

Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. (AHGP)

10-Q

Quarterly report pursuant to sections 13 or 15(d)

Filed on 11/08/2012

Filed Period 09/30/2012

THOMSON REUTERS ACCELUS™



THOMSON REUTERS

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012

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 No.: 0-51952

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

03-0573898
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

1717 South Boulder Avenue, Suite 400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(918) 295-1415
(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 has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See 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
(Do not check if smaller reporting company)

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 November 8, 2012, 59,863,000 common units are outstanding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

PART I

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<u>ITEM 1.</u>	<u>Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u>	
	<u>ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES</u>	
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011</u>	1
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011</u>	2
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011</u>	3
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011</u>	4
	<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	5
<u>ITEM 2.</u>	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	23
<u>ITEM 3.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	44
<u>ITEM 4.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	45
	<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	47

PART II

OTHER INFORMATION

<u>ITEM 1.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	49
<u>ITEM 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>	49
<u>ITEM 2.</u>	<u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	49
<u>ITEM 3.</u>	<u>Defaults upon Senior Securities</u>	49
<u>ITEM 4.</u>	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	49
<u>ITEM 5.</u>	<u>Other Information</u>	49
<u>ITEM 6.</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>	50

[Table of Contents](#)

PART I
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except unit data)
(Unaudited)

	September 30, 2012	December 31, 2011
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,110	\$ 281,469
Trade receivables	152,826	128,643
Other receivables	1,432	3,525
Due from affiliates	79	—
Inventories	63,923	33,837
Advance royalties	9,038	7,560
Prepaid expenses and other assets	10,321	12,022
Total current assets	<u>241,729</u>	<u>467,056</u>
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:		
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	2,278,297	1,974,520
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	<u>(784,123)</u>	<u>(793,200)</u>
Total property, plant and equipment, net	1,494,174	1,181,320
OTHER ASSETS:		
Advance royalties	26,972	27,916
Equity investments in affiliates	74,329	40,118
Other long-term assets	31,196	18,067
Total other assets	<u>132,497</u>	<u>86,101</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 1,868,400</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,734,477</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 113,776	\$ 97,369
Due to affiliates	395	494
Accrued taxes other than income taxes	19,150	15,897
Accrued payroll and related expenses	42,233	35,876
Accrued interest	6,320	2,195
Workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis benefits	9,488	9,511
Current capital lease obligations	1,019	676
Other current liabilities	22,900	15,326
Current maturities, long-term debt	18,000	18,000
Total current liabilities	<u>233,281</u>	<u>195,344</u>
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	693,000	686,000
Pneumoconiosis benefits	60,987	54,775
Accrued pension benefit	24,273	27,538
Workers' compensation	74,862	64,520
Asset retirement obligations	76,695	70,836
Long-term capital lease obligations	18,865	2,497
Other liabilities	8,536	6,774
Total long-term liabilities	<u>957,218</u>	<u>912,940</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,190,499</u>	<u>1,108,284</u>
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
PARTNERS' CAPITAL:		
Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. ("AHGP") Partners' Capital:		
Limited Partners – Common Unitholders 59,863,000 units outstanding	437,140	414,165
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	<u>(16,669)</u>	<u>(17,560)</u>
Total AHGP Partners' Capital	420,471	396,605
Noncontrolling interests	257,430	229,588
Total Partners' Capital	<u>677,901</u>	<u>626,193</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL	<u><u>\$ 1,868,400</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,734,477</u></u>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(In thousands, except unit and per unit data)
(Unaudited)

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
SALES AND OPERATING REVENUES:				
Coal sales	\$ 499,003	\$ 473,683	\$1,441,107	\$1,323,851
Transportation revenues	5,625	7,446	17,651	25,452
Other sales and operating revenues	6,720	6,528	25,854	19,381
Total revenues	<u>511,348</u>	<u>487,657</u>	<u>1,484,612</u>	<u>1,368,684</u>
EXPENSES:				
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	338,644	294,771	946,806	835,006
Transportation expenses	5,625	7,446	17,651	25,452
Outside coal purchases	4,424	19,864	34,759	29,495
General and administrative	15,282	13,613	47,494	40,692
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	59,781	40,275	154,923	117,237
Asset impairment charge	19,031	—	19,031	—
Total operating expenses	<u>442,787</u>	<u>375,969</u>	<u>1,220,664</u>	<u>1,047,882</u>
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	68,561	111,688	263,948	320,802
Interest expense (net of interest capitalized for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 of \$1,701, \$170, \$6,433 and \$482, respectively)	(7,446)	(8,782)	(21,626)	(27,248)
Interest income	94	84	239	279
Equity in loss of affiliates, net	(2,832)	—	(11,040)	—
Other income	254	360	2,853	1,340
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	58,631	103,350	234,374	295,173
INCOME TAX BENEFIT	(102)	(317)	(726)	(221)
NET INCOME	58,733	103,667	235,100	295,394
LESS: NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS	(19,238)	(46,559)	(91,927)	(133,367)
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. ("NET INCOME OF AHGP")	<u>\$ 39,495</u>	<u>\$ 57,108</u>	<u>\$ 143,173</u>	<u>\$ 162,027</u>
BASIC AND DILUTED NET INCOME OF AHGP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT	<u>\$ 0.66</u>	<u>\$ 0.95</u>	<u>\$ 2.39</u>	<u>\$ 2.71</u>
DISTRIBUTIONS PAID PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT	<u>\$ 0.6975</u>	<u>\$ 0.5825</u>	<u>\$ 2.0025</u>	<u>\$ 1.665</u>
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNITS OUTSTANDING - BASIC AND DILUTED	<u>59,863,000</u>	<u>59,863,000</u>	<u>59,863,000</u>	<u>59,863,000</u>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

[Table of Contents](#)

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(In thousands)
(Unaudited)

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
NET INCOME	\$ 58,733	\$ 103,667	\$ 235,100	\$ 295,394
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:				
Defined benefit pension plan				
Amortization of actuarial loss	458	122	1,373	366
Total defined benefit pension plan adjustments	458	122	1,373	366
Pneumoconiosis benefits				
Amortization of actuarial loss (gain)	194	(56)	582	(167)
Total pneumoconiosis benefits adjustments	194	(56)	582	(167)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	<u>652</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>1,955</u>	<u>199</u>
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	59,385	103,733	237,055	295,593
Less: Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	<u>(19,608)</u>	<u>(46,597)</u>	<u>(92,991)</u>	<u>(133,467)</u>
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO AHGP	<u>\$ 39,777</u>	<u>\$ 57,136</u>	<u>\$ 144,064</u>	<u>\$ 162,126</u>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

[Table of Contents](#)

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)
(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,	
	2012	2011
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$422,369	\$429,975
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Capital expenditures	(332,353)	(216,308)
Changes in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(4,024)	511
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	114	465
Purchase of equity investments in affiliate	(43,100)	(35,700)
Payment for acquisition of business	(100,000)	—
Payments to affiliate for acquisition and development of coal reserves	(34,601)	(33,841)
Advances/loans to affiliate	(2,229)	—
Payments from affiliate	4,229	—
Other	546	810
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(511,418)</u>	<u>(284,063)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Borrowings under term loan	250,000	—
Borrowings under revolving credit facility	150,000	—
Payments under revolving credit facility	(75,000)	—
Payment on term loan	(300,000)	—
Payment on long-term debt	(18,000)	(18,000)
Payments on capital lease obligations	(673)	(595)
Payment of debt issuance costs	(4,272)	—
Net settlement of employee withholding taxes on vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	(3,734)	(2,324)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interests	(66,755)	(57,787)
Distributions paid to Partners	(119,876)	(99,672)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(188,310)</u>	<u>(178,378)</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(277,359)	(32,466)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	281,469	342,237
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 4,110	\$309,771
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 22,166	\$ 22,930
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ —	\$ 300
NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITY:		
Accounts payable for purchase of property, plant and equipment	\$ 20,955	\$ 12,828
Market value of ARLP common units issued under ARLP's Long-Term Incentive and Directors Deferred Compensation Plans before minimum statutory tax withholding requirements	\$ 11,070	\$ 6,572
Assets acquired by capital lease	\$ —	\$ 3,525
Acquisition of business:		
Fair value of assets assumed	\$126,639	\$ —
Cash paid	(100,000)	—
Fair value of liabilities assumed	\$ 26,639	\$ —

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

1. ORGANIZATION AND PRESENTATION

Significant Relationships Referenced in Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

- References to "we," "us," "our" or "AHGP" mean Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "AHGP Partnership" mean the business and operations of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., the parent company, as well as its consolidated subsidiaries, which include Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC and Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. and its consolidated subsidiaries.
- References to "AGP" mean Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., also referred to as our general partner.
- References to "ARLP Partnership" mean the business and operations of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., the parent company, as well as its consolidated subsidiaries.
- References to "ARLP" mean Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "MGP" mean Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "SGP" mean Alliance Resource GP, LLC, the special general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "Intermediate Partnership" mean Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., the intermediate partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "Alliance Coal" mean Alliance Coal, LLC, the holding company for the operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.

Organization and Formation

We are a Delaware limited partnership listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "AHGP". We own directly and indirectly 100% of the members' interest in MGP, ARLP's managing general partner. The ARLP Partnership is a diversified producer and marketer of coal to major United States ("U.S.") utilities and industrial users. ARLP conducts substantially all of its business through its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Intermediate Partnership. ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership were formed in May 1999, to acquire upon completion of ARLP's initial public offering on August 19, 1999, certain coal and marketing assets of Alliance Resource Holdings, Inc. ("ARH"), a Delaware corporation. We and ARH, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, SGP, maintain general partner interests in ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership. ARH is owned by Joseph W. Craft III, the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of AGP as well as the President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of MGP, and Kathleen S. Craft. SGP, a Delaware limited liability company, is owned by ARH and holds a 0.01% general partner interest in each of ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership.

We are owned 100% by limited partners. Our general partner, AGP, has a non-economic interest in us and is owned by Mr. Craft.

Table of Contents

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts and operations of the AHGP Partnership and present our financial position as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the results of our operations and comprehensive income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 and the cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. All of our intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. Net income attributable to Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. from within our accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements will be described as "Net Income of AHGP."

Since we own MGP, our condensed consolidated financial statements reflect the consolidated results of the ARLP Partnership. The earnings of the ARLP Partnership allocated to its limited partners' interests not owned by us and allocated to SGP's general partner interest in ARLP are reflected as net income attributable to noncontrolling interest on our condensed consolidated statement of income and as noncontrolling interest on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. Our consolidated financial statements do not differ materially from those of the ARLP Partnership. The differences between our financial statements and those of the ARLP Partnership are primarily attributable to (a) amounts reported as noncontrolling interests and (b) additional general and administrative costs and taxes attributable to us. The additional general and administrative costs principally consist of costs incurred by us as a result of being a publicly traded partnership, amounts billed by, and reimbursed to, Alliance Coal under an administrative services agreement and amounts billed by, and reimbursed to, AGP under our partnership agreement.

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are unaudited. However, in the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect all adjustments (which include only normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the periods presented. Results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year.

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission for interim reporting and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of AHGP Partnership's condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") of the United States ("U.S.") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in our condensed consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Table of Contents

2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

New Accounting Standards Issued and Adopted

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2011-04, *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs* ("ASU 2011-04"). ASU 2011-04 amends Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, to provide a consistent definition of fair value and ensure that the fair value measurement and disclosure requirements are similar between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and enhances the disclosure requirements particularly for Level 3 fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 was effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. The adoption of ASU 2011-04 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income* ("ASU 2011-05"). ASU 2011-05 removes the presentation options in ASC 220, *Comprehensive Income*, and requires entities to report components of comprehensive income in either a continuous statement of comprehensive income or two separate but consecutive statements. Under the two statement approach, the first statement would include components of net income, and the second statement would include components of other comprehensive income ("OCI"). ASU 2011-05 does not change the items that must be reported in OCI. ASU 2011-05 was effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011, and its provisions had to be applied retrospectively for all periods presented in the financial statements. In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05* ("ASU 2011-12"), which indefinitely deferred a provision of ASU 2011-05 that required entities to present reclassification adjustments out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component in both the statement in which net income is presented and the statement in which OCI is presented. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

3. CONTINGENCIES

We are not engaged in any material litigation. The ARLP Partnership is involved in various lawsuits, claims and regulatory proceedings incidental to its business. The ARLP Partnership records an accrual for a potential loss related to these matters when, in management's opinion, such loss is probable and reasonably estimable. Based on known facts and circumstances, the ARLP Partnership believes the ultimate outcome of these outstanding lawsuits, claims and regulatory proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations or liquidity. However, if the results of these matters were different from management's current opinion and in amounts greater than the ARLP Partnership's accruals, then they could have a material adverse effect.

4. ACQUISITION OF BUSINESS

On April 2, 2012, the ARLP Partnership acquired substantially all of Green River Collieries, LLC's ("Green River") assets related to its coal mining business and operations located in Webster and Hopkins Counties, Kentucky. The transaction includes the Onton No. 9 mining complex ("Onton mine"), which includes a dock, tugboat, and a lease for the preparation plant, and an estimated 40.0 million tons of coal reserves in the West Kentucky No. 9 coal seam. The Green River acquisition is consistent with the ARLP Partnership's general business strategy and complements its current coal mining operations.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the consideration paid to Green River and the preliminary and final fair value allocation of assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the acquisition date, as well as the fair value adjustments made in the third quarter of 2012 (in thousands):

	<u>Preliminary as of</u> <u>June 30, 2012</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Final as of</u> <u>September 30, 2012</u>
Consideration paid	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000
Recognized amounts of net tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed:			
Inventories	547	—	547
Advance royalties	888	—	888
Property, plant and equipment, including mineral rights and leased facilities	117,292	(182)	117,110
Noncompete agreement	1,100	100	1,200
Customer contracts, net	4,873	82	4,955
Permits	843	—	843
Capital lease obligation	(17,384)	—	(17,384)
Asset retirement obligation	(6,032)	—	(6,032)
Pneumoconiosis benefits	(2,127)	—	(2,127)
Net tangible and intangible assets acquired	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000

During the quarter ended September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership finalized the purchase price allocation related to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed from Green River. The adjustments to the preliminary fair values resulted from additional information obtained about facts in existence on April 2, 2012. Prior financial statements have not been retrospectively adjusted due to immateriality.

Intangible assets and liabilities related to coal supply agreements will be amortized over the average term of the contracts. Mine permits will be amortized over the estimated useful life of the Onton mine and the noncompete agreement will be amortized over the term of the agreement.

Table of Contents

The following unaudited pro forma information for the AHGP Partnership has been prepared for illustrative purposes and assumes that the business combination occurred on January 1, 2011. The unaudited pro forma results have been prepared based upon Green River's historical results with respect to the business acquired and estimates of the effects of the transactions that it believes are reasonable and supportable. The results are not necessarily reflective of the consolidated results of operations had the acquisition actually occurred on January 1, 2011, nor are they indicative of future operating results.

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>			
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>		
	<u>(in thousands)</u>					
Total revenues						
As reported	\$	487,657	\$	1,484,612	\$	1,368,684
Pro forma	\$	513,750	\$	1,511,955	\$	1,454,785
Net income						
As reported	\$	103,667	\$	235,100	\$	295,394
Pro forma	\$	105,645	\$	236,381	\$	305,719

The revenues and net income related to the acquired business are reflected in our condensed consolidated statements of income beginning April 2, 2012 and totaled \$52.8 million and \$5.6 million, respectively, which are included in the total revenues and net income above for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

The pro forma net income includes adjustments to depreciation, depletion and amortization to reflect the new basis in property, plant and equipment and intangible assets acquired, elimination of income tax expense, and the elimination of interest expense of Green River as its debt was paid off in conjunction with the acquisition. Acquisition costs related to the business acquired of \$0.6 million were reclassified to the beginning of 2011 in preparation of the pro forma results, as the acquisition was assumed to have been completed January 1, 2011 for the pro forma presentation.

Synergies from the acquisition are not reflected in the pro forma results.

