

EL PASO ELECTRIC CO /TX/
Form 10-Q
November 08, 2010
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-14206

El Paso Electric Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

74-0607870
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Stanton Tower, 100 North Stanton, El Paso, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

79901
(Zip Code)

(915) 543-5711

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES NO

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). YES NO

As of October 29, 2010, there were 42,613,728 shares of the Company's no par value common stock outstanding.

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EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

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(i)

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	September 30, 2010 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2009
ASSETS		
(In thousands)		
Utility plant:		
Electric plant in service	\$ 2,495,082	\$ 2,392,850
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,032,072)	(981,314)
Net plant in service	1,463,010	1,411,536
Construction work in progress	263,671	244,166
Nuclear fuel; includes fuel in process of \$46,838 and \$50,929, respectively	159,835	135,021
Less accumulated amortization	(47,312)	(34,737)
Net nuclear fuel	112,523	100,284
Net utility plant	1,839,204	1,755,986
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	66,948	91,790
Accounts receivable, principally trade, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4,542 and \$1,191, respectively	113,043	70,382
Accumulated deferred income taxes	24,219	20,445
Inventories, at cost	38,065	37,935
Income taxes receivable	4,108	24,162
Prepayments and other	5,634	4,837
Total current assets	252,017	249,551
Deferred charges and other assets:		
Decommissioning trust funds	147,205	135,372
Regulatory assets	85,311	60,708
Other	27,139	24,535
Total deferred charges and other assets	259,655	220,615
Total assets	\$ 2,350,876	\$ 2,226,152

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See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Continued)**

	September 30, 2010 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2009
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES		
(In thousands except for share data)		
Capitalization:		
Common stock, stated value \$1 per share, 100,000,000 shares authorized, 65,006,843 and 64,946,729 shares issued, and 165,516 and 147,427 restricted shares, respectively	\$ 65,172	\$ 65,094
Capital in excess of stated value	302,844	301,180
Retained earnings	803,393	710,255
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(46,516)	(49,887)
	1,124,893	1,026,642
Treasury stock, 22,560,333 and 21,169,284 shares, respectively, at cost	(334,130)	(303,913)
Common stock equity	790,763	722,729
Long-term debt	849,733	739,697
Financing obligations, net of current portion	0	65,278
Total capitalization	1,640,496	1,527,704
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of financing obligations	14,100	41,720
Accounts payable, principally trade	36,853	54,702
Taxes accrued	36,081	22,157
Interest accrued	12,621	10,283
Overcollection of fuel revenues	16,696	18,018
Other	26,302	24,896
Total current liabilities	142,653	171,776
Deferred credits and other liabilities:		
Accumulated deferred income taxes	265,378	233,424
Accrued postretirement benefit liability	91,788	88,919
Asset retirement obligation	90,943	85,358
Accrued pension liability	79,536	80,940
Regulatory liabilities	14,266	14,127
Other	25,816	23,904
Total deferred credits and other liabilities	567,727	526,672
Commitments and contingencies		
Total capitalization and liabilities	\$ 2,350,876	\$ 2,226,152

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See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(Unaudited)****(In thousands except for share data)**

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Operating revenues	\$ 280,342	\$ 240,898	\$ 695,907	\$ 634,983
Energy expenses:				
Fuel	60,294	53,951	160,139	140,127
Purchased and interchanged power	28,229	27,878	76,628	85,571
	88,523	81,829	236,767	225,698
Operating revenues net of energy expenses	191,819	159,069	459,140	409,285
Other operating expenses:				
Other operations	59,924	55,003	161,566	154,941
Maintenance	10,987	12,181	41,222	41,956
Depreciation and amortization	20,685	19,196	60,136	55,581
Taxes other than income taxes	16,125	13,595	41,038	38,623
	107,721	99,975	303,962	291,101
Operating income	84,098	59,094	155,178	118,184
Other income (deductions):				
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	2,398	2,169	7,645	7,381
Investment and interest income, net	1,351	1,405	3,289	(231)
Miscellaneous non-operating income	248	324	401	1,085
Miscellaneous non-operating deductions	(389)	(853)	(1,277)	(2,894)
	3,608	3,045	10,058	5,341
Interest charges (credits):				
Interest on long-term debt and financing obligations	12,936	12,194	37,378	38,314
Other interest	48	67	113	319
Capitalized interest	(796)	(225)	(1,282)	(721)
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	(1,550)	(1,397)	(4,651)	(4,770)
	10,638	10,639	31,558	33,142
Income before income taxes and extraordinary item	77,068	51,500	133,678	90,383
Income tax expense	27,172	17,568	50,826	31,411

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Income before extraordinary item	49,896	33,932	82,852	58,972
Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	10,286	0	10,286	0
Net income	\$ 60,182	\$ 33,932	\$ 93,138	\$ 58,972
Basic earnings per share:				
Income before extraordinary item	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.76	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.31
Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	0.24	0.00	0.24	0.00
Net income	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.76	\$ 2.14	\$ 1.31
Diluted earnings per share:				
Income before extraordinary item	\$ 1.15	\$ 0.76	\$ 1.89	\$ 1.31
Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	0.24	0.00	0.24	0.00
Net income	\$ 1.39	\$ 0.76	\$ 2.13	\$ 1.31
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	42,921,044	44,588,257	43,370,487	44,708,650
Weighted average number of shares and dilutive potential shares outstanding	43,103,698	44,637,487	43,505,434	44,739,418

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(Unaudited)****(In thousands except for share data)**

	Twelve Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Operating revenues	\$ 888,920	\$ 847,469
Energy expenses:		
Fuel	205,849	186,976
Purchased and interchanged power	99,660	126,219
	305,509	313,195
Operating revenues net of energy expenses	583,411	534,274
Other operating expenses:		
Other operations	222,466	209,425
Maintenance	58,872	58,677
Depreciation and amortization	79,501	74,929
Taxes other than income taxes	52,413	51,111
	413,252	394,142
Operating income	170,159	140,132
Other income (deductions):		
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	9,575	9,722
Investment and interest income, net	7,333	1,678
Miscellaneous non-operating income	423	3,068
Miscellaneous non-operating deductions	(1,866)	(3,621)
	15,465	10,847
Interest charges (credits):		
Interest on long-term debt and financing obligations	49,576	52,656
Other interest	190	1,562
Capitalized interest	(1,504)	(1,423)
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	(5,910)	(5,896)
	42,352	46,899
Income before income taxes and extraordinary item	143,272	104,080
Income tax expense	52,459	34,283
Income before extraordinary item	90,813	69,797

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Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	10,286	0
Net income	\$ 101,099	\$ 69,797
Basic earnings per share:		
Income before extraordinary item	\$ 2.07	\$ 1.56
Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	0.24	0.00
Net income	\$ 2.31	\$ 1.56
Diluted earnings per share:		
Income before extraordinary item	\$ 2.07	\$ 1.55
Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	0.24	0.00
Net income	\$ 2.31	\$ 1.55
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	43,523,270	44,716,277
Weighted average number of shares and dilutive potential shares outstanding	43,672,324	44,761,021

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONS****(Unaudited)****(In thousands)**

