
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 March 31, 2015

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. [X] 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). [X] 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 [X] Accelerated Filer [] Non-Accelerated Filer [] Smaller Reporting Company []
(Do not check if 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 [X] No

As of May 8, 2015, 59,863,000 common units are outstanding.

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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)

	March 31,	December 31,
ASSETS	2015	2014
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 30,303	\$ 28,274
Trade receivables	178,477	184,187
Other receivables	485	1,025
Due from affiliates	7,443	7,107
Inventories	114,643	83,155
Advance royalties	9,440	9,416
Prepaid expenses and other assets	20,418	31,362
Total current assets	361,209	344,526
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:		
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	2,889,878	2,815,620
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(1,219,592)	(1,150,414)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	1,670,286	1,665,206
OTHER ASSETS:		
Advance royalties	28,257	15,895
Due from affiliate	11,020	11,047
Equity investments in affiliates	232,049	224,611
Other long-term assets	31,884	27,470
Total other assets	303,210	279,023
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,334,705	\$ 2,288,755
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 95,599	\$ 86,277
Due to affiliates	239	370
Accrued taxes other than income taxes	21,333	19,461
Accrued payroll and related expenses	38,758	57,656
Accrued interest	6,028	318
Workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis benefits	8,868	8,868
Current capital lease obligations	1,299	1,305
Other current liabilities	13,153	17,109
Current maturities, long-term debt	230,000	230,000
Total current liabilities	415,277	421,364
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	615,000	591,250
Pneumoconiosis benefits	56,304	55,278
Accrued pension benefit	39,772	40,105
Workers' compensation	50,438	49,797
Asset retirement obligations	93,972	91,085
Long-term capital lease obligations	15,287	15,624
Other liabilities	6,852	5,978
Total long-term liabilities	877,625	849,117
Total liabilities	1,292,902	1,270,481
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
PARTNERS' CAPITAL:		
Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. ("AHGP") Partners' Capital:		
Limited Partners – Common Unitholders 59,863,000 units outstanding	590,869	580,234
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(15,142)	(15,456)
Total AHGP Partners' Capital	575,727	564,778
Noncontrolling interests	466,076	453,496
Total Partners' Capital	1,041,803	1,018,274
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL	\$ 2,334,705	\$ 2,288,755

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)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2015	2014
SALES AND OPERATING REVENUES:		
Coal sales	\$ 517,739	\$ 525,545
Transportation revenues	7,148	6,005
Other sales and operating revenues	35,413	10,384
Total revenues	<u>560,300</u>	<u>541,934</u>
EXPENSES:		
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	334,362	322,242
Transportation expenses	7,148	6,005
Outside coal purchases	322	2
General and administrative	17,263	17,899
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	78,268	66,841
Total operating expenses	<u>437,363</u>	<u>412,989</u>
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	122,937	128,945
Interest expense (net of interest capitalized for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 of \$212 and \$772, respectively)	(7,968)	(8,063)
Interest income	531	389
Equity in loss of affiliates, net	(9,686)	(6,241)
Other income	118	306
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	<u>105,932</u>	<u>115,336</u>
INCOME TAX BENEFIT	(2)	-
NET INCOME	<u>105,934</u>	<u>115,336</u>
LESS: NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS	(40,404)	(47,889)
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. ("NET INCOME OF AHGP")	<u>\$ 65,530</u>	<u>\$ 67,447</u>
BASIC AND DILUTED NET INCOME OF AHGP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT	<u>\$ 1.09</u>	<u>\$ 1.13</u>
DISTRIBUTIONS PAID PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT	<u>\$ 0.915</u>	<u>\$ 0.8275</u>
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNITS OUTSTANDING - BASIC AND DILUTED	<u>59,863,000</u>	<u>59,863,000</u>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2015	2014
NET INCOME	\$ 105,934	\$ 115,336
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS):		
Defined benefit pension plan		
Amortization of net actuarial loss (1)	842	225
Total defined benefit pension plan adjustments	<u>842</u>	<u>225</u>
Pneumoconiosis benefits		
Amortization of net actuarial gain (1)	(113)	(263)
Total pneumoconiosis benefits adjustments	<u>(113)</u>	<u>(263)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>729</u>	<u>(38)</u>
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	106,663	115,298
Less: Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests	<u>(40,819)</u>	<u>(47,860)</u>
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO AHGP	<u>\$ 65,844</u>	<u>\$ 67,438</u>

(1) Amortization of net actuarial (gain)/loss is included in the computation of net periodic benefit cost (see Notes 10 and 12 for additional details).

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 161,059	\$ 139,530
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Capital expenditures	(50,330)	(69,463)
Changes in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	659	(3,745)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	299	-
Purchases of equity investments in affiliates	(18,804)	(30,000)
Payments for acquisitions of businesses, net of cash acquired (Note 4)	(28,078)	-
Payments to affiliate for acquisition and development of coal reserves	-	(1,401)
Other	1,807	-
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(94,447)</u>	<u>(104,609)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payment on term loan	(6,250)	-
Borrowings under revolving credit facilities	95,000	82,800
Payments under revolving credit facilities	(65,000)	(117,800)
Payments on capital lease obligations	(343)	(358)
Contribution to consolidated company from affiliate noncontrolling interest	333	-
Net settlement of employee withholding taxes on vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	(2,719)	(2,991)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interests	(28,688)	(26,286)
Distributions paid to Partners	(54,775)	(49,537)
Other	(2,141)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(64,583)</u>	<u>(114,172)</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,029	(79,251)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	28,274	98,375
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 30,303</u>	<u>\$ 19,124</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:		
Cash paid for interest	<u>\$ 2,137</u>	<u>\$ 3,255</u>
NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITY:		
Accounts payable for purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>\$ 16,313</u>	<u>\$ 14,179</u>
Market value of ARLP common units issued under ARLP's Long-Term Incentive and Directors Deferred Compensation		
Plans before minimum statutory tax withholding requirements	<u>\$ 7,389</u>	<u>\$ 8,417</u>
Acquisition of businesses:		
Fair value of assets assumed	\$ 36,272	\$ -
Cash paid	(28,078)	-
Fair value of liabilities assumed	<u>\$ 8,194</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

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 substantial majority of 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 production 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.

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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 March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 and the results of our operations, comprehensive income and cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014. 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, 2014.

On June 16, 2014, the ARLP Partnership completed a two-for-one split of its common units, whereby holders of record as of May 30, 2014 received a one unit distribution on each unit outstanding on that date. The unit split resulted in the issuance of approximately 37.0 million ARLP common units. Accordingly, AHGP received an additional 15,544,169 ARLP common units, which brought its total ownership to 31,088,338 ARLP common units. All references to the number of ARLP units and distribution amounts included in this report have been adjusted to give effect for this unit split for all periods presented. Provisions of ARLP’s partnership agreement affecting ARLP’s incentive distribution rights that we own have been amended to reflect the unit split.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of AHGP Partnership’s condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) of the 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.