5. ASSET IMPAIRMENT CHARGE

On October 2, 2012, the ARLP Partnership announced that Pontiki Coal, LLC's ("Pontiki") mining complex in Martin County, Kentucky had been idled since August 29, 2012. The Mine Safety and Health Administration ("MSHA") ordered the closure of the coal preparation plant and associated surface facilities at the Pontiki mining complex following the failure on August 23, 2012 of a belt line between two clean coal stacking tubes. MSHA required a comprehensive structural inspection of all the surface facilities by an independent bridge engineering firm ("Firm") before the surface facilities could be reopened. The Firm recently issued its reports and the ARLP Partnership has commenced work to complete the first phase of repairs necessary to allow the complex to resume operation by the end of the fourth quarter of 2012. Although the Pontiki mining complex will resume operations to fulfill contractual obligations for the delivery of coal in 2013 under existing coal sales agreements, significant uncertainty remains regarding market demand and pricing for coal from Pontiki beyond 2013. This uncertainty along with the likelihood of future cost increases arising from stringent regulatory oversight places the long-term viability of Pontiki at significant risk.

As a result of the above events and our assessment of related risks, the ARLP Partnership concluded that indicators of impairment were present and the carrying value of the asset group

Table of Contents

representing the Pontiki mining complex ("Pontiki Assets") was not fully recoverable. The ARLP Partnership estimated the fair value of the Pontiki Assets and determined it exceeded the carrying value and accordingly, the ARLP Partnership recorded an asset impairment charge of \$19.0 million in the Central Appalachian segment for the three months ended September 30, 2012 to reduce the carrying value of the Pontiki Assets to their estimated fair value of \$16.1 million. The fair value of the Pontiki Assets was determined using the market and cost valuation techniques and represents a Level 3 fair value measurement. The fair value analysis was based on the marketability of coal properties in the current market environment, discounted projected future cash flows, and estimated fair value of assets that could be sold or used at other operations. These estimates incorporate certain assumptions, and it is possible that the estimates may change in the future resulting in the need to adjust the ARLP Partnership's determination of fair value. The asset impairment establishes a new cost basis on which future depreciation, depletion and amortization will be based for the Pontiki Assets.

6. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We apply the provisions of FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, which, among other things, defines fair value, requires disclosures about assets and liabilities carried at fair value and establishes a hierarchal disclosure framework based upon the quality of inputs used to measure fair value.

Valuation techniques are based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our own market assumptions. These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.
- Level 2 – Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.
- Level 3 – Instruments whose significant value drivers are unobservable.

The carrying amounts for cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the estimated fair value of the ARLP Partnership's long-term debt, including current maturities, was approximately \$755.8 million and \$746.5 million, respectively, based on interest rates that it believes are currently available to it for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities (Note 7). The fair value of debt, which is based upon interest rates for similar instruments in active markets, is classified as a Level 2 measurement under the fair value hierarchy.

Table of Contents

7. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following (in thousands):

	<u>September 30, 2012</u>	<u>December 31, 2011</u>
ARLP Revolving credit facility	\$ 75,000	\$ —
ARLP Senior notes	36,000	54,000
ARLP Series A senior notes	205,000	205,000
ARLP Series B senior notes	145,000	145,000
ARLP Term loan	<u>250,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
	711,000	704,000
Less current maturities	<u>(18,000)</u>	<u>(18,000)</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 693,000</u>	<u>\$ 686,000</u>

On May 23, 2012, the Intermediate Partnership entered into a credit agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with various financial institutions for a revolving credit facility (the "ARLP Revolving Credit Facility") of \$700 million and a term loan (the "ARLP Term Loan") in the aggregate principal amount of \$250 million (collectively, the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and ARLP Term Loan are referred to as the "ARLP Credit Facility"). The ARLP Credit Facility replaces the \$142.5 million revolving credit facility that would have matured September 25, 2012. Borrowings under the Credit Agreement bear interest at a Base Rate or Eurodollar Rate, at the ARLP Partnership's election, plus an applicable margin that fluctuates depending upon the ratio of Consolidated Debt to Consolidated Cash Flow (as defined in the Credit Agreement). The ARLP Partnership has elected the Eurodollar Rate which, with applicable margin, was 1.89% on borrowings outstanding as of September 30, 2012. The ARLP Credit Facility matures May 23, 2017, at which time all amounts outstanding under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and the ARLP Term Loan are required to be repaid. Interest is payable quarterly, with principal of the ARLP Term Loan due as follows: commencing with the quarter ending June 30, 2014 and for each quarter thereafter ending on March 31, 2016, an amount per quarter equal to 2.50% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding, 20% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding per quarter beginning June 30, 2016 through December 31, 2016 with the remaining balance of the ARLP Term Loan advances being due May 23, 2017. The ARLP Partnership has the option to prepay the ARLP Term Loan at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the Credit Agreement. Upon a "change of control" (as defined in the Credit Agreement), the unpaid principal amount of the ARLP Credit Facility, all interest thereon and all other amounts payable under the ARLP Credit Agreement will become due and payable.

Also on May 23, 2012, the Intermediate Partnership terminated early its \$300 million term loan agreement dated December 29, 2010. As of May 23, 2012, the aggregate unpaid principal amount of \$300 million, including all accrued but unpaid interest, was repaid using the proceeds of the ARLP Term Loan and borrowings under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility. The Intermediate Partnership did not incur any early termination penalties in connection with the prepayment of the term loan.

The ARLP Partnership incurred debt issuance costs of approximately \$4.3 million in 2012 associated with the Credit Agreement, which have been deferred and are being amortized as a component of interest expense over the duration of the Credit Agreement. The ARLP Partnership also expensed \$1.1 million of previously deferred debt issuance costs associated with the terminated \$300 million term loan.

The Intermediate Partnership has \$36.0 million in senior notes ("ARLP Senior Notes"), \$205.0 million in ARLP Series A and \$145.0 million in ARLP Series B senior notes (collectively, the "2008

Table of Contents

Senior Notes") and the ARLP Credit Facility described above (collectively, the "ARLP Debt Arrangements"), which are guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership. The ARLP Debt Arrangements contain various covenants affecting the Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries restricting, among other things, the amount of distributions by the Intermediate Partnership, the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, the sale of assets, the making of investments, the entry into mergers and consolidations and the entry into transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions. The ARLP Debt Arrangements also require the Intermediate Partnership to remain in control of a certain amount of mineable coal reserves relative to its annual production. In addition, the ARLP Debt Arrangements require the Intermediate Partnership to maintain (a) debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 3.0 to 1.0 and (b) cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 3.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 1.24 to 1.0 and 16.0 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended September 30, 2012. The ARLP Partnership was in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of September 30, 2012.

At September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership had borrowings of \$75.0 million and \$29.9 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$595.1 million available for borrowing under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility. The ARLP Partnership utilizes the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, as appropriate, for working capital requirements, anticipated capital expenditures and investments in affiliates, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership incurs an annual commitment fee of 0.25% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

8. WHITE OAK TRANSACTIONS

On September 22, 2011 (the "Transaction Date"), the ARLP Partnership entered into a series of transactions with White Oak Resources LLC ("White Oak") and related entities to support development of a longwall mining operation currently under construction. The transactions feature several components, including an equity investment in White Oak (represented by "Series A Units" containing certain distribution and liquidation preferences), the acquisition and leaseback of certain reserves and surface rights, a coal handling and services agreement and a backstop equipment financing facility. The initial investment by the ARLP Partnership at the Transaction Date, using existing cash on hand, was \$69.5 million and the ARLP Partnership is committed to additionally fund approximately \$330.5 million to \$455.5 million over the next three to four years, of which \$211.7 million was funded from the Transaction Date through September 30, 2012. The ARLP Partnership expects to fund these additional commitments using existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under existing debt and credit facilities and cash provided from the future issuance of debt or equity. The following information discusses each component of these transactions in further detail.

Hamilton County, Illinois Reserve Acquisition

Alliance WOR Properties, LLC ("WOR Properties"), acquired from White Oak the rights to approximately 204.9 million tons of proven and probable high-sulfur coal reserves, of which 105.2 million tons are currently being developed for future mining by White Oak, and certain surface properties and rights in Hamilton County, Illinois (the "Reserve Acquisition"). Hamilton County is adjacent to White County, Illinois, where the White County Coal, LLC Pattiki mine is located. The asset purchase price of \$33.8 million cash paid at closing was allocated to owned and leased coal rights. WOR Properties also provided \$17.0 million to White Oak for the development of the acquired reserves between the Transaction Date and December 31, 2011. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, WOR Properties provided \$34.6 million to White Oak for development of the acquired coal reserves, fulfilling its initial commitment for further development funding. WOR Properties has a remaining commitment of \$54.6 million for additional coal reserve acquisitions and development funding.

Table of Contents

Equity Investment — Series A Units

Concurrent with the Reserve Acquisition, Alliance WOR Processing, LLC ("WOR Processing"), made an equity investment of \$35.7 million in White Oak to purchase Series A Units representing ownership in White Oak. WOR Processing purchased \$7.0 million of additional Series A Units between the Transaction Date and December 31, 2011 and \$43.1 million of additional Series A Units during the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

WOR Processing's ownership and member's voting interest in White Oak at September 30, 2012 was 12.5% based upon currently outstanding voting units. The remainder of the equity ownership in White Oak, represented by Series B Units, is held by other investors and members of White Oak management.

The ARLP Partnership continually reviews all rights provided to WOR Processing by various agreements with White Oak and the ARLP Partnership continues to conclude all such rights are protective or participating in nature and do not provide WOR Processing or the ARLP Partnership the ability to unilaterally direct any of the primary activities of White Oak that most significantly impact its economic performance. As such, WOR Processing's interest in White Oak is recognized as an equity investment in affiliate in our consolidated balance sheets. As of September 30, 2012, WOR Processing had invested \$85.8 million in Series A Units of White Oak equity, which represents the ARLP Partnership's current maximum exposure to loss as a result of its equity investment in White Oak. White Oak has made no distributions to WOR Processing or the ARLP Partnership.

WOR Processing's equity in earnings or losses of affiliates are recorded under the hypothetical liquidation at book value method of accounting due to the preferences to which WOR Processing is entitled on distributions. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership was allocated losses of \$3.0 million and \$11.6 million, respectively.

Services Agreement

Simultaneous with the closing of the Reserve Acquisition, WOR Processing entered into a Coal Handling and Preparation Agreement ("Services Agreement") with White Oak pursuant to which WOR Processing committed to construct and operate a coal preparation plant and related facilities and a rail loop and loadout facility to service the White Oak longwall Mine No. 1. In addition, the Intermediate Partnership agreed to loan \$10.5 million to White Oak for the construction of various assets on the surface property, including but not limited to, a bathhouse, office and warehouse ("Construction Loan"). The Construction Loan has a term of 20 years, with repayment scheduled to begin in 2015. White Oak had not used any amounts available under the Construction Loan as of September 30, 2012.

Equipment Financing Commitment

Also on the Transaction Date, the Intermediate Partnership committed to provide \$100.0 million of fully collateralized equipment financing with a five-year term to White Oak for the purchase of coal mining equipment should other third-party funding sources not be available. During the second quarter of 2012, White Oak obtained third-party financing for the purchase of coal mining equipment, and on June 18, 2012, repaid the Intermediate Partnership the outstanding amount of \$2.2 million for previous advances and interest due. White Oak also terminated early the equipment financing agreement with the Intermediate Partnership, and as part of the termination, paid the Intermediate Partnership a \$2.0 million cancellation fee on June 18, 2012.

[Table of Contents](#)

9. NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS

We apply the provisions of FASB ASC 810, *Consolidation*. As required by FASB ASC 810, our noncontrolling ownership interest in consolidated subsidiaries is presented in the consolidated balance sheet within Partners' Capital as a separate component from the limited partners' equity. In addition, consolidated net income includes earnings attributable to both the limited partners' and the noncontrolling interests.

The noncontrolling interests balance is comprised of non-affiliate and affiliate ownership interests in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership that we consolidate (Note 1). The following table summarizes the components of noncontrolling interests recorded in Partners' Capital for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2011</u>
Noncontrolling interests reflected in Partners' Capital:		
Affiliate (SGP)	\$ (303,801)	\$ (303,797)
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners)	583,067	556,285
Accumulated other comprehensive loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(21,836)	(22,900)
Total noncontrolling interests	<u>\$ 257,430</u>	<u>\$ 229,588</u>

The noncontrolling interest designated as Affiliate represents SGP's 0.01% general partner interest in ARLP and 0.01% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership.

The noncontrolling interest designated as Non-Affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 15,544,169 common units of ARLP held by us. The total obligation associated with ARLP's Long-Term Incentive Plan ("ARLP LTIP"), MGP Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors ("MGP Deferred Compensation Plan") and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP") are also included in the Non-Affiliates component of noncontrolling interest (Note 11).

The following table summarizes net income attributable to each component of the noncontrolling interests for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest:				
Affiliate (SGP)	\$ 6	\$ 16	\$ 32	\$ 47
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners)	<u>19,232</u>	<u>46,543</u>	<u>91,895</u>	<u>133,320</u>
	<u>\$ 19,238</u>	<u>\$ 46,559</u>	<u>\$ 91,927</u>	<u>\$ 133,367</u>

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes cash distributions paid by ARLP to each component of the noncontrolling interests for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011
Distributions paid to noncontrolling interests:		
Affiliate (SGP) (1)	\$ 36	\$ 30
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners) (1)	<u>66,719</u>	<u>57,757</u>
	<u>\$ 66,755</u>	<u>\$ 57,787</u>

- (1) Distributions paid to noncontrolling interests, in the table above, represent ARLP's quarterly distributions in accordance with the ARLP partnership agreement.

The Affiliate component of noncontrolling interest represents SGP's cumulative investment basis in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership. After the consummation of the various transactions associated with the ARLP Partnership's formation and initial public offering transaction in 1999 (which included the contribution of net assets by SGP to the ARLP Partnership, the retention by SGP of debt borrowings assumed by ARLP and a distribution by ARLP to SGP), SGP's investment basis in ARLP totaled \$(303.9) million. SGP's investment basis as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 also reflects the cumulative amount of nominal ARLP income allocations and distributions to SGP and nominal contributions by SGP to ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership to maintain its general partner interests.

