

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC
Form S-4/A
December 23, 2009
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 23, 2009

Registration No. 333-163343

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

Amendment No. 2 to
FORM S-4
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

6331
(Primary Standard Industrial Classification
Code Number)

47-0813844
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

3555 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131

(402) 346-1400

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

Marc D. Hamburg

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

3555 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131

(402) 346-1400

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

Copies to:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Robert E. Denham | Roger Nober | Scott A. Barshay |
| Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP | Burlington Northern Santa Fe | Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP |
| 355 South Grand Avenue | Corporation | Worldwide Plaza |
| 35th Floor | Executive Vice President Law and | 825 Eighth Avenue |
| Los Angeles, California 90071 | Secretary | New York, New York 10019 |
| (213) 683-9100 | 2650 Lou Menk Drive | (212) 474-1000 |
| | Fort Worth, Texas 76131 | |
| | (800) 795-2673 | |

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public: As soon as practicable after the effectiveness of this registration statement and the satisfaction or waiver of all other conditions under the merger agreement described herein.

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, 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, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

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

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

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

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer)

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer)

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. THESE SECURITIES MAY NOT BE SOLD UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED DECEMBER 23, 2009

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the stockholders of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (BNSF) to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 9.00 a.m., local time, at BNSF Railway Company, Technology Office Building, 2400 Western Center Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76131.

At the special meeting, you will be asked to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 2, 2009 (the merger agreement), by and among Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Berkshire), R Acquisition Company, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire (Merger Sub), and BNSF, pursuant to which BNSF will be merged with and into Merger Sub and Merger Sub will continue as the surviving entity. Following the merger, Merger Sub will change its name to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, LLC and will remain an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire.

If the merger is completed, each of your shares of BNSF common stock will be converted into the right to receive, at your election (subject to the proration and reallocation procedures described in this proxy statement/prospectus), either (i) \$100.00 in cash, without interest, or (ii) a portion of a share of Berkshire Class A common stock equal to the exchange ratio, which is calculated by dividing \$100.00 by the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on the second full trading day prior to completion of the merger (the Class A average trading value); *provided, however*, that if the Class A average trading value is above \$124,652.09 or below \$79,777.34, then the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.000802233 or 0.001253489, as the case may be. Fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock will not be issued in the merger. Instead, shares of Berkshire Class B common stock will be issued in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock and cash will be paid in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock. To facilitate the merger and related transactions, Berkshire is seeking stockholder approval to effect a 50-for-1 stock split with respect to its Class B common stock. Shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the stock symbols BRK.A and BRK.B, respectively.

Under the merger agreement, approximately 60% of the total merger consideration payable by Berkshire to BNSF stockholders will be in the form of cash and approximately 40% will be in the form of Berkshire common stock. Accordingly, the cash and stock elections that you make with respect to your shares may be subject to proration and reallocation so as to achieve as closely as practicable this 60/40 cash-stock split.

This proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the merger agreement and the proposed merger. In addition, it contains important information regarding the special meeting. **We urge you to read this proxy statement/prospectus (and any documents incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference) carefully. Please pay particular attention to the section titled Risk Factors beginning on page 26.**

The Board of Directors of BNSF unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

The merger cannot be completed unless it is approved by (i) the holders of at least 66-²/₃% of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock not owned by Berkshire or any of its affiliates or associates and (ii) the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock.

Your vote is very important. If you are a registered stockholder, please vote your shares as soon as possible using one of the following methods to ensure that your vote is counted, regardless of whether you expect to attend the special meeting in person: (1) call the toll-free number specified on the enclosed proxy card and follow the instructions when prompted, (2) access the Internet website specified on the enclosed proxy card and follow the instructions provided to you, or (3) complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you hold your shares in street name through a

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bank, broker or other nominee, you will need to follow the instructions provided to you by your bank, broker or other nominee to ensure that your shares are represented and voted at the special meeting. A failure to vote your shares is the equivalent of a vote AGAINST the merger.

If you have any questions about the proposed merger or about how to vote your shares, please call Innisfree M&A Incorporated, the firm assisting BNSF in its solicitation of proxies, toll-free at (877) 456-3463, or call BNSF Investor Relations at (817) 352-6452. For media inquiries, please call BNSF Corporate Relations at (817) 867-6407.

We look forward to the successful completion of the merger.

Sincerely,

Matthew K. Rose

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities to be issued under this proxy statement/prospectus or determined if this proxy statement/prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This proxy statement/prospectus is dated December 23, 2009, and is first being mailed to the stockholders of BNSF on or about December 28, 2009.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about BNSF and Berkshire from other documents that are not included in or delivered with this proxy statement/prospectus. This information is available for you to review at the public reference room of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, and through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You can also obtain the documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus free of charge by requesting them in writing or by telephone from the appropriate company at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation

2650 Lou Menk Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

(817) 352-6452

Attention: Investor Relations

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

3555 Farnam Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

(402) 346-1400

Attention: Corporate Secretary

or

Innisfree M&A Incorporated

501 Madison Avenue

20th Floor

New York, New York 10022

Toll-Free (877) 456-3463

If you would like to request any documents, please do so by February 4, 2010 in order to receive them before the special meeting.

You also may obtain additional proxy cards and other information related to the proxy solicitation by contacting the appropriate contact listed above. You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request.

For more information, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document, which forms part of a registration statement on Form S-4 filed with the SEC by Berkshire, constitutes a prospectus of Berkshire under Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), with respect to the shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock to be issued to BNSF stockholders under the merger agreement. This document also constitutes a proxy statement under Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). It also constitutes a notice of meeting with respect to the special meeting of BNSF stockholders, at which meeting BNSF stockholders will be asked to vote upon a proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this proxy statement/prospectus. This proxy statement/prospectus is dated as of December 23, 2009. You should not assume that the information contained in this proxy statement/prospectus is accurate as of any date other than that date. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of such incorporated document. Neither our mailing of this proxy statement/prospectus to BNSF stockholders nor the issuance by Berkshire of its common stock in connection with the merger will create any implication to the contrary.

This proxy statement/prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Information contained in this proxy statement/prospectus regarding BNSF has been provided by BNSF and information contained in this proxy statement/prospectus regarding Berkshire has been provided by Berkshire.

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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF
BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE CORPORATION**

A special meeting of stockholders of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (BNSF) will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at BNSF Railway Company, Technology Office Building, 2400 Western Center Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76131, for the following purposes:

to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 2, 2009, by and among Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Berkshire), R Acquisition Company, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire (Merger Sub), and BNSF, pursuant to which BNSF will be merged with and into Merger Sub and Merger Sub will continue as the surviving entity, as further described in the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus; and

to transact any other business that may properly be brought before the special meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof, including, without limitation, a motion to adjourn or postpone the special meeting to another time and/or place for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, if necessary.

The Board of Directors of BNSF unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Adoption of the merger agreement requires the vote of (i) holders of at least 66-²/₃% of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock not owned by Berkshire or any of its affiliates or associates and (ii) holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on December 18, 2009 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. A complete list of stockholders entitled to vote at the special meeting will be available for a period of ten days prior to the special meeting at the offices of BNSF, located at 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131, for inspection by stockholders during ordinary business hours for any purpose germane to the special meeting. The stockholder list will also be available at the special meeting for examination by any stockholder present at the special meeting.

Only stockholders or their proxy holders may attend the special meeting. If you hold shares in your name, please be prepared to provide proper identification, such as a driver's license. If you hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you will need to provide proof of ownership, such as a recent account statement or letter from your bank, broker or other nominee, along with proper identification.

Your vote is very important. If you are a registered stockholder, please vote your shares as soon as possible using one of the following methods to ensure that your vote is counted, regardless of whether you expect to attend the special meeting in person: (1) call the toll-free number specified on the enclosed proxy card and follow the instructions when prompted, (2) access the Internet website specified on the enclosed proxy card and follow the instructions provided to you, or (3) complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you will need to follow the instructions provided to you by your bank, broker or other nominee to ensure that your shares are represented and voted at the special meeting. A failure to vote your shares is equivalent to a vote AGAINST the merger.

Your proxy may be revoked at any time before the vote at the special meeting by following the procedures outlined in the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus.

In connection with our solicitation of proxies for the special meeting, we are making available this proxy statement/prospectus and proxy card on or about December 28, 2009.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Roger Nober

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Executive Vice President Law and Secretary

2650 Lou Menk Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

December 23, 2009

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Set forth below are commonly asked questions and answers about the merger and the special meeting of BNSF stockholders called in connection therewith. For a more complete description of the legal and other terms of the merger, please read carefully this entire proxy statement/prospectus, including the merger agreement attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference herein. You may obtain a list of the documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus in the section titled *Where To Find More Information* beginning on page 118.*

Questions About the Merger

Q: Why am I receiving this document?

A: Berkshire has agreed to acquire BNSF pursuant to the terms of a merger agreement that is described in this proxy statement/prospectus. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A. In order to complete the merger, BNSF stockholders must vote to adopt the merger agreement. BNSF is holding a special meeting of stockholders to obtain this stockholder approval.

This proxy statement/prospectus contains important information about the merger and the special meeting of the stockholders of BNSF, and you should read it carefully. The enclosed voting materials allow you to vote your shares without attending the special meeting in person.

Your vote is extremely important. We encourage you to vote as soon as possible. For more information on how to vote your shares, please see the section titled *Special Meeting of BNSF Stockholders* beginning on page 31.

Q: What vote is required to adopt the merger agreement?

A: Under Delaware law, the merger agreement must be adopted by:

the holders of at least 66-²/3% of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock not owned by Berkshire or any of its affiliates or associates; and

the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock.
If these votes are not obtained, the merger will not be completed.

Q: What will happen in the merger?

A: In the merger, BNSF will merge with and into Merger Sub, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire. Following the merger, Merger Sub will continue as the surviving entity and will remain an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire. Merger Sub will change its name to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, LLC upon consummation of the merger. For more information, please see the sections titled *The Merger* and *The Merger Agreement* beginning on pages 36 and 77, respectively.

Q: What will BNSF stockholders receive in the merger?

- A: In the merger, each share of BNSF common stock (other than certain restricted shares, shares owned by Berkshire, BNSF or any of their respective subsidiaries, or shares in respect of which appraisal rights have been properly exercised and not withdrawn) will be converted into the right to receive, at the election of the stockholder (subject to the proration and reallocation procedures described below), either (i) \$100.00 in cash, without interest, or (ii) a portion of a share of Berkshire Class A common stock equal to the exchange ratio, which is calculated by dividing \$100.00 by the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on the second

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full trading day prior to completion of the merger (the Class A average trading value); *provided, however*, that if the Class A average trading value is above or below the collar (as described below), then the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.000802233 or 0.001253489, as the case may be. Fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock will not be issued in the merger. Instead, shares of Berkshire Class B common stock will be issued in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock, and cash will be paid in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock.

Q: What is the collar and how does it work?

A: The stock component of the merger consideration is subject to a collar, whereby if the Class A average trading value is equal to or between \$79,777.34 and \$124,652.09 (the collar), then the exchange ratio will float so as to ensure that the aggregate value of Berkshire common stock received in exchange for each share of BNSF common stock being exchanged for Berkshire shares, as calculated based on the Class A average trading value and the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class B common stock over the ten trading day period ending on the second full trading day prior to completion of the merger (the Class B average trading value), is fixed at \$100.00 per share of BNSF common stock. If the Class A average trading value is less than \$79,777.34 or more than \$124,652.09, then the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.001253489 or 0.000802233, as the case may be. Accordingly, if the Class A average trading value is less than the low end of the collar, then the value of the stock payable per share of BNSF common stock, as calculated based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, will be less than the cash payable per share of BNSF common stock. Conversely, if the Class A average trading value is greater than the high end of the collar, then the value of the stock payable per share of BNSF common stock, as calculated based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, will be greater than the cash payable per share of BNSF common stock.

By way of example, if the Class A average trading value is \$75,000, then the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.001253489 and stockholders will receive, for each share of BNSF common stock that is exchanged for Berkshire common stock, Berkshire common stock valued, based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, at approximately \$94.01 (0.001253489 x \$75,000), which is less than the \$100.00 per share received for shares that are exchanged for cash. Alternatively, if the Class A average trading value is \$130,000, then the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.000802233 and stockholders will receive, for each share of BNSF common stock that is exchanged for Berkshire common stock, Berkshire common stock valued, based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, at approximately \$104.29 (0.000802233 x \$130,000), which is more than the \$100.00 per share received for shares that are exchanged for cash.

For further information, please see the section titled The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration beginning on page 77.

Q: Am I guaranteed to receive the form of merger consideration that I elect to receive for my shares of BNSF common stock?

A: No. Under the merger agreement, approximately 60% of the total merger consideration payable by Berkshire to BNSF stockholders will be in the form of cash and approximately 40% will be in the form of Berkshire common stock. The cash and stock elections that BNSF stockholders make with respect to their shares may be subject to proration and reallocation to achieve as closely as practicable this 60/40 cash-stock split. Accordingly, depending on the elections made by other BNSF stockholders, each BNSF stockholder who elects to receive all cash for their shares in the merger may receive a portion of their consideration in Berkshire common stock, and each BNSF stockholder who elects to receive all Berkshire common stock for their shares in the merger may receive a portion of their consideration in cash. A BNSF stockholder who elects to receive a combination of cash and Berkshire common stock for their shares in the merger may receive cash and Berkshire common stock in a proportion different from that which such stockholder elected. For further information, please see the section titled The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration beginning on page 77.

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Q: How do I make my election?

A: To elect to receive cash, shares of Berkshire Class A common stock or some combination thereof, you must indicate on the election form, which will be sent to you in a separate mailing, the number of shares of BNSF common stock with respect to which you elect to receive cash and the number of shares of BNSF common stock with respect to which you elect to receive shares of Berkshire Class A common stock. You must return the form in the separate envelope provided so that it is received prior to the election deadline, which will be at 5:00 p.m., New York time, on the second business day prior to the effective time of the merger. The election deadline will be announced at least five business days in advance of the effective time by Berkshire. If you are a participant in any of BNSF's 401(k) plans, however, you may be required to return the form so that it is received prior to this date. The plan trustee or administrator will contact you by a separate communication and provide you with additional details with respect to your election deadline. If you hold your shares through a bank, broker or other nominee, you should follow the instructions provided by such bank, broker or other nominee to ensure that your election instructions are timely returned. For further information, please see the section titled "The Merger Agreement - Stockholder Elections" beginning on page 79.

Q: Can I revoke or change my election after I mail my election form?

A: Yes. You may revoke or change your election by sending written notice thereof to the exchange agent, which notice must be received by the exchange agent prior to the election deadline noted above. In the event an election form is revoked, under the merger agreement the shares of BNSF common stock represented by such election form will be treated as shares in respect of which no election has been made, except to the extent a subsequent election is properly made by the stockholder during the election period. For more information, please see the section titled "The Merger Agreement - Stockholder Elections" beginning on page 79.

Q: What happens if I do not make an election or my election form is not received before the election deadline?

A: Any shares of BNSF common stock with respect to which the exchange agent does not receive a properly completed and timely election form will be deemed not to have made an election. In exchange for such shares of BNSF common stock, you will receive cash or shares of Berkshire common stock as necessary to achieve as closely as practicable the 60/40 cash-stock split (as described above) with respect to all BNSF shares eligible for merger consideration, taking into account cash and stock elections by all BNSF stockholders who make such elections, unless shares of Berkshire Class A common stock are trading outside the collar (as described above), in which case you will be deemed to have elected whichever form of merger consideration has the higher value, subject to any proration or reallocation necessary to achieve as closely as practicable the 60/40 cash-stock split.

Q: How will I receive the merger consideration to which I am entitled?

A: After receiving the proper documentation from you and determining the proper allocations of cash and shares of Berkshire common stock to be paid or issued to BNSF stockholders, the exchange agent will forward to you the cash and/or Berkshire common stock to which you are entitled. More information on the documentation you are required to deliver to the exchange agent may be found under the caption "The Merger Agreement - Payment of the Merger Consideration" beginning on page 79. BNSF stockholders will not receive any fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock in the merger. Instead, they will receive shares of Berkshire Class B common stock in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock, and cash in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock.

Q: Where will shares of Berkshire common stock and BNSF common stock be listed following the merger?

A: Following the merger, the shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock will remain listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the stock symbols BRK.A and BRK.B, respectively. All shares of BNSF common stock will cease to be publicly-traded.

and will be delisted from the NYSE upon completion of the merger.

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Q: Am I entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the merger?

A: Under Delaware law, appraisal rights are only available if, among other things, stockholders are required to accept cash for their shares (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares). Therefore, with respect to any shares of BNSF common stock for which you did not elect to receive cash merger consideration, but would be required under the merger agreement to receive cash merger consideration (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock), you may have the right, if you do not vote in favor of the merger agreement, in lieu of receiving the cash merger consideration for those shares, to obtain payment in cash for the fair value of those shares as determined by the Delaware Chancery Court. It is possible that the fair value as determined by the Delaware Chancery Court may be more or less than, or the same as, the merger consideration. BNSF reserves the right to take the position that appraisal may only be sought with respect to shares described in the first sentence of this paragraph, and may not be exercised with respect to any shares as to which cash was elected or stock was received. To exercise appraisal rights, you must follow the strict procedures prescribed by Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. For additional information, please see the section titled *The Merger Appraisal Rights* beginning on page 71. In addition, the full text of Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporation Law is included as Annex B to this proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: When is the merger expected to be completed?

A: Berkshire and BNSF will complete the merger when all of the conditions to completion of the merger under the merger agreement have been satisfied or waived. Berkshire and BNSF are working toward satisfying these conditions and completing the merger as quickly as possible. Berkshire and BNSF currently expect to complete the merger during the first quarter of 2010. However, because the merger is subject to a number of conditions, some of which are beyond the control of Berkshire and BNSF, exact timing for completion of the merger cannot be predicted with any amount of certainty.

Q: Is the merger taxable to BNSF stockholders for U.S. Federal income tax purposes?

A: Berkshire and BNSF each expect the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization pursuant to Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The U.S. Federal income tax consequences of a reorganization to a BNSF stockholder will depend on the relative mix of cash and Berkshire common stock received by such BNSF stockholder. Assuming that the merger qualifies as a reorganization, you will not recognize any gain or loss for U.S. Federal income tax purposes if you exchange your shares of BNSF common stock solely for shares of Berkshire common stock in the merger, except with respect to cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock. You will recognize gain or loss if you exchange your shares of BNSF common stock solely for cash in the merger. You will recognize gain, but not loss, if you exchange your shares of BNSF common stock for a combination of Berkshire common stock and cash, but your taxable gain in that case will not exceed the cash you receive in the merger.

Please carefully review the information set forth in the section titled *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger* beginning on page 92 for a description of the material U.S. Federal income tax consequences of the merger. **The tax consequences of the merger to you will depend on your own situation. Please consult your tax advisors for a full understanding of the tax consequences of the merger to you.**

Q: Do Berkshire stockholders need to approve the merger?

A: No. However, to facilitate the merger and related transactions, Berkshire stockholders are being asked to approve amendments to Berkshire's certificate of incorporation to increase the number of shares of Berkshire Class B common stock and the total number of shares of Berkshire common stock authorized to be issued and to make certain other changes so as to permit and effectuate a 50-for-1 stock split with respect to the Berkshire Class B common stock. A special meeting of Berkshire stockholders has been called to consider and vote on those amendments. However, obtaining the stockholder vote necessary to effect the Berkshire Class B stock split is not a condition to completion of the merger.

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Q: Will Berkshire stockholders receive any shares or other consideration as a result of the merger?

A: No. Except for any shares of Berkshire Class B common stock received as a result of the proposed stock split described above, Berkshire stockholders will not receive any shares or consideration as a result of the merger and will continue to hold the shares of Berkshire common stock they owned prior to the effective time of the merger.

Q: What will happen to outstanding BNSF equity compensation awards in the merger?

A: The Board of Directors of BNSF (the BNSF Board) will adjust the terms of all BNSF stock options, restricted stock units and awards of restricted shares (to the extent that the vesting of any award of BNSF restricted shares is not accelerated prior to completion of the merger as the merger agreement generally requires) outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger to provide that, at the effective time of the merger, each such stock option, restricted stock unit (including any shares of performance stock issuable with respect to such BNSF restricted stock unit) and award of restricted shares shall be deemed to be an option to acquire shares of Berkshire Class B common stock, a restricted stock unit with respect to Berkshire Class B common stock (including performance shares) or an award of restricted shares of Berkshire Class B common stock, as the case may be. For additional information, please see the section titled The Merger Agreement Treatment of BNSF Equity Compensation Awards beginning on page 80.

Q: What are the conditions to consummation of the merger?

A: In addition to the BNSF stockholder approvals described above, the conditions to consummation of the merger include the following:

the shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock issuable to BNSF stockholders in the merger having been approved for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance;

the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act having been terminated or expired (which occurred on December 4, 2009), any required approval from the Federal Communications Commission having been obtained and all other material governmental consents and approvals having been obtained;

no statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order or injunction prohibiting, restraining or making the merger illegal having been issued;

the representations and warranties of each party to the merger agreement remaining true and correct in all material respects as of the closing date;

each party to the merger agreement having performed or complied with all of its material obligations, agreements and covenants under the merger agreement;

holders of BNSF equity compensation awards (such as stock options and restricted stock units) no longer having the right to acquire shares of BNSF common stock or any other equity securities of BNSF pursuant to such awards; and

BNSF and Berkshire each having received an opinion from its legal counsel to the effect that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization for U.S. Federal income tax purposes.

Q: Will I still be paid dividends prior to the merger?

A: BNSF's dividend for the fourth quarter of 2009 that was declared in October 2009 will still be paid in January 2010, as usual. If the BNSF Board makes a determination that a dividend is payable in respect of the first quarter of 2010, and the closing of the merger would occur prior to the date on which BNSF would otherwise pay such dividend for the first quarter, BNSF is permitted under the merger agreement to accelerate the payment of the first quarter dividend and pay a prorated dividend based on the portion of the first quarter dividend period that is completed prior to closing. However, no dividend shall be paid unless and until the BNSF Board, in its sole discretion, makes a declaration that such dividend is payable.

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Q: Are there any risks in the merger that I should consider?

A: Yes. There are risks associated with all business combinations, including the merger. These risks are discussed in more detail in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 26.

Q: Where can I find more information about the parties to the merger?

A: You can find more information about Berkshire and BNSF from the various sources described in the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

Questions About the Special Meeting of BNSF stockholders

Q: When and where will the special meeting be held?

A: The special meeting is scheduled to be held at BNSF Railway Company, Technology Office Building, 2400 Western Center Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76131, on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., local time.

Q: On what am I being asked to vote?

A: You are being asked to consider and vote on a proposal to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 2, 2009, by and among Berkshire, Merger Sub and BNSF, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A. The merger agreement is further described in the sections titled "The Merger" and "The Merger Agreement," beginning on pages 36 and 77, respectively.

Q: How does the BNSF Board recommend that I vote regarding the merger agreement?

A: The BNSF Board unanimously recommends that BNSF stockholders vote "FOR" the adoption of the merger agreement.

Q: How do I vote my shares at the special meeting?

A: If you are a registered stockholder, you may vote in person at the special meeting. However, to ensure that your shares are represented at the special meeting, you are recommended to vote promptly by proxy by taking any of the following steps, even if you plan to attend the meeting in person:

call the toll-free number specified on the enclosed proxy card and follow the instructions when prompted;

access the Internet website specified on the enclosed proxy card and follow the instructions provided to you; or

complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided.

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If you are not a registered stockholder, but instead hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, please follow the instructions provided to you by your bank, broker or other nominee to vote by proxy and ensure your shares are represented at the special meeting. If you want to vote in person at the special meeting, you must provide a proxy executed in your favor from your bank, broker or other nominee. For more information, please see the section titled "Special Meeting of BNSF Stockholders Voting at the Special Meeting" beginning on page 32.

If you hold shares through any of BNSF's 401(k) savings plans, only the trustees of such plans can vote those shares on your behalf. Your proxy card permits you to direct the trustee how to vote the number of shares allocated to your account. In order to direct the trustee how to vote your shares, you must return your directions to the trustee so that they are received no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 8, 2010. 401(k) plan participants may not vote their plan shares in person at the special meeting.

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Q: What happens if I do not vote or submit a proxy, or do not instruct my bank, broker or other nominee to vote, or abstain from voting?

A: If you fail to vote, either in person or by proxy, or fail to instruct your bank, broker or other nominee how to vote, or abstain from voting, it will have the same effect as a vote cast AGAINST the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Q: What should I do if I want to change my vote?

A: If you are a registered stockholder, you can revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the special meeting by:

submitting a new proxy with a later date by using the telephone or Internet voting procedures, or by completing, signing, dating and returning a proxy card by mail to BNSF;

attending the special meeting and voting in person; or

sending written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131.

If you are not a registered stockholder, but instead hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you will need to follow the instructions provided to you by your bank, broker or other nominee in order to revoke your proxy and submit new voting instructions.

Q: If my bank, broker or other nominee holds my shares in street name, will they be able to vote my shares for me without my instructions?

A: No. If you do not provide specific voting instructions to your bank, broker or other nominee, your bank, broker or other nominee will not be able to vote your shares, which will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. You should receive instructions regarding voting procedures directly from your bank, broker or other nominee. You should follow the directions provided to you to vote your shares, or you should instruct your bank, broker or other nominee to vote your shares, following the procedure your bank, broker or other nominee provides to you.

Q: How are shares held in any of BNSF's 401(k) savings plans voted?

A: If you are a participant in any of BNSF's 401(k) savings plans, your proxy card permits you to direct the trustee how to vote the number of shares allocated to your account. The trustees of BNSF's 401(k) plans also vote allocated shares of common stock for which they have not received direction in the same proportion as directed shares are voted. In order to direct the trustee how to vote your shares, you must return your directions to the trustee so that they are received no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 8, 2010.

Q: How are shares held in BNSF's dividend reinvestment plan voted?

A: Shares held in BNSF's dividend reinvestment plan will be voted in accordance with the vote indicated by the stockholder of record on the proxy. If the proxy is properly executed and returned but no choice is indicated, both record shares and shares held in BNSF's dividend

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reinvestment plan will be voted in accordance with BNSF's recommendations above. If a stockholder holds shares both of record and in the dividend reinvestment account and does not vote the shares held of record, the stockholder's shares held in the dividend reinvestment account will not be voted.

Q: What happens if I transfer my shares after the record date for the special meeting?

A: The record date for the special meeting is earlier than the expected date of completion of the merger. Therefore, if you transfer your shares of BNSF common stock after the record date, but prior to completion

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of the merger, you will retain the right to vote at the special meeting, but the person to whom you transferred your shares of BNSF common stock will have the right to be paid the merger consideration in respect of those shares following completion of the merger.

Q: Should I send my stock certificates with my proxy card?

A: No. Please do not send your stock certificates with your proxy card. Promptly after the completion of the merger, the exchange agent will mail to you a letter of transmittal with instructions for exchanging your BNSF stock certificates for the merger consideration.

Q: Who can help answer my questions?

A: If you have more questions about the merger or the special meeting, or desire additional copies of this proxy statement/prospectus or additional proxy cards, please contact:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated

501 Madison Avenue

20th Floor

New York, New York 10022

PHONE (TOLL-FREE): (877) 456-3463

or

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation

2650 Lou Menk Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

Attention: Investor Relations

PHONE: (817) 352-6452

For media inquiries, please contact:

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation

2650 Lou Menk Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

Attention: Corporate Relations

PHONE: (817) 867-6407

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SUMMARY

The Companies (see page 96)

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation

2650 Lou Menk Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

(800) 795-2673

BNSF is a holding company that conducts no operating activities and owns no significant assets other than through its interests in its subsidiaries. Through its subsidiaries, BNSF is engaged primarily in the freight rail transportation business. As of September 30, 2009, BNSF and its subsidiaries had approximately 37,000 employees. The rail operations of BNSF Railway Company, BNSF's principal operating subsidiary, make up one of the largest railroad systems in North America.