2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

New Accounting Standard Issued and Adopted

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2014-08, *Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity* (“ASU 2014-08”). ASU 2014-08 changes the requirements for reporting discontinued operations in Accounting Standards Codification 205, Presentation of Financial Statements, by updating the criteria for determining which disposals can be presented as discontinued operations and requires new disclosures of both discontinued operations and certain other disposals that do not meet the definition of discontinued operations. ASU 2014-08 was effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2014. The adoption of ASU 2014-08 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

New Accounting Standards Issued and Not Yet Adopted

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (“ASU 2014-09”). ASU 2014-09 is a new revenue recognition standard that provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle of the new standard is an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2016 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. Early adoption is currently not permitted. In April 2015, the FASB issued a Proposed Accounting Standards Update that would defer the effective date of ASU 2014-09 by one year. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2014-09.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, *Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity’s Ability to Continue as a Going Concern* (“ASU 2014-15”). ASU 2014-15 provides guidance on management’s responsibility in evaluating whether there is substantial doubt about an entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. ASU 2014-15 is effective for the annual period ending after December 15, 2016, and for annual periods and interim periods thereafter with early adoption permitted. We do not anticipate the adoption of ASU 2014-15 will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, *Consolidation* (“ASU 2015-02”). ASU 2015-02 changes the requirements and analysis required when determining the reporting entity’s need to consolidate an entity, including modifying the evaluation of limited partnership variable interest status, presumption that a general partner should consolidate a limited partnership and the consolidation criterion applied by a reporting entity involved with variable interest entities. ASU 2015-02 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2015-02.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, *Interest – Imputation of Interest* (“ASU 2015-03”). ASU 2015-03 changes the classification and presentation of debt issuance costs by requiring debt issuance costs to be reported as a direct deduction from the face amount of the debt liability rather than an asset. Amortization of the costs is reported as interest expense. The amendment does not affect the current guidance on the recognition and measurement of debt issuance costs. ASU 2015-03 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. We do not anticipate the adoption of ASU 2015-03 will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

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In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-06, *Effects on Historical Earnings per Unit of Master Limited Partnership Dropdown Transactions* (“ASU 2015-06”). ASU 2015-06 specifies that for purposes of calculating historical earnings per unit under the two-class method, the earnings of a transferred business before the date of a dropdown transaction should be allocated entirely to the general partner. Earnings per unit of the limited partners would not change as a result of the dropdown transaction. ASU 2015-06 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2015-06.

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. ACQUISITIONS

Patriot Coal Corporation

On December 31, 2014 (the “Initial Closing Date”), the ARLP Partnership entered into asset purchase agreements with Patriot Coal Corporation (“Patriot”) regarding certain assets relating to two of Patriot’s western Kentucky mining operations, including certain coal sales agreements, unassigned coal reserves and underground mining equipment and infrastructure. Both of the mining operations – the former Dodge Hill and Highland mining operations – were closed by Patriot in late 2014 prior to entering into these agreements. Also on December 31, 2014, Patriot affiliates entered into agreements to sell other assets from Highland to a third party. Additional details of the transactions are discussed below.

On the Initial Closing Date, the ARLP Partnership’s subsidiary, Alliance Coal acquired the rights to certain coal supply agreements from an affiliate of Patriot for approximately \$21.0 million. Of the \$21.0 million purchase price, \$9.3 million was paid into escrow subject to obtaining certain consents. In February 2015, \$7.5 million of the escrowed amount was released to Patriot for a consent received and \$1.8 million was returned to Alliance Coal as a result of a consent not received, reducing the purchase price to \$19.2 million. The acquired agreements provide for delivery of a total of approximately 5.1 million tons of coal from 2015 through 2017.

On February 3, 2015 (the “Acquisition Date”), Alliance Coal and Alliance Resource Properties acquired from Patriot an estimated 84.1 million tons of proven and probable high-sulfur coal reserves in western Kentucky (substantially all of which was leased by Patriot), and substantially all of Dodge Hill’s assets related to its former coal mining operation in western Kentucky, which principally included underground mining equipment and an estimated 43.2 million tons of non-reserve coal deposits (substantially all of which was leased by Dodge Hill). In addition, the ARLP Partnership assumed Dodge Hill’s reclamation liabilities totaling \$2.3 million. Also on the Acquisition Date, the Intermediate Partnership’s newly formed subsidiaries, UC Mining, LLC and UC Processing, LLC, acquired certain underground mining equipment and spare parts inventory from Patriot’s former Highland mining operation.

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The mining and reserve assets acquired from Patriot described above are located in Union and Henderson Counties, Kentucky. The mining equipment, spare parts and underground infrastructure that the ARLP Partnership acquired from Patriot will be dispersed to the ARLP Partnership's existing operations in the Illinois Basin region in accordance with their highest and best use. The ARLP Partnership's purchase price of \$19.2 million and \$20.5 million paid on the Initial Closing Date and the Acquisition Date, respectively, described above was financed using existing cash on hand. In addition, the ARLP Partnership's purchase price was increased by \$7.8 million as a result of cash paid prior to the Acquisition Date related to the transaction as well as an agreement to pay additional consideration as discussed below. As the ARLP Partnership has no intentions of operating the former Dodge Hill mining complex as a business and only acquired certain assets of Highland, it believes unaudited pro forma information of revenue and earnings is not meaningful as it relates to the acquisition of Patriot assets described above and furthermore not materially different than revenue and earnings as presented in our condensed consolidated statements of income. The primary ongoing benefit derived from the transaction relates to the coal supply agreements acquired, which would have permitted the sale of 0.8 million tons at average pricing of \$46.67 per ton sold during the three months ended March 31, 2014 based on the contract price and sales volumes, if the ARLP Partnership had owned the contracts during that period.

In conjunction with the ARLP Partnership's acquisitions on the Acquisition Date, WKY CoalPlay, LLC ("WKY CoalPlay"), a related party, acquired approximately 39.1 million tons of proven and probable high-sulfur owned coal reserves located in Henderson and Union Counties, Kentucky from Central States Coal Reserves of Kentucky, LLC ("Central States"), a subsidiary of Patriot, for \$25.0 million and in turn leased those reserves to the ARLP Partnership. In February 2015, the ARLP Partnership paid \$2.1 million to WKY CoalPlay for the initial annual minimum royalty payment (Note 9).

The following table summarizes the consideration paid to Patriot on the Initial Closing Date and the Acquisition Date and the preliminary fair value allocation of assets acquired and liabilities assumed as valued at the Acquisition Date, incorporating fair value adjustments made subsequent to the Acquisition Date (in thousands):

Estimated consideration transferred	<u>\$ 47,514</u>
Recognized amounts of net tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed:	
Inventories	3,255
Property, plant and equipment, including mineral rights and leased equipment	26,995
Customer contracts, net	19,193
Other assets	326
Asset retirement obligation	<u>(2,255)</u>
Net tangible and intangible assets acquired	<u>\$ 47,514</u>

Included in estimated consideration transferred above is an agreement to pay an additional \$5.7 million related to the acquisition, of which \$2.1 million was paid as of March 31, 2015. Other adjustments to the preliminary fair values resulted from additional information obtained about facts in existence on February 3, 2015.