The following tables present the change in Partners' Capital for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands):

	Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.			Total Partners' Capital
	Limited Partners' Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Noncontrolling Interest	
Balance at January 1, 2012	\$ 414,165	\$ (17,560)	\$ 229,588	\$ 626,193
Net income	143,173	—	91,927	235,100
Other comprehensive income	—	891	1,064	1,955
Settlement of Directors Deferred Compensation	(459)	—	—	(459)
Vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	—	—	(3,734)	(3,734)
Common unit-based compensation	137	—	5,340	5,477
Distributions on ARLP common unit-based compensation	—	—	(1,172)	(1,172)
Distributions to AHGP Partners	(119,876)	—	—	(119,876)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interest	—	—	(65,583)	(65,583)
Balance at September 30, 2012	<u>\$ 437,140</u>	<u>\$ (16,669)</u>	<u>\$ 257,430</u>	<u>\$ 677,901</u>

Table of Contents

	Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.			
	Limited Partners' Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Noncontrolling Interest	Total Partners' Capital
Balance at January 1, 2011	\$ 330,346	\$ (8,138)	\$ 135,012	\$ 457,220
Net income	162,027	—	133,367	295,394
Other comprehensive income	—	99	100	199
Vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	—	—	(2,324)	(2,324)
Common unit-based compensation	136	—	4,434	4,570
Reclassification of SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans (Note 11)	682	—	9,223	9,905
Distributions on ARLP common unit-based compensation	—	—	(1,066)	(1,066)
Distributions to AHGP Partners	(99,672)	—	—	(99,672)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interest	—	—	(56,721)	(56,721)
Balance at September 30, 2011	<u>\$ 393,519</u>	<u>\$ (8,039)</u>	<u>\$ 222,025</u>	<u>\$ 607,505</u>

10. WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS

The changes in the workers' compensation liability (including current and long-term liability balances) for each of the periods presented were as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
Beginning balance	\$ 81,195	\$ 74,515	\$ 73,201	\$ 67,687
Accruals increase	6,294	5,570	18,508	16,684
Payments	(2,395)	(2,491)	(7,984)	(8,519)
Interest accretion	685	793	2,054	2,380
Valuation loss (gain)	(2,259)	125	(2,259)	280
Ending balance	<u>\$ 83,520</u>	<u>\$ 78,512</u>	<u>\$ 83,520</u>	<u>\$ 78,512</u>

Certain of the ARLP Partnership's mine operating entities are liable under state statutes and the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended, to pay pneumoconiosis, or black lung, benefits to eligible employees and former employees and their dependents. Components of the net periodic benefit cost for each of the periods presented are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
Service cost	\$ 960	\$ 833	\$ 2,795	\$ 2,513
Interest cost	598	596	1,773	1,788
Amortization of net loss (gain)	194	(56)	582	(167)
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 1,752</u>	<u>\$ 1,373</u>	<u>\$ 5,150</u>	<u>\$ 4,134</u>

11. COMPENSATION PLANS

ARLP Partnership

The ARLP Partnership has established the ARLP LTIP for certain employees and officers of MGP and its affiliates who perform services for the ARLP Partnership. The ARLP LTIP awards are grants of non-vested "phantom" or notional units, which upon satisfaction of vesting requirements, entitle the ARLP LTIP participant to receive ARLP common units. Annual grant levels and vesting provisions for designated participants are recommended by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the MGP, subject to review and approval of the compensation committee of the MGP board of directors (the "MGP Compensation Committee"). On January 25, 2012, the MGP Compensation Committee determined that the vesting requirements for the 2009 grants of 9,125 restricted units (net of 500 forfeitures) and the grants issued during the three months ended December 31, 2008 of 135,305 restricted units (net of 5,840 forfeitures) had been satisfied as of January 1, 2012. As a result of this vesting, on February 14, 2012, the ARLP Partnership issued 93,938 unrestricted common units to the ARLP LTIP participants. The remaining units were settled in cash to satisfy the individual tax withholding obligations for the ARLP LTIP participants. On February 6, 2012 and April 26, 2012, the MGP Compensation Committee authorized additional grants of up to 106,779 and 8,500 restricted units, respectively, of which 107,114 were granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and will vest on January 1, 2015, subject to satisfaction of certain financial tests. The fair value of these 2012 grants is equal to the intrinsic value at the date of grant, which was \$77.71 per unit. ARLP LTIP expense was \$1.6 million and \$1.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and \$4.7 million and \$3.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. After consideration of the January 1, 2012 vesting and subsequent issuance of 93,938 common units, approximately 2.2 million units remain available for issuance under the ARLP LTIP in the future, assuming all grants issued in 2010, 2011 and 2012 currently outstanding are settled with ARLP common units and no future forfeitures occur.

As of September 30, 2012, there was \$9.4 million in total unrecognized compensation expense related to the non-vested ARLP LTIP grants that are expected to vest. That expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.2 years. As of September 30, 2012, the intrinsic value of the non-vested ARLP LTIP grants was \$20.5 million. As of September 30, 2012, the total obligation associated with the ARLP LTIP was \$10.4 million and is included in the noncontrolling interests line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

As provided under the distribution equivalent rights provisions of the ARLP LTIP, all non-vested grants include contingent rights to receive quarterly cash distributions in an amount equal to the cash distributions ARLP makes to its unitholders during the vesting period.

AHGP Partnership

We have also adopted a Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "AHGP LTIP") for employees, directors and consultants of our general partner and its affiliates, including the ARLP Partnership. Grants under the AHGP LTIP are to be made in AHGP restricted units, which are "phantom" units that entitle the grantee to receive either a common unit or equivalent amount of cash upon the vesting of the phantom units. The aggregate number of common units reserved for issuance under the AHGP LTIP is 5,215,000. There have been no grants under the AHGP LTIP as of September 30, 2012.

SERP and Directors Deferred Compensation Plans

The ARLP Partnership has the SERP to provide deferred compensation benefits for certain officers and key employees. All allocations made to participants under the SERP are made in the form of "phantom" ARLP units.

Table of Contents

Our directors participate in the AGP Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors ("AGP Deferred Compensation Plan"), and the directors of MGP participate in the MGP Deferred Compensation Plan (collectively, the "Deferred Compensation Plans"). Pursuant to the Deferred Compensation Plans, for amounts deferred either automatically or at the election of the director, a notional account is established and credited with notional common units of ARLP or AHGP, as appropriate, which are described in the Deferred Compensation Plans as "phantom" units.

For both the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans, when quarterly cash distributions are made with respect to ARLP or AHGP common units, an amount equal to such quarterly distribution is credited to each participant's notional account as additional phantom units. All grants of phantom units under the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans vest immediately.

Amounts that were payable under either the SERP or Deferred Compensation Plans on or prior to January 1, 2011, were paid in either cash or common units of ARLP or AHGP, as appropriate. Effective for amounts that become payable after January 1, 2011, the Deferred Compensation Plans and the SERP require that vested benefits be paid to participants only in common units of ARLP or AHGP, as appropriate, and therefore the phantom units have qualified for equity award accounting treatment since that date. As a result, we reclassified a total of \$9.2 million of obligations for the SERP and the MGP Deferred Compensation Plan from due to affiliates and other long-term liabilities to the noncontrolling interests line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets as required under FASB ASC 718, *Compensation-Stock Compensation*, on January 1, 2011. In addition, we reclassified \$0.7 million of obligations for the AGP Deferred Compensation Plan from due to affiliates to the partners' capital-limited partners line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets on January 1, 2011. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, SERP and MGP Deferred Compensation Plan participant notional account balances were credited with a total of 7,168 and 8,284 phantom units, respectively, and the fair value of these phantom units was \$64.77 and \$72.01, respectively, on a weighted-average basis. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, AGP Deferred Compensation Plan participant notional account balances were credited with a total of 2,950 and 2,728 phantom units, respectively, and the fair value of these phantom units was \$46.28 and \$49.79, respectively, on a weighted-average basis. Total SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans expense was approximately \$0.3 and \$0.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and \$0.8 and \$0.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

As of September 30, 2012, there were 167,701 total phantom units outstanding under the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans and the total intrinsic value of the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans phantom units was \$9.9 million. As of September 30, 2012, the total obligation associated with the SERP and MGP Deferred Compensation Plan was \$10.3 million, which was included in the noncontrolling interests line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. The total obligation associated with the AGP Deferred Compensation Plan was \$0.6 million, which was included in the partners' capital-limited partners line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

[Table of Contents](#)

12. COMPONENTS OF PENSION PLAN NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COSTS

Eligible employees at certain of the ARLP Partnership's mining operations participate in a defined benefit plan (the "Pension Plan") sponsored by the ARLP Partnership. The benefit formula for the Pension Plan is a fixed dollar unit based on years of service. Components of the net periodic benefit cost for each of the periods presented are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
Service cost	\$ 726	\$ 618	\$ 2,179	\$ 1,854
Interest cost	818	788	2,454	2,364
Expected return on plan assets	(956)	(972)	(2,868)	(2,917)
Amortization of net loss	458	122	1,373	366
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 1,046</u>	<u>\$ 556</u>	<u>\$ 3,138</u>	<u>\$ 1,667</u>

We previously disclosed in our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 that the ARLP Partnership expected to contribute \$5.4 million to the Pension Plan in 2012. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership made contribution payments of \$3.0 million for the 2011 plan year and \$2.0 million for the 2012 plan year.

On July 6, 2012, new federal legislation entitled *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* was passed, which includes a provision aimed at stabilizing the interest rates used to calculate pension plan liabilities for pension funding purposes. We are currently evaluating the impact of this legislation; however, the ARLP Partnership anticipates that as a result of this new legislation, it will not make any further contributions during 2012 beyond the \$5.0 million noted above.

13. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The ARLP Partnership operates in the eastern U.S. as a producer and marketer of coal to major utilities and industrial users. We aggregate multiple operating segments into five reportable segments: the Illinois Basin, Central Appalachia, Northern Appalachia, White Oak and Other and Corporate. The first three reportable segments correspond to the three major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Similar economic characteristics for the operating segments within each of these three reportable segments include coal quality, coal seam height, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues. The White Oak reportable segment includes the ARLP Partnership's activities associated with the White Oak longwall Mine No. 1 development project more fully described below.

The Illinois Basin reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex, Gibson County Coal, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Gibson North mine and Gibson South project, Hopkins County Coal, LLC's Elk Creek mining complex, White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex, Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex, River View Coal, LLC's mining complex, Sebree Mining, LLC ("Sebree"), which includes the Onton mine and Sebree property, and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties, LLC ("Alliance Resource Properties"), ARP Sebree, LLC and ARP Sebree South, LLC. The development of the Gibson South mine is currently underway and the ARLP Partnership is in the process of permitting the Sebree property for future mine development. For information regarding the acquisition of the Onton mine, which was added to the Illinois Basin segment in April 2012, please see Note 4.

Table of Contents

The Central Appalachian reportable segment is comprised of two operating segments, the Pontiki and MC Mining, LLC mining complexes. The Pontiki mining complex was idled on August 29, 2012. For more information regarding the idling of the Pontiki mining complex, please see Note 5.

The Northern Appalachian reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including Mettiki Coal, LLC's mining complex, Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mining complex, two small third-party mining operations (one of which ceased operations in July 2011), the Tunnel Ridge, LLC ("Tunnel Ridge") mine and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC ("Penn Ridge") property. In May 2012, longwall production began at the Tunnel Ridge mine. The ARLP Partnership is in the process of permitting the Penn Ridge property for future mine development.

The White Oak reportable segment is comprised of two operating segments, WOR Properties and WOR Processing. WOR Processing includes both the surface operations at White Oak currently under construction and the equity investment in White Oak. WOR Properties owns coal reserves acquired from White Oak and is committed to acquiring additional reserves from White Oak. WOR Properties has also completed initial funding commitments to White Oak for development of these reserves. The White Oak reportable segment also includes a loan to White Oak for current financial activities related to the acquisition of mining equipment (which was paid off and terminated in June 2012) and will include future financing activities for another loan to construct certain surface facilities (Note 8).

Other and Corporate includes the ARLP Partnership and AHGP's marketing and administrative expenses, Alliance Service, Inc. and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC ("Matrix Design"), Alliance Design Group, LLC ("Alliance Design") (collectively, Matrix Design and Alliance Design are referred to as the "Matrix Group"), the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC ("Mt. Vernon") dock activities, coal brokerage activity, the ARLP Partnership's equity investment in Mid-America Carbonates, LLC and certain activities of Alliance Resource Properties. Reportable segment results as of and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 are presented below.

	<u>Illinois Basin</u>	<u>Central Appalachia</u>	<u>Northern Appalachia</u>	<u>White Oak</u>	<u>Other and Corporate</u>	<u>Elimination (1)</u>	<u>Consolidated</u>
	(in thousands)						

Reportable segment results for the three months ended September 30, 2012 were as follows:

Total revenues (2)	\$ 365,119	\$ 41,790	\$ 100,142	\$ —	\$ 8,425	\$ (4,128)	\$ 511,348
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	221,731	35,563	81,761	174	7,713	(4,128)	342,814
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	140,329	6,228	15,813	(3,188)	895	—	160,077
Capital expenditures	51,541	9,395	21,422	10,468	1,197	—	94,023

Reportable segment results for the three months ended September 30, 2011 were as follows:

Total revenues (2)	\$ 342,237	\$ 49,478	\$ 76,808	\$ —	\$ 22,606	\$ (3,472)	\$ 487,657
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	210,024	36,796	50,911	204	19,812	(3,472)	314,275
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	127,230	12,456	23,665	(204)	2,789	—	165,936
Capital expenditures (7)	36,050	8,298	29,044	33,841	483	—	107,716

Reportable segment results as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were as follows:

Total revenues (2)	\$ 1,082,057	\$ 122,989	\$ 247,104	\$ —	\$ 46,395	\$ (13,933)	\$ 1,484,612
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	652,231	96,920	202,449	(1,517)	42,562	(13,933)	978,712
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	419,955	25,618	37,326	(10,072)	4,382	—	477,209
Total assets (6)	1,030,860	81,867	521,156	198,631	36,711	(825)	1,868,400
Capital expenditures (7)	173,656	25,143	82,320	74,712	11,123	—	366,954

Reportable segment results as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 were as follows:

Total revenues (2)	\$ 983,038	\$ 154,704	\$ 200,004	\$ —	\$ 43,073	\$ (12,135)	\$ 1,368,684
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	583,291	109,848	143,804	204	38,149	(12,135)	863,161
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	382,164	43,590	49,602	(204)	4,919	—	480,071
Total assets (6)	787,790	89,516	400,372	69,337	335,697	(877)	1,681,835
Capital expenditures (7)	109,404	20,153	84,817	33,841	1,934	—	250,149

Table of Contents

- (1) The elimination column represents the elimination of intercompany transactions and is primarily comprised of sales from the Matrix Group to the ARLP Partnership's mining operations.
- (2) Revenues included in the Other and Corporate column are primarily attributable to the Matrix Group revenues, Mt. Vernon transloading revenues and brokerage sales.
- (3) Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense includes operating expenses, outside coal purchases and other income. Transportation expenses are excluded as these expenses are passed through to the ARLP Partnership's customers and consequently it does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues. We review Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton for cost trends.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense to operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization) (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 342,814	\$ 314,275	\$ 978,712	\$ 863,161
Outside coal purchases	(4,424)	(19,864)	(34,759)	(29,495)
Other income	254	360	2,853	1,340
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	<u>\$ 338,644</u>	<u>\$ 294,771</u>	<u>\$ 946,806</u>	<u>\$ 835,006</u>

- (4) Segment Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before income taxes, net interest expense, depreciation, depletion and amortization, general and administrative expenses and asset impairment charge. Management therefore is able to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating profitability as it relates to the ARLP Partnership's revenues and operating expenses, which are primarily controlled by our segments. Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA is reconciled to net income as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 160,077	\$ 165,936	\$ 477,209	\$ 480,071
General and administrative	(15,282)	(13,613)	(47,494)	(40,692)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(59,781)	(40,275)	(154,923)	(117,237)
Asset impairment charge	(19,031)	—	(19,031)	—
Interest expense, net	(7,352)	(8,698)	(21,387)	(26,969)
Income tax benefit	102	317	726	221
Net income	<u>\$ 58,733</u>	<u>\$ 103,667</u>	<u>\$ 235,100</u>	<u>\$ 295,394</u>

- (5) Includes equity in income (loss) of affiliates for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 of \$(3.0) million and \$(11.6) million, respectively, included in the White Oak segment and \$0.1 million and \$0.5 million, respectively, included in the Other and Corporate segment. Includes equity in income (loss) of affiliates for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 of \$(0.2) million included in the White Oak Segment and three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 of \$0.2 million and \$0.7 million, respectively, included in the Other and Corporate segment.

Table of Contents

- (6) Total assets for the White Oak and Other and Corporate Segments include investments in affiliate of \$72.7 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, at September 30, 2012 and \$35.5 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, at September 30, 2011.
- (7) Capital expenditures shown above for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 include development funding to White Oak of \$34.6 million, and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 includes the reserves acquired from White Oak of \$33.8 million (Note 8), which is described as "Payments to affiliate for acquisition and development of coal reserves" in our condensed consolidated statements of cash flow. Capital expenditures shown above exclude the Green River acquisition on April 2, 2012 (Note 4).

14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On October 26, 2012, we declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, of \$0.72 per unit on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$43.1 million, payable on November 19, 2012 to all unitholders of record as of November 12, 2012.

On October 26, 2012, the ARLP Partnership declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, of \$1.085 per unit, on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$67.4 million (which includes its managing general partner's incentive distributions), payable on November 14, 2012 to all unitholders of record as of November 7, 2012.

Table of Contents

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Significant relationships referenced in this management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations include the following:

- References to "we," "us," "our" or "AHGP" mean Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "AHGP Partnership" mean the business and operations of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., the parent company, as well as its consolidated subsidiaries, which include Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC and Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. and its consolidated subsidiaries.
- References to "AGP" mean Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., also referred to as our general partner.
- References to "ARLP Partnership" mean the business and operations of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., the parent company, as well as its consolidated subsidiaries.
- References to "ARLP" mean Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "MGP" mean Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "SGP" mean Alliance Resource GP, LLC, the special general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "Intermediate Partnership" mean Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., the intermediate partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "Alliance Coal" mean Alliance Coal, LLC, the holding company for the operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.