Additional information about BNSF and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. For further information, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

3555 Farnam Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

(402) 346-1400

Berkshire is a holding company owning subsidiaries that engage in a number of diverse business activities including property and casualty insurance and reinsurance, utilities and energy, finance, manufacturing, services and retailing. Berkshire and its subsidiaries employ approximately 225,000 people.

Additional information about Berkshire and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. For further information, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

The Merger (see page 36)

Berkshire and BNSF agreed to the acquisition of BNSF by Berkshire under the terms of the merger agreement that is described in this proxy statement/prospectus. In the merger, BNSF will merge with and into Merger Sub, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire. Following the merger, Merger Sub will continue as the surviving entity and will remain an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire. Merger Sub will change its name to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, LLC upon consummation of the merger. The merger agreement is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus, and both Berkshire and BNSF encourage you to read it carefully and in its entirety because it is the legal document that governs the merger.

Merger Consideration (see page 77)

In the merger, each share of BNSF common stock (other than certain restricted shares, shares owned by Berkshire, BNSF or any of their respective subsidiaries, or shares in respect of which appraisal rights have been properly exercised and not withdrawn) will be converted into the right to receive, at the election of the stockholder (subject to certain proration and reallocation procedures described below), either (i) \$100.00 in cash, without interest, or (ii) a portion of a share of Berkshire Class A common stock equal to the exchange ratio, which is calculated by dividing \$100.00 by the Class A average trading value. This calculation, however, is

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subject to a collar that will fix the exchange ratio at 0.000802233 or 0.001253489 if the Class A average trading value is above \$124,652.09 or below \$79,777.34, as the case may be.

If the application of the exchange ratio to all shares in respect of which a stockholder has elected to receive stock would cause such stockholder to receive a fraction of a share of Berkshire Class A common stock, such stockholder will instead receive a number of shares of Berkshire Class B common stock equal in value to the fractional share of Berkshire Class A common stock. If after applying this calculation, the stockholder would receive a fraction of a share of Berkshire Class B common stock, the stockholder will instead receive cash with a value equal to the value of the fractional share of Berkshire Class B common stock.

Approximately 60% of the total merger consideration payable by Berkshire to BNSF stockholders will be in the form of cash and approximately 40% will be in the form of Berkshire common stock. Therefore, the cash and stock elections that BNSF stockholders make (or are deemed to have made) with respect to their shares may be subject to proration and reallocation to achieve as closely as practicable this 60/40 cash-stock split.

Treatment of BNSF Equity Compensation Awards (see page 80)

Upon completion of the merger, each outstanding stock option to acquire shares of BNSF common stock, each outstanding restricted stock unit with respect to BNSF common stock and, to the extent that the vesting of any award of BNSF restricted shares is not accelerated by BNSF prior to completion of the merger (as the merger agreement requires, unless such vesting would result in a breach of any BNSF equity compensation plan or award agreement or any applicable law or adverse tax consequences), each outstanding award of BNSF restricted shares will be converted into an option, restricted stock unit or award of restricted shares, as applicable, on the same terms and conditions as were applicable under such BNSF equity award, with respect to the number of shares of Berkshire Class B common stock equal to the product of the number of shares of BNSF common stock issuable with respect to such BNSF equity award (including any shares of performance stock issuable with respect to BNSF restricted stock units) and the option exchange ratio, rounded down to the nearest whole number of shares of Berkshire Class B common stock. The option exchange ratio means the quotient obtained by dividing the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of BNSF common stock over the ten trading day period ending on the second full trading day prior to completion of the merger by the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class B common stock over such period. The terms of each resulting Berkshire equity award will provide for an appropriate payment of cash in lieu of any fractional share of Berkshire Class B common stock lost due to rounding. The per share exercise price of each resulting Berkshire stock option will be equal to the per share exercise price for the shares of BNSF common stock otherwise purchasable pursuant to the corresponding BNSF stock option divided by the option exchange ratio, rounded up to the nearest whole cent. BNSF may, based on BNSF's Chief Executive Officer's consultation with Berkshire's Chairman, amend the performance criteria applicable to performance-based restricted stock units.

Risk Factors (see page 26)

There are risks associated with the merger, which are described in the section titled Risk Factors beginning on page 26. You should carefully read and consider these risks, which include, without limitation, the following:

because the market price of Berkshire Class A common stock will fluctuate, you cannot be sure of the market value of Berkshire Class A or Class B common stock that you will receive in the merger;

you may receive a combination of consideration different from that which you elect, and while such elections are being calculated, you may not be able to transfer the shares of Berkshire common stock, if any, to which you may be entitled;

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the merger and related transactions are subject to certain stockholder approvals;

directors and executive officers of BNSF have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of BNSF stockholders generally; and

the merger is subject to the receipt of consents and approvals from various governmental entities, which may impose conditions on, jeopardize or delay completion of the merger or reduce the anticipated benefits of the merger.

Special Meeting of BNSF Stockholders (see page 31)

The special meeting of BNSF stockholders will take place on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at BNSF Railway Company, Technology Office Building, 2400 Western Center Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76131. At the special meeting, you will be asked:

to adopt the merger agreement, pursuant to which BNSF will be merged with and into Merger Sub and Merger Sub will continue as the surviving entity; and

to transact any other business that may properly be brought before the special meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof, including, without limitation, a motion to adjourn or postpone the special meeting to another time and/or place for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, if necessary.

You may vote at the special meeting if you owned shares of BNSF common stock at the close of business on December 18, 2009, the record date for the meeting. You may cast one vote for each share of BNSF common stock that you owned as of that record date.

Adoption of the merger agreement requires the vote of (i) holders of at least 66-²/₃% of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock not owned by Berkshire or any of its affiliates or associates and (ii) holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock.

As of the close of business on December 18, 2009, the record date for the special meeting, there were 340,650,362 shares of BNSF common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. As of the same date, Berkshire and its affiliates and associates owned 76,777,029 shares of BNSF common stock, representing approximately 22.5% of the total issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock. In addition, as of the same date, the directors and executive officers of BNSF as a group owned and were entitled to vote 932,874 shares of BNSF common stock, or less than 0.5% of the total issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock on that date. BNSF currently expects that all directors and executive officers will vote their shares in favor of the merger, although none of them has entered into any agreement obligating them to do so.

Recommendation of the BNSF Board and its Reasons for the Merger (see page 40)

After careful consideration, the BNSF Board unanimously approved the merger agreement, declared its advisability and determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by it are fair to and in the best interests of BNSF and its stockholders. **Accordingly, the BNSF Board unanimously recommends that BNSF stockholders vote FOR the adoption of the merger agreement.** For the factors considered by the BNSF Board in reaching its decision to adopt the merger agreement, please see the section titled "The Merger Recommendation of the BNSF Board and its Reasons for the Merger" beginning on page 40.

Opinions of BNSF's Financial Advisors (see page 45)

Goldman, Sachs & Co. (Goldman Sachs) delivered its opinion to the BNSF Board that, as of November 2, 2009, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the stock consideration and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock, pursuant to the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to such holders. The full text of the written opinion of Goldman Sachs, dated November 2, 2009, which sets

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forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached as Annex C to this proxy statement/prospectus. Goldman Sachs provided its opinion for the information and assistance of the BNSF Board in connection with its consideration of the merger. The Goldman Sachs opinion is not a recommendation as to how any holder of BNSF common stock should vote or make an election with respect to the merger or any other matter.

The BNSF Board also received an opinion, dated November 2, 2009, from Evercore Group L.L.C. (Evercore) as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such consideration. The full text of Evercore's written opinion, which sets forth, among other things, the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the scope of review undertaken by Evercore in rendering its opinion is attached as Annex D to this proxy statement/prospectus. The opinion was directed to the BNSF Board and addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such consideration. The opinion does not address any other aspect of the proposed merger and does not constitute a recommendation as to how any holder of BNSF common stock should vote or make an election with respect to the merger or any other matter.

Interests of BNSF Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger (see page 65)

Aside from their interests as BNSF stockholders, BNSF directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of other BNSF stockholders generally. The members of the BNSF Board were aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the merger agreement and the merger, and in recommending to the BNSF stockholders that the merger agreement be adopted. These interests include vesting and settlement of BNSF restricted stock units held by directors, funding of a director's benefits under BNSF's Directors' Charitable Award Program, conversion of BNSF stock options held by executive officers and one non-employee director and BNSF restricted stock units held by executive officers into Berkshire equity awards, payment of directors' benefits under BNSF's director deferred compensation and retirement plans, settlement of executive officers' units in BNSF's Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan, vesting of executive officers' unvested benefits in BNSF's supplemental retirement plans, executive officers' receipt of certain benefits under their change in control agreements upon certain terminations of employment in connection with the merger, funding of BNSF's Benefits Protection Trust with respect to certain benefit plans and agreements and Berkshire's agreement to indemnify directors and officers against certain claims and liabilities and to continue such indemnification for a period of six years from the effective time of the merger. Please see the section titled "The Merger Interests of BNSF Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger" beginning on page 65 for additional information about these interests.

NYSE Listing of Berkshire Class A and Class B Common Stock (see page 75)

Shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock are quoted on the NYSE under the stock symbols BRK.A and BRK.B, respectively. It is a condition to completion of the merger that the shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock to be issued by Berkshire to BNSF stockholders in connection with the merger be approved for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance. Berkshire has agreed to use its best efforts to cause such shares to be listed on the NYSE and expects to obtain the NYSE's approval to list such shares prior to completion of the merger, subject to official notice of issuance.

Delisting and Deregistration of BNSF Common Stock (see page 75)

Shares of BNSF common stock currently trade on the NYSE under the stock symbol BNI. Upon completion of the merger, all shares of BNSF common stock will cease to be listed for trading on the NYSE and will be deregistered under the Exchange Act.

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Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger (see page 70)

The following is a summary of the material regulatory requirements for completion of the merger. There can be no guarantee if and when any of the consents or approvals required for the merger will be obtained or as to the conditions that such consents and approvals may contain. For further information, please read the section titled **Risk Factors** beginning on page 26.

Under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (the **HSR Act**) and the rules promulgated by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (the **FTC**), the merger cannot be completed until (i) certain information and materials are furnished to the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (the **DOJ**) and the FTC and (ii) the applicable waiting period under the HSR Act is terminated or expires. On November 25, 2009, BNSF and Berkshire filed the requisite notification and report forms under the HSR Act. On December 4, 2009, the FTC granted early termination of the waiting period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, at any time before or after the completion of the merger, the DOJ, the FTC or any state may still challenge the merger on antitrust grounds. Accordingly, at any time before or after the completion of the merger, any of the DOJ, the FTC or any state may take action under the antitrust laws as it deems necessary or desirable in the public interest, including, without limitation, seeking to enjoin the completion of the merger, permitting completion subject to regulatory concessions or conditions or seeking divestiture of the businesses acquired as a result of the merger. Private parties and non-U.S. governmental authorities may also institute legal actions under the antitrust laws under some circumstances. There can be no assurance that a challenge to the merger under the antitrust laws will not be made, or, if such a challenge is made, that it will not succeed.

Under the merger agreement, consummation of the merger is also conditional upon the receipt of certain approvals from the Federal Communication Commission (the **FCC**) with respect to the transfer of control of certain types of licenses and other authorizations issued by the FCC. BNSF made the necessary filings with the FCC on December 8, 2009. There can be no assurance that the requisite FCC approvals will be obtained on a timely basis or at all.

Berkshire and BNSF also intend to make all required filings under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act relating to the merger, and obtain all other approvals and consents which may be necessary to give effect to the merger.

Appraisal Rights (see page 71)

Under Delaware law, appraisal rights are only available if, among other things, stockholders are required to accept cash for their shares (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares). Therefore, with respect to any shares of BNSF common stock for which you did not elect to receive cash merger consideration, but would be required under the merger agreement to receive cash merger consideration (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock), you may have the right, if you do not vote in favor of the merger agreement, in lieu of receiving the cash merger consideration for those shares, to obtain payment in cash for the **fair value** of those shares as determined by the Delaware Chancery Court (the **Court**). It is possible that the fair value as determined by the Court may be more or less than, or the same as, the merger consideration. BNSF reserves the right to take the position that appraisal may only be sought with respect to shares described in the first sentence of this paragraph, and may not be exercised with respect to any shares as to which cash was elected or stock was received.

BNSF stockholders electing to exercise appraisal rights must comply with the strict procedures set forth in Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (**Section 262**), the full text of which appears in

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Annex B to this proxy statement/prospectus, in order to demand and perfect their rights. Failure to so comply may result in termination or waiver of such stockholder's appraisal rights. For a summary of the material provisions of Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporation Law required to be followed by dissenting BNSF stockholders wishing to demand and perfect their appraisal rights, please read the section titled "The Merger Appraisal Rights" beginning on page 71.

Conditions to the Merger (see page 85)

The obligations of each of BNSF and Berkshire to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the merger agreement shall have been adopted by the necessary votes of the BNSF stockholders;

the approval for listing on the NYSE of shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock issuable to BNSF stockholders as consideration in the merger, subject to official notice of issuance;

no statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order or injunction shall have been promulgated, entered, enforced, enacted, or issued or be applicable to the merger by any governmental entity that prohibits, restrains, or makes illegal the completion of the merger;

the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (of which this proxy statement/prospectus is a part) shall have become effective under the Securities Act and shall not be the subject of any stop order or proceeding seeking a stop order;

all material governmental consents, orders, approvals and waiting periods required for the completion of the merger shall have been obtained and shall be in effect, or, with respect to waiting periods, shall have expired or been terminated; and

all material filings with governmental authorities required to complete the merger shall have been made.

In addition, BNSF's obligation to complete the merger is subject to the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of Berkshire and Merger Sub qualified by materiality must be true and correct in all respects, and all other representations and warranties must be true and correct in all material respects, as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date, except representations and warranties that speak as of a particular date;

Berkshire and Merger Sub must have complied with all of their material obligations and covenants under the merger agreement; and

BNSF shall have received an opinion of its tax counsel to the effect that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

The obligation of Berkshire and Merger Sub to complete the merger is subject to the following conditions:

BNSF's representations and warranties qualified by materiality must be true and correct in all respects, and all other representations and warranties must be true and correct in all material respects, as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date, except representations and warranties that speak as of a particular date;

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BNSF must have complied with all of its material obligations and covenants under the merger agreement;

no statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order or injunction shall have been promulgated, entered, enforced, enacted or issued or be applicable to the merger by any governmental entity that imposes certain limitations on Berkshire s or its subsidiaries or affiliates respective businesses or assets, as specified in the merger agreement;

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Berkshire shall have received an opinion of its tax counsel to the effect that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code; and

the holders of BNSF stock options and restricted stock units shall no longer have the right to acquire any equity securities of BNSF or its subsidiaries after the effective time of the merger.

Expected Timing of the Merger

Berkshire and BNSF currently expect to complete the merger during the first quarter of 2010, subject to the receipt of required stockholder and regulatory approvals and the satisfaction or waiver of the other conditions to completion of the merger. Because many of the conditions to completion of the merger are beyond the control of Berkshire and BNSF, exact timing for completion of the merger cannot be predicted with any amount of certainty.

No Solicitations of Other Offers (see page 86)

The merger agreement contains detailed provisions that restrict BNSF, its subsidiaries and their respective representatives from soliciting, initiating or knowingly encouraging, or taking any other action intended to facilitate, the submission of any other takeover proposal. The merger agreement also restricts BNSF, its subsidiaries and their respective representatives from participating in any discussions or negotiations regarding any other takeover proposal. The merger agreement does not, however, prohibit the BNSF Board from considering and recommending to BNSF stockholders an alternative transaction with a third party if specified conditions are met, including the payment of the termination fee required by the merger agreement.

Termination of the Merger Agreement (see page 88)

The merger agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the completion of the merger by mutual consent of BNSF and Berkshire. The merger agreement may also be terminated by either BNSF or Berkshire if:

any final, non-appealable governmental order, decree, ruling or other action prohibits the completion of the merger, except that the party seeking to terminate (subject to certain limitations in the case of Berkshire) shall have used all reasonable best efforts to challenge that order, decree, ruling or other action;

the merger is not completed on or before June 30, 2010, except that (a) this right to terminate will not be available to any party whose failure to comply with the merger agreement results in the failure of the merger to be completed by that date, and (b) this date will be extended day-by-day for each day any party is subject to a nonfinal order, decree, ruling or action restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the consummation of the merger, but not beyond July 31, 2010; or

BNSF's stockholders fail to adopt the merger agreement by the required votes. Berkshire may terminate the merger agreement if:

the BNSF Board or any committee thereof withdraws or modifies, or proposes publicly to withdraw or modify, in a manner adverse to Berkshire, its approval, determination of advisability or recommendation of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by that agreement, including the merger, or approves, determines to be advisable or recommends, or proposes publicly to approve, determine to be advisable or recommend, any takeover proposal by a third party, or resolves to take any such action; or

any of BNSF's representations or warranties qualified by materiality are not true and correct in any respect or, with respect to those not qualified by materiality, are not true and correct in all material respects, or BNSF shall have breached or failed in any material respect to perform or comply with any of its material obligations, agreements or covenants under the merger agreement where that

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inaccuracy or breach is incapable of being cured or has not been cured within 30 business days after Berkshire delivers written notice of the inaccuracy or breach to BNSF.

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BNSF may terminate the merger agreement if:

BNSF enters into a definitive agreement providing for a superior proposal, provided that BNSF has complied with the provisions of the merger agreement regarding solicitations of other offers, and provided that BNSF pays to Berkshire the termination fee described below and reimburses certain of Berkshire's out-of-pocket expenses; or

any of Berkshire's representations or warranties qualified by materiality are not true and correct in any respect or, with respect to those not qualified by materiality, are not true and correct in all material respects, or either Berkshire or Merger Sub shall have breached or failed in any material respect to perform or comply with any of its material obligations, agreements or covenants under the merger agreement where that inaccuracy or breach is incapable of being cured or has not been cured within 30 business days after BNSF delivers written notice of the inaccuracy or breach to Berkshire.

Termination Fee (see page 89)

BNSF has agreed to pay Berkshire a termination fee of \$264 million and to reimburse it for any SEC filing fees previously paid by Berkshire or Merger Sub in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement if the merger agreement is terminated under any of the following circumstances:

a takeover proposal shall have been made known to BNSF or shall have been made directly to BNSF stockholders generally or any person shall have publicly announced an intention to make a takeover proposal and thereafter either party terminates the merger agreement because:

the merger has not been completed by June 30, 2010 (as such date may be extended as described above);

the stockholder approvals necessary to complete the merger are not obtained at the special meeting of BNSF stockholders or any adjournment thereof, as described above; or

there exists a final non-appealable governmental order, decree or ruling based on the existence of the takeover proposal; and that takeover proposal is consummated within one year of the termination;

BNSF terminates the merger agreement because it enters into a definitive agreement providing for a superior proposal; or

Berkshire terminates the merger agreement because the BNSF Board or any committee thereof withdraws or modifies, or proposes publicly to withdraw or modify, in a manner adverse to Berkshire, its approval, determination of advisability or recommendation of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by that agreement, or approves, determines to be advisable or recommends, or proposes publicly to approve, determine to be advisable or recommend, any takeover proposal by a third party, or resolves to take any such action.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger (see page 92)

Berkshire and BNSF expect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code and that each of Berkshire, National Indemnity Company (NICO, the parent of Merger Sub and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire) and BNSF will be a party to the reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(b) of the Code, and it is a condition to completion of the merger that each of Berkshire and BNSF receive opinions from legal counsel to that effect.

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Assuming that the merger qualifies as a reorganization, and each of Berkshire, NICO and BNSF is a party to the reorganization, you will not recognize any gain or loss for U.S. Federal income tax purposes if you exchange

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your shares of BNSF common stock solely for shares of Berkshire common stock in the merger, except with respect to cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock. You will recognize gain or loss if you exchange your shares of BNSF common stock solely for cash in the merger. You will recognize gain, but not loss, if you exchange your shares of BNSF common stock for a combination of Berkshire common stock and cash, but your taxable gain in that case will not exceed the cash you receive in the merger.

BNSF stockholders are urged to read the discussion in the section titled **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger** beginning on page 92 of this proxy statement/prospectus and to consult their tax advisors as to the U.S. Federal income tax consequences of the transaction, as well as the effects of state, local and non-U.S. tax laws.

Accounting Treatment (see page 91)

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, Berkshire will account for the merger using the acquisition method of accounting for business combinations.

Comparative Rights of Stockholders (see page 98)

The rights of BNSF stockholders are currently governed by the BNSF certificate of incorporation, the BNSF bylaws and Delaware law. BNSF stockholders who elect or who are deemed to have elected to receive a portion of the merger consideration in Berkshire Class A common stock will become stockholders of Berkshire upon completion of the merger. Thereafter, their rights will be governed by the Berkshire certificate of incorporation, the Berkshire bylaws and Delaware law. As a result, these BNSF stockholders will have different rights once they become stockholders of Berkshire due to the differences in the governing documents of Berkshire and BNSF. The key differences are described in the section titled **Comparative Rights of Stockholders** beginning on page 98 of this proxy statement/prospectus.

Litigation (see page 75)

BNSF and the BNSF Board, and in some cases Berkshire and Merger Sub, are named as defendants in purported class action lawsuits brought by alleged BNSF stockholders challenging the proposed merger. The stockholder actions variously allege that BNSF's directors have breached their fiduciary duties based on allegations that (i) the consideration being offered is unfair and inadequate, (ii) BNSF's directors did not adequately seek to maximize stockholder value through open bidding or market check mechanisms, (iii) the no shop clause and termination fee are onerous devices designed to discourage a superior offer, (iv) BNSF's earnings forecasts were manipulated to drive its stock price down and thus make the proposed transaction appear more favorable to stockholders than it truly is, and/or (v) BNSF's disclosures relating to the proposed transaction have been, or will be, inadequate and materially misleading. Certain of the stockholder actions also allege that Berkshire aided and abetted the alleged breaches by BNSF's directors. The stockholder actions seek various remedies, including enjoining the transaction from being consummated in accordance with the agreed-upon terms. The defendants intend to defend against these and any additional future claims.

Table of Contents**SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF BERKSHIRE**

The following table sets forth selected historical consolidated financial data of Berkshire. The selected historical consolidated financial data of Berkshire as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 have been derived from Berkshire's historical audited consolidated financial statements. Berkshire's historical audited consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference to Berkshire's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. The selected historical consolidated financial data of Berkshire as of September 30, 2009 and for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 have been derived from Berkshire's historical unaudited interim consolidated financial statements contained in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2009, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. The selected historical consolidated financial data of Berkshire as of September 30, 2008 has been derived from Berkshire's historical unaudited interim consolidated financial statements contained in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. In the opinion of Berkshire's management, the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements of Berkshire have been prepared on the same basis as its audited consolidated financial statements and include all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the financial position of Berkshire as of September 30, 2009 and its results of operations for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. Results of interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results expected for a full year or for future periods. This information is only a summary, and you should read it in conjunction with Berkshire's historical consolidated financial statements and the related notes contained in the reports and the other information that Berkshire has previously filed with the SEC and which are incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference. For additional information, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009 2008 (Unaudited) | | 2008 | Year Ended December 31, 2007 2006 2005 | | | 2004 |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>(In millions, except per share data)</i> | | | | | | | |
| Selected Income Statement Data: | | | | | | | |
| Revenues | | | | | | | |
| Insurance premiums earned(1) | \$ 21,263 | \$ 18,905 | \$ 25,525 | \$ 31,783 | \$ 23,964 | \$ 21,997 | \$ 21,085 |
| Sales and service revenues | 46,075 | 49,415 | 65,854 | 58,243 | 51,803 | 46,138 | 43,222 |
| Revenues of utilities and energy businesses(2) | 8,416 | 9,727 | 13,971 | 12,628 | 10,644 | | |
| Interest, dividend and other investment income | 4,133 | 3,588 | 4,966 | 4,979 | 4,382 | 3,487 | 2,816 |
| Interest and other revenues of finance and financial products businesses | 3,244 | 3,707 | 4,931 | 5,103 | 5,111 | 4,633 | 3,788 |
| Investment and derivative gains/losses(3) | (836) | (2,148) | (7,461) | 5,509 | 2,635 | 5,408 | 3,471 |
| Total revenues | \$ 82,295 | \$ 83,194 | \$ 107,786 | \$ 118,245 | \$ 98,539 | \$ 81,663 | \$ 74,382 |
| Earnings | | | | | | | |
| Net earnings attributable to Berkshire(3)(4) | \$ 4,999 | \$ 4,877 | \$ 4,994 | \$ 13,213 | \$ 11,015 | \$ 8,528 | \$ 7,308 |
| Net earnings per Class A equivalent share attributable to Berkshire shareholders | \$ 3,223 | \$ 3,149 | \$ 3,224 | \$ 8,548 | \$ 7,144 | \$ 5,538 | \$ 4,753 |

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| | As of September 30, | | As of December 31, | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| | <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | <i>(In millions, except per share data)</i> | | | | |
| Selected Balance Sheet Data: | | | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$ 292,010 | \$ 281,729 | \$ 267,399 | \$ 273,160 | \$ 248,437 | \$ 198,325 | \$ 188,874 |
| Notes payable and other borrowings of insurance and other non-finance businesses | 3,815 | 4,068 | 4,349 | 2,680 | 3,698 | 3,583 | 3,450 |
| Notes payable and other borrowings of utilities and energy businesses(2) | 19,564 | 18,995 | 19,145 | 19,002 | 16,946 | | |
| Notes payable and other borrowings of finance and financial products businesses | 14,642 | 14,495 | 13,388 | 12,144 | 11,961 | 10,868 | 5,387 |
| Berkshire Hathaway shareholders' equity | 126,073 | 120,155 | 109,267 | 120,733 | 108,419 | 91,484 | 85,900 |
| Class A equivalent common shares outstanding, in thousands | 1,552 | 1,549 | 1,549 | 1,548 | 1,543 | 1,541 | 1,539 |
| Berkshire Hathaway shareholders' equity per outstanding Class A equivalent common share | \$ 81,247 | \$ 77,558 | \$ 70,530 | \$ 78,008 | \$ 70,281 | \$ 59,377 | \$ 55,824 |

- (1) Insurance premiums earned in 2007 included \$7.1 billion from a single reinsurance transaction with Equitas.
- (2) On February 9, 2006, Berkshire converted its non-voting preferred stock of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company (MidAmerican) to common stock and upon conversion, owned approximately 83.4% (80.5% diluted) of the voting common stock interests. Accordingly, the consolidated financial statements reflect the consolidation of the accounts of MidAmerican beginning in 2006. Berkshire's investment in MidAmerican was accounted for pursuant to the equity method in 2004 and 2005.
- (3) The amount of investment and derivative gains and losses for any given period has no predictive value, and variations in amount from period to period have no practical analytical value. For the first nine months of 2009 and 2008, after-tax investment and derivative gains/losses were \$(0.5) billion and \$(1.4) billion, respectively. Investment and derivative gains/losses for the first nine months of 2009 include non-cash pre-tax losses of \$3.2 billion (\$2.0 billion after-tax) relating to other-than-temporary impairments of certain investments offset by gains of \$2.0 billion (\$1.3 billion after-tax) relating to long duration equity index put option contracts. Investment and derivative gains/losses for the first nine months of 2008 include non-cash pre-tax losses of \$1.7 billion (\$1.1 billion after-tax) relating to long duration equity index put option contracts. For each of the five years ended December 31, after-tax investment and derivative gains/losses were \$(4.65) billion in 2008, \$3.58 billion in 2007, \$1.71 billion in 2006, \$3.53 billion in 2005 and \$2.26 billion in 2004. Investment and derivative gains/losses in 2008 include non-cash pre-tax losses of \$5.0 billion (\$3.25 billion after-tax) relating to long duration equity index put option contracts and \$1.8 billion (\$1.2 billion after-tax) relating to other-than-temporary impairments of certain investments. Investment and derivative gains/losses in 2005 include a non-cash pre-tax gain of \$5.0 billion (\$3.25 billion after-tax) relating to the exchange of Gillette stock for Procter & Gamble stock.
- (4) Net earnings attributable to Berkshire for the year ended December 31, 2005 include a pre-tax underwriting loss of \$3.4 billion in connection with Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma that struck the Gulf coast and Southeast regions of the United States. Such loss reduced net earnings attributable to Berkshire by approximately \$2.2 billion.