Intangible assets related to coal supply agreements, represented as "Customer contracts, net" in the table above, will be amortized over the weighted-average term of the contracts on a per unit basis. The ARLP Partnership is currently in the process of evaluating the fair values of the assets acquired and

liabilities assumed from Patriot. As a result, the purchase price allocations above are preliminary, pending completion of the final evaluation of all assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

MAC

In March 2006, White County Coal, and Alexander J. House entered into a limited liability company agreement to form Mid-America Carbonates, LLC (“MAC”). MAC was formed to engage in the development and operation of a rock dust mill and to manufacture and sell rock dust. White County Coal initially invested \$1.0 million in exchange for a 50% equity interest in MAC. The ARLP Partnership’s equity investment in MAC was \$1.6 million at December 31, 2014. Effective on January 1, 2015, the ARLP Partnership purchased the remaining 50.0% equity interest in MAC from Mr. House for \$5.5 million cash paid at closing. In conjunction with the acquisition, goodwill of \$4.2 million was recorded to the Other and Corporate segment (Note 13) and is included in “Other long-term assets” on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. Goodwill will be assessed for impairment at least annually as of November 30.

5. 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, accounts payable, due from affiliates and due to affiliates approximate fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments. At March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the estimated fair value of the ARLP Partnership’s long-term debt, including current maturities, was approximately \$855.3 million and \$833.4 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 6). 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.

6. LONG-TERM DEBT

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

	<u>March 31,</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2014</u>
ARLP Revolving Credit facility	\$ 170,000	\$ 140,000
ARLP Series A senior notes	205,000	205,000
ARLP Series B senior notes	145,000	145,000
ARLP Term loan	225,000	231,250
ARLP Securitization facility	100,000	100,000
	<u>845,000</u>	<u>821,250</u>
Less current maturities	<u>(230,000)</u>	<u>(230,000)</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 615,000</u>	<u>\$ 591,250</u>

The Intermediate Partnership has \$205.0 million in ARLP Series A and \$145.0 million in ARLP Series B senior notes (collectively, the “2008 Senior Notes”), a \$700.0 million revolving credit facility (“ARLP Revolving Credit Facility”) and a \$225.0 million term loan (“ARLP Term Loan”) (collectively, with the 2008 Senior Notes and the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, the “ARLP Debt Arrangements”), which are guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership. The Intermediate Partnership also has a \$100.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility (“ARLP Securitization Facility”). At March 31, 2015, current maturities include the ARLP Series A senior notes, due in June 2015, and a portion of the ARLP Term Loan. 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, incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, sale of assets, investments, mergers and consolidations and 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 1.04 to 1.0 and 24.5 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended March 31, 2015. The ARLP Partnership was in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of March 31, 2015.

At March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had borrowings of \$170.0 million and \$5.4 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$524.6 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 and investments in affiliates, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership incurs an annual commitment fee of 0.20% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

On December 5, 2014, certain direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership entered into the ARLP Securitization Facility providing additional liquidity and funding. Under the ARLP Securitization Facility, certain subsidiaries sell trade receivables on an ongoing basis to the Intermediate Partnership, which then sells the trade receivables to AROP Funding, LLC (“AROP Funding”), a wholly owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership, which in turn borrows on a revolving basis up to \$100.0 million secured by the trade receivables. After the sale, Alliance Coal, as servicer of the assets, collects the receivables on behalf of AROP Funding. The ARLP Securitization Facility bears interest based on a Eurodollar Rate. The ARLP Securitization

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Facility has an initial term of 364 days, however the ARLP Partnership has the contractual ability and the intent to extend the term for an additional 364 days. At March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had \$100.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Securitization Facility. Debt issuance costs were immaterial for this transaction.

7. NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS

As required by FASB ASC 810, our noncontrolling ownership interest in consolidated subsidiaries is presented in the condensed 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) and an affiliate ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC ("Cavalier Minerals"). The following table summarizes the components of noncontrolling interests recorded in Partners' Capital for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	March 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Noncontrolling interests reflected in Partners' Capital:		
Affiliate (SGP)	\$ (303,789)	\$ (303,788)
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners)	789,056	777,210
Affiliate (Cavalier Minerals)	785	465
Accumulated other comprehensive loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(19,976)	(20,391)
Total noncontrolling interests	<u>\$ 466,076</u>	<u>\$ 453,496</u>

The noncontrolling interest designated as Affiliate (SGP) 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 31,088,338 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).

On November 10, 2014 (the "Cavalier Formation Date"), the ARLP Partnership's wholly owned subsidiary, Alliance Minerals, LLC ("Alliance Minerals") and Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC ("Bluegrass Minerals") entered into a limited liability company agreement (the "Cavalier Agreement") to form Cavalier Minerals. Cavalier Minerals was formed to indirectly acquire oil and gas mineral interests through its noncontrolling ownership interest in AllDale Minerals L.P. ("AllDale Minerals"). Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals committed funding of \$48.0 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, to Cavalier Minerals. Alliance Minerals' contributions through December 31, 2014 to Cavalier Minerals totaled \$11.5 million. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, Alliance Minerals contributed \$8.0 million, bringing the ARLP Partnership's total investment in Cavalier Minerals to \$19.5 million at March 31, 2015. The ARLP Partnership has a remaining commitment to Cavalier Minerals of \$28.5 million at March 31, 2015, which it expects to fund over the next two to four years. The ARLP Partnership expects to fund this additional commitment utilizing existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under credit and securitization facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity. Bluegrass Minerals, which is owned and controlled by an officer of ARH and is Cavalier Minerals' managing member, contributed \$0.8 million as of March 31, 2015 and has a remaining

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commitment of \$1.2 million. Cavalier Minerals has committed to provide funding of \$49.0 million to AllDale Minerals. Cavalier Minerals has and will continue to provide funding to AllDale Minerals using contributions from Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals (Note 8).

In accordance with the Cavalier Agreement, Bluegrass Minerals is entitled to receive an incentive distribution from Cavalier Minerals equal to 25.0% of all distributions (including in liquidation) after return of members' capital reduced by certain distributions received by Bluegrass Minerals or its owner from AllDale Minerals Management, LLC ("AllDale Minerals Management") (Note 8). Alliance Minerals' ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals at March 31, 2015 was 96.0%. The remainder of the equity ownership is held by Bluegrass Minerals and is represented above as noncontrolling interest designated as Affiliate (Cavalier Minerals). As of March 31, 2015, Cavalier Minerals had not made any distributions to its owners. The ARLP Partnership has consolidated Cavalier Minerals' financial results in accordance with FASB ASC 810, *Consolidation*. Based on the guidance in FASB ASC 810, the ARLP Partnership concluded that Cavalier Minerals is a VIE and it is the primary beneficiary because the ARLP Partnership's consent is required for significant activities of Cavalier Minerals and due to Bluegrass Minerals' relationship to the ARLP Partnership as described above. Bluegrass Minerals equity ownership of Cavalier Minerals is accounted for as noncontrolling ownership interest in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, earnings attributable to Bluegrass Minerals are recognized as noncontrolling ownership interest in our condensed consolidated statements of income.