Summary

We have no operating activities apart from those conducted by the ARLP Partnership, and our cash flows currently consist primarily of distributions from ARLP for our ARLP partnership interests, including the incentive distribution rights that we own. We reflect our ownership interest in the ARLP Partnership on a consolidated basis, which means that our financial results are combined with the ARLP Partnership's financial results and the results of our other subsidiaries. The earnings of the ARLP Partnership allocated to its limited partners' interest not owned by us and allocated to SGP's general partner interest in ARLP are reflected as a noncontrolling interest in our consolidated statement of income and balance sheet. In addition to the ARLP Partnership, our historical consolidated results of operations include the results of operations of MGP, our wholly-owned subsidiary.

The AHGP Partnership's results of operations principally reflect the results of operations of the ARLP Partnership adjusted for noncontrolling partners' interest in the ARLP Partnership's net income. Accordingly, the discussion of our financial position and results of operations in this "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" reflects the operating activities and results of operations of the ARLP Partnership.

The ARLP Partnership is a diversified producer and marketer of coal primarily to major United States ("U.S.") utilities and industrial users. The ARLP Partnership began mining operations in 1971 and, since then, has grown through acquisitions and internal development to become the third largest coal producer in the eastern U.S. The ARLP Partnership operates eleven underground mining complexes in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia, including the new Tunnel Ridge, LLC ("Tunnel Ridge") longwall mine in West Virginia and the Onton No. 9 mining complex ("Onton mine") in west

Table of Contents

Kentucky acquired on April 2, 2012. The ARLP Partnership is constructing a new mine in southern Indiana and operates a coal loading terminal on the Ohio River at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. Also, the ARLP Partnership has an equity investment in White Oak Resources LLC ("White Oak"), and it purchases and funds the development of White Oak's reserves and is constructing surface facilities at White Oak's new mining complex in southern Illinois. As is customary in the coal industry, the ARLP Partnership has entered into long-term coal supply agreements with many of its customers.

We have five reportable segments: Illinois Basin, Central Appalachia, Northern Appalachia, White Oak and Other and Corporate. The first three reportable segments correspond to the three major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Factors similarly affecting financial performance of the operating segments within each of these three reportable segments include coal quality, coal seam height, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues. The White Oak segment includes activities associated with the White Oak longwall Mine No. 1 development project in southern Illinois more fully described below.

- *Illinois Basin* reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex ("Dotiki"), Gibson County Coal, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Gibson North mine and Gibson South project, Hopkins County Coal, LLC's Elk Creek mining complex, White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex ("Pattiki"), Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex ("Warrior"), River View Coal, LLC's mining complex ("River View"), Sebree Mining, LLC ("Sebree"), which includes the Onton mine and Sebree property, and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties, LLC ("Alliance Resource Properties"), ARP Sebree, LLC and ARP Sebree South, LLC. The development of the Gibson South mine is currently underway and the ARLP Partnership is in the process of permitting the Sebree property for future mine development. For information regarding the acquisition of the Onton mine which was added to the Illinois Basin segment in April 2012, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 4. Acquisition of Business" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.
- *Central Appalachian* reportable segment is comprised of two operating segments, the Pontiki Coal, LLC ("Pontiki") and MC Mining, LLC ("MC Mining") mining complexes. Please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 5. Asset Impairment Charge" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and discussions below regarding an asset impairment charge of \$19.0 million related to the Pontiki mining complex.
- *Northern Appalachian* reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including Mettiki Coal, LLC's mining complex ("Mettiki"), Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mining complex, two small third-party mining operations (one of which ceased operations in July 2011), the Tunnel Ridge mine and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC ("Penn Ridge") property. In May 2012, longwall production began at the Tunnel Ridge mine. The ARLP Partnership is in the process of permitting the Penn Ridge property for future mine development.
- *White Oak* reportable segment is comprised of two operating segments, Alliance WOR Properties, LLC ("WOR Properties") and Alliance WOR Processing, LLC ("WOR Processing"). WOR Processing includes both the surface operations at White Oak currently under construction and the equity investment in White Oak. WOR Properties owns reserves acquired from White Oak and is committed to acquiring additional reserves from White Oak. WOR Properties has also completed initial funding commitments to White Oak for development of these reserves. The White Oak reportable segment also includes a loan to White Oak for current financial activities related to the acquisition of mining equipment (which was paid off and terminated in June 2012) and will include future financing activities for another loan to construct certain surface facilities.

Table of Contents

For more information on White Oak, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 8. White Oak Transactions" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

- *Other and Corporate* reportable segment includes marketing and administrative expenses, Alliance Service, Inc. ("ASI") and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC ("Matrix Design"), Alliance Design Group, LLC (collectively, Matrix Design and Alliance Design Group, LLC are referred to as the "Matrix Group"), the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC ("Mt. Vernon") dock activities, coal brokerage activity, the ARLP Partnership's equity investment in Mid-America Carbonates, LLC ("MAC") and certain activities of Alliance Resource Properties.

Pontiki Mine

On October 2, 2012, the ARLP Partnership announced that the Pontiki mining complex in Martin County, Kentucky had been idled since August 29, 2012. The Mine Safety and Health Administration ("MSHA") ordered the closure of the coal preparation plant and associated surface facilities at the Pontiki mining complex following the failure on August 23, 2012 of a belt line between two clean coal stacking tubes. MSHA required a comprehensive structural inspection of all the surface facilities by an independent bridge engineering firm ("Firm") before the surface facilities could be reopened. The Firm recently issued their reports and the ARLP Partnership has commenced work to complete the first phase of repairs necessary to allow the complex to resume operation by the end of the fourth quarter of 2012. Although Pontiki will resume operations, there is still significant uncertainty regarding the long-term viability of the mine primarily due to risk associated with coal markets and the continued impact of regulatory matters on costs. Primarily as a result of the above events and assessment of related risks, the ARLP Partnership concluded that indicators of impairment were present and the carrying value of the asset group representing the Pontiki mining complex ("Pontiki Assets") was not fully recoverable as of September 30, 2012. As a result, the ARLP Partnership estimated the fair value of the Pontiki Assets and determined it exceeded the carrying amount and accordingly, recorded an asset impairment charge of \$19.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. Please also read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 5. Asset Impairment Charge" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for additional information regarding this asset impairment.

Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2011

We reported net income of \$58.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 ("2012 Quarter") compared to \$103.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 ("2011 Quarter"). This decrease of \$45.0 million was principally due to the idling of the Pontiki mining complex and the related non-cash impairment charge of \$19.0 million discussed above, reduced coal sales into the metallurgical export markets, higher operating expenses, increased depreciation, depletion and amortization and the pass through of losses as anticipated related to the White Oak development project. These decreases to net income were offset partially by increased revenues driven by record tons sold and produced resulting primarily from the ramp-up of longwall production at the Tunnel Ridge mine and production from the recently acquired Onton mine. Tons sold and produced increased to 8.9 and 9.0 million tons, respectively, for the 2012 Quarter compared to 8.3 and 7.6 million tons, respectively, for the 2011 Quarter. Higher revenue resulting from increased tons sold were offset partially by a lower average coal sales price of \$56.00 per ton sold for the 2012 Quarter compared to \$56.89 in the 2011 Quarter. The decreases in average coal sales price was due primarily to reduced coal sales into the metallurgical export markets.

Higher operating expenses resulted primarily from increased sales and production volumes discussed above, which particularly impacted materials and supplies expenses, labor-related expenses, maintenance costs and sales-related expenses. Higher operating expenses per ton resulted primarily from the impact of regulatory actions on production from the Central Appalachian mines and higher beginning

Table of Contents

coal inventory costs per ton partially offset by the benefit of increased production from the Tunnel Ridge mine discussed above.

	Three Months Ended September 30,			
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	(in thousands)		(per ton sold)	
Tons sold	8,910	8,326	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	9,000	7,644	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$ 499,003	\$ 473,683	\$ 56.00	\$ 56.89
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$ 343,068	\$ 314,635	\$ 38.50	\$ 37.79

Coal sales. Coal sales for the 2012 Quarter increased 5.3% to \$499.0 million from \$473.7 million for the 2011 Quarter. The increase of \$25.3 million in coal sales reflected the benefit of record tons sold (contributing \$33.2 million in additional coal sales) offset partially by lower average coal sales prices (reducing coal sales by \$7.9 million). Average coal sales prices in the 2012 Quarter decreased \$0.89 per ton sold to \$56.00 per ton in the 2012 Quarter compared to \$56.89 per ton in the 2011 Quarter primarily as a result of reduced coal sales into the metallurgical export markets.

Operating expenses and outside coal purchases. Operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 9.0% to \$343.1 million for the 2012 Quarter from \$314.6 million for the 2011 Quarter primarily due to record coal sales and increased production volumes partially offset by lower outside coal purchases. On a per ton basis, operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 1.9% to \$38.50 per ton sold. Operating expenses were impacted by various other factors, the most significant of which are discussed below:

- The 2011 Quarter expenses benefited from \$11.2 million capitalized development costs related to the Tunnel Ridge mine. Capitalized development ceased in May 2012, with the start-up of longwall production;
- Production taxes and royalties expenses (which were incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes) increased \$0.24 per produced ton sold in the 2012 Quarter compared to the 2011 Quarter primarily resulting from a higher mix of sales from states with severance taxes offset partially by a lower total average sales price in the 2012 Quarter compared to the 2011 Quarter also discussed above; and
- Operating expenses per ton also increased in the 2012 Quarter due to a significantly higher average cost per ton associated with the 0.8 million tons of beginning coal inventory for the 2012 Quarter as compared to similar levels of beginning coal inventory for the 2011 Quarter with a lower average cost per ton.

Operating expenses and outside coal purchases per ton increases discussed above were offset by the following per ton decreases:

- Labor and benefit expenses per ton produced, excluding workers' compensation, decreased 3.1% to \$12.15 per ton in the 2012 Quarter from \$12.54 per ton in the 2011 Quarter. This decrease of \$0.39 per ton was primarily attributable to lower labor cost per ton resulting from the ramp-up of production at the Tunnel Ridge mine and improved coal recoveries from the River View, Gibson and Warrior mines, partially offset by reduced production at the Central Appalachian mines due to regulatory actions and lower coal recoveries from the Dotiki and Hopkins mines. See segment discussions below regarding further comments on production variances;

Table of Contents

- Workers' compensation expenses per ton produced decreased to \$0.80 per ton in the 2012 Quarter from \$1.09 per ton in the 2011 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.29 per ton produced resulted primarily from favorable reserve adjustments for claims incurred in prior years;
- Material and supplies expenses per ton produced decreased 4.5% to \$11.78 per ton in the 2012 Quarter from \$12.33 per ton in the 2011 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.55 per ton produced resulted primarily from production benefits and offsets discussed above under labor variance comments and a decrease in cost for certain products and services, primarily roof support (decrease of \$0.45 per ton), certain safety-related materials and supplies (decrease of \$0.25 per ton), and ventilation materials (decrease of \$0.12 per ton) partially offset by an increase in contract labor used in the mining process (increase of \$0.30 per ton);
- Maintenance expenses per ton produced decreased 5.5% to \$3.95 per ton in the 2012 Quarter from \$4.18 per ton in the 2011 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.23 per ton produced resulted primarily from the benefit of newer equipment and increased production at the new Tunnel Ridge mine and other production benefits and offsets discussed above under labor variance comments;
- Mine administration expenses decreased \$1.0 million for the 2012 Quarter compared to the 2011 Quarter, primarily due to decreased costs associated with Matrix Design products and research; and
- Outside coal purchases decreased to \$4.4 million for the 2012 Quarter from \$19.9 million in the 2011 Quarter. The decrease of \$15.5 million was primarily attributable to decreased coal brokerage volumes, as well as reduced volumes of coal purchased for sale into the metallurgical export markets. Coal purchase costs per ton are typically higher than production costs per ton thus significantly lower volumes of coal purchases, like the 2012 Quarter compared to the 2011 Quarter, reduce overall total expenses per ton.

General and administrative. General and administrative expenses for the 2012 Quarter increased to \$15.3 million compared to \$13.6 million in the 2011 Quarter. The increase of \$1.7 million was primarily due to an increase in other professional services.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$59.8 million for the 2012 Quarter from \$40.3 million for the 2011 Quarter. The increase of \$19.5 million was attributable to the start-up of longwall production at the Tunnel Ridge mine, the addition of the Onton mine and capital expenditures related to infrastructure improvements at various other operations.

Asset impairment charge. In the 2012 Quarter, the ARLP Partnership recorded an asset impairment charge of \$19.0 million associated with the long-lived assets at the Pontiki mining complex. Due to regulatory actions, requiring certain surface facility repairs, the Pontiki mining complex was idled on August 29, 2012. The asset impairment charge is primarily the result of the mine being idled, increased regulatory costs and uncertainty regarding the mine's future operations and market opportunities as discussed in more detail above and in "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 5. Asset impairment charge."

Interest expense. Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased to \$7.4 million for the 2012 Quarter from \$8.8 million for the 2011 Quarter. The decrease of \$1.4 million was principally attributable to increased capitalized interest, as well as reduced interest expense resulting from the August 2012 principal repayment of \$18.0 million on the ARLP Partnership's original senior notes issued in

Table of Contents

1999. Interest expense was also impacted by the early termination of the \$300 million term loan, which was replaced with a \$250.0 million term loan in May 2012. These decreases were partially offset by increased interest expense on borrowings under the \$700.0 million revolving credit facility during the 2012 Quarter. The new term loan and revolving credit facility are discussed in more detail below under "—Debt Obligations."

Equity in loss of affiliates, net. Equity in loss of affiliates, net includes the equity investments in MAC and White Oak. For the 2012 Quarter, equity in loss of affiliates was \$2.8 million, which was primarily attributable to losses of \$3.0 million allocated to the ARLP Partnership due to its equity investment in White Oak.

Transportation revenues and expenses. Transportation revenues and expenses were \$5.6 million and \$7.4 million for the 2012 and 2011 Quarters, respectively. The decrease of \$1.8 million was primarily attributable to a decrease in average transportation rates in the 2012 Quarter, as well as reduced tonnage for which the ARLP Partnership arranged transportation at certain mines. The cost of transportation services are passed through to customers. Consequently, the ARLP Partnership does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues.

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests. The noncontrolling interests balance is comprised of non-affiliate and affiliate ownership interests in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership that we consolidate. The noncontrolling interest designated as Affiliate represents SGP's 0.01% general partner interest in ARLP and 0.01% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership. The noncontrolling interest designated as Non-Affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 15,544,169 common units of ARLP held by us. The net income attributable to noncontrolling interest was \$19.2 million and \$46.6 million for the 2012 and 2011 Quarters, respectively. The decrease in net income attributable to noncontrolling interest is due to a decrease in the consolidated net income of the ARLP Partnership resulting from the changes in revenues and expenses described above as well as an increase in ARLP's general partner's priority distribution, which are deducted from ARLP's net income in the allocation of net income attributable to noncontrolling interest.