Table of Contents**SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF BNSF**

The following table sets forth selected historical consolidated financial data for BNSF. The selected historical consolidated financial data of BNSF as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 have been derived from BNSF's historical audited consolidated financial statements, except for the earnings per share information which has been adjusted to reflect the adoption of ASC Topic 260-10, *Earnings per Share* (formerly FSP EITF 03-06-1, *Determining Whether Instruments Granted in Share-Based Payment Transactions Are Participating Securities*). BNSF's historical audited consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference to BNSF's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. The selected historical consolidated financial data of BNSF as of September 30, 2009 and for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 have been derived from BNSF's historical unaudited interim consolidated financial statements contained in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2009, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. The selected historical consolidated financial data of BNSF as of September 30, 2008 has been derived from BNSF's historical unaudited interim consolidated financial statements contained in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. In the opinion of BNSF's management, the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements of BNSF have been prepared on the same basis as its audited consolidated financial statements, except for the adoption of ASC Topic 260-10, *Earnings per Share* (formerly FSP EITF 03-06-1, *Determining Whether Instruments Granted in Share-Based Payment Transactions Are Participating Securities*), and include all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the financial position of BNSF as of September 30, 2009 and its results of operations for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. Results of interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results expected for a full year or for future periods. This information is only a summary, and you should read it in conjunction with BNSF's historical consolidated financial statements and the related notes contained in the reports and the other information that BNSF has previously filed with the SEC and which are incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference. For additional information, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| | <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | <i>(In millions, except per share data)</i> | | | | |
| Selected Income Statement Data: | | | | | | | |
| Revenues(1) | \$ 10,335 | \$ 13,645 | \$ 18,018 | \$ 15,802 | \$ 14,985 | \$ 12,987 | \$ 10,946 |
| Operating income(1)(2)(3) | \$ 2,367 | \$ 2,796 | \$ 3,912 | \$ 3,486 | \$ 3,521 | \$ 2,927 | \$ 1,709 |
| Net income(1)(2)(3) | \$ 1,185 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 2,115 | \$ 1,829 | \$ 1,889 | \$ 1,534 | \$ 805 |
| Basic earnings per share(1)(2)(3) | \$ 3.48 | \$ 4.33 | \$ 6.13 | \$ 5.15 | \$ 5.19 | \$ 4.09 | \$ 2.16 |
| Average basic shares | 339.8 | 344.9 | 343.8 | 352.5 | 361.0 | 371.8 | 370.0 |
| Diluted earnings per share(1)(2)(3) | \$ 3.45 | \$ 4.28 | \$ 6.06 | \$ 5.06 | \$ 5.07 | \$ 3.98 | \$ 2.12 |
| Average diluted shares | 342.2 | 349.2 | 347.8 | 358.9 | 369.8 | 381.8 | 376.6 |
| Dividends declared per common share | \$ 1.20 | \$ 1.04 | \$ 1.44 | \$ 1.14 | \$ 0.90 | \$ 0.74 | \$ 0.64 |

- (1) 2009 revenues and operating income include an unfavorable coal rate case decision of \$66 million, which impacted net income by \$46 million, or \$0.13 per basic and diluted share.
- (2) 2005 operating income, net income and earnings per share include an impairment charge related to an agreement to sell certain line segments to the State of New Mexico in the future of \$71 million pre-tax, \$44 million net of tax, or \$0.12 per basic and diluted share.

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- (3) 2004 operating income, net income and earnings per share include a charge for a change in estimate of unasserted asbestos and environmental liabilities of \$465 million pre-tax, \$288 million net of tax, or \$0.78 per share and \$0.77 per diluted share.

| | As of September 30, | | 2008 | 2007 | As of December 31, | | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|---------------------|-----------|---|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | | | 2006 | 2005 | | |
| | <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | <i>(In millions, except per share data)</i> | | | | | |
| Selected Balance Sheet Data: | | | | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$ 38,553 | \$ 35,633 | \$ 36,403 | \$ 33,583 | \$ 31,797 | \$ 30,436 | \$ 29,023 | |
| Long-term debt and commercial paper, including current portion | \$ 10,385 | \$ 8,700 | \$ 9,555 | \$ 8,146 | \$ 7,385 | \$ 7,154 | \$ 6,516 | |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 12,255 | \$ 11,604 | \$ 11,131 | \$ 11,144 | \$ 10,528 | \$ 9,638 | \$ 9,438 | |
| Net debt to total capitalization(1) | 42.9% | 41.5% | 44.5% | 41.2% | 40.0% | 42.3% | 39.6% | |

- (1) Net debt to total capitalization is calculated as total debt (long-term debt plus long-term debt due within one year) less cash and cash equivalents divided by the sum of net debt and total stockholders' equity.

| | Nine Months Ended | | 2008 | 2007 | Year Ended December 31, | | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|--------------------|----------|---|----------|-------------------------|----------|----------|------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | | | 2006 | 2005 | | |
| | <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | <i>(In millions, except per share data)</i> | | | | | |
| Selected Cash Flow Data: | | | | | | | | |
| Capital expenditures excluding equipment(1) | \$ 1,669 | \$ 1,704 | \$ 2,167 | \$ 2,248 | \$ 2,014 | \$ 1,750 | \$ 1,511 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 1,135 | \$ 1,039 | \$ 1,397 | \$ 1,293 | \$ 1,176 | \$ 1,111 | \$ 1,035 | |

- (1) Certain comparative prior period amounts have been adjusted to conform to the current period presentation.

Table of Contents**SUMMARY UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table presents summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information about the financial condition and results of operations of Berkshire and BNSF after giving effect to the merger. The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined income statement data for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2008 give effect to the merger as if the merger had taken place on January 1, 2008. The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet data gives effect to the merger as if it had taken place on September 30, 2009. The following summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared by applying the acquisition method of accounting with Berkshire treated as the acquirer for accounting purposes. The following summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the consolidated financial statements and the related notes of both Berkshire and BNSF incorporated herein by reference, together with the more detailed unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information provided in the section titled "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information" beginning on page 104. For further information with respect to the documents incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118. The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information set forth below has been presented for informational purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of what the combined financial condition or results of operations actually would have been had the merger been completed as of the dates indicated. In addition, the summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information presented below does not purport to project the combined financial condition or operating results for any future period.

| | Year Ended December 31, 2008 | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009 |
|--|---|---|
| | <i>(Unaudited)</i> | |
| | <i>(In millions, except per share amounts)</i> | |
| Income Statement Data: | | |
| Revenues: | | |
| Insurance premiums earned | \$ 25,525 | \$ 21,263 |
| Sales and service revenues | 65,854 | 46,075 |
| Revenues of utilities, energy and railroad businesses | 32,540 | 19,164 |
| Interest, dividend and other investment income | 4,852 | 4,118 |
| Interest and other revenues of finance and financial products businesses | 4,931 | 3,244 |
| Investment and derivative gains/losses | (7,461) | (836) |
| Total revenues | \$ 126,241 | \$ 93,028 |
| Earnings: | | |
| Net earnings attributable to Berkshire | \$ 7,117 | \$ 6,064 |
| Earnings per Class A equivalent share attributable to Berkshire | \$ 4,305 | \$ 3,664 |

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| | As of September 30, 2009 <i>(Unaudited)</i> <i>(In millions, except per share amounts)</i> |
|--|---|
| Balance Sheet Data: | |
| Total assets | \$ 344,253 |
| Notes payable and other borrowings: | |
| Insurance and other non-finance businesses | 11,724 |
| Utilities, energy, and railroad businesses | 30,754 |
| Finance and financial products businesses | 14,642 |
| Berkshire shareholders' equity | 138,212 |
| Outstanding Berkshire Class A equivalent shares, in thousands | 1,655 |
| Berkshire shareholders' equity per outstanding Class A equivalent common share | \$ 83,494 |

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL AND UNAUDITED PRO FORMA PER SHARE DATA**

The following table sets forth, for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2008, selected per share information for Berkshire common stock on a historical and pro forma combined basis and for BNSF common stock on a historical and pro forma equivalent basis. Except for the historical information as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, the information provided in the table below is unaudited. The pro forma information provided in the table below is for informational purposes only and is not necessarily an indication of the results that would have been achieved had the transaction been completed as of the dates indicated or that may be achieved in the future. You should read the data provided below with the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes of Berkshire and BNSF contained in their respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2009, all of which are incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. For further information, please see the section titled *Where To Find More Information* beginning on page 118. You should also read the section titled *Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information* beginning on page 104.

The BNSF pro forma equivalent per share amounts are calculated by multiplying each Berkshire pro forma combined per share amount by the exchange ratio. The exchange ratio for purposes of these calculations is determined by dividing \$100.00 by \$99,213.8384 (the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on December 16, 2009). The BNSF pro forma equivalent per share amounts assume each BNSF stockholder receives merger consideration only in the form of Berkshire Class A common stock.

| | Berkshire(1) | | BNSF | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | Historical | Pro Forma Combined | Historical | Pro Forma Equivalent |
| Earnings per share attributable to Berkshire/BNSF | | | | |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2009 | \$ 3,223 | \$ 3,664 | \$ 3 | \$ 4 |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | \$ 3,224 | \$ 4,305 | \$ 6 | \$ 4 |
| Cash dividends declared per share attributable to BNSF | | | | |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2009 | \$ | \$ | \$ 1.20 | \$ |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | \$ | \$ | \$ 1.44 | \$ |
| Book value per share attributable to Berkshire/BNSF | | | | |
| As of September 30, 2009 | \$ 81,247 | \$ 83,494 | \$ 36 | \$ 84 |

(1) Berkshire per share data is shown on a Class A equivalent basis.

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE PER SHARE MARKET PRICE DATA**

Shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock are listed on the NYSE under the stock symbols BRK.A and BRK.B, respectively. Shares of BNSF common stock are listed on the NYSE under the stock symbol BNI. The following table presents the closing price per share of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock and BNSF common stock on (i) November 2, 2009, the last full trading day prior to the date on which the merger was publicly announced, (ii) November 18, 2009, for comparative illustrative purposes, and (iii) December 18, 2009, the record date for the special meeting. The table also includes the equivalent value of the merger consideration per share of BNSF common stock on those dates. The equivalent per share value of BNSF common stock reflects the value, on a per share basis, that BNSF stockholders would receive in exchange for their shares of BNSF common stock if the merger were completed on any of those dates, assuming that such stockholder received, on any of those dates, 60% of the aggregate merger consideration payable to such stockholder in cash and 40% in shares of Berkshire Class A common stock.

| | Berkshire Class A Common Stock | Berkshire Class B Common Stock | BNSF Common Stock | Equivalent Per Share Value(1) |
|-------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| November 2, 2009 | \$ 98,750.00 | \$ 3,265.00 | \$ 76.07 | \$ 99.34(2) |
| November 18, 2009 | \$ 103,875.00 | \$ 3,452.00 | \$ 98.05 | \$ 100.65(3) |
| December 18, 2009 | \$ 100,899.00 | \$ 3,303.63 | \$ 98.32 | \$ 100.68(4) |

- (1) The equivalent per share value is calculated as the sum of (a) \$100.00 (the cash portion of the merger consideration) multiplied by 60% and (b) the closing price per share of Berkshire Class A common stock on November 2, 2009, November 18, 2009 or December 18, 2009, as applicable, multiplied by the product of (i) 40% and (ii) the exchange ratio. The exchange ratio for purposes of these calculations is determined by dividing \$100.00 by the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on the second full trading day prior to November 2, 2009, November 18, 2009 or December 18, 2009, as applicable. BNSF stockholders will not receive the merger consideration until the merger is completed. Each BNSF stockholder (other than stockholders who properly exercise and perfect appraisal rights) will receive the merger consideration as promptly as practicable after surrendering such stockholder's BNSF stock certificates to the exchange agent together with a properly completed letter of transmittal. Due to the need to obtain certain regulatory approvals and satisfy other conditions prior to the completion of the merger, the merger may not be completed for a substantial period of time after the special meeting of BNSF stockholders, or at all. The market prices of shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock will be subject to fluctuation prior to the time the merger consideration is received by BNSF stockholders, and no assurance can be given as to the trading prices of shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock at the time the merger consideration is received by BNSF stockholders.
- (2) This value is based on an exchange ratio of 0.000996073, calculated by dividing \$100.00 by \$100,394.2410 (the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on October 29, 2009).
- (3) This value is based on an exchange ratio of 0.000978247, calculated by dividing \$100.00 by \$102,223.6702 (the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on November 16, 2009).
- (4) This value is based on an exchange ratio of 0.001007924, calculated by dividing \$100.00 by \$99,213.8384 (the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on December 16, 2009).

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

*In addition to the other information included and incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, including the matters addressed in the section titled **Forward-Looking Statements**, you should carefully consider the following risks before deciding whether to vote for adoption of the merger agreement. In addition, you should read and consider the risks associated with each of the businesses of BNSF and Berkshire. These risks can be found in BNSF's and Berkshire's respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, as updated by subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, all of which are filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. For further information regarding the documents incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference, please see the section titled **Where To Find More Information** beginning on page 118.*

Because the market price of Berkshire Class A common stock will fluctuate, BNSF stockholders cannot be sure of the market value of Berkshire Class A or Class B common stock that they will receive in the merger.

At the time the merger is completed, each share of BNSF common stock (other than certain restricted shares, shares owned by Berkshire, BNSF or any of their respective subsidiaries, or shares in respect of which appraisal rights have been properly exercised and not withdrawn) will be converted into the right to receive, at the election of the stockholder (subject to the proration and reallocation procedures described below), either (i) \$100.00 in cash, without interest, or (ii) a portion of a share of Berkshire Class A common stock equal to the exchange ratio (as described below), with shares of Berkshire Class B common stock issued in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class A common stock, and cash paid in lieu of any fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock. The exchange ratio is subject to a collar and may fluctuate, depending on the market price of Berkshire Class A common stock. If the Class A average trading value is equal to or between \$79,777.34 and \$124,652.09, then the number of shares of Berkshire Class A common stock exchangeable for each share of BNSF common stock will be determined by dividing \$100.00 by the Class A average trading value.

Within the price range prescribed by the collar, the exchange ratio floats so as to ensure that the aggregate value of Berkshire common stock to be received in exchange for each share of BNSF common stock, as calculated based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, will be \$100.00 per share of BNSF common stock. If the Class A average trading value is less than \$79,777.34, the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.001253489 shares of Berkshire Class A common stock for each share of BNSF common stock. If the Class A average trading value is greater than \$124,652.09, the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.000802233 shares of Berkshire Class A common stock for each share of BNSF common stock. Accordingly, if the Class A average trading value is less than the low end of the collar, then the value of the stock portion of the merger consideration to be paid per share of BNSF common stock, as calculated based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, will be less than the cash portion of such consideration. Conversely, if the Class A average trading value is greater than the high end of the collar, then the value of the stock portion of the merger consideration to be paid per share of BNSF common stock, as calculated based on the Class A average trading value and the Class B average trading value, will be greater than the cash portion of such consideration.

There will be a time lapse between the date on which BNSF stockholders vote on the merger agreement at the special meeting and the date on which BNSF stockholders entitled to receive shares of Berkshire common stock actually receive such shares. The market value of Berkshire common stock may fluctuate during this period. These fluctuations may be caused by changes in the businesses, operations, results and prospects of both Berkshire and BNSF, market expectations of the likelihood that the merger will be completed and the timing of the completion, the effect of any of the conditions or restrictions imposed on or proposed with respect to the merging parties by regulatory agencies, general market and economic conditions or other factors. At the time BNSF stockholders cast their votes regarding approval of the merger agreement and make their election in respect of the merger consideration to be paid to them, BNSF stockholders will not know the actual market value

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of the shares of Berkshire common stock they will receive when the merger is finally completed. The actual market value of Berkshire shares, when received by BNSF stockholders, will depend on the market value of those shares on that date. This market value may be less than the value used to determine the number of shares to be received, as the determination will be made with respect to a period occurring prior to the consummation of the merger.

BNSF and Berkshire stockholders are urged to obtain current market quotations for shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock and BNSF common stock.

BNSF stockholders may receive a combination of consideration different from that which they elect, and while such elections are being calculated, may not be able to transfer the shares of Berkshire common stock, if any, to which they may be entitled.

In the merger, BNSF stockholders may not receive the entirety of their merger consideration in the form which they have elected to receive. While each BNSF stockholder may elect to receive all cash or all Berkshire common stock for each of their shares of BNSF common stock in the merger, the pools of cash and Berkshire common stock available for all BNSF stockholders in the aggregate will be fixed at approximately 60% and 40%, respectively, of the total merger consideration. Accordingly, depending on the elections made by other BNSF stockholders, each BNSF stockholder who elects to receive all cash for their shares in the merger may receive a portion of their consideration in Berkshire common stock, and each BNSF stockholder who elects to receive all Berkshire common stock for their shares in the merger may receive a portion of their consideration in cash. A BNSF stockholder who elects to receive a combination of cash and Berkshire common stock for their shares in the merger may receive cash and Berkshire common stock in a proportion different from what such stockholder elected. If a BNSF stockholder does not submit a properly completed and signed election form to the exchange agent by the election deadline, such stockholder will receive cash or Berkshire common stock as necessary to achieve as closely as practicable the 60/40 cash-stock split as described above, unless Berkshire's shares of Class A common stock are trading outside the collar, in which case such stockholder will be deemed to have elected whichever form of consideration has the higher value, subject to proration and reallocation as necessary to achieve as closely as practicable the 60/40 cash-stock split.

The tax consequences to a BNSF stockholder may change in the event such stockholder receives a larger or smaller portion of their merger consideration in cash than such stockholder elected. For additional information, please see the section titled "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger" beginning on page 92.

The merger and related transactions are subject to certain stockholder approvals.

In order for the merger to be completed, Delaware law requires that the merger must be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66-²/₃% of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock not owned by Berkshire or any of its affiliates or associates, as well as by the vote of holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock.

In addition, while a vote of Berkshire stockholders is not required to approve the merger, approval by a majority of the outstanding shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock voting together, and by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Berkshire Class B common stock and by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Berkshire Class A common stock, each voting as a separate class, will be necessary to approve amendments to Berkshire's certificate of incorporation in order to increase the number of shares of Berkshire Class B common stock and the total number of shares of Berkshire common stock authorized to be issued and to make certain other changes so as to permit and effectuate a 50-for-1 stock split with respect to the Berkshire Class B common stock.

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Directors and executive officers of BNSF have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of BNSF stockholders generally in recommending that BNSF stockholders vote in favor of the merger agreement.

Some of the directors and executive officers of BNSF have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of BNSF stockholders generally. These interests include:

the vesting and settlement of BNSF restricted stock units held by directors;

funding of a director's benefits under BNSF's Directors' Charitable Award Program;

conversion of BNSF stock options held by executive officers and one non-employee director and BNSF restricted stock units held by executive officers into Berkshire equity awards;

payment of directors' benefits under BNSF's director deferred compensation and retirement plans;

settlement of executive officers' units in BNSF's Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan;

vesting of executive officers' unvested benefits in BNSF's supplemental retirement plans;

executive officers' receipt of certain benefits under their change in control agreements if certain terminations of employment occur in connection with the merger;

funding of BNSF's Benefits Protection Trust with respect to certain benefit plans and agreements; and

Berkshire's agreement to indemnify directors and officers against certain claims and liabilities and to continue such indemnification for a period of six years from the effective time of the merger.

BNSF stockholders should consider these interests in connection with their votes to adopt the merger agreement. For more information, please see the section titled "The Merger: Interests of BNSF Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger" beginning on page 65.

The merger is subject to the receipt of consents and approvals from various governmental entities, which may impose conditions on, jeopardize or delay completion of the merger or reduce the anticipated benefits of the merger.

Completion of the merger is conditioned upon filings with, and the receipt of required consents, orders, approvals or clearances from, various governmental entities. There can be no assurance that all of these required consents, orders, approvals and clearances will be obtained. If they are obtained, at any time before or after the time that the merger is effective, governmental entities may impose conditions on, or require divestitures relating to, the divisions, operations or assets of Berkshire or BNSF. These conditions or divestitures may jeopardize or delay completion of the merger or reduce the anticipated benefits of the merger.

Any delay in completing the merger may reduce or eliminate the benefits expected.

In addition to the required stockholder approvals and regulatory clearances and approvals, the merger is subject to certain other conditions beyond the control of Berkshire and BNSF that may prevent, delay, or otherwise materially adversely affect completion of the merger. BNSF cannot predict whether and when these other conditions will be satisfied. The requirements for satisfying such conditions could delay completion

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of the merger for a period of time, reducing or eliminating some anticipated benefits of the merger, or prevent completion of the merger from occurring at all. For further information, please see the section titled "The Merger Agreement - Conditions to the Merger" beginning on page 85.

The pendency of the merger could materially adversely affect the future business and operations of Berkshire and BNSF and/or result in a loss of BNSF employees.

In connection with the pending merger, while it is not expected by the respective managements of Berkshire and BNSF, it is possible that some customers, suppliers and other persons with whom Berkshire or BNSF have a business relationship may delay or defer certain business decisions, which could negatively impact revenues, earnings and cash flows of Berkshire or BNSF, as well as the market prices of Berkshire common stock or BNSF

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common stock, regardless of whether the merger is completed. Similarly, current and prospective employees of BNSF may experience uncertainty about their future roles with BNSF following completion of the merger, which may materially adversely affect the ability of BNSF to attract and retain key employees. While no changes in BNSF's management are expected as a result of the merger, BNSF may nevertheless lose some members of management and other key employees following the completion of the merger.

The fairness opinions obtained by BNSF from its financial advisors will not reflect subsequent changes.

Goldman Sachs and Evercore, BNSF's financial advisors in connection with the proposed merger, have each delivered to the BNSF Board its respective opinion dated as of November 2, 2009. The opinion of Goldman Sachs stated that as of such date, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the stock consideration and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement, was fair from a financial point of view to such holders. The opinion of Evercore stated that, as of the date thereof, based upon and subject to the assumptions, limitations, qualifications and other matters set forth in its opinion letter, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such consideration. The opinions do not reflect changes that may occur or may have occurred after the date of the opinions, including changes to the operations and prospects of Berkshire or BNSF, changes in general market and economic conditions or regulatory or other factors. Any such changes, or other factors on which the opinions are based, may materially alter or affect the relative values of Berkshire and BNSF.

If the merger is not completed by June 30, 2010, either Berkshire or BNSF may choose not to proceed with the merger.

Either Berkshire or BNSF may terminate the merger agreement if the merger has not been completed by June 30, 2010, unless the failure of the merger to have been completed by such date was the result of the failure of the party seeking to terminate the merger agreement to have performed its obligations thereunder. This date may be extended on a day-by-day basis for each day during which any party to the merger agreement is subject to a nonfinal order, decree, ruling or action restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the consummation of the merger, but may not be extended past July 31, 2010. For more information, please see the section titled "The Merger Agreement - Termination of the Merger Agreement" beginning on page 88.

The merger may not qualify as a tax-free reorganization under the Code, and therefore BNSF stockholders may recognize gain on the shares of any Berkshire common stock they receive.

Although Berkshire and BNSF believe that the merger should qualify as a tax-free reorganization under the Code, it is possible that the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") may assert that the merger fails to qualify as such. If the IRS were to be successful in any such contention, or if for any other reason the merger were to fail to qualify as a tax-free reorganization, each BNSF stockholder would recognize gain or loss with respect to all such stockholder's shares of BNSF common stock based on the difference between (i) that stockholder's tax basis in such shares and (ii) the aggregate cash and the fair market value of the Berkshire common stock received. For additional information, please see the section titled "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger" beginning on page 92.

A different set of factors and conditions affect Berkshire stock and could have a negative impact on its stock price.

Upon completion of the merger, some BNSF stockholders will become holders of Berkshire common stock. The businesses and markets of Berkshire and the other companies it has acquired and may acquire in the future are different from those of BNSF. There is a risk that various factors, conditions and developments which would not affect the price of BNSF's stock could negatively affect the price of Berkshire's stock. Please see the section titled "Forward-Looking Statements" beginning on page 30 for a summary of some of the key factors that might affect Berkshire and the prices at which Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock may trade from time to time.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements set forth or incorporated by reference herein concerning projections or expectations of financial or operational performance or economic outlook, or concerning other future events or results, or which refer to matters which are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Federal securities laws. Similarly, statements that describe BNSF's or Berkshire's objectives, expectations, plans or goals are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, BNSF's or Berkshire's expectations concerning the marketing outlook for their respective businesses, productivity, plans and goals for future operational improvements and capital investments, operational performance, future market conditions or economic performance and developments in the capital and credit markets and expected future financial performance, as well as any information concerning possible or assumed future results of operations of Berkshire and BNSF as set forth in the sections of this proxy statement/prospectus titled Summary Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Data, Comparative Historical and Unaudited Pro Forma Per Share Data, The Merger Recommendation of the BNSF Board and its Reasons for the Merger, The Merger Berkshire's Reasons for the Merger, The Merger Opinions of BNSF's Financial Advisors and Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information. Forward-looking statements also include statements regarding the expected benefits of the proposed acquisition of BNSF by Berkshire.

Forward-looking statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties, and actual results or events may differ materially from those projected or implied in those statements. Important factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to:

the matters described in the section titled Risk Factors beginning on page 26;

adverse changes in economic or industry conditions, both in the United States and globally;

continuing volatility in the capital or credit markets and other changes in the securities and capital markets;

changes affecting customers or suppliers;

competition and consolidation in the industries in which BNSF and Berkshire compete;

labor costs and labor difficulties;

developments and changes in laws and regulations;

developments in and losses resulting from claims and litigation;

natural events such as severe weather, fires, floods and earthquakes, or acts of terrorism;

changes in operating conditions and costs; and

the extent of BNSF's or Berkshire's ability to achieve their respective operational and financial goals and initiatives.

In addition, the acquisition of BNSF by Berkshire is subject to the satisfaction of the conditions to the completion of the acquisition and the absence of events that could give rise to the termination of the merger agreement, and the possibility that the acquisition does not close, and risks

that the proposed acquisition disrupts current plans and operations and business relationships, or poses difficulties in attracting or retaining employees.