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

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2015	2014
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest:		
Affiliate (SGP)	\$ 14	\$ 17
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners)	40,403	47,872
Affiliates (Cavalier Minerals)	(13)	-
	<u>\$ 40,404</u>	<u>\$ 47,889</u>

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

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2015	2014
Distributions paid to noncontrolling interests:		
Affiliate (SGP) (1)	\$ 15	\$ 14
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners) (1)	28,673	26,272
	<u>\$ 28,688</u>	<u>\$ 26,286</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 (SGP) component of noncontrolling interests 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 in 1999 (which included the contribution of net assets by SGP to the ARLP Partnership, the retention by SGP of debt

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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 March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 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 three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 (in thousands):

	Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.			
	Limited Partners' Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Noncontrolling Interest	Total Partners' Capital
Balance at January 1, 2015	\$ 580,234	\$ (15,456)	\$ 453,496	\$ 1,018,274
Net income	65,530	-	40,404	105,934
Other comprehensive income	-	314	415	729
Settlement of directors deferred compensation	(177)	-	-	(177)
Vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	-	-	(2,719)	(2,719)
Common unit-based compensation	57	-	2,835	2,892
Distributions on ARLP common unit-based compensation	-	-	(740)	(740)
Contributions to consolidated company from affiliate noncontrolling interest	-	-	333	333
Distributions to AHGP Partners	(54,775)	-	-	(54,775)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interest	-	-	(27,948)	(27,948)
Balance at March 31, 2015	<u>\$ 590,869</u>	<u>\$ (15,142)</u>	<u>\$ 466,076</u>	<u>\$ 1,041,803</u>

	Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.			
	Limited Partners' Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Noncontrolling Interest	Total Partners' Capital
Balance at January 1, 2014	\$ 500,070	\$ (4,198)	\$ 359,721	\$ 855,593
Net income	67,447	-	47,889	115,336
Other comprehensive loss	-	(9)	(29)	(38)
Settlement of directors deferred compensation	(218)	-	-	(218)
Vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	-	-	(2,991)	(2,991)
Common unit-based compensation	79	-	2,443	2,522
Distributions on ARLP common unit-based compensation	-	-	(624)	(624)
Distributions to AHGP Partners	(49,537)	-	-	(49,537)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interest	-	-	(25,662)	(25,662)
Balance at March 31, 2014	<u>\$ 517,841</u>	<u>\$ (4,207)</u>	<u>\$ 380,747</u>	<u>\$ 894,381</u>

8. EQUITY INVESTMENTS

White Oak

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. The initial longwall system commenced operation in late October 2014. The transactions with White Oak feature several components, including an equity investment in White Oak (represented by “Series A Units” containing certain distribution and liquidation preferences), the acquisition and lease-back of certain coal reserves and surface rights and a construction loan. The ARLP Partnership’s initial investment funding to White Oak at the Transaction Date, consummated utilizing existing cash on hand, was \$69.5 million and it has funded White Oak \$330.8 million between the Transaction Date and March 31, 2015. The ARLP Partnership’s only remaining funding commitment to White Oak is \$25.2 million of the \$140.0 million commitment for reserve acquisition and leaseback transactions. The ARLP Partnership expects to fund any additional commitments utilizing existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under credit and securitization facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity. On the Transaction Date, the ARLP Partnership also entered into a coal handling and preparation agreement, pursuant to which the ARLP Partnership constructed and is operating a preparation plant and other surface facilities. The following information discusses each component of these transactions in further detail.

Hamilton County, Illinois Reserve Acquisition

On the Transaction Date, the ARLP Partnership’s subsidiary, 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 have been developed for mining by White Oak, and certain surface properties and rights in Hamilton County, Illinois (the “Reserve Acquisition”), which is adjacent to White County, Illinois, where the White County Coal, LLC’s Pattiki mine is located. The asset purchase price of \$33.8 million cash paid at closing was allocated to owned and leased coal rights. Between the Transaction Date and December 31, 2012, WOR Properties provided \$51.6 million to White Oak for development of the acquired coal reserves, fulfilling its initial commitment for further development funding. During the year ended December 31, 2013, WOR Properties acquired from White Oak, for \$25.3 million cash paid at various closings, an additional 90.1 million tons of reserves. During the year ended December 31, 2014, WOR Properties acquired from White Oak, for \$4.1 million cash paid at various closings, an additional 14.6 million tons of reserves. Of the additional tons acquired in 2014 and 2013, 53.4 million tons have been developed for mining by White Oak. No reserve purchases from White Oak were made during the three months ended March 31, 2015. At March 31, 2015, WOR Properties had provided \$114.8 million to acquire a total of 309.6 million tons of coal reserves and fund the development of the acquired reserves. WOR Properties has a remaining commitment of \$25.2 million for additional coal reserve acquisitions.

In conjunction with the Reserve Acquisition and the additional reserve acquisitions discussed above, WOR Properties entered into leases with White Oak, which provide White Oak the rights to develop and mine the acquired reserves. The leases require, in consideration of the lease-back of the coal reserves and the funding of development of those coal reserves, White Oak to pay WOR Properties earned royalties and, during the period beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2034, fully recoupable minimum royalty totaling \$2.1 million per month. The lease terms are through December 31, 2034, subject to certain renewal options for White Oak. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership received \$4.1 million in minimum royalty payments from White Oak, against which earned royalties are credited. Unearned minimum royalty payments from White Oak are reflected in the “Other current liabilities” and “Other liabilities” line items in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, \$4.4 million of earned royalties from White Oak

was recorded in the “Other sales and operating revenues” line item in our condensed consolidated statements of income.

Equity Investment – Series A Units

Concurrent with the Reserve Acquisition, the ARLP Partnership’s subsidiary, Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (“WOR Processing”), made an initial equity investment of \$35.7 million in White Oak to purchase Series A Units representing ownership in White Oak. WOR Processing purchased \$229.0 million of additional Series A Units between the Transaction Date and December 31, 2014. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, WOR Processing purchased \$10.3 million of additional Series A Units, reaching WOR Processing’s maximum equity investment commitment of \$275.0 million in Series A Units at March 31, 2015. Additional equity investments in Series A Units of \$10.3 million were made by another White Oak owner during the three months ended March 31, 2015, bringing the total purchases of Series A Units not acquired by WOR Processing to \$50.0 million.

WOR Processing’s ownership and member’s voting interest in White Oak at March 31, 2015 were 40.0% based upon currently outstanding voting units. The remainder of the equity ownership in White Oak, represented by Series A and B Units, is held by other investors and members of White Oak management.

The ARLP Partnership continually reviews all rights provided to WOR Processing as well as the ARLP Partnership by various agreements with White Oak and continues to conclude that 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 condensed consolidated balance sheets. As of March 31, 2015, WOR Processing had invested \$275.0 million in Series A Units of White Oak equity, which represents the current maximum exposure to loss as a result of the equity investment in White Oak exclusive of capitalized interest. White Oak has made no equity distributions to the ARLP Partnership.

WOR Processing’s equity in income or losses of affiliates are recorded under the hypothetical liquidation at book value (“HLBV”) method of accounting due to the preferences to which WOR Processing is entitled with respect to distributions. The ARLP Partnership was allocated \$9.4 million of losses for the three months ended March 31, 2015 due primarily to losses incurred by White Oak. Allocated losses from White Oak for the three months ended March 31, 2015 were reduced by, and are reflected net of, \$2.6 million, due to the impact of purchases of Series A Units during the period by another White Oak owner. Series A Unit purchases impact the future preferred distributions allocable to each owner and the ongoing allocation of income and losses for GAAP purposes under the HLBV method.

Services Agreement

Simultaneous with the closing of the Reserve Acquisition, WOR Processing entered into a Coal Handling and Preparation 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. WOR Processing earned fees of \$13.9 million and \$3.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, from White Oak for surface facility services. Surface facility fees earned from White Oak are included in the other sales and operating revenues line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income.