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,		Twelve Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
Net income	\$ 60,182	\$ 33,932	\$ 93,138	\$ 58,972	\$ 101,099	\$ 69,797
Other comprehensive income (loss):						
Unrecognized pension and postretirement benefit costs:						
Net loss arising during period	0	0	0	0	(48,580)	(30,587)
Reclassification adjustments included in net income for amortization of:						
Prior service benefit	(688)	(688)	(2,065)	(2,065)	(2,754)	(2,754)
Net loss	843	407	2,530	1,219	2,936	1,180
Net unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities:						
Net holding gains (losses) arising during period	7,019	8,880	3,041	11,238	4,619	(526)
Reclassification adjustments for net (gains) losses included in net income	193	(205)	602	5,066	(2,246)	4,941
Net losses on cash flow hedges:						
Reclassification adjustment for interest expense included in net income	86	80	252	236	333	312
Total other comprehensive income (loss) before income taxes	7,453	8,474	4,360	15,694	(45,692)	(27,434)
Income tax benefit (expense) related to items of other comprehensive income (loss):						
Unrecognized pension and postretirement benefit costs	(57)	102	(169)	307	16,481	11,611
Net unrealized losses on marketable securities	(1,443)	(1,735)	(729)	(3,261)	(475)	(883)
Losses on cash flow hedges	(31)	(28)	(91)	(85)	(121)	(113)
Total income tax benefit (expense)	(1,531)	(1,661)	(989)	(3,039)	15,885	10,615
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	5,922	6,813	3,371	12,655	(29,807)	(16,819)
Comprehensive income	\$ 66,104	\$ 40,745	\$ 96,509	\$ 71,627	\$ 71,292	\$ 52,978

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 93,138	\$ 58,972
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization of electric plant in service	60,136	55,581
Amortization of nuclear fuel	22,877	17,494
Extraordinary gain related to Texas regulatory assets, net of tax	(10,286)	0
Deferred income taxes, net	17,088	(2,257)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	(7,645)	(7,381)
Other amortization and accretion	12,957	10,982
Other operating activities	(488)	1,253
Change in:		
Accounts receivable	(42,661)	(2,494)
Inventories	(6)	2,068
Net overcollection (undercollection) of fuel revenues	(1,322)	74,656
Prepayments and other	(1,996)	(1,266)
Accounts payable	(11,733)	(13,833)
Taxes accrued	33,978	22,914
Interest accrued	2,338	3,821
Other current liabilities	1,406	1,878
Deferred charges and credits	(4,177)	(8,876)
Net cash provided by operating activities	163,604	213,512
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Cash additions to utility property, plant and equipment	(124,839)	(145,465)
Cash additions to nuclear fuel	(33,889)	(34,613)
Proceeds from sale of assets	238	631
Capitalized interest and AFUDC:		
Utility property, plant and equipment	(12,296)	(12,151)
Nuclear fuel	(1,282)	(721)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	7,645	7,381
Decommissioning trust funds:		
Purchases, including funding of \$6.2 and \$5.9 million, respectively	(55,207)	(56,671)
Sales and maturities	46,936	52,071
Other investing activities	(182)	954
Net cash used for investing activities	(172,876)	(188,584)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	8	236
Repurchases of common stock	(30,217)	(12,854)

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Proceeds from issuance of long-term private placement notes	110,000	0
Financing obligations:		
Proceeds	37,810	185,951
Payments	(130,708)	(166,586)
Other financing activities	(2,463)	(1,782)
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities	(15,570)	4,965
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(24,842)	29,893
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	91,790	91,642
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 66,948	\$ 121,535

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

A. Principles of Preparation

These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto in the Annual Report of El Paso Electric Company on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (the 2009 Form 10-K). Capitalized terms used in this report and not defined herein have the meaning ascribed for such terms in the 2009 Form 10-K. In the opinion of the Company's management, the accompanying consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position of the Company at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009; the results of its operations and comprehensive operations for the three, nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009; and its cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009. The results of operations and comprehensive operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and the cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full calendar year.

Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), certain financial information has been condensed and certain footnote disclosures have been omitted. Such information and disclosures are normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current period presentation.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Revenues. Accounts receivable include accrued unbilled revenues of \$20.6 million and \$18.2 million at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively. The Company presents sales net of sales taxes in its consolidated statements of operations.

Extraordinary Item. As a regulated electric utility, the Company prepares its financial statements in accordance with the FASB guidance for regulated operations. FASB guidance for regulated operations requires us to show certain items as assets or liabilities on our balance sheet when the regulator provides assurance that these items will be charged to and collected from our customers or refunded to our customers. In the final order for Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Docket No. 37690, the Company was allowed to include the previously expensed loss on reacquired debt associated with the refinancing of first mortgage bonds in 2005 in its calculation of the weighted cost of debt to be recovered from its customers. The Company recorded the impacts of the re-application of FASB guidance for regulated operations to the Company's Texas jurisdiction in 2006 as an extraordinary item. In order to establish this regulatory asset, the Company recorded an extraordinary gain of \$10.3 million, net of income tax expense of \$5.8 million, in its 2010 statement of operations. This item has been recorded as a regulatory asset during the quarter ended September 30, 2010 pursuant to the final order received from the PUCT and will be amortized over the remaining life of the Company's 6% Senior Notes due in 2035.

New Accounting Standards. In December 2009, the FASB issued revised guidance related to financial reporting by enterprises involved with variable interest entities. This guidance became

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effective for reporting periods beginning after November 15, 2009. The guidance requires an enterprise to perform an analysis to determine whether the enterprise's variable interest or interests give it a controlling financial interest in a variable interest entity. The Company has performed the required analysis and has determined that it does not have any purchase power agreements that qualify as a variable interest entity.

Effective April 1, 2009, the Company adopted FASB guidance which establishes general standards of accounting and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date, but before financial statements are issued. In February 2010, the Company adopted an amendment to FASB guidance removing the requirement for an SEC filer to disclose a date through which subsequent events have been evaluated. This new guidance changed disclosure requirements but does not impact the Company's financial statements.

In January 2010, the FASB issued new guidance to improve disclosure requirements related to fair value measurements and disclosures. The new requirements include (i) disclosure of significant transfers in and out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements and the reasons for the transfers; and (ii) disclosure in the reconciliation for Level 3 fair value measurements of information about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements on a gross basis. The new guidance also clarifies existing disclosures and requires (i) an entity to provide fair value measurement disclosures for each class of assets and liabilities and (ii) disclosures about inputs and valuation techniques. The provisions of this new guidance were adopted in the first quarter of 2010 except for the reconciliation for the Level 3 fair value measurements on a gross basis which will be adopted during the first quarter of 2011. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, there were no transfers in or out of Level 1 or Level 2 categories. This guidance requires additional disclosure on fair value measurements, but does not impact the Company's consolidated financial statements. See Note J.

Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Cash paid for:		
Interest on long-term debt and financing obligations	\$ 33,474	\$ 33,937
Other interest	0	4
Income taxes	5,778	13,008
Non-cash financing activities:		
Grants of restricted shares of common stock	2,057	1,267
Issuance of performance shares	662	0

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

B. Regulation

General

The rates and services of the Company are regulated by incorporated municipalities in Texas, the PUCT, the NMPRC, and the FERC. The PUCT and the NMPRC have jurisdiction to review municipal orders, ordinances, and utility agreements regarding rates and services within their respective states and over certain other activities of the Company. The FERC has jurisdiction over the Company's wholesale transactions and compliance with federally-mandated reliability standards. The decisions of the PUCT, NMPRC and the FERC are subject to judicial review.