Table of Contents

Segment Adjusted EBITDA. Our 2012 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$5.8 million, or 3.5%, to \$160.1 million from the 2011 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$165.9 million. Segment Adjusted EBITDA, tons sold, coal sales, other sales and operating revenues and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense by segment are (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2012	2011		
Segment Adjusted EBITDA				
Illinois Basin	\$ 140,329	\$ 127,230	\$ 13,099	10.3%
Central Appalachia	6,228	12,456	(6,228)	(50.0)%
Northern Appalachia	15,813	23,665	(7,852)	(33.2)%
White Oak	(3,188)	(204)	(2,984)	(1)
Other and Corporate	895	2,789	(1,894)	(67.9)%
Elimination	—	—	—	—
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (2)	<u>\$ 160,077</u>	<u>\$ 165,936</u>	<u>\$ (5,859)</u>	<u>(3.5)%</u>
Tons sold				
Illinois Basin	6,919	6,631	288	4.3%
Central Appalachia	523	616	(93)	(15.1)%
Northern Appalachia	1,468	820	648	79.0%
White Oak	—	—	—	—
Other and Corporate	—	259	(259)	(1)
Elimination	—	—	—	—
Total tons sold	<u>8,910</u>	<u>8,326</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>7.0%</u>
Coal sales				
Illinois Basin	\$ 361,206	\$ 337,029	\$ 24,177	7.2%
Central Appalachia	41,790	49,252	(7,462)	(15.2)%
Northern Appalachia	95,988	73,731	22,257	30.2%
White Oak	—	—	—	—
Other and Corporate	19	13,671	(13,652)	(99.9)%
Elimination	—	—	—	—
Total coal sales	<u>\$ 499,003</u>	<u>\$ 473,683</u>	<u>\$ 25,320</u>	<u>5.3%</u>
Other sales and operating revenues				
Illinois Basin	\$ 853	\$ 226	\$ 627	(1)
Central Appalachia	—	—	—	—
Northern Appalachia	1,587	845	742	87.8%
White Oak	—	—	—	—
Other and Corporate	8,408	8,929	(521)	(5.8)%
Elimination	(4,128)	(3,472)	(656)	18.9%
Total other sales and operating revenues	<u>\$ 6,720</u>	<u>\$ 6,528</u>	<u>\$ 192</u>	<u>2.9%</u>
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense				
Illinois Basin	\$ 221,731	\$ 210,024	\$ 11,707	5.6%
Central Appalachia	35,563	36,796	(1,233)	(3.4)%
Northern Appalachia	81,761	50,911	30,850	60.6%
White Oak	174	204	(30)	(14.7)%
Other and Corporate	7,713	19,812	(12,099)	(61.1)%
Elimination	(4,128)	(3,472)	(656)	18.9%
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	<u>\$ 342,814</u>	<u>\$ 314,275</u>	<u>\$ 28,539</u>	<u>9.1%</u>

Table of Contents

- (1) Percentage change was greater than or equal to 100%.
- (2) Segment Adjusted EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure) is defined as EBITDA, excluding general and administrative expense and asset impairment charge. EBITDA is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes and depreciation, depletion and amortization. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is a key component of consolidated EBITDA, which is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and by external users of our financial statements, such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others, to assess:
- the financial performance of the ARLP Partnership's assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;
 - the ability of the ARLP Partnership's assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs and support its indebtedness;
 - the ARLP Partnership's operating performance and return on investment as compared to those of other companies in the coal energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structures; and
 - the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

Segment Adjusted EBITDA is also used as a supplemental financial measure by our management for reasons similar to those stated in the previous explanation of EBITDA. In addition, the exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from Segment Adjusted EBITDA allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating profitability as it relates to our revenues and operating expenses, which are primarily controlled by our segments.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA to net income, the most comparable GAAP financial measure (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 160,077	\$ 165,936
General and administrative	(15,282)	(13,613)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(59,781)	(40,275)
Asset impairment charge	(19,031)	—
Interest expense, net	(7,352)	(8,698)
Income tax benefit	102	317
Net income	<u>\$ 58,733</u>	<u>\$ 103,667</u>

- (3) Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (a non-GAAP financial measure) includes operating expenses, outside coal purchases and other income. Transportation expenses are excluded as these expenses are passed through to the ARLP Partnership's customers and, consequently, it does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense is used as a supplemental financial measure by the ARLP Partnership's management to assess the operating performance of the segments. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense is a key component of EBITDA in addition to coal sales and other sales and operating revenues. The exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating performance as it primarily relates to the ARLP Partnership's

Table of Contents

operating expenses. Outside coal purchases are included in Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense because tons sold and coal sales include sales from outside coal purchases.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense to operating expense, the most comparable GAAP financial measure (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 342,814	\$ 314,275
Outside coal purchases	(4,424)	(19,864)
Other income	254	360
Operating expense (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	<u>\$ 338,644</u>	<u>\$ 294,771</u>

Illinois Basin — Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased 10.3% to \$140.3 million in the 2012 Quarter from \$127.2 million in the 2011 Quarter. This increase of \$13.1 million was primarily attributable to higher tons sold which increased 4.3% to 6.9 million tons in the 2012 Quarter, as well as increased contract pricing reflecting a higher average sales price of \$52.20 per ton sold for the 2012 Quarter compared to \$50.83 per ton sold for the 2011 Quarter. Coal sales increased 7.2% to \$361.2 million in the 2012 Quarter compared to \$337.0 million in the 2011 Quarter. The sales increase of \$24.2 million primarily reflects the increased tons produced and sold from the expansion of production capacity at the Warrior mine in the fourth quarter of 2011, improved coal recoveries from the River View, Gibson and Warrior mines, the addition of the Onton mine and an increase in the average coal sales price discussed above, partially offset by difficult mining conditions affecting production at certain mine operations. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Quarter increased 5.6% to \$221.7 million from \$210.0 million in the 2011 Quarter and increased \$0.37 per ton sold to \$32.04 from \$31.67 per ton sold, primarily as a result of certain cost variances described above in the discussion of consolidated operating expenses, as well as lower coal recoveries at the Hopkins mine due to adverse geological conditions and at the Dotiki mine related to the transition into a new coal seam and the addition of higher cost per ton production from the Onton mine acquired on April 2, 2012. In mid-September 2012, the Dotiki mine completed the transfer of all mining units to the new seam.

Central Appalachia — Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 50.0% to \$6.2 million for the 2012 Quarter compared to \$12.5 million in the 2011 Quarter. The decrease of \$6.3 million was primarily attributable to lower tons sold, which decreased 15.1% to 0.5 million tons sold in the 2012 Quarter. The decrease in tons sold was primarily due to regulatory actions which idled the Pontiki mining complex on August 29, 2012 for the remainder of the 2012 Quarter, and was partially offset by an increased mix of higher priced MC Mining shipments in the 2012 Quarter. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Quarter decreased 3.4% to \$35.6 million from \$36.8 million in the 2011 Quarter, primarily as a result of reduced operating cost reflecting the idling of the Pontiki mining complex. Although Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased, Segment Adjusted EBITDA expense per ton increased 13.9% to \$68.04 per ton in the 2012 Quarter from \$59.76 per ton in the 2011 Quarter, primarily as a result of lower tons sold due to the idling of the Pontiki mining complex in August 2012 offset partially by improved coal recoveries from both Pontiki and MC Mining. Regarding expense per ton variances, also see certain cost variances described above in the discussion of consolidated operating expenses. For additional detail related to the Pontiki mining complex read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 5. Asset impairment charge."

Table of Contents

Northern Appalachia — Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased to \$15.8 million for the 2012 Quarter as compared to \$23.7 million in the 2011 Quarter. This decrease of \$7.9 million was primarily attributable to lower coal sales into the metallurgical export markets, resulting in a lower average sales price of \$65.43 per ton sold for the 2012 Quarter compared to \$89.89 per ton sold for the 2011 Quarter. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Quarter increased 60.6% to \$81.8 million from \$50.9 million in the 2011 Quarter primarily as a result of the significantly increased production volumes at the Tunnel Ridge mine resulting from the start-up of the longwall equipment in the second quarter of 2012, offset partially by reduced tons purchased for sale into the export market. On a per ton basis, Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Quarter decreased \$6.34 per ton sold to \$55.73 per ton primarily as a result of the higher coal sales volumes at the Tunnel Ridge mine, changes in the sales mix at the Mettiki mine and of certain cost variances described above in the discussion of consolidated operating expenses.

White Oak — Segment Adjusted EBITDA was \$(3.2) million in the 2012 Quarter primarily attributable to losses allocated to the ARLP Partnership due to its equity interest in White Oak compared to \$(0.2) million for the 2011 Quarter. The ARLP Partnership's investment in White Oak began in late September 2011.

Other and Corporate — Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$1.9 million in the 2012 Quarter from the 2011 Quarter. This decrease was primarily attributable to lower coal brokerage sales. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased 61.1% to \$7.7 million for the 2012 Quarter compared to \$19.8 million for the 2011 Quarter, primarily due to lower outside coal purchases.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011

We reported net income of \$235.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 ("2012 Period") compared to \$295.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 ("2011 Period"). This decrease of \$60.3 million was principally due to reduced coal sales from the Mettiki mine in the metallurgical export markets, an impairment charge related to the Pontiki mining complex, higher operating expenses and depreciation, depletion and amortization and the pass through of losses as anticipated related to the White Oak development project. These decreases to net income were offset partially by record revenues driven by higher tons sold primarily from the ramp-up of Tunnel Ridge longwall production and production from the recently acquired Onton mine and improved pricing from the Illinois Basin coal contracts. Higher operating expenses resulted from increased sales and production volumes, which particularly impacted materials and supplies expenses, labor-related expenses, maintenance costs and sales-related expenses. Also, higher operating expenses per ton reflect significantly lower coal recoveries from the Dotiki run-of-mine production as the mine continues its transition into a new coal seam and the impact of regulatory actions on production and margins at the Central Appalachian region mines and particularly the Pontiki mine. Anticipated increases in depreciation, depletion and amortization were attributable to the start-up of longwall production at the Tunnel Ridge mine, the addition of the Onton mine and capital expenditures related to infrastructure improvements at various other operations. Increased revenues reflect increases in production and sales volumes to 25.4 million record tons sold and record tons produced of 25.7 million in the 2012 Period compared to 23.8 million tons sold and 23.4 million tons produced in the 2011 Period. A higher average coal sales price of \$56.77 per ton sold for the 2012 Period, as compared to \$55.73 per ton sold in the 2011 Period resulted from improved contract pricing for Illinois Basin sales offset partially by lower Mettiki mine coal sales into the metallurgical export markets. The increase in produced tons primarily reflects increased production at the Tunnel Ridge mine, which initiated longwall production in May 2012, expansion of production at the River View and Warrior mines and the acquisition of the Onton mine on April 2, 2012.

Table of Contents

	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	(in thousands)		(per ton sold)	
Tons sold	25,383	23,754	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	25,697	23,398	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$ 1,441,107\$	\$ 1,323,851\$	\$ 56.77\$	\$ 55.73
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$ 981,565\$	\$ 864,501\$	\$ 38.67\$	\$ 36.39

Coal sales. Coal sales for the 2012 Period increased 8.9% to \$1.4 billion from \$1.3 billion for the 2011 Period. The increase of \$117.3 million in coal sales reflected the benefit of increased tons sold (contributing \$90.8 million in additional coal sales) and higher average coal sales prices (contributing \$26.5 million in additional coal sales). Average coal sales prices increased \$1.04 per ton sold to \$56.77 per ton in the 2012 Period as compared to \$55.73 per ton sold in the 2011 Period, primarily as a result of improved contract pricing in the Illinois Basin region, as well as increased pricing of brokerage coal sales offset partially by reduced Mettiki coal sales into the metallurgical export markets.

Operating expenses and outside coal purchases. Operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 13.5% to \$981.6 million for the 2012 Period from \$864.5 million for the 2011 Period primarily due to increased coal sales and production volumes and outside coal purchases. On a per ton basis, operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 6.3% to \$38.67 per ton sold. Operating expenses were impacted by various other factors, the most significant of which are discussed below:

- Labor and benefit expenses per ton produced, excluding workers' compensation, increased 7.3% to \$12.56 per ton in the 2012 Period from \$11.71 per ton in the 2011 Period. This increase of \$0.85 per ton represents pay rate increases and higher benefit expenses, particularly increased health care cost and retirement expenses, the impact of increased headcount at Tunnel Ridge as the ARLP Partnership continued to hire and train additional employees prior to the May start-up of the longwall and the production impacts as discussed above of both Dotiki's significantly lower coal recoveries and regulatory actions at the Central Appalachian mines, offset partially by higher production at the River View and Warrior mines and at the Tunnel Ridge mine subsequent to the start-up of longwall production;
- Workers' compensation expenses per ton produced decreased to \$1.00 per ton in the 2012 Period from \$1.07 per ton in the 2011 Period. The decrease of \$0.07 per ton produced resulted primarily from favorable reserve adjustments for claims incurred in prior years;
- Material and supplies expenses per ton produced increased 3.3% to \$12.32 per ton in the 2012 Period from \$11.93 per ton in the 2011 Period. The increase of \$0.39 per ton produced resulted from production reductions and offsets discussed above under labor variance comments, an increase in cost for certain products and services, primarily outside services and contract labor used in the mining process (increase of \$0.48 per ton), partially offset by preparation plant supplies used in the mining process (decrease of \$0.09 per ton) and certain safety-related materials and supplies (decrease of \$0.09 per ton);
- Maintenance expenses per ton produced increased 3.4% to \$4.23 per ton in the 2012 Period from \$4.09 per ton in the 2011 Period. The increase of \$0.14 per ton produced was primarily due to higher mine maintenance costs in the Illinois Basin region, increased longwall maintenance costs at both Northern Appalachian mines and higher costs in other various categories in addition to production reductions and offsets discussed above under labor variance comments;

Table of Contents

- Contract mining expenses decreased \$2.9 million for the 2012 Period compared to the 2011 Period. The decrease primarily reflects the permanent closure of one third-party mining operation at the Mettiki mine complex in the Northern Appalachian region in July 2011;
- Production taxes and royalties expenses (which were incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes) increased \$0.28 per produced ton sold in the 2012 Period compared to the 2011 Period, primarily resulting from a higher mix of sales from states with severance taxes discussed above offset partially by a lower total average sales price in the 2012 Period also discussed above; and
- Outside coal purchases increased to \$34.8 million for the 2012 Period compared to \$29.5 million in the 2011 Period. The increase of \$5.3 million was primarily attributable to higher cost per ton of coal purchased.

General and administrative. General and administrative expenses for the 2012 Period increased to \$47.5 million compared to \$40.7 million in the 2011 Period. The increase of \$6.8 million was primarily due to increases in salary expenses and other professional services.

Other sales and operating revenues. Other sales and operating revenues are principally comprised of Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, Matrix Design and other outside services. Other sales and operating revenues increased to \$25.9 million for the 2012 Period from \$19.4 million for the 2011 Period. The increase of \$6.5 million was primarily attributable to amounts received from a customer for the partial buy-out of a certain Northern Appalachian coal contract.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$154.9 million for the 2012 Period from \$117.2 million for the 2011 Period. The increase of \$37.7 million was primarily attributable to the start-up of longwall production at the Tunnel Ridge mine, the addition of the Onton mine and capital expenditures related to infrastructure improvements at various other operations.

Asset impairment charge. In the 2012 Period, the ARLP Partnership recorded an asset impairment charge of \$19.0 million associated with the long-lived assets at the Pontiki mining complex. Due to regulatory actions requiring certain surface facility repairs, the Pontiki mining complex was idled on August 29, 2012. The asset impairment charge is primarily the result of the mine being idled, increased regulatory costs and uncertainty regarding the mine's future operations and market opportunities as discussed in more detail above and in "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 5. Asset impairment charge."

Interest expense. Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased to \$21.6 million for the 2012 Period from \$27.2 million for the 2011 Period. The decrease of \$5.6 million was principally attributable to increased capitalized interest, as well as reduced interest expense resulting from the August 2012 and 2011 principal repayment of \$18.0 million on the ARLP Partnership's original senior notes issued in 1999. Interest expense was also impacted by the early termination of the \$300 million term loan, which was replaced with a \$250.0 million term loan in the 2012 Period. These decreases were partially offset by increased interest expense on borrowings under the \$700.0 million revolving credit facility during the 2012 Period, as well as \$1.1 million of deferred debt issuance costs related to the early termination of the \$300 million term loan. The new term loan and revolving credit facility are discussed in more detail below under "—Debt Obligations."

Equity in loss of affiliates, net. Equity in loss of affiliates, net includes the ARLP Partnership's equity investments in MAC and White Oak. For the 2012 Period, equity in loss of affiliates was \$11.0

Table of Contents

million, which was primarily attributable to losses of \$11.6 million allocated to the ARLP Partnership due to its equity investment in White Oak.

Transportation revenues and expenses. Transportation revenues and expenses were \$17.7 million and \$25.5 million for the 2012 and 2011 Periods, respectively. The decrease of \$7.8 million was primarily attributable to reduced tonnage for which the ARLP Partnership arranged transportation at certain mines as well as a decrease in average transportation rates in the 2012 Period. The cost of transportation services are passed through to the ARLP Partnership's customers. Consequently, the ARLP Partnership does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues.

Other income. Other income increased to \$2.9 million in the 2012 Period from \$1.3 million in the 2011 Period. The increase of \$1.6 million was primarily due to the cancellation fee paid to the Intermediate Partnership by White Oak related to the termination of the equipment financing agreement. For more information on White Oak, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 8. White Oak Transactions" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Income tax benefit. The income tax benefit for the 2012 Period was \$0.7 million compared to \$0.2 million for the 2011 Period. Income taxes are primarily due to the operations of Matrix Design. The income tax benefit for the 2012 Period was due to a net operating loss carryforward related to Matrix Design from prior years, as well as a research and development tax credit earned by Matrix Design.