In addition, the Intermediate Partnership loaned \$10.5 million to White Oak for the construction of various assets on the surface property, including a bathhouse, office and warehouse (“Construction Loan”). The Construction Loan has a term of 20 years. White Oak began making repayments in January 2015 and made \$0.5 million in principal and interest payments during the three months ended March 31, 2015.

AllDale Minerals

On the Cavalier Formation Date, Cavalier Minerals (Note 7) contributed \$7.4 million in return for a limited partner interest in AllDale Minerals, an entity created to purchase oil and gas mineral interests in various geographic locations within producing basins in the continental U.S. Between the Cavalier Formation Date and December 31, 2014, Cavalier Minerals' contributed \$4.2 million to AllDale Minerals. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, Cavalier Minerals contributed \$8.6 million, bringing the total investment in AllDale Minerals to \$20.2 million at March 31, 2015. Cavalier Minerals has a remaining commitment to AllDale Minerals of \$28.8 million at March 31, 2015, which it expects to fund over the next two to four years. The ARLP Partnership continually reviews all rights provided to Cavalier Minerals and the ARLP Partnership by various agreements and continues to conclude all such rights do not provide Cavalier Minerals or the ARLP Partnership the ability to unilaterally direct any of the activities of AllDale Minerals that most significantly impact its economic performance. As such, Cavalier Minerals' ownership interest in the income or loss of AllDale Minerals is accounted for as equity income or loss in our condensed consolidated statements of income. Equity income or loss is recorded based on AllDale Minerals' distribution structure. Cavalier Minerals' limited partner interest in AllDale Minerals was 71.7% at March 31, 2015. The remainder of the equity ownership is held by other limited partners and AllDale Minerals Management. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership has been allocated losses of \$0.3 million from AllDale Minerals.

9. WKY COALPLAY

On November 17, 2014, SGP Land, LLC ("SGP Land"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of SGP, and two limited liability companies owned by irrevocable trusts established by the ARLP Partnership's President and Chief Executive Officer ("Craft Companies") entered into a limited liability company agreement to form WKY CoalPlay. WKY CoalPlay was formed, in part, to purchase and lease coal reserves. WKY CoalPlay is managed by an entity controlled by an officer of ARH who is also a director of ARH II, the indirect parent of SGP, an employee of SGP Land and a trustee of the irrevocable trusts owning the Craft Companies.

In February 2015, WKY CoalPlay acquired approximately 39.1 million tons of proven and probable high-sulfur owned coal reserves located in Henderson and Union Counties, Kentucky from Central States for \$25.0 million and in turn leased those reserves to the ARLP Partnership. The lease has an initial term of 20 years and provides for earned royalty payments to WKY CoalPlay of 4.0% of the coal sales price and annual minimum royalty payments of \$2.1 million. All annual minimum royalty payments are recoupable against earned royalty payments. An option was also granted to the ARLP Partnership to acquire the leased reserves at any time during a three-year period beginning in February 2018 for a purchase price that would provide WKY CoalPlay a 7.0% internal rate of return on its investment in these reserves taking into account payments previously made under the lease. The ARLP Partnership paid WKY CoalPlay \$2.1 million in February 2015 for the initial annual minimum royalty payment.

Based on the guidance in FASB ASC 810, the ARLP Partnership concluded that WKY CoalPlay is a VIE because exercise of the option noted above (as well as two other options granted to the ARLP Partnership by WKY CoalPlay in December 2014) is not within the control of the equity holders and, if it occurs, could potentially limit the expected residual return to the owners of WKY CoalPlay. The ARLP Partnership does not have any economic or governance rights related to WKY CoalPlay and the options that provide the ARLP Partnership with a variable interest in WKY CoalPlay's reserve assets do not give

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it any rights that constitute power to direct the primary activities that most significantly impact WKY CoalPlay's economic performance. SGP Land has the sole ability to replace the manager of WKY CoalPlay at its discretion and therefore has power to direct the activities of WKY CoalPlay. Consequently, the ARLP Partnership concluded that SGP Land is the primary beneficiary of WKY CoalPlay.

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 March 31,	
	2015	2014
Beginning balance	\$ 57,557	\$ 62,909
Accruals increase	2,667	2,183
Payments	(2,514)	(2,749)
Interest accretion	488	646
Ending balance	<u>\$ 58,198</u>	<u>\$ 62,989</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 March 31,	
	2015	2014
Service cost	\$ 732	\$ 857
Interest cost	524	566
Amortization of net actuarial gain (1)	(113)	(263)
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 1,143</u>	<u>\$ 1,160</u>

(1) Amortization of net actuarial gain is included in the operating expenses line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income.

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 26, 2015, the MGP Compensation Committee determined that the vesting requirements for the 2012 grants of 202,778 restricted units (which is net of 11,450 forfeitures) had been satisfied as of January 1, 2015. As a result of this vesting, on February 11, 2015, the ARLP Partnership issued 128,150 unrestricted common units to the ARLP LTIP participants. The

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remaining units were settled in cash to satisfy the tax withholding obligations for the ARLP LTIP participants. On January 26, 2015, the MGP Compensation Committee authorized additional grants of up to 314,019 restricted units, of which 302,555 were granted during the three months ended March 31, 2015 and will vest on January 1, 2018, subject to satisfaction of certain financial tests. The fair value of these 2015 grants is equal to the intrinsic value at the date of grant, which was \$37.19 per unit. ARLP LTIP expense was \$2.6 million and \$2.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. After consideration of the January 1, 2015 vesting and subsequent issuance of 128,150 common units, approximately 4.0 million units remain available under the ARLP LTIP for issuance in the future, assuming all grants issued in 2013, 2014 and 2015 currently outstanding are settled with ARLP common units, without reduction for tax withholding, and no future forfeitures occur.

As of March 31, 2015, there was \$20.7 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 1.8 years. As of March 31, 2015, the intrinsic value of the non-vested ARLP LTIP grants was \$31.5 million. As of March 31, 2015, the total obligation associated with the ARLP LTIP was \$12.6 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 March 31, 2015.

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. The SERP is administered by the MGP Compensation Committee.

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.

For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, SERP and MGP Deferred Compensation Plan participant notional account balances were credited with a total of 6,376 and 5,688 phantom units, respectively, and the fair value of these phantom units was \$37.45 per unit and \$40.67 per unit,

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respectively, on a weighted-average basis. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, AGP Deferred Compensation Plan participant notional account balances were credited with a total of 983 and 1,340 phantom units, respectively, and the fair value of these phantom units was \$58.24 per unit and \$58.84 per unit, respectively, on a weighted-average basis. Total SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans expense was approximately \$0.4 million for each of the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014.

As of March 31, 2015, there were 392,549 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 \$13.4 million. As of March 31, 2015, the total obligation associated with the SERP and MGP Deferred Compensation Plan was \$12.8 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 \$0.9 million, which was included in the partners' capital-limited partners line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. On February 23, 2015, we provided 3,167 AHGP common units to an AGP director under the AGP Deferred Compensation Plan.

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 March 31,	
	2015	2014
Service cost	\$ 618	\$ 543
Interest cost	1,074	1,019
Expected return on plan assets	(1,401)	(1,401)
Amortization of net actuarial loss (1)	842	225
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 1,133</u>	<u>\$ 386</u>

(1) Amortization of net actuarial loss is included in the operating expenses line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income.