We caution against placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which reflect our current beliefs and are based on information currently available to us as of the date a forward-looking statement is made. Forward-looking statements set forth or incorporated by reference herein speak only as of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus or the date of the document incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, as the case may be. We undertake no obligation to revise forward-looking statements to reflect future events, changes in circumstances, or changes in beliefs. In the event that we do update any forward-looking statements, no inference should be made that we will make additional updates with respect to that statement, related matters, or any other forward-looking statements. Any corrections or revisions and other important assumptions and factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from forward-looking statements, including discussions of significant risk factors, may appear in BNSF's or Berkshire's public filings with the SEC, which are accessible at www.sec.gov, and which you are advised to consult. For additional information, please see the section titled "Where To Find More Information" beginning on page 118.

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SPECIAL MEETING OF BNSF STOCKHOLDERS

General Information

The BNSF Board is using this proxy statement/prospectus to solicit proxies to be voted at the special meeting of BNSF stockholders described below. Your vote is very important. For this reason, the BNSF Board is requesting that you allow your shares to be represented at the special meeting by the proxies named on the enclosed proxy card. BNSF began mailing this proxy statement/prospectus and the form of proxy on or about December 28, 2009.

Date, Time and Place of Special Meeting

The special meeting is scheduled to be held at BNSF Railway Company, Technology Office Building, 2400 Western Center Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76131, on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., local time.

Purpose of Special Meeting

At the special meeting, BNSF stockholders will be asked to consider and vote on:

a proposal to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 2, 2009, by and among Berkshire, Merger Sub and BNSF, which agreement is further described in the sections titled "The Merger" and "The Merger Agreement," beginning on pages 36 and 77, respectively; and

the transaction of any other business that may properly be brought before the special meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof, including, without limitation, a motion to adjourn or postpone the special meeting to another time and/or place for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, if necessary.

Recommendation of the BNSF Board

The BNSF Board has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by it, declared its advisability and determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by it are fair to and in the best interests of BNSF and its stockholders.

*The Board of Directors of BNSF unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** the adoption of the merger agreement.*

Please see the section titled "The Merger" Recommendation of the BNSF Board and its Reasons for the Merger" beginning on page 40 for more information.

Required Vote

The adoption of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of:

holders of at least 66-²/₃% of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock not owned by Berkshire or any of its affiliates or associates; and

holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock.

Record Date; Voting

Only holders of record of BNSF common stock at the close of business on December 18, 2009 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting and at any adjournment of the meeting. A complete list of BNSF stockholders entitled to vote at the special meeting will be available during the ten day period before the special meeting at BNSF's offices, located at 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131, for

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inspection by BNSF stockholders during ordinary business hours for any purpose germane to the special meeting. The stockholder list will also be available at the special meeting for examination by any BNSF stockholder present at the special meeting.

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Each share of BNSF common stock entitles the stockholder to one vote.

As of the close of business on December 18, 2009, the record date for the special meeting, there were 340,650,362 shares of BNSF common stock outstanding. As of the same date, Berkshire and its affiliates and associates owned 76,777,029 shares of BNSF common stock, representing approximately 22.5% of the total issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock. In addition, as of the same date, the directors and executive officers of BNSF as a group owned and were entitled to vote 932,874 shares of BNSF common stock, or less than 0.5% of the total issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock on that date. BNSF currently expects that all directors and executive officers will vote their shares in favor of the merger, although none of them has entered into any agreement obligating them to do so.

Quorum

No business may be transacted at the special meeting unless a quorum is present. Attendance in person or by proxy at the special meeting of holders of record of a majority of the total number of issued and outstanding shares of BNSF common stock entitled to vote at the meeting will constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, or if fewer shares of BNSF common stock are voted in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement than the number required for its adoption, the special meeting may be adjourned or postponed to allow additional time for obtaining additional proxies or votes. At any subsequent reconvening of the special meeting, all proxies will be voted in the same manner as they would have been voted at the original convening of the special meeting, except for any proxies that have been effectively revoked or withdrawn prior to the subsequent meeting.

Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes

Abstentions (shares of BNSF common stock for which proxies have been received but for which the holders have abstained from voting) and broker non-votes (shares of BNSF common stock for which proxies have been returned by a broker indicating that the broker has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner of the shares and does not have discretionary authority to vote the shares) will be included in the calculation of the number of shares of BNSF common stock represented at the special meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum has been achieved. However, in accordance with the rules of the NYSE, banks, brokers and other nominees who hold shares of BNSF common stock in street name for their customers but do not have discretionary authority to vote the shares may not exercise their voting discretion with respect to the adoption of the merger agreement. Accordingly, if banks, brokers or other nominees do not receive specific voting instructions from the beneficial owner of such shares, they may not vote such shares with respect to the adoption of the merger agreement. For shares of BNSF common stock held in street name, only shares of BNSF common stock affirmatively voted FOR adoption of the merger agreement will be counted as a favorable vote for such proposal. Abstaining from voting, or failing to provide voting instructions to your bank, broker or other nominee, will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Voting at the Special Meeting

Attendance

All holders of shares of BNSF common stock as of the close of business on December 18, 2009, the record date for voting at the special meeting, including registered stockholders (stockholders holding shares in their own name) and beneficial owners of stock registered in the street name of a bank, broker or other nominee, are invited to attend the special meeting. If you are a registered stockholder, please be prepared to provide proper identification, such as a driver's license. If you hold your shares in street name, you will need to provide proof of ownership, such as a recent account statement or letter from your bank, broker or other nominee, along with proper identification.

We can provide reasonable assistance to help stockholders or their proxy holders with disabilities who wish to attend the special meeting. Please notify us of your plans to attend and describe your disability by writing to the Corporate Secretary at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131, at least two weeks before the meeting date.

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Voting in Person

Registered stockholders will be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a registered stockholder, but instead hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you must provide a proxy executed in your favor from your bank, broker or other nominee in order to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you hold your shares through any of BNSF's 401(k) plans, you may not vote your shares in person at the special meeting.

Voting by Proxy

To ensure that your shares are represented at the special meeting, you are recommended to vote promptly by proxy, even if you plan to attend the special meeting in person. If you attend the special meeting and wish to vote in person or change your vote, you can always revoke your proxy by voting at the meeting.

If your shares are held by a bank, broker or other nominee on your behalf in street name, your bank, broker or other nominee will send you instructions as to how to vote your shares by proxy. Many banks and brokerage firms have a process for their customers to provide voting instructions by telephone or via the Internet. If you do not provide your bank, broker or other nominee with instructions as to how to vote your shares, your bank, broker or other nominee will not be able to vote your shares, which will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

If you are a registered stockholder, you may vote by proxy using one of the methods described below.

Vote by Telephone or via the Internet. This proxy statement/prospectus is accompanied by a proxy card with instructions for voting. You may vote by telephone by calling the toll-free number or via the Internet by accessing the Internet address as specified on the enclosed proxy card. Your shares will be voted as you direct in the same manner as if you had completed, signed, dated and returned your proxy card, as described below.

Vote by Proxy Card. If you complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card by mail so that it is received before the special meeting, your shares will be voted in the manner directed by you on your proxy card. You may vote FOR, vote AGAINST or abstain from voting with respect to the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

If you return your signed proxy card, but do not specify how you want to vote your shares, your shares will be voted FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. In addition, your shares will be voted in the discretion of the persons appointed as proxies in the proxy card as to any other business that is properly brought before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting. Proxy cards that are returned without a signature will not be counted as present at the special meeting and cannot be voted.

Revocation of Proxies

Your proxy is revocable. If you are a registered stockholder, you can revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the special meeting by:

submitting a new proxy with a later date, by using the telephone or Internet voting procedures described above, or by completing, signing, dating and returning a new proxy card by mail to BNSF;

attending the special meeting and voting in person; or

sending written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131.

Attending the special meeting without taking one of the actions described above will not in itself revoke your proxy. Please note that if you want to revoke your proxy by mailing a new proxy card to BNSF or by sending a written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary, you should ensure that you mail your new proxy card or written notice of revocation in sufficient time for it to be received by BNSF before the day of the special meeting.

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If you hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you will need to follow the instructions provided to you by your bank, broker or other nominee in order to revoke your proxy or submit new voting instructions.

Voting Shares Held Through BNSF's 401(k) Plans

If you hold shares through any of BNSF's 401(k) savings plans, only the trustees of such plans can vote those shares on your behalf. Your proxy card permits you to direct the trustee how to vote the number of shares allocated to your account. The trustees of BNSF's 401(k) plans also vote allocated shares of common stock for which they have not received direction in the same proportion as directed shares are voted. In order to direct the trustee how to vote your shares, you must return your directions to the trustee so that they are received no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 8, 2010.

Voting Shares Held in BNSF's Dividend Reinvestment Plan

Shares held in BNSF's dividend reinvestment plan will be voted in accordance with the vote indicated by the stockholder of record on the proxy. If the proxy is properly executed and returned but no choice is indicated, both record shares and shares held in BNSF's dividend reinvestment plan will be voted in accordance with BNSF's recommendations above. If a stockholder holds shares both of record and in the dividend reinvestment account and does not vote the shares held of record, the stockholder's shares held in the dividend reinvestment account will not be voted.

Other Business

The BNSF Board is not currently aware of any business to be acted upon at the special meeting of stockholders other than the proposal to adopt the merger agreement described above. If, however, other matters (including a motion to adjourn or postpone the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, if necessary) are properly brought before the special meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof, the persons appointed as proxies in the proxy cards will have discretion to vote or act on such matters according to their judgment.

Adjournments and Postponements

Any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting may be made from time to time by approval of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting, whether or not a quorum exists, without further notice other than by an announcement made at the special meeting. If a quorum is not present at the special meeting, or if a quorum is present at the special meeting but there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to adopt the merger agreement, then BNSF stockholders may be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn or postpone the special meeting so as to permit the further solicitation of proxies.

Solicitation of Proxies

The BNSF Board is soliciting proxies to be voted at the special meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. Proxies are being solicited through the mail. The directors, executive officers and certain other employees of BNSF may also solicit proxies personally, by telephone, fax, email, the Internet, press release or other means, without additional compensation for such activities. BNSF will bear all expenses relating to the solicitation of proxies from BNSF stockholders, except that BNSF and Berkshire have agreed to share equally expenses incurred in connection with filing, printing and mailing this proxy statement/prospectus.

BNSF has engaged Innisfree M&A Incorporated (Innisfree) to assist it in connection with the solicitation of proxies for a fee estimated not to exceed \$150,000 in the aggregate, plus additional charges related to telephone calls and certain other services, costs and expenses. BNSF has agreed to indemnify Innisfree against certain liabilities relating to or arising out of the engagement. Innisfree may conduct its solicitation personally, by mail, telephone, fax, email, the Internet, press release or other means.

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BNSF will request banks, brokers and other custodians, fiduciaries and nominees to forward proxy soliciting material to the beneficial owners of shares held of record by such banks, brokers or nominees and obtain their voting instructions. BNSF will reimburse such banks, brokers or nominees at approved rates for their reasonable expenses in connection with the foregoing activities.

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THE MERGER

Background of the Merger

On October 22, 2009, Mr. Warren E. Buffett, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Berkshire, made a previously scheduled visit to the offices of BNSF in Fort Worth, Texas and met with Mr. Matthew K. Rose, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of BNSF, and other senior members of BNSF management. BNSF has a long-standing practice of meeting with investors at their request to discuss BNSF and its performance. Mr. Buffett's scheduled visit, which took place in line with such practice, also coincided with an annual offsite meeting of the Board of Directors of Berkshire (the Berkshire Board) being held from October 22, 2009 to October 24, 2009 in Fort Worth due to the proximity to several Berkshire companies. At the time, Berkshire owned approximately 22.6% of BNSF's outstanding common stock, which it had previously acquired through open market purchases. At the meeting, Mr. Buffett, Mr. Rose and the BNSF executives discussed a number of general issues, including BNSF's overall business and financial performance, issues related to the rail industry and the economy as a whole.

On October 23, 2009, Mr. Buffett's assistant called Mr. Rose's assistant and requested a meeting between Mr. Buffett and Mr. Rose for early that evening.

At the meeting, Mr. Buffett told Mr. Rose that if the BNSF Board would be receptive, Berkshire would promptly work toward negotiating an agreement for a transaction in which Berkshire would acquire all of the outstanding shares of BNSF not already owned by Berkshire for \$100 per share. Mr. Buffett expressed that Berkshire would not want to pursue such a transaction unless it was supported by the BNSF Board. Mr. Buffett discussed a transaction in which 40% of the consideration would be paid in Berkshire common stock and 60% of the consideration would be paid in cash. Mr. Buffett expressed his belief that fair value for BNSF's common stock was in the mid-\$90s per share, and that therefore the \$100 per share price he was contemplating was, in Mr. Buffett's view, as high as Berkshire could pay. Mr. Buffett indicated that he would be willing to consider a collar on the stock portion of the merger consideration, based upon the trading price of Berkshire Class A common stock over a certain period of time prior to completion of the merger. Mr. Buffett also indicated that in the event of an agreement for such a transaction, he would be willing to recommend a stock split with respect to the Berkshire Class B common stock in order to address the issue of fractional shares that would be issued to BNSF stockholders in any transaction and facilitate the rollover of certain BNSF equity compensation awards into equity compensation awards with respect to Berkshire Class B common stock. Mr. Buffett also explained that Berkshire would expect to obtain approximately \$8 billion in external financing to consummate such a transaction. Mr. Rose told Mr. Buffett that he would take the matter to the BNSF Board to see if the BNSF Board was interested in considering such a transaction.

The next morning Mr. Rose called Mr. Edward T. Whitacre, Jr., the lead director of BNSF, and related the details of his conversation with Mr. Buffett. Mr. Whitacre and Mr. Rose discussed that the matter needed to be considered by the full BNSF Board, and Mr. Whitacre directed Mr. Rose to inform the other BNSF directors. Mr. Whitacre also directed Mr. Rose to retain appropriate financial and legal advisors to assist the BNSF Board in evaluating the potential transaction. Mr. Rose also discussed with certain directors and senior management the advisors BNSF planned to engage to assist BNSF in evaluating the potential transaction, after which Goldman Sachs and Evercore were contacted. Over the next two days, Mr. Rose notified each member of the BNSF Board and certain senior members of BNSF management of his discussion with Mr. Buffett and the potential transaction. A special meeting of the BNSF Board was scheduled for October 26, 2009 to discuss the potential transaction.

On October 26, 2009, the BNSF Board held a meeting by telephone conference to review and discuss the potential transaction described by Mr. Buffett. At the meeting, Mr. Rose provided a report on his October 23 meeting with Mr. Buffett. Mr. Rose also notified the BNSF Board that he had contacted Goldman Sachs and Evercore following the meeting with Mr. Buffett and his discussions with the directors in order to engage Goldman Sachs and Evercore as financial advisors in connection with the evaluation of the potential transaction.

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Mr. Rose reviewed with the directors that Berkshire had an existing investment in Goldman Sachs, and the nature of that investment. The BNSF Board discussed Goldman Sachs' substantial experience in providing investment banking and other advice to BNSF and its reputation and experience in connection with merger and acquisition transactions. The BNSF Board also discussed that the engagement of Evercore was on the basis that advice and financial analyses of Evercore would be independent of that provided by Goldman Sachs. After discussion, the BNSF Board concurred with the engagement of both Goldman Sachs and Evercore as financial advisors in connection with the potential transaction.

Representatives of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP (Cravath), BNSF's outside counsel, then provided an overview of the fiduciary duties of the BNSF Board in connection with the evaluation of the potential transaction. During the meeting, the BNSF Board reviewed BNSF's stand-alone business plan and outlook, which had also been previously reviewed in accordance with BNSF's customary practices at the BNSF Board's September meeting. Representatives of Goldman Sachs reviewed with the BNSF Board their preliminary financial analyses regarding the potential transaction described by Mr. Buffett. During the discussion, representatives of Goldman Sachs expressed their view that a superior proposal from certain other strategic buyers was unlikely to be accretive, except for an acquisition that, in the view of counsel advising the BNSF Board, would present substantial regulatory issues. Representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore also expressed their view that the current state of the financial markets and BNSF's market capitalization would make a superior proposal by a private equity buyer unlikely. The BNSF Board also discussed that if BNSF pursued discussions with Berkshire, any potential agreement would have to provide flexibility to consider bids from unanticipated potential buyers.

During the meeting, the BNSF Board received a preliminary regulatory analysis from members of BNSF management with respect to the potential transaction described by Mr. Buffett. In that discussion, it was noted that Berkshire appeared to have made passive investments in at least two other rail carriers and owned several other transportation-related businesses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, another special meeting of the BNSF Board was scheduled for October 28, 2009 to further discuss the potential transaction and to receive additional information and analyses, including a financial presentation by Evercore.

On October 27, 2009, Mr. Rose telephoned Mr. Buffett and informed him that the BNSF Board had convened the prior day to review and discuss the potential transaction that had been outlined by Mr. Buffett, and that the BNSF Board was still considering the matter. During the conversation, Mr. Rose raised the issue of Berkshire's investments in two other rail carriers with Mr. Buffett. Mr. Buffett informed Mr. Rose that if an agreement was reached with BNSF, Berkshire would be willing to dispose of any shares held in other rail carriers in order to address any potential regulatory concerns those holdings might raise. Mr. Buffett also informed Mr. Rose that if BNSF wanted to proceed with a transaction along the basis he had described, a structure that provided a collar on the stock portion of the merger consideration would be acceptable to Berkshire if it was preferred by BNSF, and discussed the terms of such a collar with Mr. Rose. In addition, Mr. Buffett told Mr. Rose he would be willing to recommend a 50-for-1 stock split with respect to the Berkshire Class B common stock to facilitate such a transaction. Mr. Rose informed Mr. Buffett that the BNSF Board would meet again the next day and that he would contact him following the meeting.

On October 28, 2009, the BNSF Board held another meeting by telephone conference. At the meeting, Mr. Rose provided the BNSF Board with an update regarding the conversation he had with Mr. Buffett on the previous day. Also at the meeting, Evercore reviewed with the BNSF Board its preliminary financial analyses regarding the potential transaction described by Mr. Buffett. Evercore reiterated to the BNSF Board that its analyses were prepared independently of Goldman Sachs. Representatives of Goldman Sachs then discussed with the BNSF Board their updated preliminary financial analyses with respect to the potential transaction. The BNSF Board also received additional regulatory analysis from Mayer Brown LLP (Mayer Brown), BNSF's outside regulatory counsel, with respect to the potential transaction. In connection with the discussion, the BNSF Board considered a number of matters, including the value that would be obtained by the stockholders of BNSF in the potential transaction as compared to the value that could be obtained by BNSF continuing as a stand-alone entity.

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The BNSF Board also considered whether to contact other potential acquirors to solicit interest for an acquisition of BNSF. During the discussion, representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore each expressed their view that a superior proposal from certain other strategic buyers was unlikely to be accretive, except for an acquisition that, in the view of counsel advising the BNSF Board, would present substantial regulatory issues. Representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore also expressed their view that the current state of the financial markets and BNSF's market capitalization would make a superior proposal by a private equity buyer unlikely.

After extensive discussion, the BNSF Board authorized Mr. Rose, together with BNSF's financial and legal advisors, to enter into discussions with Berkshire in respect of a potential transaction, including attempting to obtain a higher price and otherwise negotiating a merger agreement on the most favorable terms that could be obtained from Berkshire. The BNSF Board also concluded that it would be in the best interests of BNSF and its stockholders not to solicit other bids for the company prior to executing a merger agreement, but to pursue discussions regarding a potential transaction with Berkshire. However, the BNSF Board instructed management and BNSF's financial and legal advisors to seek merger agreement terms, including a break-up fee that would be very low in relation to market standards, that would allow BNSF to entertain third party bids if a merger agreement were to be executed and announced.

That same day, after the meeting, Mr. Rose consulted with BNSF's financial and legal advisors regarding their advice with respect to the issues he intended to discuss with Mr. Buffett concerning the proposed transaction. Mr. Rose then telephoned Mr. Buffett and informed him that the BNSF Board had authorized management and BNSF's financial and legal advisors to enter into discussions with respect to a potential acquisition of BNSF by Berkshire and negotiate a merger agreement. During the call, Mr. Rose discussed with Mr. Buffett various issues relating to the potential transaction, including price, the structure of a collar on the stock portion of the consideration, the size of the break-up fee that would be payable in the event that BNSF determined to pursue an alternative transaction after entering into a merger agreement with Berkshire and the need to conduct a diligence investigation with Mr. Buffett in respect of Berkshire.

Mr. Rose requested that Mr. Buffett increase the merger consideration above \$100 per share. In response, Mr. Buffett informed Mr. Rose that \$100 per share was at the very top of the range that he was willing to pay for BNSF and therefore Berkshire would not be willing to increase the merger consideration. In that discussion, Mr. Buffett confirmed to Mr. Rose that Berkshire would agree to a collar on the stock portion of the consideration, such that the value of the stock portion of the consideration would be fixed at \$100 per share so long as the shares of Berkshire Class A common stock traded between approximately \$80,000 and \$125,000 per share. Mr. Rose then explained to Mr. Buffett that the BNSF Board was seeking favorable terms with respect to BNSF's ability to terminate any agreement with Berkshire in response to a competing proposal that the BNSF Board determined was superior. Mr. Rose requested that Berkshire agree to a break-up fee in that context of 1% of the equity value of BNSF (based on the price of \$100 per share), calculated excluding shares owned by Berkshire and its affiliates. Mr. Buffett said this request would be acceptable in the context of the potential transaction being discussed. Finally, Mr. Rose explained to Mr. Buffett that BNSF would require access to Mr. Buffett in order to engage in diligence with respect to Berkshire. Mr. Buffett responded by agreeing to make himself available to BNSF and its advisors in this regard. Mr. Buffett then told Mr. Rose that he would instruct Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP (Munger Tolles), Berkshire's outside counsel, to begin drafting a merger agreement containing the terms and conditions upon which Berkshire would be willing to acquire BNSF.

On the evening of October 29, 2009, Munger Tolles circulated a draft merger agreement to Cravath.

On the morning of October 30, 2009, BNSF executed a confidentiality agreement with Berkshire. After execution of this agreement, BNSF, together with representatives from Goldman Sachs and Evercore, engaged in a session with Mr. Buffett in which Mr. Buffett reviewed and discussed various matters related to Berkshire, including a discussion of the publicly available estimates of a certain research analyst and current consensus analyst forecasts regarding Berkshire.

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That same day, two members of the BNSF Board, Messrs. Boeckmann and Whisler, who had been unable to attend the meeting of the BNSF Board held on October 28, 2009, each received a detailed briefing from Mr. Rose and other members of BNSF management, along with representatives of Cravath, Goldman Sachs and Evercore, with respect to the matters discussed at that meeting.

From October 30, 2009 through November 2, 2009, BNSF, Berkshire and their respective legal advisors negotiated the terms of the draft merger agreement.

On October 31, 2009, a special meeting of the Compensation and Development Committee of the BNSF Board was held by telephone conference. At the meeting, members of BNSF management and representatives of Cravath reviewed with the Committee members the effect that the potential transaction would have on BNSF's existing employee benefit plans and arrangements, including the effect on BNSF equity awards and arrangements of members of BNSF management and the BNSF Board.

On the afternoon of November 2, 2009, the BNSF Board held a special meeting in Detroit, Michigan to review and discuss the contemplated merger agreement and its terms. Representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore reviewed with the BNSF Board the meeting held with Mr. Buffett on October 30, 2009. Representatives of Cravath provided an overview of the fiduciary duties of the BNSF Board in connection with its consideration of the contemplated merger, and reviewed with the BNSF Board the terms of the contemplated merger agreement. Representatives of Mayer Brown provided a regulatory analysis with respect to the contemplated merger. Representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore each presented to the BNSF Board their respective financial analyses with respect to the contemplated merger. Upon conclusion of their respective presentations, Goldman Sachs delivered its oral opinion, which was subsequently confirmed in writing, that as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the stock consideration and cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to such holders, and Evercore delivered its oral opinion, which was subsequently confirmed in writing, that as of such date and based upon and subject to the assumptions, limitations, qualifications and other matters set forth therein, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such consideration.

The BNSF Board again considered whether to contact other potential acquirors to solicit interest for an acquisition of BNSF. The BNSF Board also considered the discussions with representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore regarding a superior proposal from certain other strategic buyers being unlikely to be accretive, except for an acquisition that, in the view of counsel advising the BNSF Board, would present substantial regulatory issues. The BNSF Board also again considered the discussions with representatives of Goldman Sachs and Evercore with respect to the current state of the financial markets and the effect that current financial market conditions, together with BNSF's market capitalization, would have on the possibility of a superior proposal by a private equity buyer being made. Finally, the BNSF Board also considered the terms of the merger agreement that would allow BNSF to entertain certain third party bids following the execution and announcement of the merger agreement, including the relatively low break-up fee that would be payable in the event the BNSF Board were to pursue an alternative proposal that was superior to the merger with Berkshire.

After engaging in extensive discussion, the BNSF Board unanimously approved the merger agreement as being in the best interests of BNSF and its stockholders and unanimously authorized the execution and delivery of the merger agreement.

On the afternoon of November 2, 2009, the Berkshire Board met by telephone. Mr. Buffett described the contemplated transaction and the terms of the merger agreement that had been negotiated. He described the desirability of splitting the Berkshire Class B common stock on a 50-for-1 basis to enable the BNSF stockholders and holders of equity awards to obtain more Berkshire common stock instead of cash for fractional shares, and the desirability of permitting the rollover of certain outstanding BNSF equity awards as contemplated by the

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merger agreement. After discussion, the Berkshire Board unanimously approved the merger agreement, and approved recommending a 50-for-1 stock split to the stockholders of Berkshire at a Berkshire stockholder meeting to be called for this purpose.

That evening, BNSF and Berkshire executed the merger agreement.

On the morning of November 3, 2009, prior to the commencement of trading on the NYSE, BNSF and Berkshire issued a joint press release announcing the transaction and their execution of a definitive merger agreement.

Recommendation of the BNSF Board and its Reasons for the Merger

The BNSF Board has unanimously approved the merger agreement, declared its advisability and determined that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by it are fair to and in the best interests of BNSF and its stockholders. **Accordingly, the BNSF Board unanimously recommends that BNSF stockholders vote FOR the adoption of the merger agreement.**

In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, the BNSF Board consulted with management, as well as BNSF's legal and financial advisors, and considered a variety of factors weighing in favor of or relevant to the merger, including, without limitation, those described below.

Strategic Considerations

The BNSF Board considered a number of strategic aspects of the merger, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

BNSF's business, results of operations, financial condition, earnings and return to stockholders on a historical and prospective basis, and its evaluation of BNSF's business plan and the risks and benefits associated with the implementation of that plan compared to the risks and benefits associated with the merger;

Berkshire's business, results of operations, financial condition, earnings and return to stockholders on a historical and prospective basis, including, but not limited to, the potential for growth, development and profitability of Berkshire;

the then-current financial market conditions and historical market prices, volatility and trading information with respect to the common stock of each of BNSF and Berkshire; and

whether there were other potential parties that might have an interest in and be financially capable of engaging in an alternative strategic transaction with BNSF, and the valuation, regulatory and financing issues that might arise in connection with pursuing an alternative strategic transaction.