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests. The noncontrolling interests balance is comprised of non-affiliate and affiliate ownership interests in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership that we consolidate. The noncontrolling interest designated as Affiliate represents SGP's 0.01% general partner interest in ARLP and 0.01% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership. The noncontrolling interest designated as Non-Affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 15,544,169 common units of ARLP held by us. The net income attributable to noncontrolling interest was \$91.9 million and \$133.4 million for the 2012 and 2011 Periods, respectively. The decrease in net income attributable to noncontrolling interest is due to a decrease in the consolidated net income of the ARLP Partnership resulting from the changes in revenues and expenses described above as well as an increase in ARLP's general partner's priority distribution, which are deducted from ARLP's net income in the allocation of net income attributable to noncontrolling interest.

Table of Contents

Segment Adjusted EBITDA. Our 2012 Period Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$2.9 million, or 0.6%, to \$477.2 million from the 2011 Period Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$480.1 million. Segment Adjusted EBITDA, tons sold, coal sales, other sales and operating revenues and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense by segment are (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2012	2011		
Segment Adjusted EBITDA				
Illinois Basin	\$ 419,955	\$ 382,164	\$ 37,791	9.9%
Central Appalachia	25,618	43,590	(17,972)	(41.2)%
Northern Appalachia	37,326	49,602	(12,276)	(24.7)%
White Oak	(10,072)	(204)	(9,868)	(1)
Other and Corporate	4,382	4,919	(537)	(10.9)%
Elimination	—	—	—	—
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (2)	<u>\$ 477,209</u>	<u>\$ 480,071</u>	<u>\$ (2,862)</u>	(0.6)%
Tons sold				
Illinois Basin	20,409	19,133	1,276	6.7%
Central Appalachia	1,525	1,918	(393)	(20.5)%
Northern Appalachia	3,239	2,420	819	33.8%
White Oak	—	—	—	—
Other and Corporate	210	283	(73)	(25.8)%
Elimination	—	—	—	—
Total tons sold	<u>25,383</u>	<u>23,754</u>	<u>1,629</u>	6.9%
Coal sales				
Illinois Basin	\$ 1,070,481	\$ 964,079	\$ 106,402	11.0%
Central Appalachia	122,522	153,315	(30,793)	(20.1)%
Northern Appalachia	230,677	190,803	39,874	20.9%
White Oak	—	—	—	—
Other and Corporate	17,427	15,654	1,773	11.3%
Elimination	—	—	—	—
Total coal sales	<u>\$ 1,441,107</u>	<u>\$ 1,323,851</u>	<u>\$ 117,256</u>	8.9%
Other sales and operating revenues				
Illinois Basin	\$ 1,704	\$ 1,376	\$ 328	23.8%
Central Appalachia	16	123	(107)	(87.0)%
Northern Appalachia	9,098	2,604	6,494	(1)
White Oak	—	—	—	—
Other and Corporate	28,969	27,413	1,556	5.7%
Elimination	(13,933)	(12,135)	(1,798)	14.8%
Total other sales and operating revenues	<u>\$ 25,854</u>	<u>\$ 19,381</u>	<u>\$ 6,473</u>	33.4%
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense				
Illinois Basin	\$ 652,231	\$ 583,291	\$ 68,940	11.8%
Central Appalachia	96,920	109,848	(12,928)	(11.8)%
Northern Appalachia	202,449	143,804	58,645	40.8%
White Oak	(1,517)	204	(1,721)	(1)
Other and Corporate	42,562	38,149	4,413	11.6%
Elimination	(13,933)	(12,135)	(1,798)	14.8%
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	<u>\$ 978,712</u>	<u>\$ 863,161</u>	<u>\$ 115,551</u>	13.4%

Table of Contents

- (1) Percentage change was greater than or equal to 100%.
- (2) Segment Adjusted EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure) is defined as EBITDA, excluding general and administrative expense and asset impairment charge. EBITDA is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes and depreciation, depletion and amortization. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is a key component of consolidated EBITDA, which is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and by external users of our financial statements, such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others, to assess:
- the financial performance of the ARLP Partnership's assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;
 - the ability of the ARLP Partnership's assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs and support its indebtedness;
 - the ARLP Partnership's operating performance and return on investment as compared to those of other companies in the coal energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structures; and
 - the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

Segment Adjusted EBITDA is also used as a supplemental financial measure by our management for reasons similar to those stated in the previous explanation of EBITDA. In addition, the exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from Segment Adjusted EBITDA allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating profitability as it relates to our revenues and operating expenses which are primarily controlled by our segments.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA to net income, the most comparable GAAP financial measure (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 477,209	\$ 480,071
General and administrative	(47,494)	(40,692)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(154,923)	(117,237)
Asset impairment charge	(19,031)	—
Interest expense, net	(21,387)	(26,969)
Income tax benefit	726	221
Net income	<u>\$ 235,100</u>	<u>\$ 295,394</u>

- (3) Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (a non-GAAP financial measure) includes operating expenses, outside coal purchases and other income. Transportation expenses are excluded as these expenses are passed through to the ARLP Partnership's customers and consequently, it does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense is used as a supplemental financial measure by the ARLP Partnership's management to assess the operating performance of the segments. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense is a key component of EBITDA in addition to coal sales and other sales and operating revenues. The exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating performance as it primarily relates to the ARLP Partnership's

Table of Contents

operating expenses. Outside coal purchases are included in Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense because tons sold and coal sales include sales from outside coal purchases.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense to operating expense, the most comparable GAAP financial measure (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 978,712	\$ 863,161
Outside coal purchases	(34,759)	(29,495)
Other income	2,853	1,340
Operating expense (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	<u>\$ 946,806</u>	<u>\$ 835,006</u>

Illinois Basin — Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased 9.9% to \$420.0 million for the 2012 Period from \$382.1 million for the 2011 Period. This increase of \$37.9 million was primarily attributable to increased tons sold, which increased 6.7% to 20.4 million tons in the 2012 Period, as well as improved contract pricing resulting in a higher average coal sales price of \$52.45 per ton sold during the 2012 Period compared to \$50.39 per ton sold for the 2011 Period. Coal sales increased 11.0% to \$1.1 billion in the 2012 Period compared to \$964.1 million in the 2011 Period. The increase of \$106.4 million primarily reflects the increase in average coal sales price discussed above and increased tons produced and sold from expansion of production at the River View and Warrior mines and the addition of the Onton mine, partially offset by difficult mining conditions affecting production at certain mine operations. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Period increased 11.8% to \$652.2 million from \$583.3 million in the 2011 Period and increased \$1.47 per ton sold to \$31.96 from \$30.49 per ton sold, primarily as a result of certain cost variances described above in the discussion of consolidated operating expenses, as well as lower coal recoveries at the Dotiki mine as it transitions into a new coal seam and the Hopkins mine due to adverse geological conditions, as well as the addition of higher cost production from the Onton mine acquired on April 2, 2012. In mid-September 2012, the Dotiki mine completed the transfer of all mining units to the new seam.

Central Appalachia — Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 41.2% to \$25.6 million for the 2012 Period compared to \$43.6 million for the 2011 Period. The decrease of \$18.0 million was primarily attributable to lower tons sold, which decreased 20.5% to 1.5 million tons sold in the 2012 Period. The decrease in tons sold was primarily due to regulatory actions which idled the Pontiki mining complex on August 29, 2012 for the remainder of the 2012 Quarter in addition to an MSHA required mining unit reduction at both Central Appalachian mines in recent quarters. This decrease was partially offset by an increased mix of higher priced MC Mining shipments in the 2012 Period resulting in a slightly higher average coal sales price of \$80.38 per ton sold during the 2012 Period compared to \$79.93 per ton sold for the 2011 Period. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Period decreased 11.8% to \$96.9 million from \$109.8 million in the 2011 Period, primarily as a result of reduced operating cost due to idling of the Pontiki mining complex. Although Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased in the 2012 Period, Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton increased 11.1% to \$63.59 per ton in the 2012 Period from \$57.26 per ton in the 2011 Period primarily as a result of lower coal sales volumes and production issues discussed above, as well as other cost increases described above in the discussion of consolidated operating expenses. For additional detail related to the Pontiki mining complex read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 5. Asset impairment charge."

Table of Contents

Northern Appalachia — Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 24.7% to \$37.3 million for the 2012 Period, compared to \$49.6 million for the 2011 Period. The decrease of \$12.3 million was primarily attributable to decreased coal sales in the metallurgical export markets resulting in a lower average sales price of \$71.23 per ton sold for the 2012 Period compared to \$78.86 per ton sold for the 2011 Period. This decrease in coal sales price per ton was partially offset by increased tons sold, which increased 33.8% to 3.2 million tons in the 2012 Period due to the ramp-up of longwall production at the Tunnel Ridge mine which began in May 2012. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2012 Period increased 40.8% to \$202.4 million from \$143.8 million in the 2011 Period, primarily as a result of the ramp-up of longwall production at the Tunnel Ridge mine. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton for the 2012 Period increased \$3.08 on a per ton sold basis to \$62.51 from \$59.43 due partially to higher cost per ton of purchased coal for sale in the metallurgical export markets, as well as the other cost increases described above in the discussion of consolidated operating expenses.

White Oak — Segment Adjusted EBITDA was \$(10.1) million in the 2012 Period primarily attributable to losses allocated to the ARLP Partnership due to its equity interest in White Oak compared to \$(0.2) million for the 2011 Quarter. The ARLP Partnership's investment in White Oak began in late September 2011.

Other and Corporate — Other sales and operating revenues increased \$1.6 million in the 2012 Period compared to the 2011 Period. This increase was primarily attributable to higher coal brokerage sales and higher Matrix Group Safety equipment sales. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased 11.6% to \$42.6 million for the 2012 Period compared to \$38.1 million for the 2011 Period, primarily due to increased outside coal purchases, as well as increased component expenses associated with safety equipment sales by the Matrix Group.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity

Our only cash generating assets are limited partnership and general partnership interests in the ARLP Partnership, including incentive distribution rights, from which we receive quarterly distributions. We currently have no independent operations separate from those of the ARLP Partnership. We rely on distributions from the ARLP Partnership to fund our cash requirements, which are limited to distributions to our unitholders and general and administrative expenses.

The ARLP Partnership has historically satisfied its working capital requirements and funded its capital expenditures and debt service obligations from cash generated from operations, cash provided by the issuance of debt or equity and borrowings under credit facilities. The ARLP Partnership believes that existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under its credit facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity will be sufficient for its working capital requirements, capital expenditures and additional equity investments, debt payments, commitments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership's ability to satisfy its obligations, commitments and planned expenditures will depend upon its future operating performance and access to and cost of financing sources, which will be affected by prevailing economic conditions generally and in the coal industry specifically, which are beyond its control. Based on the ARLP Partnership's recent operating results, current cash position, anticipated future cash flows and sources of financing that it expects to have available, it does not anticipate any significant liquidity constraints in the foreseeable future. However, to the extent operating cash flow or access to and cost of financing sources are materially different than expected, future liquidity may be adversely affected. Please read "Item 1A. Risk Factors" in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents

Cash Flows

Cash provided by operating activities was \$422.4 million for the 2012 Period compared to \$430.0 million for the 2011 Period. Cash provided by operating activities was primarily impacted by lower net income, an increase in coal inventory and certain prepaid expenses and a decrease in the change in accounts receivable in the 2012 Period compared to the 2011 Period.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$511.4 million for the 2012 Period compared to \$284.1 million for the 2011 Period. The increase in cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to the purchase of the Onton mine, higher mine infrastructure and equipment capital expenditures at the Dotiki, River View and MC Mining mines, increased capital expenditures related to infrastructure improvements at various other mines and funding of the White Oak project during the 2012 Period. For information regarding the acquisition of the Onton mine and White Oak, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 4. Acquisition of Business" and "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) — Note 8. White Oak Transactions" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$188.3 million for the 2012 Period compared to \$178.4 million for the 2011 Period. The increase in cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to the repayment of the ARLP Partnership's \$300 million term loan and \$18.0 million in senior notes and increased distributions paid to partners in the 2012 Period, partially offset by the proceeds from the ARLP Partnership's \$250 million term loan completed on May 23, 2012 and net borrowings under its revolving credit facility during the 2012 Period, which is discussed in more detail below under "—Debt Obligations."

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures increased to \$332.4 million in the 2012 Period from \$216.3 million in the 2011 Period. See "—Cash Flows" above for additional information regarding capital expenditures.

The ARLP Partnership's anticipated total capital expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2012 are estimated in a range of \$565.0 to \$610.0 million, which includes the acquisition of the Onton mine in April 2012 and approximately \$85.0 to \$95.0 million related to White Oak for the acquisition of coal reserves and construction of surface facilities. Management anticipates funding remaining 2012 capital requirements with the ARLP Partnership's cash and cash equivalents (\$2.1 million as of September 30, 2012), cash flows provided by operations, borrowings available under the ARLP Partnership's revolving credit facility and, as necessary, accessing the debt or equity capital markets. The ARLP Partnership will continue to have significant capital requirements over the long-term, which may require it to obtain additional debt or equity capital. The availability and cost of additional capital to the ARLP Partnership will depend upon prevailing market conditions, the market price of ARLP common units and several other factors over which the ARLP Partnership has limited control, as well as its financial condition and results of operations.

Debt Obligations

ARLP Partnership

Credit Facility. On May 23, 2012, the Intermediate Partnership entered into a credit agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with various financial institutions for a revolving credit facility (the "ARLP Revolving Credit Facility") of \$700 million and a term loan (the "ARLP Term Loan") in the aggregate principal amount of \$250 million (collectively, the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and ARLP Term Loan are referred to as the "ARLP Credit Facility"). The ARLP Credit Facility replaces the \$142.5 million revolving credit facility that would have matured September 25, 2012. Borrowings under the

Table of Contents

Credit Agreement bear interest at a Base Rate or Eurodollar Rate, at the ARLP Partnership's election, plus an applicable margin that fluctuates depending upon the ratio of Consolidated Debt to Consolidated Cash Flow (as defined in the Credit Agreement). The ARLP Partnership has elected the Eurodollar Rate which, with applicable margin, was 1.89% on borrowings outstanding as of September 30, 2012. The ARLP Credit Facility matures May 23, 2017, at which time all amounts outstanding under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and the ARLP Term Loan are required to be repaid. Interest is payable quarterly, with principal of the ARLP Term Loan due as follows: commencing with the quarter ending June 30, 2014 and for each quarter thereafter ending on March 31, 2016, an amount per quarter equal to 2.50% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding, 20% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding per quarter beginning June 30, 2016 through December 31, 2016 with the remaining balance of the ARLP Term Loan advances being due May 23, 2017. The ARLP Partnership has the option to prepay the ARLP Term Loan at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the Credit Agreement. Upon a "change of control" (as defined in the Credit Agreement), the unpaid principal amount of the ARLP Credit Facility, all interest thereon and all other amounts payable under the ARLP Credit Agreement will become due and payable.

Also on May 23, 2012, the Intermediate Partnership terminated early its \$300 million term loan agreement dated December 29, 2010. As of May 23, 2012, the aggregate unpaid principal amount of \$300 million and all unpaid interest was repaid using the proceeds of the ARLP Term Loan and borrowings under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility. The Intermediate Partnership did not incur any early termination penalties in connection with the prepayment of the term loan.

At September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership had borrowings of \$75.0 million and \$29.9 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$595.1 million available for borrowing under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility. The ARLP Partnership utilizes the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, as appropriate, for working capital requirements, capital expenditures, debt payments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership incurs an annual commitment fee of 0.25% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

The ARLP Partnership incurred debt issuance costs of approximately \$4.3 million in 2012 associated with the Credit Agreement, which have been deferred and are being amortized as a component of interest expense over the duration of the Credit Agreement. The ARLP Partnership also expensed \$1.1 million of previously deferred debt issuance cost associated with the terminated \$300 million term loan.