We previously disclosed in our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014 that the ARLP Partnership expected to contribute \$3.1 million to the Pension Plan in 2015. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership made a contribution payment of \$0.6 million to the Pension Plan for the 2014 plan year. On April 15, 2015, the ARLP Partnership made a contribution payment of \$0.7 million for the 2015 plan year.

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 four reportable segments: the Illinois Basin, Appalachia, White Oak and Other and Corporate. The first two reportable segments correspond to major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Similar economic characteristics for the operating segments within each of these two reportable segments generally include coal quality, geology, coal marketing opportunities, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues. The White Oak reportable segment includes the ARLP Partnership's activities associated with the White Oak Mine No. 1, which commenced initial longwall operation in late October 2014.

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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 mine, Hopkins County Coal, LLC's Elk Creek mine and the Fies property, White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex, Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex, Sebree Mining, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Onton mine, and River View Coal, LLC's mining complex. In April 2014, production began at the Gibson South mine. The Elk Creek mine is currently expected to cease production in early 2016.

The Appalachia reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including the Mettiki mining complex, the Tunnel Ridge, LLC mining complex, the MC Mining, LLC mining complex and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC ("Penn Ridge") property. The Mettiki mining complex includes Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mine and Mettiki Coal, LLC's preparation plant. 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 Processing and WOR Properties. WOR Processing includes both the surface operations at White Oak and the equity investment in White Oak. WOR Properties owns coal reserves acquired from White Oak under lease-back arrangements (Note 8).

The Other and Corporate segment includes the ARLP Partnership and AHGP's marketing and administrative expenses, Alliance Service, Inc. ("ASI") 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"), ASI's ownership of aircraft, the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC ("Mt. Vernon") dock activities, coal brokerage activity, MAC (Note 4), certain activities of Alliance Resource Properties, the Pontiki Coal, LLC mining complex, which sold most of its assets in May 2014, Wildcat Insurance, LLC ("Wildcat Insurance"), Alliance Minerals, and its affiliate, Cavalier Minerals (Note 7), which holds an equity investment in AllDale Minerals (Note 8), and AROP Funding (Note 6).

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Reportable segment results as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 are presented below.

	Illinois Basin	Appalachia	White Oak	Other and Corporate	Elimination (1)	Consolidated
	(in thousands)					
Reportable segment results as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2015 were as follows:						
Total revenues (2)	\$ 373,354	\$ 156,248	\$ 18,368	\$ 55,008	\$ (42,678)	\$ 560,300
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	226,212	97,815	3,652	46,483	(39,596)	334,566
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	142,719	55,833	5,319	8,111	(3,082)	208,900
Total assets (6)	1,207,467	593,524	406,479	280,336	(153,101)	2,334,705
Capital expenditures (7)	33,742	15,738	15	835	-	50,330

Reportable segment results as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2014 were as follows:

Total revenues (2)	\$ 396,502	\$ 137,184	\$ 3,698	\$ 7,638	\$ (3,088)	\$ 541,934
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	229,591	85,573	1,391	8,471	(3,088)	321,938
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	163,649	48,870	(3,997)	(772)	-	207,750
Total assets (6)	1,119,868	620,775	343,040	58,013	(1,129)	2,140,567
Capital expenditures (7)	55,709	10,128	1,959	3,068	-	70,864

- (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, coal sales and purchases between operations within different segments, sales of receivables to AROP Funding and insurance premiums paid to Wildcat Insurance.
- (2) Revenues included in the Other and Corporate column are primarily attributable to the Matrix Group revenues, Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, Wildcat Insurance revenues and brokerage coal 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 March 31,	
	2015	2014
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 334,566	\$ 321,938
Outside coal purchases	(322)	(2)
Other income	118	306
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	<u>\$ 334,362</u>	<u>\$ 322,242</u>

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- (4) Segment Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization and general and administrative expenses. 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 March 31,	
	2015	2014
Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$208,900	\$207,750
General and administrative	(17,263)	(17,899)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(78,268)	(66,841)
Interest expense, net	(7,437)	(7,674)
Income tax benefit	2	-
Net income	<u>\$105,934</u>	<u>\$115,336</u>

- (5) Includes equity in income (loss) of affiliates for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 of \$(9.4) and \$(6.3) million, respectively, included in the White Oak segment and \$(0.3) million and \$0.1 million, respectively, included in the Other and Corporate segment.
- (6) Total assets at March 31, 2015 and 2014 include investments in affiliate of \$212.5 million and \$152.4 million, respectively, for the White Oak segment and \$19.5 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, for the Other and Corporate segment.
- (7) Capital expenditures shown above include funding to White Oak of \$1.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and no funding for the three months ended March 31, 2015, for the acquisition and development of coal reserves (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 Patriot acquisition on February 3, 2015 and MAC acquisition on January 1, 2015 (Note 4).

14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On April 28, 2015, we declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, of \$0.9375 per unit on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$56.1 million, payable on May 20, 2015 to all unitholders of record as of May 13, 2015.

On April 28, 2015, the ARLP Partnership declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, of \$0.6625 per unit, on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$85.6 million (which includes MGP's incentive distributions), payable on May 15, 2015 to all unitholders of record as of May 8, 2015.

On April 20, 2015, the ARLP Partnership entered into various agreements with White Oak to purchase processed coal from the White Oak Mine No. 1 to be delivered between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 and assist in certain export marketing and transportation needs during the period June 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. The ARLP Partnership agreed to be White Oak's exclusive representative for marketing White Oak coal in the export markets and to procure certain transportation related services for export shipments. In April 2015, the ARLP Partnership prepaid for the processed coal and beginning in June 2015 will receive monthly minimums for transportation services. We do not consider the prepayment for processed coal or the right to future transportation service minimums to be significant to our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

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 substantial majority of the operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.

Summary

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 condensed consolidated statement of income and balance sheet. In addition to the ARLP Partnership, our 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. As is customary in the coal industry, the ARLP Partnership has entered into long-term coal supply agreements with many of its customers. The ARLP Partnership operates ten underground mining complexes in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia and it operates a coal loading terminal on the Ohio River at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. Also, the ARLP Partnership

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owns a preferred equity interest in White Oak Resources LLC (“White Oak”), the ARLP Partnership owns and is purchasing additional coal reserves under lease-back arrangements with White Oak, and has constructed and is operating surface facilities at White Oak’s new longwall mining complex in southern Illinois. White Oak’s initial longwall system commenced operation in late October 2014.