Texas Regulatory Matters

Texas Freeze Period. The Company entered into agreements (Texas Rate Agreements) with El Paso, PUCT staff and other parties in Texas that provided for most retail base rates to remain at their current level through June 30, 2010. During the rate freeze period, if the Company's return on equity fell below the bottom of a defined range, the Company had the right to initiate a rate case and seek an adjustment to base rates. If the Company's return on equity exceeded the top of the range, the Company would refund an amount equal to 50% of the Texas jurisdictional pretax return in excess of the ceiling. The Company's return on equity fell within the then prevailing range during the last reporting period. Also pursuant to the Texas Rate Agreements, the Company agreed to share with its Texas customers 25% of off-system sales margins increasing to 90% after June 30, 2010.

2009 Texas Retail Rate Case. On December 9, 2009, the Company filed an application with the PUCT for authority to change rates, to reconcile fuel costs, to establish formula-based fuel factors, and to establish an energy efficiency cost-recovery factor. This case was assigned PUCT Docket No. 37690. The filing included a base rate increase which was based upon an adjusted test year ended June 30, 2009.

On July 30, 2010, the PUCT approved a settlement in the 2009 Texas retail rate case in PUCT Docket No. 37690. The settlement calls for an annual non-fuel base rate increase of \$17.15 million effective for usage beginning July 1, 2010. This increase was partially offset by the provision that, consistent with a prior rate agreement, effective July 1, 2010, the Company shares 90% of off-system sales margins with customers and retains 10% of such margins. Previously, the Company retained 75% of off-system sales margins. Interim rates went into effect July 1, 2010 pending final approval by the PUCT. All additions to electric plant in service since June 30, 1993 through June 30, 2009 were deemed to be reasonable and necessary with the exception of one small addition. The Company's new customer information system completed in April 2010 was also included in base rates with a ten-year amortization. The settlement provides for the reconciliation of fuel costs incurred through June 30, 2009 except for the recovery of final Four Corners coal mine reclamation costs. The fuel reconciliation (Docket No. 38361) was bifurcated from the rate case to allow for litigation of the final coal mine reclamation costs. The PUCT also approved the use of a formula-based fuel factor which provides for more timely recovery of fuel costs. The PUCT approved a \$19.7 million or 11% reduction in the Company's fixed fuel factor as the initial rate under the approved fuel factor formula.

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The PUCT also approved an energy efficiency cost-recovery factor that includes the recovery of deferred energy efficiency costs over a three-year period.

Fuel Reconciliation Case (Severed from 2009 Rate Case). Pursuant to the stipulation in Docket No. 37690, the fuel reconciliation component of the rate case was severed and a separate docket, PUCT Docket No. 38361, was established to address one fuel reconciliation issue not settled by the parties. That single issue is a determination of the proper amount of the Four Corners coal mine final reclamation costs that may be recovered from the Company's Texas retail customers. The hearing on the merits of the case was held on August 11, 2010 and briefs have been filed. A final order in this case is expected in the first quarter of 2011. The Company is unable at this time to predict the ultimate outcome of this docket.

Fuel and Purchased Power Costs. The Company's actual fuel costs, including purchased power energy costs, are recoverable from its customers. The PUCT has adopted a fuel cost recovery rule (Texas Fuel Rule) that allows the Company to seek periodic adjustments to its fixed fuel factor. The Company received approval on July 30, 2010 in PUCT Docket No. 37690 (discussed above), to implement a formula to determine its fuel factor. The Company can seek to revise its fixed fuel factor based upon the approved formula at least four months after its last revision except in the month of December. The Texas Fuel Rule requires the Company to request to refund fuel costs in any month when the over-recovery balance exceeds a threshold material amount and it expects fuel costs to continue to be materially over-recovered. The Texas Fuel Rule also permits the Company to seek to surcharge fuel under-recoveries in any month the balance exceeds a threshold material amount and it expects fuel cost recovery to continue to be materially under-recovered. Fuel over and under recoveries are considered material when they exceed 4% of the previous twelve months fuel costs. All such fuel revenue and expense activities are subject to periodic final review by the PUCT in fuel reconciliation proceedings.

On June 5, 2009, the Company filed a petition with the PUCT in PUCT Docket No. 37086 to decrease its fixed fuel factor by 13.1%, or \$27.9 million. On July 30, 2009, the PUCT approved the new factors effective for customer bills rendered beginning in August 2009.

On September 1, 2009, the Company filed a petition in PUCT Docket No. 37433 to refund \$12.0 million in fuel cost over-recoveries, including interest, for the period of July 2008 through July 2009. The Company entered into a stipulation in October 2009 that included the August 2009 over-recovery in the refund for a total refund of \$16.8 million, including interest, and provided for the refund to be paid in November and December 2009. On October 23, 2009, the PUCT issued an order approving the stipulation.

On December 17, 2009, the Company filed a petition with the PUCT in Docket No. 37788 to refund \$11.8 million in fuel cost over-recoveries, including interest, for the period September through November 2009. On January 20, 2010, a stipulation was filed that resolved all of the issues in this proceeding. The stipulation provided for the Company to implement a fuel refund for the net over-recovery of \$11.8 million, including interest, in the month of February 2010. On January 21, 2010, the administrative law judge assigned to the docket issued an order approving the implementation of

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interim rates to allow the requested refund to be made. The PUCT issued a final order on February 11, 2010 approving the stipulation.

On May 12, 2010, the Company filed a petition with the PUCT which was assigned Docket No. 38253 to refund \$10.5 million in fuel cost over-recoveries, including interest, for the period December 2009 through March 2010. On June 14, 2010, the Company and all other parties filed a stipulation that resolved all of the issues in this case. In the stipulation, the Company and the other parties agreed to increase the refund by \$0.6 million to remove costs for the purchase of renewable energy credits from the Company's fuel cost, and as a result of that adjustment and the associated recalculation of interest, the total refund was \$11.1 million. On June 16, 2010, the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the docket issued an order approving the implementation of interim rates to allow the requested refund to be made in July and August 2010. The PUCT issued a final order on July 15, 2010 approving the stipulation.

On October 20, 2010, the Company filed a petition with the PUCT which was assigned Docket No. 38802 to refund \$12.8 million in fuel cost over-recoveries, including interest, for the period July 2009 through September 2010. In its filing, the Company requested the refund be made to customers in the single billing month of December 2010. This case is pending.

Application for Approval to Revise Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor for 2011. On June 1, 2010, the Company filed with the PUCT an application for approval to revise its energy efficiency cost recovery factor, which was assigned PUCT Docket No. 38226. The Company requested that its revised energy efficiency cost recovery factor (EECRF) become effective beginning with the first billing cycle of its January 2011 billing month. In its application, the Company requests authority to increase its 2011 EECRF by a total of \$6.6 million to recover \$4.2 million in energy efficiency costs projected to be incurred in 2011, a performance bonus of \$0.1 million for the Company's 2009 program performance, and \$2.3 million in annual amortization of the energy efficiency costs that were deferred pursuant to the PUCT's final order in Docket No. 35612. A final order approving the Company's application was issued on October 4, 2010.

Application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Rio Grande Unit 9. On September 30, 2010, the Company filed a petition seeking a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to construct an 87 MW natural gas-fired combustion turbine unit at the Company's existing Rio Grande Generating Station in the City of Sunland Park in southeast New Mexico. This case was assigned PUCT Docket No. 38717. An intervention deadline of November 15, 2010 has been established, but a full procedural schedule has not been established at this time.