Financial Considerations

The BNSF Board considered a number of financial aspects of the merger, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

the fact that the merger consideration represented a premium of 32.8% to the closing price for shares of BNSF common stock on October 30, 2009, the last trading day prior to the date of execution of the merger agreement, and a premium of 36.9% to the average closing price for shares of BNSF common stock over the twelve month period ended October 30, 2009;

the respective financial analyses of each of Goldman Sachs and Evercore, BNSF's financial advisors in connection with the merger, and the respective opinions of each of Goldman Sachs and Evercore to the BNSF Board, each dated as of November 2, 2009. The opinion of Goldman Sachs stated that as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the stock consideration

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and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holder (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock, was fair from a financial point of view to such holders. The opinion of Evercore stated that, as of that date and based upon and subject to the assumptions, limitations, qualifications and other matters set forth in its opinion letter, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such consideration;

the ability of BNSF stockholders to receive either cash, shares of Berkshire common stock or a combination of cash and shares of Berkshire common stock in the proposed merger, subject to any proration or reallocation necessary to achieve as closely as practicable the 60/40 cash-stock split with respect to the aggregate merger consideration;

the protection afforded by the collar mechanism to BNSF stockholders receiving Berkshire common stock in the proposed merger against significant fluctuations in the value of such stock; and

the opportunity for BNSF stockholders who elect to receive shares of Berkshire common stock in the merger to participate in the continued growth and other opportunities of Berkshire.

Other Considerations

The BNSF Board also considered a number of other aspects of the merger, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

the terms and conditions of the merger agreement, including, but not limited to, the representations, warranties and covenants of the parties, the conditions to closing, the form and structure of the merger consideration, and the ability of BNSF or the BNSF Board, as the case may be, to entertain competing transaction proposals, withdraw its approval or recommendation with respect to the merger agreement, or terminate the merger agreement in certain circumstances, subject, in each case, to compliance with certain procedural requirements, which may include the payment of a break-up fee;

the fact that the break-up fee described above is approximately equal to 1% of the equity value of BNSF (based on the assumed merger consideration of \$100.00 per share), calculated excluding shares owned by Berkshire or its affiliates, which break-up fee the BNSF Board did not believe would preclude any other party from making a competing proposal for BNSF;

the fact that the terms of the merger agreement were determined through negotiations between BNSF, with the advice of its advisors, and Berkshire, with the advice of its outside counsel;

Berkshire's track record in successfully acquiring other companies, and Berkshire's agreements in the merger agreement to use its reasonable best efforts to consummate the proposed merger (subject to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement);

the expectation that the merger is expected to qualify as a tax-free reorganization pursuant to Section 368(a) of the Code;

the fact that some of BNSF's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of BNSF stockholders generally, including the treatment of BNSF stock options and restricted stock units held by such directors and executive officers in the merger and Berkshire's agreement to indemnify BNSF directors and officers against certain claims and liabilities;

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the regulatory and other government approvals required in connection with the merger, and the likelihood that such approvals will be obtained without unacceptable conditions;

the ability of the parties to consummate the merger, including the fact that Berkshire's obligation to complete the merger is not conditioned upon receipt of financing; and

the commitment made by Mr. Buffett to vote all Berkshire common stock owned by him in favor of the Berkshire stockholder approval necessary to effect the stock split in respect of the Berkshire Class B common stock, so as to facilitate the merger and related transactions.

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Potential Risks

The BNSF Board also identified and considered potential risks and disadvantages associated with the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by it, including, but not limited to, the following:

the possibility that the consummation of the merger may be delayed or not occur at all, and the adverse impact such event would have on BNSF and its business;

the possibility that, notwithstanding the size of the collar mechanism, shares of Berkshire Class A common stock might trade outside the collar, in which case the value of the stock portion of the merger consideration would be different from the cash portion of the merger consideration;

the possibility that the proration and reallocation provisions of the merger agreement might result in BNSF stockholders receiving a combination of merger consideration different from that which they elected;

the risk of incurring substantial expenses related to the merger;

the possible disruption to BNSF's business that may result from announcement of the merger and the resulting distraction of management's attention from the day-to-day operations of the business;

the risk that the pendency of the merger could materially adversely affect BNSF's relationships with its customers, suppliers and any other persons with whom BNSF has a business relationship, or pose difficulties in attracting and retaining key employees; and

the other potential risks described in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 26 of this proxy statement/prospectus. The above discussion of the information and factors considered by the BNSF Board includes the principal information and factors, both positive and negative, considered by the BNSF Board, but is not intended to be exhaustive and may not include all of the information and factors considered by the BNSF Board. The above factors are not presented in any order of priority. In view of the variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation, the BNSF Board did not quantify or assign relative or specific weights to the factors considered in reaching its conclusion that the merger agreement is advisable and in the best interests of BNSF and its stockholders. Rather, the BNSF Board views its position and recommendation as being based on the totality of the information presented to and considered by it. In addition, individual members of the BNSF Board may have given different weights to different factors. It should be noted that this explanation of the reasoning of the BNSF Board and certain information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and should be read in light of the factors discussed in the section titled "Forward-Looking Statements" beginning on page 30 of this proxy statement/prospectus.

Management Cases

Every September, the BNSF Board conducts a multi-day meeting to consider long range issues impacting BNSF, as well as a review of normal business activity. As part of this meeting, BNSF management presents a long range plan, typically looking out five years and, depending upon circumstances, considering multiple scenarios. These long range plans are the result of a several-month exercise by BNSF management, where risks, opportunities and strategies are discussed and debated. On September 24, 2009, management presented to the BNSF Board four scenarios, or cases, for the period 2010 through 2014. Each case considered a different set of economic conditions, as well as level of freight volume, revenue per unit (RPU), costs and efficiency. These cases were described as (i) the 2010 Recovery Case, which assumed economic recovery occurring in mid-2010, and assumed the highest RPU and unit growth and operational efficiency improvements, (ii) the 2011 Recovery Case, which assumed economic recovery occurring in mid-2011, and assumed slightly lower RPU growth, unit growth and operational efficiency

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improvements, (iii) the No Recovery Case , which assumed a flat unit growth rate over the five-year forecast period, as well as low RPU growth and small operational efficiency improvements, and (iv) the Deeper Recession Case , which assumed a general worsening of economic conditions over the five-year forecast period, and also assumed low RPU growth, a slight unit decline and small operational efficiency improvements. Due to the current economic conditions, the BNSF Board had reviewed scenarios similar to the first three cases at their July meeting and requested that a fourth case be developed. These cases were not shared by BNSF with Berkshire and were not discussed by Messrs. Rose and Buffett.

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In general, BNSF does not make public its internal projections or forecasts as to future financial performance, earnings or other results, including management cases such as those described above, due to the unpredictability and subjective nature of the underlying assumptions and estimates. These cases are used by BNSF management and the BNSF Board to evaluate a range of potential outcomes and are intended to present business trends over a longer term time horizon. They are not intended to be precise estimates of any individual time period. In connection with the performance of their respective financial analyses, BNSF furnished Goldman Sachs and Evercore with the four management cases described above. A summary of each of these cases is set forth below to provide BNSF stockholders with access to certain information that was furnished to, and considered by, Goldman Sachs and Evercore in performing their respective financial analyses. In all cases, 2009 estimated amounts exclude the impacts of the unfavorable Western Fuels coal rate case decision of \$0.13 per diluted share and a \$0.06 per diluted share loss on unwinding interest rate hedges.

2010 Recovery Case

| | 2009E | 2010E | 2011E | 2012E | 2013E | 2014E | CAGR |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | <i>(In millions, except per share and percentage data)</i> | | | | | | |
| Total revenue | \$ 14,013 | \$ 14,994 | \$ 16,601 | \$ 17,611 | \$ 18,667 | \$ 19,418 | 6.7% |
| Freight revenue w/o fuel | 12,372 | 12,830 | 14,063 | 15,014 | 15,834 | 16,558 | 6.0% |
| Operating income | 3,204 | 3,421 | 4,336 | 4,921 | 5,360 | 5,745 | 12.4% |
| EBITDA | 4,737 | 5,052 | 6,056 | 6,746 | 7,313 | 7,825 | 10.6% |
| Net income | 1,631 | 1,717 | 2,224 | 2,476 | 2,663 | 2,831 | 11.7% |
| Earnings per share | 4.77 | 5.04 | 6.88 | 8.41 | 9.71 | 10.96 | 18.1% |

2011 Recovery Case

| | 2009E | 2010E | 2011E | 2012E | 2013E | 2014E | CAGR |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | <i>(In millions, except per share and percentage data)</i> | | | | | | |
| Total revenue | \$ 14,013 | \$ 14,254 | \$ 15,436 | \$ 16,629 | \$ 17,839 | \$ 18,877 | 6.1% |
| Freight revenue w/o fuel | 12,372 | 12,424 | 13,345 | 14,291 | 15,244 | 16,044 | 5.3% |
| Operating income | 3,204 | 3,092 | 3,638 | 4,241 | 4,775 | 5,209 | 10.2% |
| EBITDA | 4,737 | 4,723 | 5,357 | 6,063 | 6,724 | 7,283 | 9.0% |
| Net income | 1,631 | 1,515 | 1,842 | 2,149 | 2,386 | 2,572 | 9.5% |
| Earnings per share | 4.77 | 4.41 | 5.43 | 6.74 | 8.10 | 9.35 | 14.4% |

No Recovery Case

| | 2009E | 2010E | 2011E | 2012E | 2013E | 2014E | CAGR |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | <i>(In millions, except per share and percentage data)</i> | | | | | | |
| Total revenue | \$ 14,013 | \$ 14,012 | \$ 14,410 | \$ 14,622 | \$ 14,844 | \$ 15,069 | 1.5% |
| Freight revenue w/o fuel | 12,372 | 12,377 | 12,736 | 12,953 | 13,176 | 13,401 | 1.6% |
| Operating income | 3,204 | 3,010 | 3,224 | 3,324 | 3,314 | 3,310 | 0.7% |
| EBITDA | 4,737 | 4,639 | 4,939 | 5,138 | 5,249 | 5,363 | 2.5% |
| Net income | 1,631 | 1,465 | 1,607 | 1,660 | 1,631 | 1,610 | (0.3%) |
| Earnings per share | 4.77 | 4.27 | 4.65 | 4.87 | 4.94 | 5.07 | 1.2% |

Deeper Recession Case

| | 2009E | 2010E | 2011E | 2012E | 2013E | 2014E | CAGR |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | <i>(In millions, except per share and percentage data)</i> | | | | | | |
| Total revenue | \$ 14,013 | \$ 13,544 | \$ 13,618 | \$ 14,000 | \$ 14,283 | \$ 14,756 | 1.0% |
| Freight revenue w/o fuel | 12,372 | 12,107 | 12,147 | 12,351 | 12,632 | 12,929 | 0.9% |
| Operating income | 3,204 | 2,759 | 2,728 | 2,778 | 2,841 | 2,898 | (2.0%) |
| EBITDA | 4,737 | 4,387 | 4,440 | 4,588 | 4,770 | 4,943 | 0.9% |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Net income | 1,631 | 1,310 | 1,295 | 1,326 | 1,369 | 1,399 | (3.0%) |
| Earnings per share | 4.77 | 3.82 | 3.74 | 3.80 | 3.89 | 4.05 | (3.2%) |

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Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) is not a measure of financial performance under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP). Accordingly, the information provided in the tables above with respect to EBITDA should be considered in addition to, but not as a substitute for, other measures of financial performance reported by BNSF above and elsewhere in this proxy statement/prospectus in accordance with GAAP. BNSF believes that EBITDA generally provides meaningful information to investors as it is used by BNSF's management to monitor and evaluate the operating performance of BNSF's business.

Each of the above cases has been prepared by BNSF management and was prepared solely for internal planning purposes, as described above. None of the cases described above were prepared with a view towards public disclosure, nor were they prepared with a view toward compliance with published guidelines of the SEC or the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding forward-looking information, guidelines established by American Institute of Public Accountants with respect to prospective financial information or GAAP. The information was prepared on a basis consistent with the historical accounting policies included in the section titled Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in BNSF's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC on February 13, 2009. Neither BNSF's independent registered public accounting firm nor any other independent auditor has compiled, examined or performed any procedures with respect to the cases and, accordingly, no opinion or any other form of assurance on the cases nor the achievability of the forecasted results therein is expressed with respect thereto. The report of BNSF's independent registered public accounting firm incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus relates to historical financial information. It does not extend to the prospective financial information and should not be read to do so.

The foregoing summary of the cases described above is not being included in this proxy statement/prospectus to influence your decision on whether to vote for the merger, but because the BNSF Board considered the cases in connection with its evaluation of the merger and because BNSF provided the cases to its financial advisors, Goldman Sachs and Evercore. In the view of BNSF's management, the cases were prepared in good faith, on a reasonable basis and reflect the best available estimates and judgments of BNSF management at the time they were prepared based on the respective assumptions utilized in the preparation of each case. However, these cases were based on numerous variables, estimates and assumptions that are subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond BNSF management's control. Important factors that may affect actual results and cause forecasted results not to be achieved include, without limitation, risks and uncertainties relating to BNSF's business (including BNSF's ability to achieve strategic goals, objectives and targets over applicable periods), industry performance and competition, the regulatory environment, general business, economic and market conditions and other factors described in the section titled Forward-Looking Statements beginning on page 30. These cases also reflect assumptions as to certain business decisions that are subject to change. As a result, actual results may differ materially from those contained in these cases. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that any of the forecasted results in any of the cases described above will be realized, and you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any of the cases as a predictor of future operating results or otherwise.

The inclusion of a summary of the cases described above in this proxy statement/prospectus should not be regarded as an indication that any of BNSF, Berkshire or their respective affiliates, advisors or representatives considers any of the cases to be predictive of actual future events, and none of the cases should be relied upon as such. None of BNSF, Berkshire nor any of their respective affiliates, advisors or representatives can give you any assurance that actual results will not differ from the cases, and none of them undertakes any obligation to update or otherwise revise or reconcile the cases to reflect circumstances existing after the date the cases were generated or to reflect the occurrence of future events, even in the event that any or all of the assumptions underlying the cases are shown to be in error. BNSF does not intend to make publicly available any update or other revision to the cases. Neither BNSF, Berkshire nor any of their respective affiliates, advisors or representatives has made or makes any representation to any stockholder or other person regarding BNSF's ultimate performance compared to the information presented in any of the cases or that forecasted results in any of the cases will be achieved. BNSF has made no representation to Berkshire, in the merger agreement or otherwise, or to its financial advisors concerning the cases.

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Berkshire's Reasons for the Merger

In deciding to acquire BNSF, Berkshire is making a big bet on the economic future of the United States. Berkshire believes that the future prosperity of the United States depends on its having an efficient and well-maintained rail system while, at the same time, the country's economy must grow and prosper for railroads to do well.

Berkshire believes that railroads are an efficient and environmentally friendly way to move freight around the country. It also believes that BNSF, in particular, is a leader in the rail industry in the areas of innovative equipment and technology. Furthermore, Berkshire is very impressed with BNSF's management team, including Chief Executive Officer Matthew Rose, and it intends to rely on them to manage the surviving entity following the merger.

Opinions of BNSF's Financial Advisors

Opinion of Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs delivered its opinion to the BNSF Board that, as of November 2, 2009, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the stock consideration and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock, pursuant to the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to such stockholders.

The full text of the written opinion of Goldman Sachs, dated November 2, 2009, which sets forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached as Annex C to this proxy statement/prospectus. Goldman Sachs provided its opinion for the information and assistance of the BNSF Board in connection with its consideration of the merger. The Goldman Sachs opinion is not a recommendation as to how any holder of shares of BNSF common stock should vote or make an election with respect to the merger or any other matter.

In connection with rendering the opinion described above and performing its related financial analyses, Goldman Sachs reviewed, among other things:

the merger agreement;

annual reports to stockholders and Annual Reports on Form 10-K of BNSF and Berkshire for the five fiscal years ended December 31, 2008;

certain interim reports to stockholders and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q of BNSF and Berkshire;

certain other communications from BNSF and Berkshire to their respective stockholders;

certain publicly available research analyst reports for BNSF and Berkshire; and

certain internal financial analyses and BNSF's 2010 Recovery Case, 2011 Recovery Case, No Recovery Case and Deeper Recession Case, which were prepared by its management and approved by BNSF for use by Goldman Sachs.

Goldman Sachs was directed by BNSF to assume that the 2011 Recovery Case is more likely than the other forecasts prepared by BNSF management. The management of Berkshire did not make available any forecasts of the future financial performance of Berkshire. With the consent of BNSF, Goldman Sachs' review of the future financial performance of Berkshire was limited to Goldman Sachs' discussions with the management of Berkshire regarding the publicly available estimates of a certain research analyst, as well as current consensus forecasts of Berkshire.

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Goldman Sachs also held discussions with members of the senior managements of BNSF and Berkshire regarding their assessment of the strategic rationale for, and the potential benefits of, the merger and the past and current business operations, financial condition and future prospects of their respective companies. In addition,

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Goldman Sachs reviewed the reported price and trading activity for the shares of BNSF common stock, the shares of Berkshire Class A common stock and the shares of Berkshire Class B common stock, compared certain financial and stock market information for BNSF and Berkshire with similar information for certain other companies the securities of which are publicly traded, reviewed the financial terms of certain recent business combinations in the transportation and rail industry specifically and in other industries generally and performed such other studies and analyses, and considered such other factors, as Goldman Sachs considered appropriate.

For purposes of rendering the opinion described above, Goldman Sachs relied upon and assumed, without assuming any responsibility for independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial, legal, regulatory, tax, accounting and other information provided to, discussed with or reviewed by Goldman Sachs, and did not assume any liability for any such information. In that regard, Goldman Sachs assumed with BNSF's consent that the 2011 Recovery Case has been reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the management of BNSF. In addition, Goldman Sachs did not make an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets and liabilities (including any contingent, derivative or off-balance-sheet assets and liabilities) of BNSF or Berkshire or any of their respective subsidiaries, nor was any such evaluation or appraisal furnished to Goldman Sachs. Goldman Sachs assumed that all governmental, regulatory or other consents and approvals necessary for the consummation of the merger will be obtained without any adverse effect on BNSF or Berkshire or on the expected benefits of the merger in any way meaningful to Goldman Sachs' analysis. Goldman Sachs also assumed that the merger will be consummated on the terms set forth in the merger agreement, without the waiver or modification of any term or condition the effect of which would be in any way meaningful to Goldman Sachs' analysis. Goldman Sachs did not express any opinion as to the impact of the merger on the solvency or viability of BNSF or Berkshire or the ability of BNSF or Berkshire to pay its obligations when they come due. In addition, Goldman Sachs' opinion did not address any legal, regulatory, tax or accounting matters nor did it address the underlying business decision of BNSF to engage in the merger or the relative merits of the merger as compared to any strategic alternatives that may be available to BNSF. Goldman Sachs was not requested to solicit, and did not solicit, interest from other parties with respect to an acquisition of, or other business combination with, BNSF or any other alternative transaction. Goldman Sachs' opinion addressed only the fairness from a financial point of view, as of the date of the opinion, to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock of the stock consideration and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holders of shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement. Goldman Sachs did not express any view on, and its opinion did not address, any other term or aspect of the merger agreement or merger (including the proration and certain other procedures and limitations contained in the merger agreement with respect to shares of BNSF common stock for which stockholders elect to receive cash consideration or stock consideration, or make no election) or any term or aspect of any other agreement or instrument contemplated by the merger agreement or entered into or amended in connection with the merger, including, without limitation, the fairness of the merger to, or any consideration received in connection therewith by, the holders of any class of securities, creditors, or other constituencies of BNSF; nor as to the fairness of the amount or nature of any compensation to be paid or payable to any of the officers, directors or employees of BNSF, or any class of such persons, in connection with the merger, whether relative to the stock consideration and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to the holders of shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement or otherwise. Goldman Sachs did not express any opinion as to the prices at which shares of Berkshire Class A common stock or shares of Berkshire Class B common stock will trade at any time. Goldman Sachs' opinion necessarily was based on economic, monetary, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to Goldman Sachs as of, the date of the opinion and Goldman Sachs assumed no responsibility for updating, revising or reaffirming its opinion based on circumstances, developments or events occurring after the date of its opinion. Goldman Sachs' advisory services and the opinion of Goldman Sachs were provided for the information and assistance of the BNSF Board in connection with its consideration of the merger and such opinion does not constitute a recommendation as to how any holder of BNSF common stock should vote or make an election with respect to such merger or any other matter.

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The following is a summary of the material financial analyses delivered by Goldman Sachs to the BNSF Board in connection with rendering the opinion described above. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the financial analyses performed by Goldman Sachs, nor does the order of analyses described represent relative importance or weight given to those analyses by Goldman Sachs. Some of the summaries of the financial analyses include information presented in tabular format. The tables must be read together with the full text of each summary and are alone not a complete description of Goldman Sachs' financial analyses. Except as otherwise noted, the following quantitative information, to the extent that it is based on market data, is based on market data as it existed on or before November 2, 2009, and is not necessarily indicative of current market conditions.

Premia Paid Analysis. For all acquisition transactions announced between 2004 and 2009 involving the sale of U.S. targets for aggregate consideration greater than \$10 billion, Goldman Sachs calculated the median percentage premia of the consideration paid to the target's closing price on the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement (the 1-Day Prior Premium) and the median percentage premia of the consideration paid to the target's closing price on the trading day four weeks preceding the date of announcement (the 4-Week Prior Premium). This analysis did not include transactions involving the purchase of less than 25% of a company's ownership interest, and did not include the sale of Wachovia Corporation to Wells Fargo & Company or the sale of The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. to JPMorgan Chase & Co. The following is the result of this analysis:

In 2004, the median 1-Day Prior Premium was 16.5% and the median 4-Week Prior Premium was 35.8%;

In 2005, the median 1-Day Prior Premium was 17.6% and the median 4-Week Prior Premium was 22.9%;

In 2006, the median 1-Day Prior Premium was 17.9% and the median 4-Week Prior Premium was 20.7%;

In 2007, the median 1-Day Prior Premium was 19.9% and the median 4-Week Prior Premium was 22.4%;

In 2008, the median 1-Day Prior Premium was 30.6% and the median 4-Week Prior Premium was 27.3%; and

In 2009 (through October 30, 2009), the median 1-Day Prior Premium was 31.6% and the 4-Week Prior Premium was 38.9%. Goldman Sachs also analyzed the \$100.00 implied per share value of each of the cash consideration and the stock consideration to be paid to holders of shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement in relation to the closing price of shares of BNSF common stock on October 30, 2009, the last trading day prior to the date on which the BNSF Board adopted a resolution approving the merger agreement, the high and low prices of shares of BNSF common stock for the 52-week period ended October 30, 2009, and the all-time high price of shares of BNSF common stock. Goldman Sachs also analyzed the \$100.00 implied per share value of each of the cash consideration and the stock consideration to be paid to the holders of shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement in relation to the average market prices of shares of BNSF common stock during the one-week, 30-day, six-month, one-year, two-year and five-year periods ended October 30, 2009.

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The following table presents the results of this analysis:

| | Value | Premium |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|
| Premium Analysis | | |
| Premium to 10-30-09 close | \$ 75.32 | 32.8% |
| Premium to 1-week average | 76.58 | 30.6 |
| Premium to 52-week high | 91.60 | 9.2 |
| Premium to 52-week low | 51.20 | 95.3 |
| Premium to 30-day average | 81.20 | 23.1 |
| Premium to 6-month average | 77.61 | 28.9 |
| Premium to 1-year average | 73.06 | 36.9 |
| Premium to 2-year average | 83.13 | 20.3 |
| Premium to 5-year average | 74.64 | 34.0 |
| Premium to all-time high | 114.56 | (12.7) |

Analysis of Multiples at Offer Price. Goldman Sachs calculated and compared various financial multiples and ratios for BNSF based on information that it obtained from BNSF management and estimates from the Institutional Brokers Estimate System (IBES):

Ratios of the implied enterprise value (EV) of BNSF on October 30, 2009 (computed by adding BNSF's net debt of \$9.224 billion to an implied equity value on October 30, 2009 of \$25.928 billion) to BNSF's estimated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) for 2010;

Ratios of the implied EV paid for BNSF in the merger (computed by adding BNSF's net debt of \$9.224 billion to the implied aggregate value of the cash consideration and the stock consideration to be received by holders of shares of BNSF common stock in the merger of \$34.623 billion) to BNSF's estimated EBITDA for 2010;

Ratios of the closing price per share of BNSF common stock on October 30, 2009 to BNSF's estimated earnings per share (EPS) for 2010; and

Ratios of the \$100.00 implied per share value of the cash consideration and the stock consideration to be received by holders of shares of BNSF common stock in the merger to BNSF's estimated EPS for 2010.

The following table presents the results of this analysis:

| | As of October 30, 2009 | Implied Consideration Value |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Enterprise Value/2010E EBITDA | | |
| IBES | 6.8x | 8.5x |
| 2010 Recovery Case | 7.0 | 8.7 |
| 2011 Recovery Case | 7.4 | 9.3 |
| No Recovery Case | 7.6 | 9.5 |
| Deeper Recession Case | 8.0 | 10.0 |
| Price/2010E EPS | | |
| IBES | 13.5x | 17.9x |
| 2010 Recovery Case | 14.9 | 19.8 |
| 2011 Recovery Case | 17.1 | 22.7 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|
| No Recovery Case | | 23.4 |
| Deeper Recession Case | 17.6 19.7 | 26.2 |

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Illustrative Present Value of Future Stock Price Analyses. Goldman Sachs performed illustrative analyses of the present value of the future price of shares of BNSF common stock using BNSF management's 2010 Recovery Case, 2011 Recovery Case, No Recovery Case and Deeper Recession Case estimates of BNSF's EPS for each year between 2011 and 2014. Management of BNSF directed Goldman Sachs to assume that the 2011 Recovery Case is more likely than BNSF's other forecasts prepared by BNSF management. Goldman Sachs first multiplied such EPS estimates by price/earnings multiples ranging from 9.5x-17.5x. Goldman Sachs then calculated the present values of the implied per share future values, including the present value of the future dividend payments, for shares of BNSF common stock by discounting the implied per share future values to December 31, 2009 (the assumed date of the merger for purposes of this analysis), using discount rates ranging from 8%-12%, reflecting estimates of BNSF's cost of equity. The following tables present the results of this analysis:

| Year | 2011 Recovery Case | | 2010 Recovery Case | | No Recovery Case | | Deeper Recession Case | |
|-------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| | (Implied Present Value) | | (Implied Present Value) | | (Implied Present Value) | | (Implied Present Value) | |
| 2011E | \$47.55 | \$89.51 | \$59.85 | \$113.01 | \$40.93 | \$76.87 | \$33.21 | \$62.13 |
| 2012E | 54.07 | 104.27 | 66.71 | 129.33 | 39.71 | 76.00 | 31.60 | 59.95 |
| 2013E | 59.44 | 117.49 | 70.33 | 139.86 | 37.42 | 72.87 | 30.32 | 58.29 |
| 2014E | 62.84 | 127.19 | 72.56 | 147.90 | 35.68 | 70.67 | 29.52 | 57.55 |

Goldman Sachs also performed illustrative analyses of the present value of the future price of shares of BNSF common stock using BNSF management's 2010 Recovery Case, 2011 Recovery Case, No Recovery Case and Deeper Recession Case estimates of BNSF's EBITDA for each year between 2011 and 2014. Management of BNSF directed Goldman Sachs to assume that the 2011 Recovery Case is more likely than BNSF's other forecasts prepared by BNSF management. Goldman Sachs first multiplied such EBITDA estimates by EV/EBITDA multiples ranging from 5.5x-9.5x and next subtracted the net debt estimates for each year between 2011 and 2014 using management's 2011 Recovery Case estimates. Goldman Sachs then calculated the present values of the implied per share future values for shares of BNSF common stock by discounting the implied per share future values to December 31, 2009 (the assumed date of the merger for purposes of this analysis), using discount rates ranging from 8%-12%. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

| Year | 2011 Recovery Case | | 2010 Recovery Case | | No Recovery Case | | Deeper Recession Case | |
|-------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| | (Implied Present Value) | | (Implied Present Value) | | (Implied Present Value) | | (Implied Present Value) | |
| 2011E | \$50.68 | \$106.97 | \$56.25 | \$123.01 | \$46.72 | \$97.72 | \$39.44 | \$84.94 |
| 2012E | 52.88 | 117.30 | 60.12 | 137.77 | 44.73 | 96.26 | 38.63 | 83.32 |
| 2013E | 57.13 | 130.75 | 63.48 | 149.41 | 43.52 | 95.43 | 38.19 | 82.41 |
| 2014E | 58.68 | 139.66 | 64.55 | 157.07 | 41.36 | 93.79 | 36.83 | 81.37 |

Discounted Cash Flow Analyses. Goldman Sachs performed illustrative discounted cash flow analyses on BNSF using BNSF management's 2010 Recovery Case, 2011 Recovery Case, No Recovery Case and Deeper Recession Case estimates provided by BNSF's management. Management of BNSF directed Goldman Sachs to assume that the 2011 Recovery Case is more likely than BNSF's other forecasts prepared by BNSF management. Goldman Sachs performed discounted cash flow analyses to generate reference ranges for the implied present value per share of BNSF by calculating the total present value of the estimated free cash flows for the period beginning December 31, 2010 and ending on December 31, 2014 using discount rates ranging from 7.0% to 11.0%, reflecting estimates of BNSF's weighted average cost of capital. Goldman Sachs then calculated the present value of BNSF's terminal value at December 31, 2014 by applying a range of enterprise value/EBITDA multiples of 5.5x to 9.5x to BNSF's estimated 2014 EBITDA and using discount rates ranging from 7.0% to 11.0%. Goldman Sachs then calculated the implied value per share of BNSF common stock by adding the present value of the five years of projected cash flows beginning from December 31, 2010 to the present value of BNSF's terminal value at December 31, 2014. This analysis resulted in a range of illustrative implied present values of \$62.38 to \$136.97 per share of BNSF common stock for the 2011 Recovery Case, \$71.04 to \$151.36 per share of BNSF common stock for the 2010 Recovery Case, \$39.61 to \$95.12 per share of BNSF common

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stock for the No Recovery Case and \$33.08 to \$84.36 per share of BNSF common stock for the Deeper Recession Case.