ARLP Senior Notes. The Intermediate Partnership has \$36.0 million principal amount of 8.31% senior notes due August 20, 2014, payable in two remaining equal annual installments of \$18.0 million with interest payable semi-annually ("ARLP Senior Notes").

ARLP Series A Senior Notes. On June 26, 2008, the Intermediate Partnership entered into a Note Purchase Agreement (the "2008 Note Purchase Agreement") with a group of institutional investors in a private placement offering. The Intermediate Partnership issued \$205.0 million of Series A senior notes, which bear interest at 6.28% and mature on June 26, 2015 with interest payable semi-annually.

ARLP Series B Senior Notes. On June 26, 2008, the Intermediate Partnership issued under the 2008 Note Purchase Agreement \$145.0 million of Series B senior notes (together with the Series A senior notes, the "2008 Senior Notes"), which bear interest at 6.72% and mature on June 26, 2018 with interest payable semi-annually.

The ARLP Senior Notes, 2008 Senior Notes, and the ARLP Credit Facility described above (collectively, "ARLP Debt Arrangements") are guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership. The ARLP Debt Arrangements contain various covenants affecting the Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries restricting, among other things, the amount of

Table of Contents

distributions by the Intermediate Partnership, the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, the sale of assets, the making of investments, the entry into mergers and consolidations and the entry into transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions. The ARLP Debt Arrangements also require the Intermediate Partnership to remain in control of a certain amount of mineable coal reserves relative to its annual production. In addition, the ARLP Debt Arrangements require the Intermediate Partnership to maintain (a) debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 3.0 to 1.0 and (b) cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 3.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 1.24 to 1.0 and 16.0 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended September 30, 2012. The ARLP Partnership was in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of September 30, 2012.

Other. In addition to the letters of credit available under the ARLP Credit Facility discussed above, the ARLP Partnership also has agreements with two banks to provide additional letters of credit in an aggregate amount of \$31.1 million to maintain surety bonds to secure certain asset retirement obligations and its obligations for workers' compensation benefits. At September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership had \$30.7 million in letters of credit outstanding under agreements with these two banks.

Related-Party Transactions

The ARLP Partnership has continuing related-party transactions with us, SGP and our respective affiliates. These related-party transactions relate principally to the provision of administrative services to us and Alliance Resource Holdings II, Inc. and our respective affiliates and mineral and equipment leases with SGP. The ARLP Partnership also has ongoing transactions with White Oak and related entities to support development of a longwall mining operation currently under construction.

On March 1, 2012, JC Air, LLC ("JC Air"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of SGP, was acquired by and merged into the ARLP Partnership's subsidiary, ASI. JC Air's sole assets were two airplanes, one of which was previously subject to a time sharing agreement between SGP Land, LLC ("SGP Land"), another subsidiary of SGP, and the ARLP Partnership. In consideration for this merger, the ARLP Partnership paid SGP approximately \$8.0 million cash at closing. Because the transaction was between entities under common control, it was reviewed by the board of directors of MGP (the "MGP Board of Directors") and its conflicts committee (the "MGP Conflicts Committee"). Based on this review, the MGP Conflicts Committee determined that the transaction reflected market-clearing terms and conditions. As a result, the MGP Board of Directors and the MGP Conflicts Committee approved the transaction as fair and reasonable to the ARLP Partnership and its limited partners.

ASI has agreements with SGP Land (a subsidiary of SGP), and with Mr. Craft, providing for the use of aircraft owned by ASI by SGP Land and Mr. Craft. In addition, Alliance Coal has an agreement with JC Land LLC, an entity owned by Mr. Craft, providing for the use of aircraft owned by JC Land LLC by Alliance Coal.

Please read our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Related-Party Transactions" for additional information concerning related-party transactions.

[Table of Contents](#)

New Accounting Standards

New Accounting Standards Issued and Adopted

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2011-04, *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs* ("ASU 2011-04"). ASU 2011-04 amends Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, to provide a consistent definition of fair value and ensure that the fair value measurement and disclosure requirements are similar between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and enhances the disclosure requirements particularly for Level 3 fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 was effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. The adoption of ASU 2011-04 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income* ("ASU 2011-05"). ASU 2011-05 removes the presentation options in ASC 220, *Comprehensive Income*, and requires entities to report components of comprehensive income in either a continuous statement of comprehensive income or two separate but consecutive statements. Under the two statement approach, the first statement would include components of net income, and the second statement would include components of other comprehensive income ("OCI"). ASU 2011-05 does not change the items that must be reported in OCI. ASU 2011-05 was effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011, and its provisions had to be applied retrospectively for all periods presented in the financial statements. In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05* ("ASU 2011-12"), which indefinitely deferred a provision of ASU 2011-05 that required entities to present reclassification adjustments out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component in both the statement in which net income is presented and the statement in which OCI is presented. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Other

On July 6, 2012, new federal legislation entitled *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* was passed, which includes a provision aimed at stabilizing the interest rates used to calculate pension plan liabilities for pension funding purposes. We are currently evaluating the impact of this legislation; however, the ARLP Partnership anticipates that as a result of this legislation, it will not make any further contributions to its pension plan for the 2012 plan year.

Proposed Regulation

On August 8, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") published the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule ("CSAPR") intended to replace the Clean Air Interstate Rule ("CAIR"). CSAPR was expected to take effect on January 1, 2012 and was intended to reduce pollutants from upwind states by requiring 28 states to reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. On August 21, 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals vacated CSAPR finding the EPA exceeded its authority in two respects and remanding the rule back to the EPA. The decision leaves CAIR in effect until the EPA revises CSAPR, but does not mandate any timeframe for the EPA to propose another rule. On October 5, 2012, the EPA filed a petition for an en banc rehearing of the August 21, 2012 ruling, and a court decision on that petition is pending.

Table of Contents

On February 16, 2012, the EPA issued a final rule for Mercury and Air Toxics Standards ("MATS"). MATS imposes maximum achievable control technology emission limits on hazardous air emissions from new and existing coal- and oil-fired electric generating plants, as well as revised new source performance standards for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides and particulate matter from such plants. Under the rule as finalized, some older coal fired power plants may be retired or have operation time reduced rather than install additional expensive emission controls which could reduce the amount of coal consumed. On June 28, 2012, industry groups, companies and 24 states asserted that EPA erred in its rulemaking and legally challenged the MATS rule. On July 20, 2012, the EPA announced that it is reconsidering MATS to review issues that are largely technical in nature and expects to complete its reconsideration by March of 2013. On September 12, 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit granted the EPA's motion to stay the lawsuits challenging the new source MATS while EPA reconsiders the rule. Unless substantial changes are made to the rule during EPA's reconsideration, it is likely that the lawsuits challenging MATS will move forward.

In addition, on April 13, 2012, the EPA published for comment proposed new source performance standards for emissions of carbon dioxide for new and modified fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units ("NSPS"). The standards, if promulgated along the lines proposed, would pose significant challenges for the construction of new coal-fired electric utility generating units in the U.S. unless they include carbon capture and sequestration technology. Legal challenges to the proposed NSPS have been filed and more legal challenges are expected if the EPA issues a final rule that is substantially similar to the proposal.

Insurance

During October 2012, the ARLP Partnership completed its annual property and casualty insurance renewal with various insurance coverages effective October 1, 2012. The aggregate maximum limit in the commercial property program is \$100.0 million per occurrence excluding a \$1.5 million deductible for property damage, a 90-day waiting period for underground business interruption and a \$10.0 million overall aggregate deductible. The ARLP Partnership can make no assurances that it will not experience significant insurance claims in the future that could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition, results of operations and ability to purchase property insurance in the future.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We have no operating activities apart from those conducted by the ARLP Partnership. Our ownership interests, results of operations and cash flows principally reflect those of the ARLP Partnership. As such, our discussions of market risk reflect those risks as they apply to the ARLP Partnership.

Commodity Price Risk

The ARLP Partnership has significant long-term coal supply agreements. Virtually all of the long-term coal supply agreements are subject to price adjustment provisions, which permit an increase or decrease periodically in the contract price principally to reflect changes in specified price indices or items such as taxes, royalties or actual production costs resulting from regulatory changes.

The ARLP Partnership has exposure to price risk for items that are used directly or indirectly in the normal course of coal production such as steel, electricity and other supplies. The ARLP Partnership manages its risk for these items through strategic sourcing contracts for normal quantities required by its

Table of Contents

operations. The ARLP Partnership does not utilize any commodity price-hedges or other derivatives related to these risks.

Credit Risk

Most of the ARLP Partnership's sales tonnage is consumed by electric utilities. Therefore, the ARLP Partnership's credit risk is primarily with domestic electric power generators. The ARLP Partnership's policy is to independently evaluate each customer's creditworthiness prior to entering into transactions and to constantly monitor outstanding accounts receivable against established credit limits. When deemed appropriate by the ARLP Partnership's credit management department, it will take steps to reduce its credit exposure to customers that do not meet its credit standards or whose credit has deteriorated. These steps may include obtaining letters of credit or cash collateral, requiring prepayments for shipments or establishing customer trust accounts held for the ARLP Partnership's benefit in the event of a failure to pay.

Exchange Rate Risk

All of the ARLP Partnership's transactions are currently denominated in U.S. dollars and, as a result, it does not have material exposure to currency exchange-rate risks.

Interest Rate Risk

Borrowings under the ARLP Credit Facility are at variable rates and, as a result, the ARLP Partnership has interest rate exposure. Historically, the ARLP Partnership's earnings have not been materially affected by changes in interest rates. The ARLP Partnership does not utilize any interest rate derivative instruments related to its outstanding debt. The ARLP Partnership had \$75.0 million in borrowings under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and \$250.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Term Loan Agreement at September 30, 2012. A one percentage point increase in the interest rates related to the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and ARLP Term Loan Agreement would result in an annualized increase in 2012 interest expense of \$3.3 million, based on borrowing levels at September 30, 2012. With respect to the ARLP Partnership's fixed-rate borrowings, a one percentage point increase in interest rates would result in a decrease of approximately \$14.0 million in the estimated fair value of these borrowings.

As of September 30, 2012, the estimated fair value of the ARLP Debt Arrangements was approximately \$755.8 million. The fair values of long-term debt are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based upon the ARLP Partnership's current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements as of September 30, 2012. There were no other changes in our quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk as set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

We maintain controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file with the SEC is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure. As required by Rule 13a-15(b) of the Exchange Act, we have evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) or Rule 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of September 30, 2012. Based on

Table of Contents

this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these controls and procedures are effective as of September 30, 2012.

During the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012, there have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) identified in connection with this evaluation that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements and information in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may constitute "forward-looking statements." These statements are based on our beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, us. When used in this document, the words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "may," "project," "will," and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, all statements relating to our future outlook, anticipated capital expenditures, future cash flows and borrowings and sources of funding are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to numerous assumptions that we believe are reasonable, but are open to a wide range of uncertainties and business risks, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in these statements. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ from those in the forward-looking statements are:

- changes in competition in coal markets and the ARLP Partnership's ability to respond to such changes;
- changes in coal prices, which could affect the ARLP Partnership's operating results and cash flows;
- risks associated with the ARLP Partnership's expansion of its operations and properties;
- the impact of health care legislation;
- deregulation of the electric utility industry or the effects of any adverse change in the coal industry, electric utility industry, or general economic conditions;
- dependence on significant customer contracts, including renewing customer contracts upon expiration of existing contracts;
- changing global economic conditions or in industries in which the ARLP Partnership's customers operate;
- liquidity constraints, including those resulting from any future unavailability of financing;
- customer bankruptcies, cancellations or breaches to existing contracts, or other failures to perform;
- customer delays, failure to take coal under contracts or defaults in making payments;
- adjustments made in price, volume or terms to existing coal supply agreements;
- fluctuations in coal demand, prices and availability due to labor and transportation costs and disruptions, equipment availability, governmental regulations, including those related to carbon dioxide emissions, and other factors;
- legislation, regulatory and court decisions and interpretations thereof, including issues related to air and water quality and miner health and safety;
- the ARLP Partnership's productivity levels and margins earned on its coal sales;
- unexpected changes in raw material costs;
- unexpected changes in availability of skilled labor;
- the ARLP Partnership's ability to maintain satisfactory relations with its employees;
- any unanticipated increases in labor costs, adverse changes in work rules, or unexpected cash payments or projections associated with post-mine reclamation and workers' compensation claims;
- any unanticipated increases in transportation costs and risk of transportation delays or interruptions;
- greater than expected environmental regulation, costs and liabilities;
- a variety of operational, geologic, permitting, labor and weather-related factors;
- risks associated with major mine-related accidents, such as mine fires, or interruptions;
- results of litigation, including claims not yet asserted;

Table of Contents

- difficulty maintaining the ARLP Partnership's surety bonds for mine reclamation as well as workers' compensation and black lung benefits;
- difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding pension, black lung benefits and other post-retirement benefit liabilities;
- coal market's share of electricity generation, including as a result of environmental concerns related to coal mining and combustion and the cost and perceived benefits of alternative sources of energy, such as natural gas, nuclear energy and renewable fuels;
- uncertainties in estimating and replacing the ARLP Partnership's coal reserves;
- a loss or reduction of benefits from certain tax credits;
- difficulty obtaining commercial property insurance, and risks associated with the ARLP Partnership's participation (excluding any applicable deductible) in the commercial insurance property program;
- difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding future revenues and costs associated with equity investments in companies we do not control; and
- other factors, including those discussed in "Part II. Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Part II. Item 1. Legal Proceedings" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may differ materially from those described in any forward-looking statement. When considering forward-looking statements, you should also keep in mind the risks described in "Risk Factors" below. These risks could also cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. We disclaim any obligation to update the above list or to announce publicly the result of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements to reflect future events or developments.

You should consider the information above when reading or considering any forward-looking statements contained in:

- this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q;
- other reports filed by us with the SEC;
- our press releases;
- our website <http://www.ahgp.com>; and
- written or oral statements made by us or any of our officers or other authorized persons acting on our behalf.

PART II
OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The information in Note 3. Contingencies to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Part I. Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q herein is hereby incorporated by reference. See also "Item 3. Legal Proceedings" of the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are not our only risks. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial based on current knowledge and factual circumstances, if such knowledge or facts change, also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results in the future.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Information concerning mine safety violations or other regulatory matters required by Section 1503(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") and Item 104 of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.104) is included in Exhibit 95.1 to this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

[Table of Contents](#)

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference			
		SEC File No. and Form	Film No.	Exhibit Filing Date	Filed Herewith*
31.1	Certification of Joseph W. Craft, III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 8, 2012, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31.2	Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 8, 2012, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32.1	Certification of Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 8, 2012, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32.2	Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 8, 2012, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
95.1	Federal Mine Safety and Health Act Information				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
101	Interactive Data File (Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 furnished in XBRL).				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* Or furnished, in the case of Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on November 8, 2012.

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P.

By: Alliance GP, LLC
its general partner

/s/ Joseph W. Craft, III
Joseph W. Craft, III
*President, Chief Executive Officer
and Director, duly authorized to sign
on behalf of the registrant*

/s/ Brian L. Cantrell
Brian L. Cantrell
*Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer*

CERTIFICATION

I, Joseph W. Craft III certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and we have:
 - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusion about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 8, 2012

/s/ Joseph W. Craft III

Joseph W. Craft III
President, Chief Executive
Officer and Director

CERTIFICATION

I, Brian L. Cantrell, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and we have:
 - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusion about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 8, 2012

/s/ Brian L. Cantrell

Brian L. Cantrell
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. (the "Partnership") on Form 10-Q for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of the Partnership, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Partnership.

By: /s/ Joseph W. Craft III
Joseph W. Craft III
President and Chief Executive Officer
of Alliance GP, LLC
(the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.)

Date: November 8, 2012

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate document. A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Partnership and will be retained by the Partnership and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. (the "Partnership") on Form 10-Q for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of the Partnership, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Partnership.

By: /s/ Brian L. Cantrell

Brian L. Cantrell

Senior Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer

of Alliance GP, LLC

(the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.)