New Mexico Regulatory Matters

2009 New Mexico Stipulation. On May 29, 2009, the Company filed a general rate case using a test year ended December 31, 2008. The 2009 rate case was docketed as NMPRC Case No. 09-00171-UT. A comprehensive unopposed stipulation (the 2009 New Mexico Stipulation) was reached in this general rate case and filed on October 8, 2009. The 2009 New Mexico Stipulation

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provided for an increase in New Mexico jurisdictional non-fuel and purchased power base rate revenues of \$5.5 million. The 2009 New Mexico Stipulation provided for the revision of depreciation rates for the Palo Verde nuclear generating plant to reflect a 20-year life extension and a revision of depreciation rates for other plant in service. The 2009 New Mexico Stipulation also provided for the continuation of the Company's Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment Clause (FPPCAC) without conditions or variance. In addition, it modified the market pricing of capacity and energy provided by Palo Verde Unit 3 using a methodology based upon a previous purchased power contract with Credit Suisse Energy, LLC. On December 10, 2009, the NMPRC issued a final order conditionally approving and clarifying the unopposed stipulation, and the stipulated rates went into effect with January 2010 bills.

Investigation into Recovering County Franchise Fees. On December 10, 2009, the NMPRC issued an order in NMPRC Case No. 09-00421-UT, requiring the Company to show cause why it should collect franchise fees from its customers on behalf of Doña Ana and Otero Counties (the Counties). The Company responded to the order on January 5, 2010. On January 26, 2010, the NMPRC issued a final order concluding that the imposition of franchise fees by New Mexico counties is not authorized under New Mexico law and, therefore, the Company may not pass through to its customers some past and all ongoing franchise fees imposed by the Counties. The order concluded that only home rule municipalities, who had adopted a charter under the state constitution, could impose franchise fees or taxes, provided the residents so voted.

As a result of its findings, the NMPRC directed the Company to immediately cease passing through to its customers any franchise fees paid by the Company to the Counties. The NMPRC also directed the Company to refund to its customers in the Counties the amount of franchise fees charged to those customers since June 1, 2004, plus interest. The order stated that the Company was required to refund these franchise fees to customers over a three-year period through a credit on customer bills and file tariffs for refunding within three days. On January 29, 2010, the NMPRC granted the Company's request to extend its deadline for compliance with the order until February 12, 2010. Interest will continue to accrue on the unamortized balance until fully refunded. The order does not relieve the Company of its obligation to pay franchise fees to the Counties but states that this issue must be addressed by the New Mexico courts.

The Company filed a Notice of Appeal with the New Mexico Supreme Court on January 27, 2010 (the Appeal), seeking to set aside the order on legal and jurisdictional grounds. The Company followed with a motion for Emergency Stay on January 29, 2010, asking the New Mexico Supreme Court to stay the order pending the Appeal. The Company also asked the NMPRC, on February 12, 2010, to delay implementation of its order pending the Appeal. The Counties moved to intervene in the Appeal on February 10, 2010. The Company had placed pending franchise payments to the Counties in separate accounts pending resolution of the proceedings. However, beginning in April 2010 the Company began paying franchise payments to the Counties in accordance with the current franchise agreements. On February 22, 2010, the New Mexico Supreme Court granted the Company's motion for Emergency Stay pending the outcome of the Appeal and granted the Counties' motion to intervene in the Appeal. In February 2010, the New Mexico legislature passed legislation that confirmed the legality of the Company's existing franchise agreements with the Counties. On October 26, 2010, the New Mexico

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Supreme Court issued its opinion and held that the franchise fee charges fall outside the NMPRC's jurisdiction and vacated and annulled the NMPRC's order.

Investigation into the Service Quality of the Company. On October 22, 2009, NMPRC Staff filed a petition requesting an investigation into the quality of service of the Company's power distribution system in the Santa Teresa Industrial Park, based upon a report prepared for customers in that area by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. On October 27, 2009, the NMPRC decided to initiate an investigation and ordered the Company to respond no later than November 16, 2009. The Company filed an initial response on November 16, 2009 and a supplemental response on January 8, 2010 after obtaining data on which the report was based. The Company responses provided evidence that the reliability and power quality performance for the Company's service territory as a whole and on the Santa Teresa circuits in particular meet all applicable reliability standards and comport with good utility practices. On January 28, 2010, the NMPRC Staff filed a reply stating that it found no factual basis to conclude that the Company had violated NMPRC rules and recommended the NMPRC dismiss this proceeding.

On June 8, 2010, the hearing examiner issued a recommended decision concluding that there is no substantial evidence that would support the allegations in this case regarding the Company's quality of service. The hearing examiner found there is good cause to dismiss the investigation and close the docket without further proceedings. On November 4, 2010, the NMPRC issued a final order approving the recommended decision.

2010 Renewable Procurement Plan Pursuant to the Renewable Energy Act. On July 1, 2010, the Company filed its Application for Approval of its 2010 Renewable Procurement Plan, which was assigned NMPRC Case No. 10-00200-UT. The filing included renewable resources intended to meet the Company's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements in 2011 and future years. The 2010 Renewable Procurement Plan included a number of projects to meet the Company's RPS requirements, including three purchased power agreements for solar energy discussed in Note G below. In addition, the Company requested a variance from the solar diversity requirements in 2011 to be made up in later years from the new purchased power agreements for solar energy. Hearings were held on October 21, 2010. A final order is expected to be issued in December 2010.

Replacement of Revolving Credit Facility and Guarantee of Debt. On June 22, 2010, the Company received final approval from the NMPRC in Case No. 10-00145-UT to refinance the Company's revolving credit facility (RCF) and issue in a private placement up to \$110 million of senior notes by the Rio Grande Resources Trust II (the RGRT), guaranteed by the Company, to finance nuclear fuel. The refinancing of the RCF and the issuance of the senior notes was completed in the third quarter of 2010. See Note E.

Application for Approval to Recover Regulatory Disincentives and Incentives. On August 31, 2010, the Company filed an application for approval of its proposed rate design methodology to recover regulatory disincentives and incentives associated with the Company's energy efficiency and load management programs in New Mexico. A hearing is scheduled for March 15, 2011 and a final order is expected before June 2011.

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New Mexico Investigation into Executive Compensation. In December 2007, the NMPRC initiated an investigation into executive compensation of investor-owned gas and electric public utilities. In its order initiating the investigation, Case No. 07-00443-UT, the NMPRC required each utility to provide information on compensation of executive officers and directors for the period 1977-2006. The Company provided the requested information. No further action was taken by the NMPRC and the case was closed on October 5, 2010.

Application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Rio Grande Unit 9. On September 30, 2010, the Company filed a petition seeking a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to construct an 87 MW natural gas-fired combustion turbine unit at the Company's existing Rio Grande Generating Station in the City of Sunland Park in southeast New Mexico. This case was assigned NMPRC Case No. 10-00301-UT. The hearing is scheduled to begin April 13, 2011.