Goldman Sachs also performed a similar discounted cash flow analysis on BNSF using BNSF management's 2010 Recovery Case, 2011 Recovery Case, No Recovery Case and Deeper Recession Case estimates provided by BNSF's management and discount rates ranging from 7.0% to 11.0%, but using terminal values based on a perpetuity growth rate ranging from 1.5% to 3.5%. Management of BNSF directed Goldman Sachs to assume that the 2011 Recovery Case is more likely than BNSF's other forecasts prepared by BNSF management. This analysis resulted in a range of illustrative implied present values of \$42.32 to \$153.54 per share of BNSF common stock for the 2011 Recovery Case, \$51.91 to \$176.14 per share of BNSF common stock for the 2010 Recovery Case, \$20.89 to \$94.81 per share of BNSF common stock for the No Recovery Case and \$14.45 to \$79.66 per share of BNSF common stock for the Deeper Recession Case.

Historical Exchange Ratio Analysis. Goldman Sachs calculated the average historical exchange ratios of shares of BNSF common stock to shares of Berkshire Class A common stock based on the closing prices of shares of BNSF common stock (after multiplying the closing prices of the shares of BNSF common stock by 1000 for illustrative purposes) and shares of Berkshire Class A common stock during the 3-month, 6-month, 1-year and 5-year periods ended October 30, 2009. Goldman Sachs also calculated the minimum, maximum and median exchange ratios of shares of BNSF common stock to shares of Berkshire Class A common stock during the 5-year period ended October 30, 2009. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

| Statistic | Value |
|------------------|--------------|
| Minimum | 0.49x |
| Maximum | 1.00x |
| Median | 0.74x |
| 3-Month Average | 0.82x |
| 6-Month Average | 0.80x |
| 1-Year Average | 0.78x |
| 5-Year Average | 0.73x |

Ratio of Price to Book Value Per Share. Goldman Sachs calculated the current ratio as well as the average historical ratios of closing prices of shares of Berkshire Class A common stock to the book values per share of shares of Berkshire common stock reported by Berkshire during the 3-month, 6-month, 1-year, 5-year and 10-year periods ended October 30, 2009. Goldman Sachs also calculated the minimum, maximum and median ratios of closing prices of shares of Berkshire Class A common stock to book values per share of shares of Berkshire common stock reported by Berkshire during the 10-year period ended October 30, 2009. Goldman Sachs noted that the current ratio was equal to or below the average historical ratios for all of the calculated periods. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

| Statistic | Value |
|------------------|--------------|
| Current | 1.3x |
| Minimum | 1.0x |
| Maximum | 2.0x |
| Median | 1.6x |
| 3-Month Average | 1.4x |
| 6-Month Average | 1.3x |
| 1-Year Average | 1.3x |
| 5-Year Average | 1.5x |
| 10-year Average | 1.6x |

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Precedent Domestic Rail Transactions Analysis. Goldman Sachs analyzed certain information relating to the following transactions in the domestic rail industry:

BNSF's acquisition of Canadian National Railway Company announced in December 1999, which was never consummated;

Canadian National Railway Company's acquisition of Illinois Central Corporation announced in February 1998;

The acquisition of Conrail Inc. by Norfolk Southern Corporation and CSX Corporation announced in April 1997;

Union Pacific Corporation's acquisition of Southern Pacific Rail Corporation announced in August 1995;

Union Pacific Corporation's acquisition of 70.9% of the common stock of Chicago & North Western Transportation Company announced in March 1995; and

Burlington Northern Inc.'s acquisition of Santa Fe Pacific Corporation announced in June 1994.

For each of the selected transactions, Goldman Sachs calculated and compared enterprise value based on the implied transaction price as a multiple of the target's last twelve months (LTM) EBITDA. For each of the selected transactions, Goldman Sachs also analyzed the target's LTM operating ratio, the estimated annual pre-tax synergies resulting from the transaction and the synergy adjusted enterprise value based on the implied transaction price as a multiple of LTM EBITDA. While none of the selected transactions or the selected companies that participated in the selected transactions are directly comparable to the proposed merger, including because the most recent precedent domestic rail transaction was consummated approximately 10 years ago, or BNSF, the companies that participated in the selected transactions are companies with operations that, for the purposes of analysis, may be considered similar to certain of BNSF's results, market size and product profile.

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The analysis indicated that the range of synergy adjusted EV/LTM EBITDA for the selected transactions was 4.3x-7.5x, and the range of EV/LTM EBITDA for the selected transactions was 6.7x-12.6x, with a median value of 8.9x. Goldman Sachs noted that the EV/EBITDA multiple for the proposed merger was consistent with the median value for the precedent domestic rail transactions. The following table presents the other results of this analysis:

| Announced Date | Acquiror | Target | Enterprise Value (in millions) | Target LTM Operating Ratio | Estimated Annual Pre-tax Synergies (in millions) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Dec-1999 | BNSF | Canadian National Railway Company | \$ 8,955 | 65.9% | \$ 560 |
| Feb-1998 | Canadian National Railway Company | Illinois Central Corporation | 2,991 | 63.4 | 300 |
| April-1997 | Norfolk Southern/CSX | Conrail Inc. | 12,451 | 79.0 | 650/550 |
| Aug-1995 | Union Pacific | Southern Pacific Rail Corporation | 5,500 | 96.7 | 500 |
| Mar-1995 | Union Pacific | Chicago & North Western | 2,611 | 80.0 | N/A |
| Jan-1995 | Burlington Northern | Santa Fe Pacific | 5,105 | 82.7 | 560 |

Selected Heavy Asset Transactions Analysis. Goldman Sachs analyzed certain information relating to the following selected heavy asset mergers and acquisitions transactions in the three years ended October 23, 2009:

One Equity Partners, LLC's acquisition of Constantia Packaging AG announced in October 2009;

American Securities LLC's acquisition of GenTek Inc. announced in September 2009;

Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V.'s acquisition of Smit Internationale N.V. announced in September 2008 but never consummated;

Liberty Shipping Group LLC's acquisition of International Shipholding Corporation announced in September 2008 but never consummated;

Ingersoll-Rand Company Limited's acquisition of Trane Inc. announced in December 2007;

Berkshire's acquisition of Marmon Holdings, Inc. announced in December 2007;

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Eaton Corporation's acquisition of Moeller Holding GmbH & Co. KG announced in December 2007;

Cerberus Capital Management, LP's acquisition of United Rentals Inc. announced in July 2007 but never consummated;

Platinum Equity, LLC's acquisition of Ryerson Inc. announced in July 2007;

Doosan Infracore Co, Ltd.'s acquisition of Bobcat Company announced in July 2007;

Onex Corp. and the Carlyle Group, L.P.'s acquisition of Allison Transmission, Inc. announced in June 2007;

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Bucyrus International, Inc.'s acquisition of DBT GmbH announced in December 2006; and

Oshkosh Truck Corporation's acquisition of JLG Industries, Inc. announced in October 2006.

For each of the selected transactions, Goldman Sachs calculated and compared enterprise value based on the implied transaction price as a multiple of the target's LTM EBITDA. While none of the selected transactions or the companies that participated in the selected transactions are directly comparable to the proposed merger or BNSF, the companies that participated in the selected transactions are companies with operations that, for the purposes of analysis, may be considered similar to certain of BNSF's results, market size and product profile.

The results of this analysis indicated that the range of EV/LTM EBITDA for these transactions was 4.5x-13.2x, with a mean value of 7.7x and a median value of 7.9x. Goldman Sachs noted that the EV/EBITDA multiple for the proposed merger was higher than the median value for the selected heavy asset transactions.

Selected Precedent Collar Analysis. Goldman Sachs analyzed the high and low collar prices for selected transactions since 2003 involving the sale of U.S. targets for aggregate consideration greater than \$200 million and with a floating exchange rate collar provision. For each of these transactions, Goldman Sachs determined the stock price of the acquiror one day prior to the announcement of the transaction and measured the percentage above the acquiror's high collar price and the percentage below the acquiror's low collar price.

The table below presents the results of this analysis:

| Target | Acquiror | Date Announced | Collar Price High | Collar Price Low | Acquiror Stock Price 1 Day Prior | % Above Acquiror Stock Price 1 Day Prior | % Below Acquiror Stock Price 1 Day Prior |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| ICT Group, Inc. | Sykes Enterprises, Incorporated | 10/6/2009 | \$ 22.47 | \$ 19.33 | \$ 20.15 | 11% | -4% |
| Data Domain, Inc. | NetApp Inc. | 5/20/2009 | 21.27 | 17.41 | 18.07 | 18 | -4 |
| Lev Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | ViroPharma Incorporated | 7/15/2008 | 15.68 | 10.03 | 12.54 | 25 | -20 |
| Corn Products International, Inc. | Bunge Limited | 6/23/2008 | 133.10 | 108.90 | 122.17 | 9 | -11 |
| Hilb, Rogal and Hobbs Company | Willis Group Holdings Limited | 6/8/2008 | 40.04 | 31.46 | 35.88 | 12 | -12 |
| ProCentury Corporation | Meadowbrook Insurance Group | 2/20/2008 | 10.50 | 8.00 | 8.94 | 17 | -11 |
| CSK Auto Corporation | O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. | 2/1/2008 | 29.95 | 25.67 | 29.43 | 2 | -13 |
| Greater Bay Bancorp | Wells Fargo & Company | 5/4/2007 | 39.33 | 32.18 | 35.84 | 10 | -10 |
| Placer Sierra Bancshares | Wells Fargo & Company | 1/9/2007 | 39.82 | 32.58 | 35.50 | 12 | -8 |
| Solexa, Inc. | Illumina, Inc. | 11/13/2006 | 47.30 | 40.70 | 44.05 | 7 | -8 |
| Windrose Medical Properties Trust | Health Care REIT, Inc. | 9/13/2006 | 40.05 | 38.84 | 40.05 | 0 | -3 |

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| Target | Acquiror | Date Announced | Collar Price High | Collar Price Low | Acquiror Stock Price 1 Day Prior | % Above Acquiror Stock Price 1 Day Prior | % Below Acquiror Stock Price 1 Day Prior |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| International DisplayWorks, Inc. | Flextronics International Ltd. | 9/5/2006 | 13.49 | 10.56 | 11.77 | 15 | -10 |
| Earle M. Jorgensen Company | Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co. | 1/17/2006 | 72.86 | 53.86 | 64.80 | 12 | -17 |
| Foothill Independent Bancorp | First Community Bancorp | 12/15/2005 | 59.03 | 45.91 | 53.32 | 11 | -14 |
| Guidant Corporation | Boston Scientific Corporation | 12/5/2005 | 28.86 | 22.62 | 27.33 | 6 | -17 |
| Engineered Support Systems, Inc. | DRS Technologies, Inc. | 9/22/2005 | 57.20 | 46.80 | 48.00 | 19 | -3 |
| Maytag Corporation | Whirlpool Corporation | 7/17/2005 | 91.79 | 75.10 | 70.41 | 30 | 7 |
| MCI, Inc. | Qwest Communications Intl. | 2/24/2005 | 4.15 | 3.32 | 4.05 | 2 | -18 |
| International Steel Group Inc. | Ispat International N.V. | 10/25/2004 | 43.81 | 34.50 | 25.34 | 73 | 36 |
| Province Healthcare Company | LifePoint Hospitals, Inc. | 8/16/2004 | 39.00 | 33.00 | 32.74 | 19 | 1 |
| Millennium Chemicals Inc. | Lyondell Chemical Company | 3/29/2004 | 20.50 | 16.50 | 15.62 | 31 | 6 |
| ILEX Oncology, Inc. | Genzyme Corporation | 2/26/2004 | 59.88 | 46.58 | 53.23 | 12 | -12 |
| Local Financial Corporation | International Bancshares Corp. | 1/22/2004 | 44.80 | 36.80 | 51.10 | -12 | -28 |
| Neuberger Berman Inc. | Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. | 7/22/2003 | 90.42 | 66.51 | 64.50 | 40 | 3 |
| OfficeMax Incorporated | Boise Cascade Corporation | 7/14/2003 | 25.77 | 21.09 | 23.43 | 10 | -10 |
| | | | | | | | -10.4% |
| | | | | | Median Average | 12.4% 14.7% | -8.5% |

The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Selecting portions of the analyses or of the summary set forth above, without considering the analyses as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying Goldman Sachs' opinion. In arriving at its fairness determination, Goldman Sachs considered the results of all of its analyses and did not attribute any particular weight to any factor or analysis considered by it. Rather, Goldman Sachs made its determination as to fairness on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after

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considering the results of all of its analyses. No company or transaction used in the above analyses as a comparison is directly comparable to BNSF or Berkshire or the contemplated merger.

Goldman Sachs prepared these analyses for purposes of Goldman Sachs providing its opinion to the BNSF Board as to the fairness from a financial point of view, as of the date of the opinion, to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the outstanding shares of BNSF common stock of the stock consideration and the cash consideration, taken in the aggregate, to be paid to such holders pursuant to the merger agreement. These analyses do not purport to be appraisals nor do they necessarily reflect the prices at which businesses or securities actually may be sold. Analyses based upon forecasts of future results are not necessarily indicative of actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by these analyses. Because these analyses are inherently subject to uncertainty, being based upon numerous factors or events beyond the control of the parties or their respective advisors, none of BNSF, Berkshire, Goldman Sachs or any other person assumes responsibility if future results are materially different from those forecast.

The merger consideration was determined through arms -length negotiations between BNSF and Berkshire and was approved by the BNSF Board. Goldman Sachs provided advice to BNSF during these negotiations. Goldman Sachs did not, however, recommend any specific amount of consideration to BNSF or the BNSF Board or that any specific amount of consideration constituted the only appropriate consideration for the merger.

As described above, Goldman Sachs opinion to the BNSF Board was one of many factors taken into consideration by the BNSF Board in making its determination to approve the merger agreement. The foregoing summary does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Goldman Sachs in connection with the fairness opinion and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the written opinion of Goldman Sachs attached as Annex C to this proxy statement/prospectus.

Goldman Sachs and its affiliates are engaged in investment banking and financial advisory services, commercial banking, securities trading, investment management, principal investment, financial planning, benefits counseling, risk management, hedging, financing, brokerage activities and other financial and non-financial activities and services for various persons and entities. In the ordinary course of these activities and services, Goldman Sachs and its affiliates may at any time make or hold long or short positions and investments, as well as actively trade or effect transactions, in the equity, debt and other securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans and other obligations) of third parties, BNSF, Berkshire and any of their respective affiliates or any currency or commodity that may be involved in the merger for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Goldman Sachs acted as financial advisor to BNSF in connection with, and participated in certain of the negotiations leading to, the merger. In addition, Goldman Sachs has provided certain investment banking and other financial services to BNSF and its affiliates from time to time, including having acted as joint-lead manager with respect to an offering by BNSF of its 6.150% Global Debentures due 2037 (aggregate principal amount \$650,000,000) and its 5.650% Global Debentures due 2017 (aggregate principal amount \$650,000,000) in April 2007; as a joint bookrunner with respect to an offering by BNSF of its 7.00% Notes due 2014 (aggregate principal amount \$500,000,000) in November 2008; and as a joint bookrunner with respect to an offering by BNSF of its 4.70% Notes due 2019 (aggregate principal amount \$750,000,000) in September 2009. Goldman Sachs also has extensively provided and is currently providing certain investment banking and other financial services to Berkshire and its affiliates and portfolio companies, including, but not limited to, having acted as joint bookrunner with respect to an offering by PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of Berkshire, of its 5.75% First Mortgage Bonds due 2037 (aggregate principal amount \$600,000,000) in March 2007; as sole bookrunner with respect to an offering by XTRA Finance Corporation, a subsidiary of Berkshire, of its 5.150% Senior Notes due 2017 (aggregate principal amount \$400,000,000) in March 2007; as sole bookrunner with respect to an offering by Berkshire Hathaway Finance of its 5.125% Senior Notes due 2012 (aggregate principal amount \$750,000,000) in December 2007; as sole bookrunner with respect to an offering by Berkshire Hathaway Finance of its 4.50% Senior Notes due 2013 (aggregate principal amount \$500,000,000) and Floating Rate Notes due 2011 (aggregate principal amount \$1,500,000,000) in March 2008; and as joint bookrunner with respect to an offering by Berkshire Hathaway Finance of its 4.00% Senior Notes due 2012

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(aggregate principal amount \$750,000,000) and its 5.40% Senior Notes due 2018 (aggregate principal amount \$250,000,000) in March 2009. Goldman Sachs may provide investment banking and other financial services to BNSF and to Berkshire and its portfolio companies and their respective affiliates in the future. In connection with the above-described services Goldman Sachs has received, and may receive, compensation. On October 1, 2008, affiliates of Berkshire purchased from The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. 50,000 shares of 10% Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series G of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (aggregate liquidation preference \$5,000,000,000) and warrants to purchase 43,478,260 shares of common stock of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. at an exercise price of \$115 per share. Goldman Sachs and its affiliates also have co-invested with Berkshire and its affiliates and portfolio companies from time to time and may do so in the future.

The BNSF Board engaged Goldman Sachs as its financial advisor because it is an internationally recognized investment banking firm that has substantial experience in transactions similar to the merger. Pursuant to a letter agreement, dated October 24, 2009, BNSF engaged Goldman Sachs to act as its financial advisor in connection with the merger. Pursuant to the terms of this engagement letter, BNSF has agreed to pay Goldman Sachs a transaction fee of approximately \$35 million, all of which is contingent upon consummation of the merger. In addition, BNSF has agreed to reimburse Goldman Sachs for its expenses, including attorneys' fees and disbursements, and to indemnify Goldman Sachs and related persons against various liabilities, including certain liabilities under the federal securities laws.

Opinion of Evercore

On November 2, 2009, at a meeting of the BNSF Board, Evercore delivered to the BNSF Board an oral opinion, which opinion was subsequently confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated November 2, 2009, to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the scope of review undertaken by Evercore as set forth therein, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such merger consideration.

The full text of Evercore's written opinion, dated November 2, 2009, which sets forth, among other things, the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the scope of review undertaken in rendering its opinion, is attached as Annex D to this proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this proxy statement/prospectus. You are urged to read Evercore's opinion carefully and in its entirety. Evercore's opinion was directed to the BNSF Board and addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such merger consideration. The opinion does not address any other aspect of the proposed merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any holder of BNSF common stock as to how such stockholder should vote or act with respect to any matters relating to the merger. Evercore's opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business or financial strategies that might be available to BNSF, nor does it address the underlying business decision of BNSF to engage in the merger.

In connection with rendering its opinion, Evercore, among other things:

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to BNSF and Berkshire that it deemed to be relevant, including publicly available research analysts' estimates;

reviewed certain non-public historical financial and operating data relating to BNSF prepared and furnished to it by management of BNSF;

reviewed certain non-public projected financial and operating data relating to BNSF under alternative business assumptions prepared and furnished to it by management of BNSF;

discussed the past and current operations, financial projections and current financial condition of BNSF with management of BNSF (including management's views on the risks and uncertainties of achieving

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such projections) and discussed the past and current operations, current financial condition and certain forward-looking information of Berkshire with management of Berkshire;

reviewed the reported prices and the historical trading activity of BNSF common stock and Berkshire Class A common stock;

compared the financial performance of BNSF and Berkshire and their respective stock market trading multiples with those of certain other publicly traded companies and indices that it deemed relevant;

compared the financial performance of BNSF and the valuation multiples relating to the merger with those of certain other transactions that it deemed relevant;

reviewed the merger agreement; and

performed such other analyses and examinations and considered such other factors that it deemed appropriate.

For purposes of its analysis and opinion, Evercore assumed and relied upon, without undertaking any independent verification of, the accuracy and completeness of all of the information publicly available, and all of the information supplied or otherwise made available to, discussed with, or reviewed by Evercore, and Evercore assumed no liability therefor. With respect to the projected financial data relating to BNSF referred to above and approved for Evercore's use by BNSF, Evercore assumed that such projected financial data had been reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available assumptions, estimates and good faith judgments of management of BNSF as to the future financial performance of BNSF. Management of BNSF had informed Evercore that the 2011 Recovery Case was the most likely of the forecasts provided to Evercore. Evercore expressed no view as to any projected financial data relating to BNSF or the assumptions on which such projected financial data was based. Management of Berkshire did not provide Evercore with any forecasts or projections for Berkshire and Evercore's discussions with Berkshire's management with respect to potential future forecasts and projections were therefore limited to discussions of certain forward-looking information.

For purposes of rendering its opinion, Evercore assumed, in all respects material to its analysis, that the representations and warranties of each party contained in the merger agreement were true and correct, that each party would perform all of the covenants and agreements required to be performed by it under the merger agreement and that all conditions to the consummation of the merger would be satisfied without material waiver or modification thereof. Evercore further assumed that all governmental, regulatory or other consents, approvals or releases necessary for the consummation of the merger would be obtained without any material delay, limitation, restriction or condition that would have an adverse effect on BNSF or the consummation of the merger or reduce the benefits to the holders of BNSF common stock of the merger in any respect material to its opinion.

Evercore did not make or assume any responsibility for making any independent valuation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of BNSF, nor was Evercore furnished with any such appraisals. Evercore did not evaluate the solvency or fair value of BNSF under any state or Federal laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters. Evercore's opinion was necessarily based upon information made available to it as of the date of its opinion and financial, economic, market and other conditions as they existed and as could be evaluated on the date of its opinion. It should be understood that subsequent developments may affect Evercore's opinion and that Evercore has no obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its opinion.

Evercore was not asked to pass upon, and expressed no opinion with respect to, any matter other than the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such merger consideration. Evercore did not express any view on, and its opinion did not address, the fairness of the proposed transaction to, or any consideration received in connection therewith by, the holders of any other securities, creditors or other constituencies of BNSF, nor the fairness of the amount or nature of any compensation to be paid or payable to any of the officers, directors or employees of BNSF, or any class of such persons, whether relative to the merger

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consideration or otherwise. Evercore assumed that any modification to the structure of the transaction would not vary such structure in any respect material to its analysis. Evercore's opinion did not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business or financial strategies that might be available to BNSF, nor did Evercore's opinion address the underlying business decision of BNSF to engage in the merger. In arriving at its opinion, Evercore was not authorized to solicit, and did not solicit, interest from any third party with respect to the acquisition of any or all of the BNSF common stock or any business combination or other extraordinary transaction involving BNSF. Evercore expressed no opinion as to the price at which shares of BNSF or Berkshire will trade at any time. Evercore's opinion noted that Evercore is not a legal, regulatory, accounting or tax expert and that Evercore had assumed the accuracy and completeness of assessments by BNSF and its advisors with respect to legal, regulatory, accounting and tax matters.

Except as described above, the BNSF Board imposed no other instructions or limitations on Evercore with respect to the investigations made or the procedures followed by Evercore in rendering its opinion. Evercore's opinion was only one of many factors considered by the BNSF Board in its evaluation of the merger and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the BNSF Board or BNSF management with respect to the merger or the merger consideration payable in the merger.

Set forth below is a summary of the material financial analyses reviewed by Evercore with the BNSF Board on November 2, 2009 in connection with rendering its opinion. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Evercore. The order of the analyses described and the results of these analyses do not represent relative importance or weight given to these analyses by Evercore. Except as otherwise noted, the following quantitative information, to the extent that it is based on market data, is based on market data as it existed on or before October 30, 2009 (the last trading day prior to November 2, 2009, the date on which the BNSF Board adopted a resolution to approve the merger), and is not necessarily indicative of current market conditions.

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The following summary of financial analyses includes information presented in tabular format. These tables must be read together with the text of each summary in order to understand fully the financial analyses. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the tables below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of Evercore's financial analyses.

BNSF FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Historical Share Price Analysis. Evercore considered historical data with regard to the closing stock prices of BNSF common stock as of October 30, 2009 and over the ten-year, five-year, one-year, six-month, three-month, one-month and ten-day periods prior to and including October 30, 2009, and the average closing stock price for each such period. During the one-year period prior to and including October 30, 2009, the closing stock price of BNSF common stock ranged from a low of \$51.20 to a high of \$91.60 per share, with an average closing stock price of \$73.07. The foregoing historical share price analysis was presented to the BNSF Board to provide it with background information and perspective with respect to the relative historical share price of BNSF common stock.

| | Historical Closing Stock Price | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Low | High | Average |
| 1 Day (October 30, 2009) | \$ 75.32 | \$ 75.32 | \$ 75.32 |
| 10 Days | 75.32 | 86.40 | 80.34 |
| 1 Month | 75.32 | 86.50 | 81.20 |
| 3 Months | 75.32 | 86.50 | 82.13 |
| 6 Months | 68.09 | 86.50 | 79.07 |
| 1 Year | 51.20 | 91.60 | 73.07 |
| 5 Years | 41.67 | 114.56 | 74.63 |
| 10 Years | 19.25 | 114.56 | 51.46 |

Historical Exchange Ratio Analysis. Evercore compared the historical per share prices of BNSF common stock and Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten-year, five-year, one-year, six-month, three-month, one-month and ten-day periods prior to and including October 30, 2009 in order to determine the low, high and average implied exchange ratio that existed for each such period.

| | Historical Exchange Ratio | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Low | High | Average |
| Current (October 30, 2009) | 0.00077x | 0.00077x | 0.00077x |
| 10 Days | 0.00076x | 0.00086x | 0.00080x |
| 1 Month | 0.00076x | 0.00086x | 0.00081x |
| 3 Months | 0.00076x | 0.00086x | 0.00082x |
| 6 Months | 0.00076x | 0.00088x | 0.00082x |
| 1 Year | 0.00065x | 0.00093x | 0.00078x |
| 5 Years | 0.00049x | 0.00100x | 0.00073x |
| 10 Years | 0.00032x | 0.00100x | 0.00057x |

Research Analyst Price Targets. Evercore analyzed research analyst estimates of potential future value for shares of BNSF common stock, commonly referred to as price targets, based on publicly available equity research published with respect to BNSF. Evercore observed that, as of October 30, 2009, research analyst one-year forward price targets for shares of BNSF common stock ranged from \$70 to \$103 per share, with an average price target of \$91 per share. Evercore then discounted the price targets twelve months at an assumed discount

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rate of 11%, derived by taking into consideration, among other things, a cost of equity calculation, resulting in a present value ranging from \$63.06 to \$92.79 per share.