We have four reportable segments: Illinois Basin, Appalachia, White Oak, and Other and Corporate. The first two reportable segments correspond to major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Factors similarly affecting financial performance of the operating segments within each of these two reportable segments generally include coal quality, geology, coal marketing opportunities, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues. The White Oak segment includes activities associated with the White Oak longwall Mine No. 1 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, Gibson County Coal, LLC, which includes the Gibson North mine and Gibson South mine, collectively referred to as the “Gibson Complex,” Hopkins County Coal, LLC mining complex (“Hopkins”), which includes the Elk Creek mine and the Fies property, White County Coal, LLC’s Pattiki mining complex, Warrior Coal, LLC’s mining complex (“Warrior”), Sebree Mining, LLC’s mining complex (“Sebree”), which includes the Onton mine, Steamport, LLC and certain undeveloped coal reserves, River View Coal, LLC’s mining complex (“River View”), CR Services, LLC, and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties, LLC (“Alliance Resource Properties”), ARP Sebree, LLC and ARP Sebree South, LLC. In April 2014, initial production began at the Gibson South mine. The Elk Creek mine is currently expected to cease production in early 2016. The Sebree and Fies properties are held by the ARLP Partnership for future mine development.
- *Appalachia* reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including the Mettiki mining complex (“Mettiki”), the Tunnel Ridge, LLC mining complex (“Tunnel Ridge”), the MC Mining, LLC mining complex (“MC Mining”) and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC (“Penn Ridge”) property. The Mettiki mining complex includes Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC’s Mountain View mine and Mettiki Coal, LLC’s preparation plant. 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 Properties owns coal reserves acquired from White Oak, and is committed to acquiring additional reserves from White Oak, under lease-back arrangements. WOR Properties has also provided certain funding to White Oak for development of these reserves. WOR Processing includes both the surface operations at White Oak and the equity investments in White Oak. The White Oak reportable segment also includes a loan to White Oak from the Intermediate Partnership to construct certain surface facilities. For more information on White Oak, please read “Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 8. Equity Investments” of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.
- *Other and Corporate* segment includes marketing and administrative expenses, Alliance Service, Inc. (“ASI”) and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC (“Matrix Design”), Alliance Design Group, LLC, ASI’s ownership of aircraft, the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC (“Mt. Vernon”) dock activities, coal brokerage activity, Mid-America Carbonates, LLC (“MAC”), certain activities of Alliance Resource Properties, the Pontiki Coal, LLC mining complex which sold most of its assets in May 2014, Wildcat Insurance, LLC (“Wildcat Insurance”), which was established in September 2014 to assist the ARLP Partnership with its insurance requirements, Alliance Minerals, LLC and its affiliate, Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC (“Cavalier Minerals”), which

holds an equity investment in AllDale Minerals, L.P. (“AllDale Minerals”) and AROP Funding, LLC (“AROP Funding”).

Three Months Ended March 31, 2015 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2014

We reported net income of \$105.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 (“2015 Quarter”) compared to \$115.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 (“2014 Quarter”). The decrease of \$9.4 million was principally due to lower average coal sales prices, increased depreciation, depletion and amortization and higher operating expenses. Average coal sales prices decreased by \$0.86 to \$54.49 per ton sold in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$55.35 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter. Higher operating expenses during the 2015 Quarter primarily resulted from increased sales and production volumes from the Gibson South and Tunnel Ridge mines as well as higher labor-related expenses at the Illinois Basin operations and increased coal inventory expenses. The increases in operating expenses were partially offset by lower sales at the Warrior mine as it continues to transition to a new mining area, the Gibson North mine due to shift reductions in response to market conditions and an inventory build at the River View mine. Decreases to net income were also offset partially by increased other sales and operating revenues primarily reflecting higher surface facility services and coal royalties related to the ARLP Partnership’s participation in the White Oak Mine No. 1.

	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(in thousands)		(per ton sold)	
Tons sold	9,501	9,495	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	10,502	10,253	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$517,739	\$525,545	\$54.49	\$55.35
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$334,684	\$322,244	\$35.23	\$33.94

Coal sales. Coal sales decreased 1.5% to \$517.7 million for the 2015 Quarter from \$525.5 million for the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$7.8 million in coal sales reflected lower average coal sales price (reducing coal sales by \$8.2 million), partially offset by increased tons sold (contributing \$0.4 million in coal sales). Average coal sales prices decreased \$0.86 per ton sold in the 2015 Quarter to \$54.49 compared to \$55.35 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily as a result of lower average prices at various mines, particularly at the Appalachian mines and Gibson Complex mines combined, reflecting current market conditions. Lower average sales prices were offset in part by higher other sales and operating revenues discussed below.

Operating expenses and outside coal purchases. Operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 3.9% to \$334.7 million for the 2015 Quarter from \$322.2 million for the 2014 Quarter. On a per ton basis, operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 3.8% to \$35.23 per ton sold from \$33.94 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to increased tons sold from high-cost beginning inventory at multiple operations, reduced sales from lower cost March production, lower recoveries at the Warrior mine and reduced production at the Gibson North mine discussed above, partially offset by increased production from the River View, Gibson South and Tunnel Ridge mines. 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 4.6% to \$11.59 per ton in the 2015 Quarter from \$11.08 per ton in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$0.51 per ton was primarily attributable to higher medical expenses at all Illinois Basin mines and production variances discussed above; and
- Material and supplies expenses per ton produced increased 6.4% to \$11.65 per ton in the 2015 Quarter from \$10.95 per ton in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$0.70 per ton resulted

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from higher costs for certain products and services, primarily contract labor used in the mining process (increase of \$0.30 per ton), roof support expenses per ton (increase of \$0.17 per ton) and outside services used in the mining process (increase of \$0.08 per ton), as well as production variances discussed above;

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

- Production taxes and royalties expenses (which were incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes) decreased \$0.39 per produced ton sold in the 2015 Quarter compared to the 2014 Quarter primarily as a result of lower average coal sales prices as discussed above.

Other sales and operating revenues. Other sales and operating revenues are principally comprised of Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, Matrix Design sales, surface facility services and coal royalty revenues received from White Oak and other outside services. Other sales and operating revenues increased to \$35.4 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$10.4 million in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$25.0 million was primarily due to increased surface facility services and coal royalty revenues received from White Oak as a result of the ramp-up of longwall production and payments in lieu of shipments received from a customer in the 2015 Quarter related to an Appalachian coal sales contract.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$78.3 million for the 2015 Quarter from \$66.8 million for the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$11.5 million was primarily attributable to the reduction of the economic mine life at the Elk Creek mine, which is expected to close in early 2016, production at the Gibson South mine, which began in April 2014, amortization of coal supply agreements acquired in December 2014 and capital expenditures related to infrastructure investments at various operations.

Interest expense. Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased slightly to \$8.0 million in the 2015 Quarter primarily due to lower interest on various credit facilities combined, offset in part by decreased capitalized interest on the equity investment in White Oak. Interest payable under the ARLP Partnership's senior notes, term loan and revolving credit facilities is discussed below under "–Debt Obligations."

Equity in loss of affiliates, net. Equity in loss of affiliates, net for the 2015 Quarter includes the equity investments in White Oak and AllDale Minerals. The 2014 Quarter includes White Oak and MAC. Regarding MAC's exclusion from the 2015 Quarter, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 4. Acquisitions" of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. For the 2015 Quarter, the ARLP Partnership recognized equity in loss of affiliates, net of \$9.7 million compared to \$6.2 million for the 2014 Quarter. The increase in equity in loss of affiliates, net is primarily due to higher expenses reflecting White Oak's continued ramp up of longwall operations following the commencement of operations in late 2014, partially offset by the impact of changes in allocations of equity income or losses resulting from equity contributions during the 2015 Quarter by another White Oak owner. For more information regarding White Oak, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 8. Equity Investments" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Transportation revenues and expenses. Transportation revenues and expenses were \$7.1 million and \$6.0 million for the 2015 and 2014 Quarters, respectively. The increase of \$1.1 million was primarily attributable to increased tonnage for which the ARLP Partnership arranged transportation at certain mines, partially offset by a decrease in average transportation rates in the 2015 Quarter. 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.