Date: November 8, 2012

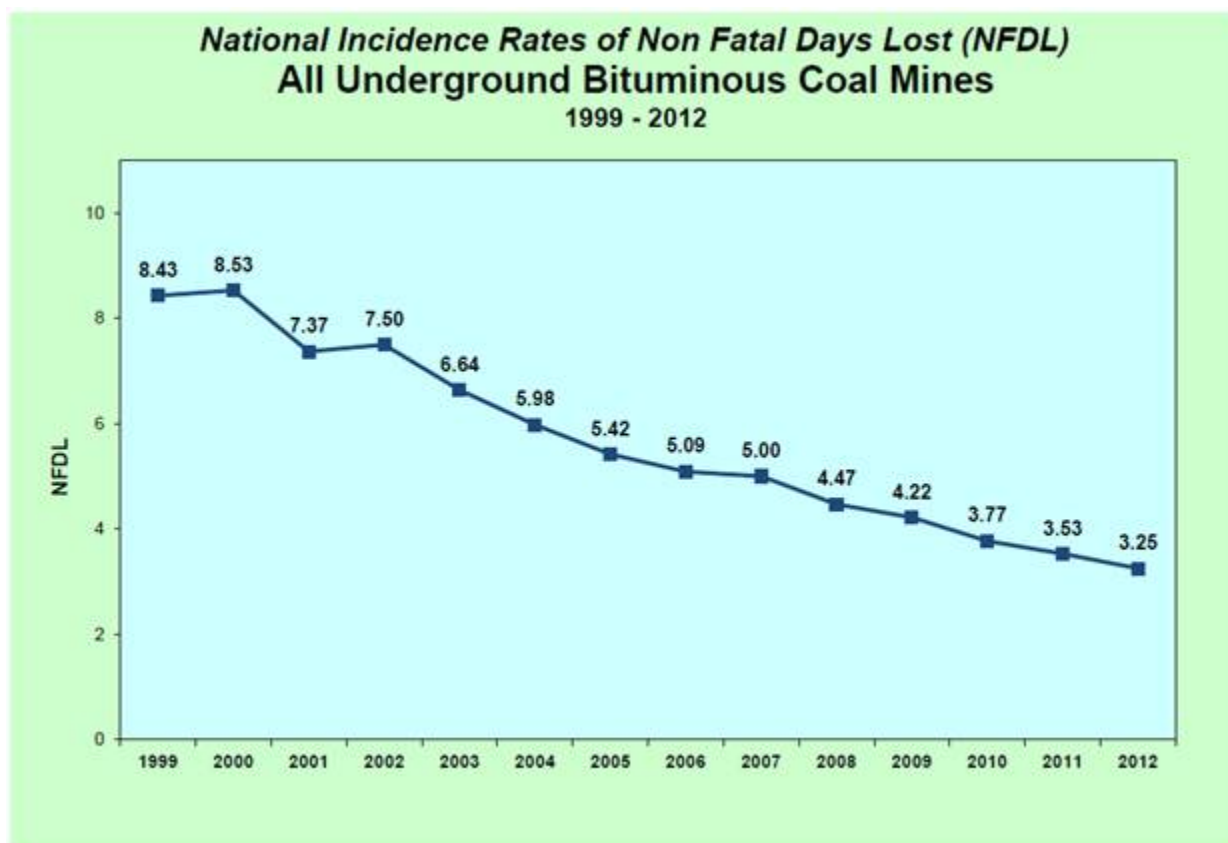
The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate document. A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Partnership and will be retained by the Partnership and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

Federal Mine Safety and Health Act Information

Workplace safety is fundamental to the ARLP Partnership's culture. The ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiaries empower their employees to be actively involved in continuous efforts to prevent accidents. By providing a work environment that rewards safety and encourages employee participation in the safety process, the ARLP Partnership's mining operations strive to be the leaders in safety performance in its industry.

The ARLP Partnership is also a leader in developing and implementing new technologies to improve safety throughout the industry. For example, the ARLP Partnership's subsidiary Matrix Design has developed two innovative technologies designed to improve safety in underground mining operations - a portable, wireless communication and electronic tracking system designed to allow surface personnel the ability to communicate with and locate underground mining personnel and a proximity detection system designed to improve the safety of continuous mining units used in underground operations. Matrix Design has completed installation of its communication and tracking system at all of the ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiaries and has either installed or received orders to install this vital safety system at over half of the operating underground coal mines in the U.S. In addition, Matrix Design has installed and is conducting field tests on seventy-six of its proximity detection systems at ten of the ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiaries' underground coal mines.

The ARLP Partnership's industry is focused on improving employee safety and its safety performance is continuously monitored, including through the mining industry standard of "non-fatal days lost", or "NFDL", which reflects both the frequency and severity of injuries incurred and, it believes, is a better measure of safety performance than compliance statistics. As indicated in the chart below, these efforts have resulted in significant safety improvements as the industry average NFDL as of the second quarter of 2012, as reported(a) by MSHA, has decreased approximately 61% since 1999.



-
- (a) Data compiled for all U.S. underground bituminous coal mines and related surface facilities from the MSHA report "Mine Injury and Worktime, Quarterly Closeout Edition." Data for 1999 through 2011 reflects the "January — December, Final" report for each year. Data for 2012 reflects the "January — June, Preliminary" report for the first six months of 2012.

During this same time period, the combined NFDL rating of the ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiaries has averaged approximately one-third lower than the industry average.

The ARLP Partnership's mining operations are subject to extensive and stringent compliance standards established pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by the MINER Act (as amended, the "Mine Act"). MSHA monitors and rigorously enforces compliance with these standards, and the ARLP Partnership's mining operations are inspected frequently. Citations and orders are issued by MSHA under Section 104 of the Mine Act for violations of the Mine Act or any mandatory health or safety standard, rule, order or regulation promulgated under the Mine Act. A Section 104(a) "Significant and Substantial" or "S&S" citation is generally issued in a situation where the conditions created by the violation do not cause imminent danger, but in the opinion of the MSHA inspector could significantly and substantially contribute to the cause and effect of a mine safety or health hazard. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership's mines were subject to 1,866 MSHA inspection days with an average of only 0.17 S&S citations written per inspection day.

The ARLP Partnership endeavors to comply at all times with all Mine Act regulations. However, the Mine Act has been construed as authorizing MSHA to issue citations and orders pursuant to the legal doctrine of strict liability, or liability without fault. If, in the opinion of an MSHA inspector, a condition exists that violates the Mine Act or regulations promulgated thereunder, then a citation or order will be issued regardless of whether the ARLP Partnership had any knowledge of, or fault in, the existence of that condition. Many of the Mine Act standards include one or more subjective elements, so that issuance of a citation often depends on the opinions or experience of the MSHA inspector involved and the frequency of citations will vary from inspector to inspector.

The number of citations issued also is affected by the size of the mine, in that the number of citations issued generally increases with the size of the mine. The ARLP Partnership's mines typically are larger in scale than most underground coal mines in the U.S. in terms of area, production and employee hours.

The ARLP Partnership takes all allegations of violations of Mine Act standards seriously, and if it disagrees with the assertions of an MSHA inspector, the ARLP Partnership exercises its right to challenge those findings by "contesting" the citation or order pursuant to the procedures established by the Mine Act and its regulations. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, the ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiaries have contested approximately 18% of all citations and 41% of S&S citations issued by MSHA inspectors. These contest proceedings frequently result in the dismissal or modification of previously issued citations, substantial reductions in the penalty amounts originally assessed by MSHA, or both.

The Dodd-Frank Act requires issuers to include in periodic reports filed with the SEC certain information relating to citations or orders for violations of standards under the Mine Act. The following tables include information required by the Dodd-Frank Act for the three months ended September 30, 2012. The mine data retrieval system maintained by MSHA may show information that is different than what is provided herein. Any such difference may be attributed to the need to update that information on MSHA's system and/or other factors.

Subsidiary Name / MSHA Identification Number (1)	Section 104(a) S&S Citations(2)	Section 104(b) Orders (3)	Section 104(d) Citations and Orders (4)	Section 110(b)(2) Violations (5)	Section 107(a) Orders (6)	Total Dollar Value of MSHA Assessments Proposed (in thousands) (7)
Illinois Basin Operations						
Webster County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502132	22	—	—	—	— \$	57.3
Warrior Coal, LLC (KY)						
1505230	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1512083	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1513514	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1516460	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1517216	40	—	1	—	— \$	104.0
1517232	18	—	2	—	— \$	9.4
1517678	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1517740	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1517758	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1514335	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
Hopkins County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502013	2	—	—	—	— \$	—
1511935	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1517377	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1517515	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1518826	19	1	—	—	— \$	24.1
1517378	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
River View Coal, LLC (KY)						
1503178	—	—	—	—	— \$	0.8
1519374	31	—	—	—	— \$	34.5
White County Coal, LLC (IL)						
1102662	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1103058	16	—	—	—	— \$	233.9
Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (IL)						
1103242	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
Gibson County Coal, LLC (IN)						
1202388	—	—	—	—	— \$	1.9
1202215	13	—	—	—	— \$	96.4
Sebree Mining, LLC (KY)						
1519264	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1518547	19	—	—	—	— \$	15.1
1518864	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1517044	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
Central Appalachian Operations						
Pontiki Coal, LLC (KY)						
1508413	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1509571	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1514324	—	—	—	—	— \$	1.8
1518839	12	—	—	—	— \$	40.6
1518056	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
MC Mining, LLC (KY)						
1508079	37	1	4	—	— \$	342.6
1517733	7	—	—	—	— \$	1.9
1519515	—	—	—	—	— \$	0.2
Northern Appalachian Operations						
Metiki Coal, LLC (MD)						
1800621	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
1800671	—	—	—	—	— \$	0.2
Metiki Coal (WV), LLC						
4609028	26	—	2	—	— \$	45.7
Tunnel Ridge, LLC (PA/WV)						
4608864	49	—	4	—	— \$	139.6
Other						
4403236	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
4403255	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
4406630	—	—	—	—	— \$	—
4406867	—	—	—	—	— \$	—

Subsidiary Name / MSHA Identification Number (1)	Total Number of Mining Related Fatalities	Received Notice of Pattern of Violations Under Section 104(e) (yes/no) (8)	Received Notice of Potential to Have Pattern Under Section 104(e) (yes/no) (8)	Legal Actions Pending as of Last Day of Period	Legal Actions Initiated During Period	Legal Actions Resolved During Period
Illinois Basin Operations						
Webster County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502132	—	No	No	38	3	1
Warrior Coal, LLC (KY)						
1505230	—	No	No	—	—	—
1512083	—	No	No	—	—	—
1513514	—	No	No	—	—	—
1516460	—	No	No	—	—	—
1517216	—	No	No	32	7	5
1517232	—	No	No	1	—	—
1517678	—	No	No	—	—	—
1517740	—	No	No	—	—	—
1517758	—	No	No	—	—	—
1514335	—	No	No	2	—	1
Hopkins County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502013	—	No	No	2	1	2
1511935	—	No	No	—	—	—
1517377	—	No	No	—	—	—
1517515	—	No	No	—	—	—
1518826	—	No	No	25	4	—
1517378	—	No	No	—	—	—
River View Coal, LLC (KY)						
1503178	—	No	No	2	—	—
1519374	—	No	No	21	—	5
White County Coal, LLC (IL)						
1102662	—	No	No	—	—	—
1103058	—	No	No	24	4	11
Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (IL)						
1103242	—	No	No	—	—	—
Gibson County Coal, LLC (IN)						
1202388	—	No	No	3	3	—
1202215	—	No	No	23	4	1
Sebree Mining, LLC (KY)						
1519264	—	No	No	—	—	—
1518547	—	No	No	—	—	—
1518864	—	No	No	—	—	—
1517044	—	No	No	—	—	—
Central Appalachian Operations						
Pontiki Coal, LLC (KY)						
1508413	—	No	No	—	—	—
1509571	—	No	No	1	—	—
1514324	—	No	No	3	1	—
1518839	—	No	No	36	4	—
1518056	—	No	No	—	—	—
MC Mining, LLC (KY)						
1508079	—	No	No	38	4	1
1517733	—	No	No	—	—	—
1519515	—	No	No	—	—	—
Northern Appalachian Operations						
Mettiki Coal, LLC (MD)						
1800621	—	No	No	—	—	—
1800671	—	No	No	1	—	1
Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC						
4609028	—	No	No	13	2	—
Tunnel Ridge, LLC (PA/WV)						
4608864	—	No	No	3	2	1
Other						
4403236	—	No	No	—	—	—
4403255	—	No	No	—	—	—
4406630	—	No	No	—	—	—
4406867	—	No	No	—	—	—

The number of legal actions pending as of September 30, 2012 that fall into each of the following categories is as follows:

Subsidiary Name / MSHA Identification Number (1)	Contests of Citations and Orders	Contests of Proposed Penalties	Complaints for Compensation	Complaints of Discharge/Discrimination/Interference	Applications for Temporary Relief	Appeals of Judges Rulings
Illinois Basin Operations						
Webster County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502132	5	33	—	—	—	—
Warrior Coal, LLC (KY)						
1505230	—	—	—	—	—	—
1512083	—	—	—	—	—	—
1513514	—	—	—	—	—	—
1516460	—	—	—	—	—	—
1517216	7	25	—	—	—	2
1517232	—	1	—	—	—	—
1517678	—	—	—	—	—	—
1517740	—	—	—	—	—	—
1517758	—	—	—	—	—	—
1514335	—	2	—	—	—	—
Hopkins County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502013	—	2	—	—	—	—
1511935	—	—	—	—	—	—
1517377	—	—	—	—	—	—
1517515	—	—	—	—	—	—
1518826	5	20	—	—	—	5
1517378	—	—	—	—	—	—
River View Coal, LLC (KY)						
1503178	—	2	—	—	—	—
1519374	6	15	—	—	—	—
White County Coal, LLC (IL)						
1102662	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103058	—	24	—	—	—	—
Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (IL)						
1103242	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gibson County Coal, LLC (IN)						
1202388	—	3	—	—	—	—
1202215	2	21	—	—	—	—
Sebree Mining, LLC (KY)						
1519264	—	—	—	—	—	—
1518547	—	—	—	—	—	—
1518864	—	—	—	—	—	—
1517044	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Appalachian Operations						
Pontiki Coal, LLC (KY)						
1508413	—	—	—	—	—	—
1509571	—	1	—	—	—	—
1514324	—	3	—	—	—	—
1518839	6	30	—	—	2	1
1518056	—	—	—	—	—	—
MC Mining, LLC (KY)						
1508079	—	38	—	—	—	—
1517733	—	—	—	—	—	—
1519515	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Appalachian Operations						
Metiki Coal, LLC (MD)						
1800621	—	—	—	—	—	—
1800671	—	1	—	—	—	—
Metiki Coal (WV), LLC						
4609028	—	12	—	1	—	—
Tunnel Ridge, LLC (PA/WV)						
4608864	—	3	—	—	—	—
Other						
4403236	—	—	—	—	—	—
4403255	—	—	—	—	—	—
4406630	—	—	—	—	—	—
4406867	—	—	—	—	—	—

-
- (1) The statistics reported for each of the ARLP Partnership's subsidiaries listed above are segregated into specific MSHA identification numbers.
 - (2) Mine Act section 104(a) S&S citations shown above are for alleged violations of mandatory health or safety standards that could significantly and substantially contribute to a coal mine health and safety hazard. It should be noted that, for purposes of this table, S&S citations that are included in another column, such as Section 104(d) citations, are not also included as Section 104(a) S&S citations in this column.
 - (3) Mine Act section 104(b) orders are for alleged failures to totally abate a citation within the period of time specified in the citation.
 - (4) Mine Act section 104(d) citations and orders are for an alleged unwarrantable failure (i.e. aggravated conduct constituting more than ordinary negligence) to comply with mandatory health or safety standards.
 - (5) Mine Act section 110(b)(2) violations are for alleged failure to make reasonable efforts to eliminate a known violation of a mandatory safety or health standard that substantially proximately caused, or reasonably could have been expected to cause, death or serious bodily injury.
 - (6) Mine Act section 107(a) orders are for alleged conditions or practices which could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm before such condition or practice can be abated and result in orders of immediate withdrawal from the area of the mine affected by the condition.
 - (7) Amounts shown include assessments proposed by MSHA during the three months ended September 30, 2012 on all citations and orders, including those citations and orders that are not required to be included within the above chart.
 - (8) Mine Act section 104(e) written notices are for an alleged pattern of violations of mandatory health or safety standards that could significantly and substantially contribute to a coal mine safety or health hazard, or the potential to have such a pattern.
-