Peer Group Trading Analysis. In order to assess how the public market values shares of similar publicly traded companies, Evercore reviewed and compared specific financial and operating data relating to BNSF to that of a group of selected peer companies that Evercore deemed to have certain characteristics that are similar to those of BNSF. As part of its peer group trading analysis, Evercore calculated and analyzed the multiple of current stock price to estimated 2009 and 2010 earnings per share (commonly referred to as a price earnings multiple, or P/E) for BNSF and each member of its peer group. Evercore also calculated and analyzed the multiple of enterprise value to estimated 2009 and 2010 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) (commonly referred to as an EBITDA multiple) for BNSF and each member of its respective peer group. The enterprise value of each company was obtained by adding its short and long term debt to the sum of the market value of its common equity and the book value of any minority interest, and subtracting its cash and cash equivalents and book value of unconsolidated investments. The companies that Evercore deemed to have certain characteristics similar to those of BNSF were Canadian National Railway Company, Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, CSX Corporation, Norfolk Southern Corporation and Union Pacific Corporation.

The analysis of current stock price to earnings per share indicated that, for the selected peer group, the current stock price as a multiple of estimated 2009 earnings per share ranged from 14.8x to 17.7x with a mean of 16.1x, and the current stock price as a multiple of estimated 2010 earnings per share ranged from 12.9x to 13.7x with a mean of 13.4x. This compared to a current stock price to estimated 2009 earnings per share multiple of 15.4x for BNSF and a current stock price to estimated 2010 earnings per share multiple of 13.6x for BNSF, in each case based on publicly available research estimates. Evercore noted that, with respect to the merger, the implied price as a multiple of BNSF estimated 2009 and 2010 earnings per share, in each case based on publicly available research estimates, was 20.4x and 18.1x, respectively.

Based on the above analysis, Evercore then applied a range of current stock price as a multiple of estimated 2009 earnings per share of 15.0x to 17.0x and a range of current stock price as a multiple of estimated 2010 earnings per share of 13.0x to 14.0x to the mean of BNSF's consensus publicly available earnings per share research estimates for 2009 and 2010, respectively. This analysis indicated implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF common stock of \$73.52 to \$83.32 and \$71.97 to \$77.50 based on the mean of BNSF consensus publicly available earnings per share research estimates for 2009 and 2010, respectively. Evercore also applied such ranges of multiples to the respective BNSF 2009 and 2010 earnings per share estimates under each of the BNSF management 2010 Recovery Case, the BNSF management 2011 Recovery Case, the BNSF management No Recovery Case and the BNSF management Deeper Recession Case; such analysis indicated implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF common stock of \$71.55 to \$81.09 and \$49.66 to \$70.56 for 2009 and 2010, respectively. Management of BNSF had informed Evercore that the 2011 Recovery Case is the most likely of the forecasts provided to Evercore.

The analysis of financial multiples indicated that, for the selected peer group, enterprise value as a multiple of estimated 2009 EBITDA ranged from 7.0x to 9.5x with a mean of 8.1x, and enterprise value as a multiple of estimated 2010 EBITDA ranged from 6.4x to 8.3x with a mean of 7.2x. This compared to an enterprise value to estimated 2009 EBITDA multiple of 7.4x and an enterprise value to estimated 2010 EBITDA multiple of 6.7x for BNSF, based on publicly available research estimates. Evercore noted that, with respect to the merger, the implied enterprise value as a multiple of BNSF estimated 2009 and 2010 EBITDA, in each case based on publicly available research estimates, was 9.2x and 8.4x, respectively.

Based on the above analysis, Evercore then applied a range of enterprise value as a multiple of estimated 2009 EBITDA of 7.0x to 8.5x and a range of enterprise value as a multiple of estimated 2010 EBITDA of 6.5x to 8.0x to the mean of BNSF's consensus publicly available EBITDA research estimates for 2009 and 2010, respectively. This analysis indicated implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF common stock of

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\$70.14 to \$90.91 and \$71.73 to \$94.46 based on the mean of consensus publicly available EBITDA estimates for 2009 and 2010, respectively. Evercore also applied such ranges of multiples to the respective BNSF 2009 and 2010 EBITDA estimates, under each of the BNSF management 2010 Recovery Case, the BNSF management 2011 Recovery Case, the BNSF management No Recovery Case and the BNSF management Deeper Recession Case; such analysis indicated implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF common stock of \$69.53 to \$90.17 and \$56.04 to \$90.61 for 2009 and 2010, respectively. Management of BNSF had informed Evercore that the 2011 Recovery Case is the most likely of the forecasts provided to Evercore.

Evercore selected the peer companies identified above because their respective businesses and operating profiles are reasonably similar to that of BNSF. However, because of the inherent differences between the businesses, operations and prospects of BNSF, on the one hand, and the businesses, operations and prospects of the selected peer companies on the other, no company is exactly the same as BNSF.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. Evercore performed a discounted cash flow analysis of BNSF in order to derive implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF based on the implied present value of projected future cash flows of BNSF. In this analysis, Evercore calculated implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF under each of the BNSF management 2010 Recovery Case, the BNSF management 2011 Recovery Case, the BNSF management No Recovery Case and the BNSF management Deeper Recession Case based on the sum of the (i) implied present values, using discount rates ranging from 8.0% to 10.0% derived by taking into consideration, among other things, a weighted average cost of capital calculation, of BNSF's projected unlevered free cash flows for calendar years 2010 through 2014 and (ii) implied present values, using discount rates ranging from 8.0% to 10.0%, of the terminal value of BNSF's future cash flows beyond calendar year 2014 calculated by applying a range of EBITDA terminal multiples of 6.75x to 8.25x derived from the selected peer companies as described in *Peer Group Trading Analysis* above to BNSF's calendar year 2014 projected EBITDA. This analysis indicated implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF common stock of \$91.50 to 124.47 under the BNSF management 2010 Recovery Case, \$81.53 to \$112.12 under the BNSF management 2011 Recovery Case, \$54.16 to \$76.92 under the BNSF management No Recovery Case, and \$46.56 to \$67.70 under the BNSF management Deeper Recession Case. Management of BNSF had informed Evercore that the 2011 Recovery Case is the most likely of the forecasts provided to Evercore.

Present Value of Future Stock Price Analysis. Evercore performed a present value of illustrative future stock price analysis of BNSF based on the BNSF management projections provided to Evercore. In this analysis, Evercore calculated future prices per share and equity values of BNSF under each of the BNSF management 2010 Recovery Case, the BNSF management 2011 Recovery Case, the BNSF management No Recovery Case and the BNSF management Deeper Recession Case for calendar years 2010 through 2014 by applying a multiple of 13.5x (representing the mid-point of the range of current stock price as a multiple of estimated 2010 earnings per share for the BNSF group of selected peer companies as described in *Peer Group Trading Analysis* above) to BNSF's projected earnings per share for each of those years. These illustrative future stock prices were discounted to present value as of December 31, 2009 using discount rates of 10.0% to 12.0%, taking into consideration, among other things, a cost of equity calculation, and were increased to reflect the present value of the future dividend projected to be paid by BNSF. With reference to the median discount rate of 11.0%, this analysis indicated ranges of implied value per share of BNSF common stock of \$68.04 to \$103.73 under the BNSF management 2010 Recovery Case, \$59.54 to \$89.41 under the BNSF management 2011 Recovery Case, \$50.05 to \$58.00 under the BNSF management No Recovery Case, and \$40.98 to \$51.57 under the BNSF management Deeper Recession Case. Management of BNSF had informed Evercore that the 2011 Recovery Case is the most likely of the forecasts provided to Evercore.

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Premiums Paid Analysis. Evercore performed a premiums paid analysis of BNSF in order to derive implied per share equity reference ranges for BNSF based on the premiums paid in selected transactions. In this analysis, using publicly available information, Evercore reviewed the premiums paid in the 20 largest transactions (based on transaction value) involving U.S. corporations that were announced between January 15, 1999 and January 26, 2009, which transactions are listed below:

Acquiror

Vodafone Group PLC
 AT&T Corporation
 Qwest Communications International, Inc.
 Viacom Inc.
 Pfizer Inc.
 America Online Inc.
 JDS Uniphase Corporation
 Chevron Corporation
 Pfizer Inc.
 Bank of America Corporation
 JPMorgan Chase & Co.
 Cingular Wireless LLC
 Sprint Corporation
 The Procter & Gamble Company
 Bank of America Corporation
 AT&T Inc.
 The Blackstone Group L.P.
 InBev NV
 Roche Holding AG
 Pfizer Inc.

Target

AirTouch Communications, Inc.
 MediaOne Group Inc.
 US WEST Inc.
 CBS Corporation
 Warner-Lambert Co.
 Time Warner, Inc.
 SDL Inc.
 Texaco Inc.
 Pharmacia Corporation
 FleetBoston Financial Corporation
 Bank One Corporation
 AT&T Wireless Services Inc.
 Nextel Communications Inc.
 The Gillette Company
 MBNA Corporation
 BellSouth Corporation
 Equity Office Properties Trust
 Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
 Genentech Inc.
 Wyeth

Evercore reviewed the premiums paid in the selected transactions referenced above based on the value of the per share consideration received in the relevant transaction relative to the closing stock price of the target company one day, one week and four weeks prior to the announcement date of the transaction.

| | Implied Premiums for Selected Transactions | | |
|-----------------|--|--------|---------|
| | 1 Day | 1 Week | 4 Weeks |
| Mean | 26% | 27% | 33% |
| Median | 23% | 27% | 30% |
| High | 69% | 54% | 69% |
| Low | 0% | 2% | 1% |
| Mean Since 2008 | 23% | 26% | 34% |

Based on the above analysis, Evercore then applied low and high selected premiums of 20% and 30% derived from the selected transactions to the closing price of BNSF common stock on October 30, 2009, the last trading day prior to the date on which the BNSF Board adopted a resolution approving the merger agreement. This analysis indicated an implied per share equity reference range for BNSF of \$90.38 to \$97.92.

Precedent Transactions Analysis. Evercore performed an analysis of selected transactions to compare multiples paid in other transactions to the multiples implied in the merger. Evercore identified and analyzed a

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group of six merger and acquisition transactions that were announced (but not necessarily completed) between 1994 and 1999. Although, in Evercore's opinion, none of those transactions are by themselves directly comparable to the merger, each could be considered similar to the merger (although not necessarily to each other) in certain limited respects. In assessing the quantitative results of the precedent transactions analysis, Evercore noted and made qualitative judgments concerning the small number of potentially comparable transactions and the differences between the nature and characteristics of the merger and such transactions (specifically, rail network transactions occurring between 1994 and 1999 involving strategic parties and projected to generate substantial synergies). For each of the selected transactions, Evercore calculated enterprise value as a multiple of last twelve months (LTM) EBITDA and enterprise value as a multiple of LTM revenue.

The selected transactions are set forth below:

| Date Announced | Acquiror | Target |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 12/20/99 | BNSF | Canadian National Railway Company |
| 02/10/98 | Canadian National Railway Company | Illinois Central Corporation |
| 04/08/97 | CSX Corporation/Norfolk Southern Corporation | Consolidated Rail Corporation |
| 08/03/95 | Union Pacific Corporation | Southern Pacific Rail Corporation |
| 03/10/95 | Union Pacific Corporation | Chicago & North Western Transportation Company |
| 06/30/94 | BNSF | Santa Fe Pacific Corporation |

Based on these transactions, Evercore selected a range of implied enterprise value to LTM EBITDA multiples between 7.0x and 10.0x LTM EBITDA, yielding an implied price per share of BNSF common stock that ranged from \$74.39 to \$117.76. Evercore noted that the implied enterprise value to LTM EBITDA multiple of the merger was 8.8x relative to the range of implied multiples of 6.8x to 12.5x determined with reference to LTM EBITDA and also noted that the implied enterprise value to LTM revenue multiple of the merger was 2.98x relative to the range of implied multiples of 1.73x to 4.29x determined with reference to LTM revenue.

BERKSHIRE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Historical Share Price Analysis. Evercore considered historical data with regard to the closing stock prices of Berkshire Class A common stock for the three-month, one-year and five-year periods prior to and including October 30, 2009. During these periods, the closing stock prices of Berkshire Class A common stock ranged from a low of \$95,250 to a high of \$108,100 per share in the three-month period, a low of \$72,400 to a high of \$118,400 per share in the one-year period, and a low of \$72,400 to a high of \$149,200 per share in the five-year period, in each case prior to and including October 30, 2009, the last trading day prior to the date on which the BNSF Board adopted a resolution approving the merger agreement. The foregoing historical share price analysis was presented to the BNSF Board to provide it with background information and perspective with respect to the relative historical share prices of Berkshire Class A common stock.

Research Analyst Price Targets. Evercore analyzed research analyst estimates of potential future value for shares of Berkshire Class A common stock, commonly referred to as price targets, based on publicly available equity research published with respect to Berkshire. Evercore observed that two research analyst one-year forward price targets for shares of Berkshire Class A common stock ranged from \$96,000 to \$133,000 per share, with an average price target of \$114,500 per share. Evercore then discounted the price targets twelve months at an assumed discount rate of 11.5%, derived by taking into consideration, among other things, a cost of equity calculation, resulting in a present value range from \$86,108 to \$119,295 per share.

Book Value Analysis. Using publicly available information, Evercore analyzed the multiple of closing stock price per share to last reported book value per share for Berkshire for each of the seven and one-half year, five-

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year, three-year, one-year, six-month, three-month and one-month periods prior to and including October 30, 2009. Evercore then compared the results of such analysis to the multiples derived from the same analysis for the S&P 500. Based on reference to the median of the upper and lower quartiles of the multiple of closing stock price per share to last reported book value per share for Berkshire for each of the seven and one-half year, five-year, three-year, one-year, six-month, three-month and one-month periods prior to and including October 30, 2009, Evercore selected a range of market price to book value per share multiples of 1.3x to 1.7x, yielding an implied price per share of Berkshire Class A common stock that ranged from \$95,948 to \$125,471 per share. Evercore also selected and applied a discount range of 30% to 45% discount to the S&P 500 market price to book value per share multiple as of October 30, 2009, yielding an implied price per share of Berkshire Class A common stock that ranged from \$88,740 to \$112,941 per share.

Forward Price Analysis. Using publicly available research estimates and other publicly-available information, Evercore analyzed the multiple of closing stock price to the next fiscal year mean earnings per share estimate for Berkshire Hathaway for each of the seven and one-half year, five-year, three-year, one-year, six-month, three-month and one-month periods prior to and including October 30, 2009. Evercore then compared the results of such analysis to the multiples derived from the same analysis for the S&P 500. Based on reference to the median of the upper and lower quartiles of the multiple of closing stock price per share to the next fiscal year mean earnings per share estimate for Berkshire for each of the seven and one-half year, five-year, three-year, one-year, six-month, three-month and one-month periods prior to and including October 30, 2009, Evercore selected and applied a premium range of 10% to 40% to the S&P 500 closing stock price to next fiscal year mean earnings per share estimate multiple as of October 30, 2009, yielding an implied price per share of Berkshire Class A common stock that ranged from \$85,134 to \$108,352.

GENERAL

In connection with the review of the merger by the BNSF Board, Evercore performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses for purposes of rendering its opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Selecting portions of the analyses or of the summary described above, without considering the analyses as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying Evercore's opinion. In arriving at its fairness determination, Evercore considered the results of all the analyses and did not attribute any particular weight to any factor or analysis considered by it. Rather, Evercore made its determination as to fairness on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after considering the results of all the analyses. In addition, Evercore may have deemed various assumptions more or less probable than other assumptions, so that the range of valuations resulting from any particular analysis described above should therefore not be taken to be Evercore's view of the value of BNSF or Berkshire or their respective common stocks. No company used in the above analyses as a comparison is directly comparable to BNSF or Berkshire, and no transaction used is directly comparable to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. Further, in evaluating comparable transactions, Evercore made judgments and assumptions with regard to industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of BNSF, Berkshire and Evercore, such as the impact of competition on BNSF and Berkshire and their respective industries generally, industry growth and the absence of any material adverse change in the financial condition of BNSF and Berkshire or in the markets generally.

Evercore prepared these analyses for the purpose of providing an opinion to the BNSF Board as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to the holders (other than Berkshire and its affiliates) of the shares of BNSF common stock entitled to receive such merger consideration. These analyses do not purport to be appraisals or to necessarily reflect the prices at which the business or securities actually may be sold. Analyses based upon forecasts of future results are not necessarily indicative of actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by these analyses. Because these analyses are inherently subject to uncertainty and are based upon numerous factors, assumptions with respect to industry

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performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters or events beyond the control of BNSF, Berkshire and Evercore, none of BNSF, Berkshire or Evercore assumes responsibility if future results are materially different from those forecast. The merger consideration to be received by the holders of the shares of BNSF common stock pursuant to the merger agreement was determined through arm's-length negotiations between BNSF and Berkshire and was approved by the BNSF Board. Evercore did not recommend any specific merger consideration to the BNSF Board or that any given merger consideration constituted the only appropriate merger consideration.

Pursuant to its engagement letter, a fee of \$11.5 million becomes payable to Evercore promptly upon consummation of the transaction. Furthermore, BNSF has agreed to reimburse Evercore for its reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the engagement and to indemnify Evercore for certain liabilities arising out of its engagement.

The BNSF Board engaged Evercore as its financial advisor because it is an internationally recognized investment banking and advisory firm that has substantial experience in transactions similar to the merger. Evercore, as part of its investment banking business, is continuously engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, competitive biddings and valuations for corporate, estate and other purposes. In the ordinary course of its business, Evercore and its affiliates may, from time to time, trade in the securities or the indebtedness of BNSF, Berkshire and their affiliates or any currencies or commodities (or derivative thereof) for its own account, the accounts of investment funds and other clients under the management of Evercore and for the accounts of its customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities, indebtedness, currencies or commodities (or derivative thereof) for any such account. Evercore may provide financial or other services to BNSF or Berkshire in the future and in connection with any such services Evercore may receive compensation.

Interests of BNSF Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of the BNSF Board that you vote to adopt the merger agreement, you should be aware that aside from their interests as BNSF stockholders, BNSF's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of other BNSF stockholders generally. The members of the BNSF Board were aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the merger agreement and the merger, and in recommending to the BNSF stockholders that the merger agreement be adopted.

As described in more detail below, these interests include:

vesting and settlement of BNSF restricted stock units held by directors;

funding of Mr. Whitacre's benefits under BNSF's Directors' Charitable Award Program;

conversion of BNSF stock options held by executive officers and one non-employee director and BNSF restricted stock units held by executive officers into Berkshire equity awards;

payment of directors' benefits under BNSF's director deferred compensation and retirement plans;

settlement of executive officers' units in BNSF's Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan;

vesting of executive officers' unvested benefits in BNSF's supplemental retirement plans;

executive officers' receipt of certain benefits under their change in control agreements if certain terminations of employment occur in connection with the merger;

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funding of BNSF's Benefits Protection Trust with respect to certain benefit plans and agreements; and

Berkshire's agreement to indemnify directors and officers against certain claims and liabilities and to continue such indemnification for a period of six years from the effective time of the merger.

The dates used below to quantify these interests have been selected for illustrative purposes only. They do not necessarily reflect the dates on which certain events will occur.

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Directors

Equity Awards

Pursuant to their current terms, any unvested BNSF restricted stock units held by non-employee directors will vest upon stockholder adoption of the merger agreement. As described under *The Merger Agreement Treatment of BNSF Equity Compensation Awards*, the BNSF restricted stock units held by directors will then be converted into restricted stock units with respect to Berkshire Class B common stock. Pursuant to their current terms, they will be settled in shares of Berkshire Class B common stock shortly after the directors cease to serve on the BNSF Board upon completion of the merger. The merger agreement provides that BNSF may amend the BNSF restricted stock units held by non-employee directors so that the BNSF common stock deliverable thereunder will be delivered to the directors up to 30 days prior to completion of the merger, so long as such amendments will not result in adverse tax consequences to BNSF or the directors or increase the number of shares deliverable thereunder. BNSF and Berkshire's Chairman will consult on whether, in lieu of delivery of such BNSF common stock, BNSF's obligations will be settled in cash of equivalent value.

Assuming stockholder adoption of the merger agreement occurs on March 1, 2010, 26,528 unvested BNSF restricted stock units held by BNSF's ten non-employee directors as a group will vest upon such stockholder adoption, and 132,602 BNSF restricted stock units held by BNSF's ten non-employee directors as a group, or the Berkshire restricted stock units resulting from the conversion of such BNSF restricted stock units, or cash of equivalent value to such BNSF restricted stock units, as applicable, will be settled or paid to directors in connection with the merger.

As described under *The Merger Agreement Treatment of BNSF Equity Compensation Awards*, BNSF stock options held by one non-employee director (all of which are already fully vested) will be converted into stock options with respect to Berkshire Class B common stock.

Directors Charitable Award Program

Under the Directors' Charitable Award Program established by one of BNSF's predecessor companies, a \$1,000,000 donation to an eligible educational institution designated by Mr. Whitacre will be payable upon his death. Except as to the directors of the predecessor company to which the program applied, the program was discontinued in 1995, and therefore Mr. Whitacre is the only current director who is eligible to participate. Upon stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, BNSF will immediately designate Mr. Whitacre's recommended educational institution as a beneficiary under the program and place all necessary funds to make the donation into a trust administered by an independent trustee.

Directors Deferred Compensation and Retirement Plans

Directors' benefits in certain director deferred compensation and retirement plans, all of which are fully vested, will become payable in connection with directors' cessation of services on the BNSF Board upon completion of the merger. The merger will not, however, lead to any increase in the value of such benefits.

Executive Officers

Equity Awards

As described under *The Merger Agreement Treatment of BNSF Equity Compensation Awards*, BNSF stock options and BNSF restricted stock units held by employees of BNSF, including executive officers, will be converted into stock options and restricted stock units with respect to Berkshire Class B common stock.

The applicable BNSF equity compensation plan provides that if the BNSF Board determines that the resulting Berkshire stock options and Berkshire restricted stock units will not be comparable to the BNSF stock options and BNSF restricted stock units, respectively, all the BNSF stock options and BNSF restricted stock units

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held by employees will vest upon stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, and the performance goals for any performance-based BNSF restricted stock units will be deemed to be satisfied at target. It is expected that the BNSF Board will determine that the Berkshire stock options and the Berkshire restricted stock units will have terms comparable to the BNSF stock options and the BNSF restricted stock units, so that this provision will not apply.

Certain executive officers have deferred some of their compensation in the form of share units with respect to BNSF common stock in BNSF's Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan. These units, which are fully vested, will be converted into restricted stock units with respect to Berkshire Class B common stock in the same manner as all other BNSF restricted stock units, as described under *The Merger Agreement Treatment of BNSF Equity Compensation Awards*. Pursuant to the terms of the Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan, the units will be settled in shares of Berkshire Class B common stock shortly after completion of the merger (or at an earlier time previously elected by the executive officer). Pursuant to the merger agreement, BNSF may amend the Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan so that the BNSF common stock deliverable with respect to units thereunder will be delivered to the executive officers up to 30 days prior to completion of the merger, so long as such amendments will not result in adverse tax consequences to BNSF or the executive officers or increase the number of shares deliverable thereunder. BNSF and Berkshire's Chairman will consult on whether, in lieu of delivery of such BNSF common stock, BNSF's obligations will be settled in cash of equivalent value.

The following table sets forth for each of the executive officers the number of units in the Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan that will be settled in the form of BNSF common stock, Berkshire Class B common stock or cash in connection with the merger (assuming that such units are not settled on an earlier date pursuant to existing deferral elections).

| Executive Officer | Number of share units in the Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan |
|--------------------------|---|
| Matthew K. Rose | 114,213 |
| Thomas N. Hund | 14,147 |

Pursuant to the terms of the applicable BNSF equity compensation plan and change in control agreements entered into with employees at the level of vice president and above, including the executive officers (described below), if an employee's employment is terminated by BNSF or Berkshire for reasons other than cause, or if the employee's employment is terminated by the employee for good reason, in each case in connection with the merger, all stock options and restricted stock units held by the employee will vest, with performance-based awards vesting at target, and the exercise period for vested stock options will be extended to the lesser of five years following termination and the expiration date of the stock option. However, pursuant to a letter executed by Mr. Rose on November 17, 2009, Mr. Rose waived his rights to accelerated vesting under the equity compensation plan and his change in control agreement in connection with the merger.

Under the applicable BNSF equity compensation plan, good reason means (i) a relocation of the employee's work location by more than 50 miles, (ii) a reduction in the employee's base salary by more than 15% or (iii) a reduction in the aggregate value of the employee's annual salary, bonus opportunity and long-term incentive compensation by more than 15% (other than broad-based reductions in compensation).

Under the change in control agreements, good reason means (i) the assignment to the employee of duties with a level of responsibility materially inconsistent with the position that the employee held immediately prior to stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, or a significant adverse alteration in the status of the employee's responsibilities from those in effect immediately prior to stockholder approval of the merger, (ii) a material reduction in the employee's base salary, excluding across-the-board salary reductions similarly affecting all management employees, (iii) a relocation of the employee's work location by more than 50 miles, (iv) the failure of BNSF to pay the employee any material portion of his or her compensation within seven days after the date such compensation is due, (v) the failure of BNSF to continue any material compensation or benefit plan, unless an equitable arrangement has been made with respect to such plan, or the failure by BNSF to continue the employee's participation in any such plan on a basis not materially less favorable than the basis of his or her

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participation at the time of stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, (vi) the failure of BNSF to obtain an agreement from any successor company to assume and agree to comply with the change in control agreement or (vii) any purported termination of the employee's employment by BNSF that is not effected in material compliance with the notice provisions of the change in control agreement. Good reason will exist under the equity compensation plan and the change in control agreements only if BNSF has not corrected the applicable circumstances after being given notice of them by the employee.

Assuming stockholder adoption of the merger agreement occurs on March 1, 2010 and the executive officer experiences a simultaneous qualifying termination of employment by BNSF, the following table sets forth for each of the executive officers (other than Mr. Rose, who has waived his right to accelerated vesting, as described above) the number of unvested BNSF stock options and BNSF restricted stock units that would vest under his or her change in control agreement. Depending on when stockholder adoption of the merger agreement occurs, certain BNSF stock options and BNSF restricted stock units shown as unvested in the table below may become vested in accordance with their terms without regard to the merger.

| Executive Officer | Number of Unvested BNSF Stock Options | Number of Unvested BNSF Restricted Stock Units |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Carl R. Ice | 126,636 | 46,140 |
| Thomas N. Hund | 109,236 | 39,730 |
| John P. Lanigan, Jr. | 119,373 | 43,540 |
| Roger Nober | 74,473 | 36,730 |
| Peter J. Rickershauser(1) | 19,349 | 7,060 |
| Linda Longo-Kazanova | 23,676 | 13,790 |

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(1) Mr. Rickershauser has given BNSF notice of his intention to retire in mid-2010.

