the treasury stock method.

20

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Earnings per Share, Continued:

A reconciliation of net income and number of shares used in computing basic and diluted earnings per share was as follows for the three and six month periods ended June 30:

| (Millions, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|--------|------------------|---------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share: | | | | |
| Numerator: | | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$39.7 | \$51.5 | \$92.0 | \$112.0 |
| Income from continuing operations allocable to participating securities | (1.0) | (1.0) | (2.1) | (2.1) |
| Adjusted income from continuing operations attributable to common shares | 38.7 | 50.5 | 89.9 | 109.9 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | — | (0.5) | — | (0.6) |
| Loss from discontinued operations allocable to participating securities | — | — | — | — |
| Adjusted loss from discontinued operations attributable to common shares | — | (0.5) | — | (0.6) |
| Net income attributable to common shares | \$38.7 | \$50.0 | \$89.9 | \$109.3 |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Basic shares outstanding | | | | |
| Weighted average basic shares outstanding | 592.7 | 588.3 | 591.6 | 587.9 |
| Weighted average participating securities | (4.1) | (3.7) | (3.9) | (3.8) |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for basic earnings per share | 588.6 | 584.6 | 587.7 | 584.1 |
| Diluted shares outstanding | | | | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for basic earnings per share | 588.6 | 584.6 | 587.7 | 584.1 |
| Effect of dilutive stock options | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share | 588.8 | 585.2 | 587.9 | 584.8 |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share: | | | | |
| From continuing operations | \$.06 | \$.09 | \$.15 | \$.19 |
| From discontinued operations | — | — | — | — |
| Net income | \$.06 | \$.09 | \$.15 | \$.19 |

Options to purchase shares of stock issuable under stock-based compensation plans that were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share because the exercise prices were greater than the average market price of our common stock and, therefore, the effect would be anti-dilutive totaled 1.1 million shares and 1.0 million shares for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013, respectively, and 1.0 million shares for both the three and six months ended June 30, 2012.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Share-Based Compensation Plans:

Under the Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Incentive Plan"), we may issue a maximum of 20.0 million equity stock awards in the form of restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights or stock options. Restricted stock, restricted stock units and stock appreciation rights were limited to 18.5 million of the total awards issuable under the Incentive Plan. As of June 30, 2013, the Incentive Plan had remaining capacity of 5.9 million awards, of which 4.4 million were issuable in the form of restricted stock, restricted stock units or stock appreciation rights. As of June 30, 2013, we had additional remaining capacity of 2.5 million awards from a similar equity incentive plan acquired in the PAETEC acquisition. The cost of each award is determined based on the fair value of the shares on the date of grant and is fully expensed over the vesting period.

During 2013, our Board of Directors approved grants of restricted stock and restricted stock units to officers, executives, non-employee directors and certain management employees. These grants include the standard annual grants to this employee and director group as a key component of their annual incentive compensation plan and a one-time grant to select members of management. The one-time grant, totaling 125,125 shares, was provided as a retention incentive for the recipients. The performance based restricted stock units granted may vest in a number of shares from zero to 150.0 percent of their award based on attainment of certain operating targets, some of which are indexed to the performance of Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index, over a three-year period. The operating targets for the first vesting period for these performance based restricted stock units granted were approved by the Board of Directors in February 2013.

The vesting periods and grant date fair value for restricted stock and restricted stock units issued during the six month period ended June 30, 2013, were as follows:

| (Thousands) | Common Shares |
|--|------------------|
| Vest ratably over a three-year service period | 2,087.4 |
| Vest ratably over a two-year service period | 68.4 |
| Vest variably over a three-year service period | 135.3 |
| Vest contingently over a three-year performance period | 786.7 |
| Vest one year from date of grant, service based (a) | 81.5 |
| Total granted | 3,159.3 |
| Grant date fair value (Millions) | \$30.8 |

(a) Represents restricted stock granted to non-employee directors.

Restricted stock and restricted stock unit activity for the six months ended June 30, 2013 was as follows:

| | (Thousands) Underlying Number of Shares | Weighted Average Fair Value |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Non-vested at December 31, 2012 | 4,274.4 | \$12.24 |
| Granted | 3,159.3 | \$9.74 |
| Vested | (1,522.8) |) \$12.07 |
| Forfeited | (227.5) |) \$11.88 |
| Non-vested at June 30, 2013 | 5,683.4 | \$10.91 |

At June 30, 2013, unrecognized compensation expense totaled \$49.7 million and is expected to be recognized over the weighted average vesting period of 1.6 years. Unrecognized compensation expense is included in additional paid-in capital in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and statements of shareholders' equity. Share-based compensation expense for restricted stock and restricted stock units was \$6.8 million and \$13.5 million for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2013, respectively, as compared to \$6.3 million and \$13.7 million for the same periods in 2012.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12. Supplemental Guarantor Information:

Debentures and notes, without collateral, issued by Windstream Corporation

In connection with the issuance of the 8.125 percent Senior Notes due August 1, 2013, the 7.875 percent Senior Notes due November 1, 2017, the 8.125 percent Senior Notes due September 1, 2018, the 7.000 percent Senior Notes due March 15, 2019, the 7.750 percent Senior Notes due October 15, 2020, the 7.750 percent Senior Notes due October 1, 2021, the 7.500 percent Senior Notes due June 1, 2022, the 7.500 percent Senior Notes due April 1, 2023 and the 2023 Notes ("the guaranteed notes"), certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries (the "Guarantors"), provide guarantees of those debentures. These guarantees are full and unconditional, subject to certain customary release provisions, as well as joint and several. Certain Guarantors may be subject to restrictions on their ability to distribute earnings to us. Our remaining subsidiaries (the "Non-Guarantors") are not guarantors of the guaranteed notes. Following the acquisitions of acquired businesses, the guaranteed notes were amended to include certain subsidiaries of the acquired businesses as guarantors. The parent company and issuer of the notes is Windstream Corporation.

The following information presents condensed consolidated statements of income, including comprehensive income, for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2013 and 2012, condensed consolidated balance sheets as of June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, and condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six month periods ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 of the parent company, the Guarantors and the Non-Guarantors. Investments consist of investments in net assets of subsidiaries held by the parent company and other subsidiaries and have been presented using the equity method of accounting.

In connection with the preparation of our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012, we became aware of and corrected an error in the accounting for certain promotional credits for new consumer customers. We have retrospectively adjusted financial information for all prior periods presented to reflect this correction. See Note 1. The impact to the Parent, the Guarantors and the Non-Guarantors has been appropriately reflected herein.

| (Millions) | Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income (Unaudited) | | | | |
|---|--|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | | | |
| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenues and sales: | | | | | |
| Service revenues | \$— | \$264.2 | \$1,194.1 | \$(8.5) |) \$1,449.8 |
| Product sales | — | 14.2 | 42.1 | — | 56.3 |
| Total revenues and sales | — | 278.4 | 1,236.2 | (8.5) |) 1,506.1 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | | |
| Cost of services | — | 87.9 | 565.4 | (6.5) |) 646.8 |
| Cost of products sold | — | 14.6 | 35.8 | — | 50.4 |
| Selling, general and administrative | — | 19.1 | 222.2 | (2.0) |) 239.3 |
| Depreciation and amortization | — | 79.1 | 253.3 | — | 332.4 |
| Merger and integration costs | — | — | 6.8 | — | 6.8 |
| Restructuring charges | — | 0.4 | 2.3 | — | 2.7 |
| Total costs and expenses | — | 201.1 | 1,085.8 | (8.5) |) 1,278.4 |
| Operating income | — | 77.3 | 150.4 | — | 227.7 |
| Earnings from consolidated subsidiaries | 108.5 | 26.5 | 0.6 | (135.6) |) — |
| Other income (expense), net | 0.8 | 16.5 | (19.0) |) — | (1.7) |
| Intercompany interest income (expense) | 39.8 | (24.6) |) (15.2) |) — | — |
| Interest expense | (152.7) |) (1.3) |) (8.0) |) — | (162.0) |

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| (Loss) income before income taxes | (3.6 |) 94.4 | 108.8 | (135.6 |) 64.0 |
| Income tax (benefit) expense | (43.3 |) 26.1 | 41.5 | — | 24.3 |
| Net income | \$39.7 | \$68.3 | \$67.3 | \$(135.6 |) \$39.7 |
| Comprehensive income | \$63.5 | \$68.3 | \$67.3 | \$(135.6 |) \$63.5 |

23

NOTES TO UNAUDITED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12. Supplemental Guarantor Information, Continued:

| (Millions) | Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income (Unaudited) | | | | |
|--|--|------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | | | | |
| | Parent | Guarantors | Non- Guarantors | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenues and sales: | | | | | |
| Service revenues | \$— | \$269.7 | \$1,205.7 | \$(6.3) |) \$1,469.1 |
| Product sales | — | 24.4 | 40.9 | — | 65.3 |
| Total revenues and sales | — | 294.1 | 1,246.6 | (6.3) |) 1,534.4 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | | |
| Cost of services | — | 96.5 | 563.5 | (4.3) |) 655.7 |
| Cost of products sold | — | 23.8 | 33.8 | — | 57.6 |
| Selling, general and administrative | — | 22.0 | 218.0 | (2.0) |) 238.0 |
| Depreciation and amortization | — | 79.3 | 240.7 | — | 320.0 |
| Merger and integration costs | — | — | 19.4 | — | 19.4 |
| Restructuring charges | — | 0.2 | 10.1 | — | 10.3 |
| Total costs and expenses | — | 221.8 | 1,085.5 | (6.3) |) 1,301.0 |
| Operating income | — | 72.3 | 161.1 | — | 233.4 |
| Earnings (losses) from consolidated subsidiaries | 110.0 | | | | |