Federal Regulatory Matters

Transmission Dispute with Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP). In January 2006, the Company filed a complaint with the FERC to interpret the terms of a Power Exchange and Transmission Agreement (the Transmission Agreement) entered into with TEP in 1982. TEP filed a complaint with the FERC one day later raising virtually identical issues. TEP claimed that, under the Transmission Agreement, it was entitled to up to 400 MW of firm transmission rights on the Company's transmission system that would enable it to transmit power from the Luna Energy Facility (LEF) located near Deming, New Mexico to Springerville or Greenlee in Arizona. The Company asserted that TEP's rights under the Transmission Agreement do not include transmission rights necessary to transmit such power as contemplated by TEP and that TEP must acquire any such rights in the open market from the Company at applicable tariff rates or from other transmission providers. On April 24, 2006, the FERC ruled in the Company's favor, finding that TEP does not have transmission rights under the Transmission Agreement to transmit power from the LEF to Arizona. The ruling was based on written evidence presented and without an evidentiary hearing. TEP's request for a rehearing of the FERC's decision was granted in part and denied in part in an order issued October 4, 2006, and hearings on the disputed issues were held before an administrative law judge. In the initial decision dated September 6, 2007, the administrative law judge found that the Transmission Agreement allows TEP to transmit power from the LEF to Arizona but limits that transmission to 200 MW on any segment of the circuit and to non-firm service on the segment from Luna to Greenlee. The Company and TEP filed exceptions to the initial decision.

On November 13, 2008, the FERC issued an order on the initial decision finding that the transmission rights given to TEP in the Transmission Agreement are firm and are not restricted for transmission of power from Springerville as the receipt point to Greenlee as the delivery point. Therefore, pursuant to the order, TEP can use its transmission rights granted under the Transmission Agreement to transmit power from the LEF to either Springerville or Greenlee so long as it transmits no more than 200 MW over all segments at any one time.

The FERC also ordered that the Company refund to TEP all sums with interest that TEP had paid it for transmission under the applicable transmission service agreements since February 2006 for service relating to the LEF. On December 3, 2008, the Company refunded \$9.7 million to TEP. The Company had established a reserve for the rate refund of approximately \$7.2 million as of

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September 30, 2008, resulting in a pre-tax charge to earnings of approximately \$2.5 million in 2008. The Company also paid TEP interest on the refunded balance of approximately \$0.9 million, which was also charged to earnings in 2008. The Company filed a request for rehearing of the FERC's decision on December 15, 2008, seeking reversal of the order on the merits and a return of any refunds made in the interim, as well as compensation for all service that the Company may provide to TEP from the LEF over the Company's transmission system on a going forward basis. On July 7, 2010, the FERC denied the Company's request for rehearing. On July 23, 2010, the Company filed a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and on August 18, 2010, TEP filed a motion to intervene in the proceeding. The Company cannot predict the outcome of that appeal. If the order is not reversed, the Company will lose the opportunity to receive compensation from TEP for such transmission service in the future.

In an ancillary proceeding, TEP filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona in December 2008, seeking reimbursement for amounts TEP paid a third party transmission provider for purchases of transmission capacity between April 2006 and May 2007, allegedly totaling approximately \$1.5 million, plus accrued interest. TEP alleges that the Company was obligated to provide TEP with that transmission capacity without charge under the Transmission Agreement. In September 2009, the Court granted a stay in this suit pending a resolution of the underlying FERC proceeding and any appeal thereof. The Company cannot predict the outcome of this matter.

Replacement of Revolving Credit Facility and Guarantee of Debt. On June 29, 2010, the Company received approval from the FERC in Docket No. ES10-43-000 to refinance the Company's RCF and issue in a private placement up to \$110 million of senior notes by the RGRT, guaranteed by the Company, to finance nuclear fuel. The refinancing of the RCF and the issuance of the senior notes was completed in the third quarter of 2010. See Note E.

C. Palo Verde

Spent Nuclear Fuel and Waste Disposal

Pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended in 1987 (the Waste Act), the DOE is legally obligated to accept and dispose of all spent nuclear fuel and other high-level radioactive waste generated by all domestic power reactors. In accordance with the Waste Act, the DOE entered into a spent nuclear fuel contract with the Company and all other Palo Verde Participants. The DOE has previously reported that its spent nuclear fuel disposal facilities would not be in operation in the near future. In November 1997, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued a decision preventing the DOE from excusing its own delay but refused to order the DOE to begin accepting spent nuclear fuel. The Company cannot predict when spent fuel shipments to the DOE will commence.

The Company expects to incur significant costs for on-site spent fuel storage during the life of Palo Verde that the Company believes are the responsibility of the DOE. These costs are assigned to fuel requiring the additional on-site storage and amortized as that fuel is burned until an agreement is reached with the DOE for recovery of these costs. In December 2003, APS, in conjunction with other

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nuclear plant operators, filed suit against the DOE on behalf of the Palo Verde Participants to recover monetary damages associated with the delay in the DOE's acceptance of spent fuel. APS pursued a damages claim for costs incurred through December 2006 in a trial that began on January 28, 2009. On June 18, 2010, the court awarded APS and the other Palo Verde Participants approximately \$30 million. In October 2010, the Company received \$4.8 million, representing its share of the award and anticipates that the majority of the award will be refunded to customers through the applicable fuel adjustment clauses.

D. Common Stock

Common Stock Repurchase Program

Since 1999, the Company has repurchased approximately 22.5 million shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$333.6 million, including commissions. As of December 31, 2009, 200,982 shares remained available for repurchase under its authorized program. On February 19, 2010, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 2 million additional shares of the Company's outstanding common stock (2010 Authorization). During the first nine months of 2010, the Company repurchased 1,391,049 shares of common stock in the open market at an aggregate cost of \$30.2 million under both the previously authorized program and under the 2010 Authorization. During the third quarter of 2010, the Company repurchased 888,557 shares of common stock in the open market at an aggregate cost of \$20.2 million. As of September 30, 2010, 809,933 shares remain available for repurchase under the 2010 Authorization. The Company may make purchases of its stock in the future pursuant to its stock repurchase plan at open market prices and may engage in private transactions, where appropriate. The repurchased shares will be available for issuance under employee benefit and stock incentive plans, or may be retired.

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Basic and Diluted Earnings Per Share

The basic and diluted earnings per share are presented below:

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:		
Basic number of common shares outstanding	42,921,044	44,588,257
Dilutive effect of unvested performance awards	117,796	0
Dilutive effect of stock options	64,858	49,230
Diluted number of common shares outstanding	43,103,698	44,637,487
Basic net income per common share:		
Net income	\$ 60,182	\$ 33,932
Income allocated to participating restricted stock	(260)	(122)
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 59,922	\$ 33,810
Diluted net income per common share:		
Net income	\$ 60,182	\$ 33,932
Income reallocated to participating restricted stock	(259)	(122)
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 59,923	\$ 33,810
Basic net income per common share	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.76
Diluted net income per common share	\$ 1.39	\$ 0.76

The calculation of the weighted average number of common shares and dilutive potential shares outstanding for the three months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, excludes 77,959 and 73,378 shares, respectively, of restricted stock awards because their effect was antidilutive.

No performance shares were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Performance shares of 197,900 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three months ended September 30, 2009, as no payouts would be required based upon performance at the end of that period. These amounts assume a 100% performance level payout.

No stock options were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share in the third quarter of 2010 and 2009.

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	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:		
Basic number of common shares outstanding	43,370,487	44,708,650
Dilutive effect of unvested performance awards	76,960	0
Dilutive effect of stock options	57,987	30,768
Diluted number of common shares outstanding	43,505,434	44,739,418
Basic net income per common share:		
Net income	\$ 93,138	\$ 58,972
Income allocated to participating restricted stock	(383)	(209)
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 92,755	\$ 58,763
Diluted net income per common share:		
Net income	\$ 93,138	\$ 58,972
Income reallocated to participating restricted stock	(382)	(209)
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 92,756	\$ 58,763
Basic net income per common share	\$ 2.14	\$ 1.31
Diluted net income per common share	\$ 2.13	\$ 1.31

The calculation of the weighted average number of common shares and dilutive potential shares outstanding for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, excludes 74,263 and 66,036 shares, respectively, of restricted stock awards because their effect was antidilutive.