Retirement Plans

Upon stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, all unvested benefits of executive officers in BNSF's Supplemental Retirement Plan and Supplemental Investment and Retirement Plan will vest. The following table shows the unvested benefits of the executive officers in the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of March 1, 2010, and the Supplemental Investment and Retirement Plan as of December 17, 2009, that will vest upon stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, assuming such stockholder adoption occurs on March 1, 2010. Any additional unvested amounts contributed to the plans prior to such stockholder adoption will also vest upon such stockholder adoption. Depending on when stockholder adoption occurs, certain of the amounts shown as unvested in the table below may become vested in accordance with their terms without regard to the merger.

| Executive Officer | Supplemental Retirement Plan Benefits | Supplemental Investment and Retirement Plan Benefits |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Roger Nober | \$ 318,751 | \$ 8,226 |
| Linda Longo-Kazanova | \$ 195,741 | \$ 6,151 |

Change in Control Agreements

BNSF has entered into individual change in control agreements with employees at the level of vice president and above, including all executive officers, that provide for certain payments and benefits upon a termination of employment by BNSF without cause or by the employee for good reason (defined as described above) any time within the 24 months following stockholder adoption of the merger agreement (or on or prior to the 12-month anniversary of the completion of the merger, if later) or during the 60 days prior to stockholder adoption of the merger agreement. Mr. Rose has waived his right to receive the payments and benefits provided for in his change in control agreement in connection with the merger.

The change in control agreements for the executive officers provide for the following payments and benefits upon a qualifying termination:

a pro-rata bonus based on the employee's target annual incentive opportunity for the year of termination;

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a lump-sum cash payment equal to two times (or one-and-a-half times for Linda Longo-Kazanova and Peter J. Rickershauser) the sum of (i) the employee's then-current annual base salary (or, if higher, his or her highest consecutive 12 months' salary over the prior 24-month period, or his or her annual salary in effect immediately prior to stockholder adoption of the merger agreement) and (ii) the employee's target annual incentive opportunity for the year of termination;

a lump-sum cash payment equal to an additional 0.5 times the sum described in the previous bullet, in consideration for the employee's compliance with the post-employment covenants described below;

continuation of company-paid medical, dental and other insurance benefits for up to 24 months;

the equity award vesting and extension of the exercise period for vested stock options described above;

eligibility for retiree medical benefits and retiree life insurance coverage under the applicable BNSF plans if the employee would have been eligible for such benefits pursuant to BNSF's severance plan if the employee had not been covered by the change in control agreement;

reimbursement for outplacement services;

reimbursement for legal fees and expenses relating to any claims under the agreement that result from termination of employment, should the claims be successful; and

payment of a gross-up to make the employee whole for any excise tax imposed as a result of Section 280G of the Code (except that if the total payments do not exceed 110% (105% in the first three years of employment) of the maximum amount that would result in no excise tax, and therefore no gross-up, being payable, the payments will be reduced to such maximum amount).

Pursuant to the change in control agreements, an employee will not be entitled to the benefits listed above unless the employee executes a release of claims in favor of BNSF.

If BNSF terminates an employee's employment without cause, or an employee terminates his or her employment for good reason, under the change in control agreement, then, for the 12-month period following the termination, the employee will be subject to non-competition and non-solicitation covenants that prevent the employee from competing with BNSF and soliciting or hiring any employee of BNSF without BNSF's consent. If the employee breaches these covenants, all severance payments will cease and BNSF may, in its discretion, require the employee to repay any severance payments already received.

Based on compensation and benefit levels as of December 17, 2009, and assuming stockholder adoption of the merger agreement occurs on March 1, 2010 and that the executive officer experiences a simultaneous qualifying termination of employment, the executive officers (other than Mr. Rose, who has waived his change in control payments and benefits, as described above) will be entitled to receive the following cash severance payments and other benefits under their change in control agreements (excluding the value of unvested equity awards, which are described above, and any legal fees and expenses that may become payable).

| Executive Officer | Cash Severance (including pro rata bonus) | Cash Non-competitive Payment | Continuation of Health and Welfare Benefits(1) | Extension of Eligibility for Retiree Welfare Benefits | Outplacement Services | 280G Tax Gross-Up(2) | Total |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Carl R. Ice | \$ 2,151,901 | \$ 519,400 | \$ 54,859 | \$ 168,669 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,914,829 |
| Thomas N. Hund | \$ 1,957,997 | \$ 472,650 | \$ 54,859 | \$ 0 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,505,506 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| John P. Lanigan, Jr. | \$ 2,071,671 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 54,859 | \$ 2,076 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,648,606 |
| Roger Nober | \$ 1,450,205 | \$ 351,250 | \$ 53,279 | \$ 0 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 1,938,059 | \$ 3,812,793 |
| Peter J. Rickershauser | \$ 605,061 | \$ 195,550 | \$ 44,346 | \$ 0 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 864,957 |
| Linda Longo-Kazanoya | \$ 693,771 | \$ 223,750 | \$ 44,843 | \$ 0 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 628,769 | \$ 1,611,133 |

- (1) The amounts shown in this column represent an estimate of the present value of the cost to BNSF of providing the benefits, considering the applicable COBRA premiums for medical and dental benefits and premiums for life insurance and long-term disability benefits. Medical and dental costs are based on the medical plan option with the greatest premium, not on actual individual employee plan elections.

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- (2) BNSF determined the amount of the excise tax payment by multiplying by 20% the excess parachute payments that would arise in connection with the merger. The excess parachute payments were determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 280G of the Code. BNSF utilized the following key assumptions to determine the executive officers' tax gross-up payments:

a statutory federal income tax rate of 35% and a Medicare tax rate of 1.45%;

each executive officer's Section 280G base amount was determined based on average W-2 compensation for the period from 2005 through 2009 (or the period of the executive's employment with BNSF, if shorter); and

the interest rate assumption was 120% of the applicable Federal rate as of December 2009.

Mr. Rose's Retirement Benefit Agreement

Mr. Rose's retirement benefit agreement provides for certain additional service credit for purposes of computing his supplemental retirement benefits in the event of a termination of his employment for any reason within certain time periods following a change in control. Mr. Rose has waived his right to receive this additional service credit in connection with the merger.

Benefits Protection Trust

Upon stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, unless the BNSF Board decides that a change in control has not occurred for purposes of BNSF's Benefits Protection Trust, BNSF is required to deposit in the trust an amount equal to the value of participants' accrued benefits under certain BNSF plans, including the Senior Management Stock Deferral Plan, the Supplemental Retirement Plan, the Supplemental Investment and Retirement Plan, Mr. Rose's retirement benefit agreement, the change in control agreements, BNSF's deferred compensation plans (including those for directors) and BNSF's Directors' Retirement Plan. For the two years following stockholder adoption of the merger agreement, BNSF must ensure that the trust is funded sufficiently to pay benefits under such plans and agreements.

Indemnification

Under the merger agreement, Berkshire has agreed to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the current and former directors and officers of BNSF and any of its subsidiaries against certain losses, claims and liabilities arising from the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of BNSF or any of its subsidiaries and in respect of acts or omissions which occurred at or prior to the effective time of the merger, as well as against losses, claims and liabilities based on, or arising out of or pertaining to, in whole or in part, the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated by it.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, such indemnification will not apply to any claims against an indemnified party if (i) a judgment or other final adjudication established that the indemnified party's acts or omissions were committed in bad faith or were the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and were material to the cause of action so deliberated or (ii) which arise out of, are based upon or are attributable to the gaining of any financial profit or other advantage to which such indemnified person is not legally entitled.

In addition, Berkshire has agreed to continue in full force and effect, for a period of not less than six years from the effective time of the merger, all rights to indemnification, as of the date of execution of the merger agreement, in favor of the directors, officers and fiduciaries of BNSF and its subsidiaries, with respect to their activities prior to the effective time of the merger, as provided in their respective certificates of incorporation, bylaws or comparable documents.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger

The following is a summary of the material regulatory requirements for completion of the merger. There can be no guarantee if and when any of the consents or approvals required for the merger will be obtained or as to the

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conditions that such consents and approvals may contain. For further information, please read the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 26.

The merger is subject to the requirements of the HSR Act and the rules promulgated by the FTC, which prevent transactions such as the merger from being completed until (i) certain information and materials are furnished to DOJ and the FTC and (ii) the applicable waiting period is terminated or expires. On November 25, 2009, BNSF and Berkshire filed the requisite notification and report forms under the HSR Act. On December 4, 2009, the FTC granted early termination of the waiting period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, at any time before or after the completion of the merger, the DOJ, the FTC or any state may still challenge the merger on antitrust grounds. Accordingly, at any time before or after the completion of the merger, any of the DOJ, the FTC or any state may take action under the antitrust laws as it deems necessary or desirable in the public interest, including, without limitation, seeking to enjoin the completion of the merger, permitting completion subject to regulatory concessions or conditions or seeking divestiture of the businesses acquired as a result of the merger. Private parties and non-U.S. governmental authorities may also institute legal actions under the antitrust laws under some circumstances. There can be no assurance that a challenge to the merger under the antitrust laws will not be made, or, if such a challenge is made, that it will not succeed.

Under the merger agreement, consummation of the merger is also conditional upon the receipt of certain approvals from the FCC with respect to the transfer of control of certain types of licenses and other authorizations issued by the FCC. BNSF made the necessary filings with the FCC on December 8, 2009. There can be no assurance that the requisite FCC approvals will be obtained on a timely basis or at all.

Berkshire and BNSF also intend to make all required filings under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act relating to the merger and obtain all other approvals and consents which may be necessary to give effect to the merger.

Appraisal Rights

Appraisal rights generally are statutory rights that, if applicable under law, enable stockholders to decline to accept the consideration payable in an extraordinary transaction, such as a merger, and instead to demand that the company pay in cash the fair value for their shares as determined by a court in a judicial proceeding.

Under Delaware law, appraisal rights are only available if, among other things, stockholders are required to accept cash for their shares (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares). Therefore, with respect to any shares of BNSF common stock for which you did not elect to receive cash merger consideration, but would be required under the merger agreement to receive cash merger consideration (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares of Berkshire Class B common stock), you may have the right, if you do not vote in favor of the merger agreement, in lieu of receiving the cash merger consideration for those shares, to obtain payment in cash for the fair value of those shares as determined by the Court. Pursuant to Section 262 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (Section 262), BNSF stockholders who do not vote in favor of the merger and who comply with the applicable requirements of Section 262 will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of such shares as determined by the Court if the merger is completed. The appraised value will not include any value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, but will include interest on such appraised value from the effective date of the merger until the date such appraised value is paid, calculated at 5% over the Federal Reserve discount rate during such period, unless the Court determines otherwise for good cause shown. It is possible that the fair value as determined by the Court may be more or less than, or the same as, the merger consideration. BNSF reserves the right to take the position that appraisal may only be sought with respect to shares described in the first sentence of this paragraph, and may not be exercised with respect to any shares as to which cash was elected or stock was received.

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BNSF stockholders electing to exercise appraisal rights must comply with the strict procedures set forth in Section 262 in order to demand and perfect their rights. SINCE THE FINAL ALLOCATION OF CASH AND STOCK MERGER CONSIDERATION WILL NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL THE CLOSING OF THE MERGER, ANY STOCKHOLDER WISHING TO PRESERVE THEIR RIGHTS TO APPRAISAL MUST MAKE A DEMAND FOR APPRAISAL NOW AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

The following is intended as a brief summary of the material provisions of Section 262 required to be followed by dissenting BNSF stockholders wishing to demand and perfect their appraisal rights. This summary, however, is not a complete statement of all applicable requirements and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to Section 262, the full text of which appears in Annex B to this proxy statement/prospectus.

Under Section 262, BNSF is required to notify stockholders not less than 20 days before the special meeting to vote on the merger that appraisal rights will be available. A copy of Section 262 must be included with that notice.

THIS PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS CONSTITUTES BNSF'S NOTICE TO ITS STOCKHOLDERS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF APPRAISAL RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MERGER UNDER SECTION 262 OF THE GENERAL CORPORATION LAW OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

If you wish to consider exercising your appraisal rights, you should carefully review the text of Section 262 set forth in Annex B to this proxy statement/prospectus and consult your legal advisor. If you fail to timely and properly comply with the requirements of Section 262, your appraisal rights may be lost.

If you elect to demand appraisal of your shares of BNSF common stock, you must satisfy each of the following conditions:

You must deliver to BNSF a written demand for appraisal of your shares before the vote is taken on the merger agreement at the special meeting. This written demand for appraisal must be in addition to and separate from any proxy or vote abstaining from or voting against the merger. Voting against or failing to vote for the merger does not by itself constitute a demand for appraisal under Section 262.

You must not vote in favor of the merger. An executed proxy that is submitted but does not contain voting instructions will, unless revoked, be voted in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement. A vote in favor of the merger, by proxy or in person, will constitute a waiver of your appraisal rights in respect of the shares so voted and will nullify any previously filed written demands for appraisal.

You must continuously hold your shares of BNSF common stock from the date you make your demand for appraisal rights through the effective time of the merger.

If you fail to comply with any of these conditions and the merger is completed, you will lose your appraisal rights with respect to your shares of BNSF common stock. Only a holder of record of shares of BNSF common stock, or a person duly authorized and explicitly purporting to act on that stockholder's behalf, is entitled to assert appraisal rights for the shares of common stock registered in that stockholder's name. A demand for appraisal must be executed by or on behalf of the stockholder of record, fully and correctly, as such stockholder's name appears on their stock certificates, and must state that such person intends thereby to demand appraisal of their shares of BNSF common stock in connection with the proposed merger. **Beneficial owners who do not also hold the shares of record may not directly make appraisal demands to BNSF. The beneficial owner must, in such cases, have the registered stockholder submit the required demand in respect of those shares.**

If the shares of BNSF common stock are owned of record in a fiduciary capacity, such as by a trustee, guardian or custodian, execution of the demand must be made in that capacity, and if the shares of BNSF common stock are owned of record by more than one person, as in a joint tenancy and tenancy in common, the demand must be executed by or on behalf of all joint owners. An authorized agent, including an agent for two or

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more joint owners, may execute a demand for appraisal on behalf of a holder of record; however, the agent must identify the record owner or owners and expressly disclose the fact that, in executing the demand, the agent is acting as agent for such owner or owners. **Stockholders who hold their shares of BNSF common stock in brokerage accounts or other nominee forms and who wish to exercise appraisal rights are urged to consult with their brokers to determine the appropriate procedures for the making of a demand for appraisal by such a nominee.**

All demands for appraisal should be made in writing and addressed to:

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation

2650 Lou Menk Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

Attention: Corporate Secretary

and must be executed by, or on behalf of, the record holder of the shares of BNSF common stock. The written demand must identify the BNSF stockholder and state that the stockholder intends to demand appraisal of the shares of BNSF common stock held by the stockholder. If your shares of BNSF common stock are held through a bank, broker or other nominee and you wish to demand appraisal rights, you must act promptly to instruct the applicable bank, broker or other nominee to follow the steps summarized in this section.

Within 10 days after the effective time of the merger, the entity surviving the merger must give written notice that the merger has been completed to each BNSF stockholder who has properly sent a written demand for appraisal and who did not vote in favor of the merger.

Within 120 days after the effective time of the merger, either the surviving entity or any stockholder who has complied with the requirements of Section 262 may commence an appraisal proceeding by filing a petition with the Court demanding a determination of the value of the shares held by all stockholders entitled to appraisal rights. The entity surviving the merger has no obligation to file such a petition. A person who is the beneficial owner of shares held either in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, in such person's own name, file a petition for appraisal with the Court. If a petition is not filed within such 120-day period, all appraisal rights relating to shares of BNSF common stock will terminate.

At any time within 60 days after the effective time of the merger, any stockholder who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party may withdraw the demand for appraisal made by the stockholder by delivering to the surviving entity a written withdrawal of the demand for appraisal. BNSF stockholders who withdraw their demand or otherwise fail to perfect or lose their appraisal rights will be entitled to receive in respect of their shares the merger consideration that was payable in respect of shares for which no election to receive cash or stock was made, without any interest thereon, as specified by the merger agreement. Any attempt to withdraw an appraisal demand more than 60 days after the effective time of the merger will require the written approval of the surviving entity. No appraisal proceeding in the Court will be dismissed as to any stockholder without the approval of the Court, and such approval may be conditioned upon such terms as the Court deems just; provided, however, that any stockholder who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party may withdraw a demand for appraisal and accept the merger consideration offered pursuant to the merger agreement within 60 days after the effective date of the merger. If the surviving entity does not approve a request to withdraw a demand for appraisal when that approval is required, or, except with respect to any stockholder who withdraws such stockholder's right to appraisal in accordance with the proviso in the immediately preceding sentence, if the Court does not approve the dismissal of an appraisal proceeding, the stockholder will be entitled to receive only the appraised value determined in any such appraisal proceeding, which value could be less than, equal to or more than the consideration being offered pursuant to the merger agreement. Within 120 days after the effective time of the merger, any stockholder who has complied with Section 262 will be entitled, upon written request, to receive from the surviving entity a statement setting forth the aggregate number of shares of BNSF common stock with respect to which demands

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If appraisal have been received. The statement must be mailed within ten days after a written request therefor has been received by the surviving entity or within ten days after the expiration of the period for delivery of demands for appraisal, whichever is later.

If a dissenting stockholder duly files a petition for appraisal with the Court and the petition is served on the surviving entity, then the surviving entity must file with the Court within 20 days after being served such petition a duly verified list containing the names and addresses of all stockholders who have demanded payment for their shares and with whom agreements as to the value of their shares have not been reached. After giving notice of the time and place fixed for hearing of such petition, the Court is empowered to conduct a hearing upon the petition to determine those stockholders who have complied with the requirements of Section 262 and who are entitled to appraisal rights.

The Court may require stockholders who have demanded payment of the fair value of their shares to submit their stock certificates to the Register in Chancery for notation thereon of the pendency of the appraisal proceedings. If any stockholder fails to comply with such direction, the Court may dismiss the proceedings as to such stockholder. After determination of the stockholders entitled to appraisal rights, an appraisal proceeding shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Court, including any rules specifically governing appraisal proceedings, and the Court will determine the fair value of the shares of BNSF common stock, exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with interest, if any, to be paid upon the amount determined to be the fair value. Unless the Court in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown, interest from the effective date of the merger through the date of payment of the judgment shall be compounded quarterly and shall accrue at 5% over the Federal Reserve discount rate (including any surcharge) as established from time to time during the period between the effective date of the merger and the date of payment of the judgment. Once the fair value is determined by the Court, the surviving entity will pay all dissenting stockholders the appraised value of their shares, together with interest accrued thereon during the pendency of the proceeding, upon surrender by such holders of the certificates representing such shares.

In determining fair value, the Court is required to take into account all relevant factors. In *Weinberger v. UOP, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court discussed the factors that could be considered in determining fair value in an appraisal proceeding, stating that proof of value by any techniques or methods that are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered, and that fair price obviously requires consideration of all relevant factors involving the value of a company. The Delaware Supreme Court stated that, in making this determination of fair value, the court must consider market value, asset value, dividends, earnings prospects, the nature of the enterprise and any other facts that could be ascertained as of the date of the merger that throw any light on future prospects of the target corporation. Section 262 provides that fair value is to be exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. In *Cede & Co. v. Technicolor, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that such exclusion is a narrow exclusion [that] does not encompass known elements of value, but which rather applies only to the speculative elements of value arising from such accomplishment or expectation. In *Weinberger*, the Delaware Supreme Court also stated that elements of future value, including the nature of the enterprise, which are known or susceptible of proof as of the date of the merger and not the product of speculation, may be considered.

Stockholders considering seeking appraisal should be aware that the fair value of their shares as so determined could be more than, the same as or less than the consideration they would receive pursuant to the merger if they did not seek appraisal of their shares and that an investment banking opinion as to fairness from a financial point of view is not necessarily an opinion as to fair value under Section 262. Although BNSF believes that the merger consideration is fair, no representation is made as to the outcome of the appraisal of fair value as determined by the Court, and stockholders should recognize that such an appraisal could result in a determination of a value higher or lower than, or the same as, the merger consideration. Neither Berkshire nor BNSF anticipate offering more than the applicable merger consideration to any stockholder of BNSF exercising appraisal rights, and reserve the right to assert, in any appraisal proceeding, that for purposes of Section 262, the fair value of a share of BNSF common stock is less than the applicable merger consideration. The Delaware courts have stated

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that the methods which are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court may be considered in the appraisal proceedings. In addition, the Delaware courts have decided that the statutory appraisal remedy, depending on factual circumstances, may or may not be a dissenting stockholder's exclusive remedy.

If a petition for appraisal is not timely filed, then the right to an appraisal will cease. Costs of the appraisal proceeding (which do not include attorneys' fees or the fees and expenses of experts) may be determined by the Court and charged to the parties as the Court deems equitable under the circumstances. Upon application of any dissenting stockholder, the Court may order all or a portion of the expenses incurred by any stockholder in connection with the appraisal proceeding, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and the fees and expenses of experts utilized in the appraisal proceeding, to be charged pro rata against the value of all shares entitled to appraisal.

If any stockholder who demands appraisal of shares of BNSF common stock under Section 262 fails to perfect, successfully withdraws or loses such holder's right to appraisal, the stockholder's shares of BNSF common stock will be deemed to have been converted at the effective date of the merger into the right to receive the merger consideration pursuant to the merger agreement. A stockholder will fail to perfect, or effectively lose, the holder's right to appraisal if no petition for appraisal is filed within 120 days after the effective date of the merger. In addition, as indicated above, a stockholder may withdraw a demand for appraisal in accordance with Section 262 and accept the merger consideration offered pursuant to the merger agreement.

Any stockholder who has demanded appraisal rights will not, after the effective time of the merger, be entitled to vote the stockholder's shares for any purpose or to receive payments of dividends or any other distribution with respect to such shares (other than with respect to payment as of a record date prior to the effective time of the merger).

In view of the complexity of Section 262, BNSF stockholders who may wish to dissent from the merger and pursue appraisal rights should consult their legal advisors. Failure to take any required step in connection with exercising appraisal rights may result in the termination or waiver of such rights.

NYSE Listing of Berkshire Class A and Class B Common Stock

Shares of Berkshire Class A and Class B common stock are quoted on the NYSE under the stock symbols BRK.A and BRK.B, respectively. It is a condition to completion of the merger that the shares of Class A and Class B common stock to be issued by Berkshire to BNSF stockholders in connection with the merger be approved for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance. Berkshire has agreed to use its best efforts to cause such shares to be listed on the NYSE and expects to obtain the NYSE's approval to list such shares prior to completion of the merger, subject to official notice of issuance.

Delisting and Deregistration of BNSF Common Stock

Shares of BNSF common stock currently trade on the NYSE under the stock symbol BNI. Upon completion of the merger, all shares of BNSF common stock will cease to be listed for trading on the NYSE and will be deregistered under the Exchange Act.

Litigation

Purported class action lawsuits have been filed by alleged BNSF stockholders challenging the proposed transaction and naming as defendants BNSF and the BNSF Board and, in certain instances, Berkshire and Merger Sub. To date, such stockholder actions have been filed in Tarrant County, Texas, Dallas County, Texas, and the Delaware Chancery Court.

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The Tarrant County, Texas actions have been consolidated as *In re Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation Shareholder Class Action Litigation*, Cause No. 348-241465-09. The Dallas County actions were consolidated under the action styled *Employees Retirement System of the City of New Orleans v. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, et al*, Cause No. 09-14950 and have been abated. Plaintiffs in the Dallas County actions have taken steps seeking to refile or transfer the actions to Tarrant County.

The Delaware actions have been consolidated as *In re Burlington Northern Santa Fe Shareholders Litigation*, C.A. No. 5043-VCL. Plaintiffs in the Delaware actions have filed a consolidated amended complaint, and have requested expedited discovery and proceedings relating to an application for a preliminary injunction, which has not yet been filed. Plaintiffs' application for a preliminary injunction, if one is filed, is scheduled to be heard in the Delaware Chancery Court on February 3, 2010.

The stockholder actions variously allege that BNSF's directors have breached their fiduciary duties based on allegations that (i) the consideration being offered is unfair and inadequate, (ii) BNSF's directors did not adequately seek to maximize stockholder value through open bidding or market check mechanisms, (iii) the no shop clause and termination fee are onerous devices designed to discourage a superior offer, (iv) BNSF's earnings forecasts were manipulated to drive its stock price down and thus make the proposed transaction appear more favorable to stockholders than it truly is, and/or (v) BNSF's disclosures relating to the proposed transaction have been, or will be, inadequate and materially misleading. Certain of the stockholder actions also allege that Berkshire aided and abetted the alleged breaches by BNSF's directors. The stockholder actions seek various remedies, including enjoining the transaction from being consummated in accordance with the agreed-upon terms. The defendants intend to defend against these and any additional future claims.

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THE MERGER AGREEMENT

*This section of the proxy statement/prospectus describes the material provisions of the merger agreement but does not purport to describe all of the terms of the merger agreement. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the merger agreement, which is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus and incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus by reference. Berkshire and BNSF urge you to read the full text of the merger agreement because it is the legal document that governs the merger. The merger agreement is not intended to provide you with any other factual information about Berkshire or BNSF. In particular, the assertions embodied in the representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement (and summarized below) are qualified by disclosures made by the parties to each other in connection with the signing of the merger agreement, that modify, qualify and create exceptions to the representations and warranties set forth in the merger agreement. Moreover, certain representations and warranties in the merger agreement were used for the purpose of allocating risk between Berkshire and BNSF rather than establishing matters as facts and may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality or material adverse effect different from that generally applicable to public disclosures to stockholders. Accordingly, you should not rely on the representations and warranties in the merger agreement (or the summaries contained herein) as characterizations of the actual state of facts about Berkshire or BNSF. The representations and warranties in the merger agreement and the description of them in this document should not be read alone but instead should be read in conjunction with the other information contained in the reports, statements and filings that each of Berkshire and BNSF file with the SEC. Please see the section titled *Where To Find More Information* beginning on page 118 of this proxy statement/prospectus.*

The Merger

The merger agreement provides for the merger of BNSF with and into Merger Sub upon the terms, and subject to the conditions, of the merger agreement. As the surviving entity, Merger Sub will survive the merger and continue to exist as an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire. Upon consummation of the merger, Merger Sub will change its name to Burlington Northern Santa Fe, LLC. The merger will be effective at the time the certificate of merger is filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware (or at a later time, if agreed upon by the parties and specified in the certificate of merger filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware). Each of BNSF and Berkshire expects to complete the merger as promptly as practicable after BNSF stockholders adopt the merger agreement, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the other conditions to completion of the merger.

Merger Consideration

In the merger, each share of BNSF common stock (other than certain restricted shares, shares owned by Berkshire, BNSF or any of their respective subsidiaries, or shares in respect of which appraisal rights have been properly exercised and not withdrawn) will be converted into the right to receive, at the election of the stockholder (subject to the proration and reallocation procedures described below), either (i) \$100.00 in cash, without interest, or (ii) a portion of a share of Berkshire Class A common stock equal to the exchange ratio, which is calculated by dividing \$100.00 by the average of the daily volume-weighted average trading prices per share of Berkshire Class A common stock over the ten trading day period ending on the second full trading day prior to completion of the merger (the Class A average trading value); provided, however, that if the Class A average trading value is above or below the collar (as described below), then the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.000802233 or