Performance shares of 32,300 and 215,789 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively, as no payouts would be required based upon performance at the end of each corresponding period. These amounts assume a 100% performance level payout.

No stock options were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Options for 71,480 shares were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 as the exercise price was greater than the average stock price for that period.

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	Twelve Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:		
Basic number of common shares outstanding	43,523,270	44,716,277
Dilutive effect of unvested performance awards	85,595	0
Dilutive effect of stock options	63,459	44,744
Diluted number of common shares outstanding	43,672,324	44,761,021
Basic net income per common share:		
Net income	\$ 101,099	\$ 69,797
Income allocated to participating restricted stock	(405)	(232)
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 100,694	\$ 69,565
Diluted net income per common share:		
Net income	\$ 101,099	\$ 69,797
Income reallocated to participating restricted stock	(404)	(231)
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 100,695	\$ 69,566
 Basic net income per common share	 \$ 2.31	 \$ 1.56
 Diluted net income per common share	 \$ 2.31	 \$ 1.55

The calculation of the weighted average number of common shares and dilutive potential shares outstanding for the twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, excludes 72,798 and 62,899 shares, respectively, of restricted stock awards because their effect was antidilutive.

Performance shares of 24,225 and 187,529 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively, as no payouts would be required based upon performance at the end of each corresponding period. These amounts assume a 100% performance level payout.

No stock options were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the twelve months ended September 30, 2010. Options for 53,610 shares were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the twelve months ended September 30, 2009 as the exercise price was greater than the average stock price for that period.

E. Long-Term Debt and Financing Obligations

\$110 Million Senior Notes. On August 17, 2010, the Company entered into a Note Purchase Agreement (the Agreement) with RGRT, a Texas grantor trust through which the Company finances its portion of fuel for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, and various institutional purchasers. Under the terms of the Agreement, RGRT sold to the purchasers \$110 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes consisting of (a) \$15 million aggregate principal amount of 3.67% Senior Notes, Series A, due August 15, 2015, (b) \$50 million aggregate principal amount of 4.47% Senior Notes, Series B, due August 15, 2017, and (c) \$45 million aggregate principal amount of 5.04% Senior Notes, Series C, due August 15, 2020 (collectively, the Notes). The Company guarantees the payment of principal and interest on the Notes. RGRT's assets,

liabilities and operations are consolidated in the

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Company's financial statements and the Notes are included as long-term debt on the consolidated balance sheet.

RGRT will pay interest on the Notes on February 15 and August 15 of each year until maturity, beginning on February 15, 2011. RGRT may redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, at any time at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount to be redeemed together with the interest on such principal amount accrued to the date of redemption, plus a make-whole amount based on the prevailing market interest rates.

The sale of the Notes was made by RGRT in reliance on a private placement exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The proceeds of \$109.4 million, net of issuance costs, from the sale of the Notes was used by RGRT to repay amounts borrowed under the revolving credit facility and will enable future nuclear fuel financing requirements of RGRT to be met with a combination of the Notes and amounts borrowed from the revolving credit facility.

Revolving Credit Facility. On September 23, 2010, the Company and the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee of the RGRT entered into a credit agreement (the "RCF") with JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent and issuing bank, and Union Bank, N.A., as syndication agent, and various lending banks party thereto. Under the terms of the RCF, the Company has available \$200 million of credit for a term of four years. The Company may request that the RCF be increased up to a total of \$300 million during the term of the RCF.

The RCF provides that amounts borrowed by the Company may be used for, among other things, working capital and general corporate purposes. Any amounts borrowed by RGRT may be used, among other things, to finance the acquisition and processing of nuclear fuel. Amounts borrowed by RGRT are guaranteed by the Company and the balance borrowed under the RCF is recorded as a financing obligation on the consolidated balance sheet. The RCF is unsecured. The RCF requires compliance with certain covenants, including a total debt to capitalization ratio.

The RCF replaced a \$200 million credit facility that was due to expire on April 11, 2011, and that was terminated concurrently with entering into the RCF.

F. Income Taxes

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and in the states of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The Company is no longer subject to tax examination by federal taxing authorities for years prior to 2007 and in the state jurisdictions for years prior to 1998. A deficiency notice relating to the Company's 1998 through 2003 income tax returns in Arizona contests a pollution control credit, a research and development credit, and the sales and property apportionment factors. The Company is contesting these adjustments.

On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA") was signed into law. A major provision of the law is that, beginning in 2013, the income tax deductions for the cost of providing certain prescription drug coverage will be reduced by the amount of the Medicare Part D

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subsidies received. The Company was required to recognize the impacts of the tax law change at the time of enactment and recorded a one-time non-cash charge to income tax expense of approximately \$4.8 million in the first quarter of 2010.

For the three months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, the Company's consolidated effective tax rate on income before extraordinary item was 35.3% and 34.1%, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, the Company's consolidated effective tax rate on income before extraordinary item was 38.0% and 34.8%, respectively. For the twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 the Company's consolidated effective tax rate on income before extraordinary item was 36.6% and 32.9%, respectively. For the nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2010, the Company's effective tax rates differ from the federal statutory tax rate of 35% primarily due to the enactment of the PPACA discussed above. The Company's consolidated effective tax rate without the effect of the enactment of the PPACA for the nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2010, was 34.6% and 33.5%, respectively. The Company's 2010 effective tax rates without the effect of the enactment of the PPACA and 2009 effective tax rates differ from the federal statutory tax rate of 35% primarily due to state income taxes, the allowance for equity funds used during construction, the tax rate on income or losses on investments in the Company's qualified decommissioning trust fund, and various permanent tax differences. The Company recorded an extraordinary gain of \$10.3 million, net of income tax expense of \$5.8 million, in the third quarter of 2010 related to Texas regulatory assets.

FASB guidance prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. In January 2010, the Company filed for a change of accounting method with the IRS related to the way in which units of property are determined for purposes of determining capitalized tax assets. The change was included in the 2009 federal income tax return. The Company recorded an additional unrecognized tax position of \$6.3 million related to the change in accounting method in the third quarter of 2010. An additional unrecognized tax position may be recognized after the IRS audits the 2009 tax return. A reconciliation of the September 30, 2010 and 2009 amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in millions):

	2010	2009
Balance at January 1	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.5
Additions/(reductions) based on tax positions related to the current year	6.3	0.0
Additions for tax positions of prior years	0.4	0.0
Balance at September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively	\$ 7.3	\$ 0.5

If recognized, \$1.0 million of the unrecognized tax position at September 30, 2010, would affect the effective tax rate. Because of the impact of deferred tax accounting, the disallowance of the unrecognized tax position related to the change in accounting method discussed above does not change the amount of tax expense other than associated interest and penalties. The Company recognized income tax expense for an unrecognized tax position of \$0.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

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For a full discussion of commitments and contingencies, see Note J of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the 2009 Form 10-K. In addition, see Note B and C above and Notes B and D of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the 2009 Form 10-K regarding matters related to wholesale power sales contracts and transmission contracts subject to regulation and Palo Verde, including decommissioning, spent fuel storage, disposal of low-level radioactive waste, reactor vessel heads and liability and insurance matters.

Power Purchase and Sale Contracts

In addition to the contracts disclosed in the related table of the Company's 2009 Form 10-K, the Company has entered into several agreements with various counterparties for forward firm purchases of electricity:

Type of Contract	Quantity	Term
Power Purchase Agreement	20 MW	20 years after operational start date (1)
Power Purchase Agreement	Up to 40 MW	2010
Power Purchase Agreement	Up to 40 MW	2011 through September 2014
Power Purchase Agreement	Up to 5 MW	25 years after operational start date (2)

- (1) This contract is a power purchase agreement for the full capacity of a 20 MW solar photovoltaic plant to be built in southern New Mexico. The plant is scheduled for commercial operation by December 31, 2011.
- (2) This contract is a power purchase agreement for the full capacity of a 5 MW solar photovoltaic plant to be built in southern New Mexico. The plant is scheduled for commercial operation by June 30, 2011.

The Company entered into a 20-year contract (the "Contract") with New Mexico SunTower, LLC ("NM SunTower") in 2008 for the purchase of the output of a 92-MW concentrated solar plant which was expected to begin commercial operation in 2011. NM SunTower is an affiliate of NRG Energy, Inc. NM SunTower failed to meet its financial commitment milestone, and, on May 3, 2010, the Company delivered to NM SunTower a notice of default as provided under the terms of the Contract. The Company presented testimony to the NMPRC at a hearing June 8, 2010, seeking approval for NM SunTower's request to revise the Contract to (i) change the technology from concentrated solar to photovoltaic, (ii) downsize the solar project from 92 MW to 20 MW, and (iii) delay the date for commercial operation to December 31, 2011, at the earliest. The Company also requested deferral of its 2011 solar diversity requirements to the 2012-2015 period and approval to meet its 2011 RPS with purchases of renewable energy credits ("RECs") from a third party. On June 24, 2010, the NMPRC approved changes to the Contract with NM SunTower and requested that

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the Company submit the other items requested in its annual Renewable Energy Procurement Plan (Plan) filing.

On July 1, 2010, the Company made its annual Plan filing requesting approval for a 20-year purchase power agreement for two additional solar photovoltaic projects totaling 24 MW, consisting of two 12 MW projects located in southern New Mexico expected to be operational by December 31, 2011. The Company also requested approval for a 20-year purchase power agreement for a 5 MW photovoltaic project also located in southern New Mexico expected to be operational by June 30, 2011. In addition, approval for the purchase of RECs to meet the Company's RPS requirements for the 2011 to 2015 period was requested. The Company expects NMPRC approval of its Plan by December 2010. See Note B.

Environmental Matters

Environmental Regulation. The Company is subject to regulation with respect to air, soil and water quality, solid waste disposal and other environmental matters by federal, state, tribal and local authorities. Those authorities govern current facility operations and have continuing jurisdiction over facility modifications. Failure to comply with these environmental regulatory requirements can result in actions by regulatory agencies or other authorities that might seek to impose on the Company administrative, civil and/or criminal penalties. In addition, unauthorized releases of pollutants or contaminants into the environment can result in costly cleanup obligations that are subject to enforcement by regulatory agencies. These laws and regulations are subject to change and, as a result of those changes, the Company may face additional capital and operating costs to comply.

Another way in which environmental matters may impact the Company's operations and business is the implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) which, as applied to the Company, may result in a requirement that it substantially reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides from its power plants in Texas and/or purchase allowances representing other parties' emissions reductions starting in 2009. These requirements become more stringent in 2015, and are anticipated to require even further emissions reductions or additional allowance purchases. On July 11, 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia vacated CAIR in its entirety. On December 23, 2008 the DC Circuit Panel granted rehearing and instead remanded CAIR without vacating the original regulation. As a result, the Company must comply with CAIR as written until the EPA rewrites the CAIR as required by the Court's final opinion. The Company's 2009 report to comply with CAIR was filed timely, and all required allowances were purchased by the due date of March 1, 2010.

The EPA recently proposed a new rule, known as the Clean Air Transport Rule (the Transport Rule) which is intended by EPA to replace CAIR and which seeks to further reduce power plant emissions transported downwind as sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) or, after transformation in the atmosphere, as fine particles or ozone. The proposed Transport Rule sets forth emission reduction requirements for electric generating units (EGUs). The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on August 2, 2010, and the final rule is expected in late spring 2011. The EPA expects the rule to become effective within one year after the rule is finalized.

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Under the proposed Transport Rule, emissions of SO₂ and NO_x from EGUs with capacity greater than 25 MW in affected states would be directly regulated. The Transport Rule would set a pollution limit for each of the 31 affected states in the United States and the District of Columbia that significantly contribute to non-attainment or interfere with maintenance areas from downwind states. The state of Texas is included as one of the NO_x affected states during the ozone season of May to September. New Mexico is not affected by this proposed rule. The proposed Transport Rule would also allow limited interstate trading among power plants to address reliability issues if states can make assurances that they will meet pollution reduction requirements. Unlike other trading programs, the proposed Transport Rule limits total emissions from all affected sources in each individual state. Based on the current proposal, the Texas NO_x ozone trading budget will be 75,574 tons with 2,267 tons for a new unit set aside budget. It is unknown at this time how many allowances each of the Company's units located in Texas will be allocated and thus the cost to the Company to comply with the proposed rule.

Additional regulations governing the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, could also impact the Company. The U.S. Congress is considering new legislation to restrict or regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009, could, if enacted by the full Congress, require greenhouse gas emissions reductions by covered sources of as much as 17% from 2005 levels by 2020 and by as much as 83% by 2050. The State of New Mexico, where the Company operates one facility and has an interest in another facility, has joined with California and several other states in the Western Climate Initiative and is pursuing initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

Also, as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on April 2, 2007 in *Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA*, on December 15, 2009, the EPA officially published its finalized determination that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases present an endangerment to human health and welfare because emissions of such gases are, according to the EPA, contributing to warming of the earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. Following that determination, the EPA has said it will finalize regulations under its existing Clean Air Act (CAA) authority governing greenhouse gas emissions, including regulating emissions from large stationary sources, such as the fossil fuel-fired power plants operated by the Company, even if Congress does not adopt new legislation specifically addressing emissions of greenhouse gases. In addition, in September 2009, the EPA adopted a new rule requiring approximately 10,000 facilities comprising a substantial percentage of annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to inventory their emissions starting in 2010 and to report those emissions to the EPA beginning in 2011. The Company's fossil fuel-fired power generating assets are subject to this rule and the Company is complying with this requirement.

The Company will continue to monitor laws and regulations seeking to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Such laws and regulations have not imposed specific requirements on the Company to date and, as a result, no accrual has been made for potential compliance costs. While the Company strives to prepare for and implement actions necessary to comply with changing environmental regulations, substantial expenditures may be required for the Company to comply with such regulations in the future and, in some instances, those expenditures may be material.

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Ongoing Regulatory Compliance. The Company analyzes the costs of its current obligations arising from environmental matters on an ongoing basis and believes it has made adequate provision in its financial statements to meet the obligations which can be meaningfully quantified. As a result of this analysis, the Company has a provision for environmental remediation obligations of approximately \$1.2 million as of September 30, 2010, related to compliance with federal and state environmental standards. However, unforeseen expenses associated with environmental compliance or remediation may occur and could have a material adverse effect on the future operations and financial condition of the Company.

The Company incurred the following expenditures during the three, nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 to comply with federal environmental statutes (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,		Twelve Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
Clean Air Act (1)	\$ 88	\$ 70	\$ 376	\$ 663	\$ 523	\$ 931
Clean Water Act (2)	51	315	154	446	305	693

- (1) Includes a \$0.3 million reserve related to excess emissions at the Rio Grande generating station for the nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2009.
- (2) Includes a \$0.2 million reserve for remediation costs for the Gila River Boundary Site for the twelve months ended September 30, 2009. Excludes a \$0.6 million adjustment reducing estimated remediation costs for a property previously owned by the Company for the nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2009. The twelve months ended September 30, 2009 includes a \$0.3 million reserve for remediation costs related to an oil discharge at the Rio Grande generating station discussed below.

Along with many other companies, the Company received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) a request for information in 2003 in connection with environmental conditions at a facility in San Angelo, Texas that was operated by the San Angelo Electric Service Company (SESCO). In November 2005, TCEQ proposed the SESCO site for listing on the registry of Texas state superfund sites and mailed notice to more than five hundred entities, including the Company, indicating that TCEQ considers each of them to be a potentially responsible party at the SESCO site. In October 2010, the Company reached a settlement with the SESCO working group to resolve this matter. The Company previously accrued \$0.3 million for potential costs related to this site, and the settlement does not result in a material additional charge to earnings.

The EPA has investigated releases or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at the Gila River Boundary Site, on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) reservation in Arizona and designated it as a Superfund Site. The Company currently owns 16.29% of the site and will share in the cost of cleanup of this site. The Company has a tentative agreement with the former property owner and the EPA to settle this matter for less than \$0.1 million, and the Company has accrued \$0.2 million for potential costs related to this matter.

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In 2006, the Company experienced an oil discharge at the Rio Grande Power Station. The Company remediated the site by removing the contaminated soil and installing monitoring wells to monitor for the presence of hydrocarbons in the ground water. A monitoring well showed signs of contamination at levels exceeding New Mexico ground water standards. The Company notified the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) of its findings and submitted an abatement plan to the NMED addressing the soil and ground water impacts. The abatement plan was approved by the NMED, and the Company further assessed and remediated the site in accordance with the plan in 2010. The Company has incurred \$0.3 million in costs related to this matter. Four of the five oil tanks at the Rio Grande Power Station have recently been dismantled and removed. The Company does not expect any significant additional costs to be incurred related to the 2006 discharge.

In May 2007, the EPA finalized a new federal implementation plan which addresses emissions at the Four Corners Station in northwestern New Mexico of which the Company owns a 7% interest in Units 4 and 5. APS, the Four Corners operating agent, has filed suit against the EPA relating to this new federal implementation plan in order to resolve issues involving operating flexibility for emission opacity standards. The Company cannot predict the outcome of the suit filed against the EPA or whether compliance with the new requirements could have an adverse effect on its capital and operating costs.

On April 6, 2009, APS received a request from the EPA under Section 114 of the CAA seeking detailed information regarding projects and operations at Four Corners. APS has responded to this request. The Company is unable to predict the timing or content of EPA's response or any resulting actions.

On February 16, 2010, a group of environmental organizations filed a petition with the United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture requesting that the agencies certify to the EPA that emissions from Four Corners are causing reasonably attributable visibility impairment under the CAA. APS is currently reviewing the petition and has indicated that it will likely file a response in opposition to the petition. The Company cannot predict the outcome of the petition or whether any resulting actions could have an adverse effect on its capital or operating costs.

Except as described herein, the Company is not aware of any other active investigation of its compliance with environmental requirements by the EPA, the TCEQ or the NMED which is expected to result in any material liability. Furthermore, except as described herein, the Company is not aware of any unresolved, potentially material liability it would face pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Comprehensive Liability Act of 1980, also known as the Superfund law.

Union Matters

The Company has approximately 1,000 employees, about 40% of whom are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 960 (Local 960) represents the Company's employees working primarily in the power plants, substations, line crews, meter reading and collection, facilities services, and customer service. The Company entered into a new collective bargaining agreement effective September 3, 2010, with Local 960 for a three-year term ending September 2, 2013.

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H. Litigation

The Company is a party to various legal actions. In many of these matters, the Company has excess casualty liability insurance that covers the various claims, actions and complaints. Based upon a review of these claims and applicable insurance coverage, to the extent that the Company has been able to reach a conclusion as to its ultimate liability, it believes that none of these claims will have a material adverse effect on the financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company.

See Note B for discussion of the effects of government legislation and regulation on the Company.

I. Employee Benefits**Retirement Plans**

The net periodic benefit cost recognized for the three, nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 is made up of the components listed below as determined using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,		Twelve Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
Components of net periodic benefit cost:						
Service cost	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,383	\$ 4,548	\$ 4,150	\$ 5,932	\$ 5,418
Interest cost	3,407	3,295	10,222	9,887	13,518	13,037
Expected return on plan assets	(3,467)	(3,860)	(10,400)	(11,580)	(14,259)	(15,107)
Amortization of:						
Net loss	887	407	2,661	1,219	3,067	1,512
Prior service cost	29	29	87	87	115	115
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 2,372	\$ 1,254	\$ 7,118	\$ 3,763	\$ 8,373	\$ 4,975

During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company contributed \$6.6 million of its projected \$8.4 million 2010 annual contribution to its retirement plans.

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Other Postretirement Benefits

The net periodic benefit cost recognized for the three, nine and twelve months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 is made up of the components listed below (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,		Twelve Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
Components of net periodic benefit cost:						
Service cost	\$ 889	\$ 849	\$ 2,668	\$ 2,547	\$ 3,516	\$ 3,337
Interest cost	1,666	1,623	4,998	4,869	6,621	6,419
Expected return on plan assets	(382)	(375)	(1,147)	(1,125)	(1,521)	(1,588)
Amortization of:						
Prior service benefit	(717)	(717)	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,869)	(2,869)
Net gain	(44)	0	(131)	0	(131)	(332)
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,380	\$ 4,236	\$ 4,139	\$ 5,616	\$ 4,967

During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company contributed \$3.7 million of its projected \$4.6 million 2010 annual contribution to its postretirement benefit plan.

In March 2010, the President signed into law comprehensive health care reform legislation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care Education and Affordability Reconciliation Act (the Acts). The Acts contain provisions which could impact the Company's accounting for retiree medical benefits in future periods. However, the extent of any additional impact cannot be completely determined until regulations are promulgated under the Acts and those regulations become available. The Company will continue to assess the accounting implications of the Acts as related regulations and interpretations of the Acts become available. Based on the analysis to date of the provisions in the Acts, the impact of which are reasonably determinable, a re-measurement of the Company's retiree plan liabilities is not required at this time.

J. Financial Instruments and Investments

FASB guidance requires the Company to disclose estimated fair values for its financial instruments. The Company has determined that cash and temporary investments, investment in debt securities, accounts receivable, decommissioning trust funds, long-term debt and financing obligations, accounts payable and customer deposits meet the definition of financial instruments. The carrying amounts of cash and temporary investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and customer deposits approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these items. Investments in debt securities and decommissioning trust funds are carried at fair value.

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The fair values of the Company's long-term debt and financing obligations, including the current portion thereof, are based on estimated market prices for similar issues and are presented below (in thousands):

	September 30, 2010		December 31, 2009	
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value
Pollution Control Bonds	\$ 193,135	\$ 205,772	\$ 193,135	\$ 197,680