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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 as well as the noncontrolling interest of Cavalier Minerals. 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 as well as Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC's ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals which began in 2014. The noncontrolling interest designated as non-affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 31,088,338 common units of ARLP held by us. The net income attributable to noncontrolling interest was \$40.4 million and \$47.9 million in 2015 and 2014 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 due to the changes in revenues and expenses described above and by an increase in ARLP's managing general partner's priority distribution to us, which is deducted from ARLP's net income in the allocation of net income attributable to noncontrolling interest.

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Segment Adjusted EBITDA. Our 2015 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased \$1.2 million, or 0.6%, to \$208.9 million from the 2014 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$207.8 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 March 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2015	2014		
Segment Adjusted EBITDA				
Illinois Basin	\$ 142,719	\$ 163,649	\$ (20,930)	(12.8)%
Appalachia	55,833	48,870	6,963	14.2%
White Oak	5,319	(3,997)	9,316	(1)
Other and Corporate	8,111	(772)	8,883	(1)
Elimination	(3,082)	-	(3,082)	(1)
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (2)	<u>\$ 208,900</u>	<u>\$ 207,750</u>	<u>\$ 1,150</u>	0.6%
Tons sold				
Illinois Basin	7,119	7,482	(363)	(4.9)%
Appalachia	2,374	2,013	361	17.9%
White Oak	-	-	-	-
Other and Corporate	886	-	886	(1)
Elimination	(878)	-	(878)	(1)
Total tons sold	<u>9,501</u>	<u>9,495</u>	<u>6</u>	0.1%
Coal sales				
Illinois Basin	\$ 368,289	\$ 392,254	\$ (23,965)	(6.1)%
Appalachia	145,886	133,291	12,595	9.4%
White Oak	-	-	-	-
Other and Corporate	41,318	-	41,318	(1)
Elimination	(37,754)	-	(37,754)	(1)
Total coal sales	<u>\$ 517,739</u>	<u>\$ 525,545</u>	<u>\$ (7,806)</u>	(1.5)%
Other sales and operating revenues				
Illinois Basin	\$ 642	\$ 986	\$ (344)	(34.9)%
Appalachia	7,762	1,151	6,611	(1)
White Oak	18,368	3,698	14,670	(1)
Other and Corporate	13,565	7,637	5,928	77.6%
Elimination	(4,924)	(3,088)	(1,836)	(59.5)%
Total other sales and operating revenues	<u>\$ 35,413</u>	<u>\$ 10,384</u>	<u>\$ 25,029</u>	(1)
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense				
Illinois Basin	\$ 226,212	\$ 229,591	\$ (3,379)	(1.5)%
Appalachia	97,815	85,573	12,242	14.3%
White Oak	3,652	1,391	2,261	(1)
Other and Corporate	46,483	8,471	38,012	(1)
Elimination	(39,596)	(3,088)	(36,508)	(1)
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	<u>\$ 334,566</u>	<u>\$ 321,938</u>	<u>\$ 12,628</u>	3.9%

(1) Percentage change was greater than or equal to 100%.

(2) Segment Adjusted EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure), is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation,

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depletion and amortization and general and administrative expenses. 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 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 consolidated 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	
	March 31,	
	2015	2014
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 208,900	\$ 207,750
General and administrative	(17,263)	(17,899)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(78,268)	(66,841)
Interest expense, net	(7,437)	(7,674)
Income tax benefit	2	-
Net income	<u>\$ 105,934</u>	<u>\$ 115,336</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 Segment Adjusted 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 operating expenses. Outside coal purchases are included in Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense because tons sold and coal sales include sales from outside coal purchases.

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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	
	March 31,	
	2015	2014
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 334,566	\$ 321,938
Outside coal purchases	(322)	(2)
Other income	118	306
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	<u>\$ 334,362</u>	<u>\$ 322,242</u>

Illinois Basin – Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 12.8% to \$142.7 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$163.6 million in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$20.9 million was primarily attributable to lower coal recoveries at the Warrior mine as it continues to transition into a new mining area and reduced production at the Gibson North mine due to shift reductions in response to market conditions, partially offset by increased production and sales from the new Gibson South mine. Coal sales decreased 6.1% to \$368.3 million compared to \$392.3 million in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$24.0 million reflects decreased tons sold resulting from general market conditions and timing of shipments at various locations, partially offset by increased tons sold from the production ramp-up at the Gibson South mine. Also impacting the 2015 Quarter were lower average coal sales prices which decreased 1.3% to \$51.73 per ton sold compared to \$52.42 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased 1.5% to \$226.2 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$229.6 million in the 2014 Quarter due to decreased sales at the Warrior mine attributable to lower recoveries as discussed above and an inventory build at the River View mine, offset in part by increased production at the Gibson South mine and higher medical expense at all mines in the region. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton increased \$1.10 per ton sold to \$31.78 in the 2015 Quarter from \$30.68 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily as a result of decreased production discussed above and higher inventory costs at various mines, as well as certain cost increases described above under “–Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.”

Appalachia – Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased to \$55.8 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$48.9 million in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$6.9 million was primarily attributable to increased tons sold, which increased 17.9% to 2.4 million tons sold in the 2015 Quarter, partially offset by lower average coal sales price of \$61.45 per ton sold during the 2015 Quarter compared to \$66.24 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter. Segment Adjusted EBITDA also benefited from increased other sales and operating revenues due to payments in lieu of shipments received from a customer in the 2015 Quarter. Coal sales increased 9.4% to \$145.9 million compared to \$133.3 million in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$12.6 million was primarily due to increased production and sales from the Tunnel Ridge and Mettiki mines, partially offset by lower average coal sales prices at the MC Mining and Tunnel Ridge mines due to current market conditions. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased 14.3% to \$97.8 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$85.6 million in the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to increased production discussed above. Although Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased in the 2015 Quarter, Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton decreased \$1.32 per ton sold to \$41.20 compared to \$42.52 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to improved productivity and lower benefits costs at the Mettiki mine in addition to increased production at Tunnel Ridge reflecting fewer longwall move days in the 2015 Quarter, partially offset by increased materials and supplies and maintenance costs at Tunnel Ridge.

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White Oak – Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased to \$5.3 million in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$(4.0) million in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$9.3 million was primarily as a result of increased surface facility services and coal royalties received from White Oak due to the ramp-up of longwall production at the White Oak Mine No. 1, partially offset by an increase in allocated losses from White Oak. The ARLP Partnership received revenues for surface facility services and coal royalties of \$18.4 million and \$3.7 million for the 2015 and 2014 Quarters, respectively. The ARLP Partnership was allocated \$9.4 million and \$6.3 million in losses for the 2015 and 2014 Quarters, respectively. The equity in loss of affiliates from White Oak for the 2015 Quarter was favorably impacted by reduced allocation of losses to the ARLP Partnership as a result of equity contributions by another White Oak owner as discussed above under “–Equity in loss of affiliates, net. ” For more information on White Oak, please read “Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 8. Equity Investments” of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Other and Corporate – Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased \$8.9 million in the 2015 Quarter from the 2014 Quarter and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased to \$46.5 million for the 2015 Quarter compared to \$8.5 million for the 2014 Quarter. These increases were primarily as a result of increased coal brokerage activity, safety equipment sales by the Matrix Group, Mt. Vernon transloading services and intercompany revenues and expenses of AROP Funding and Wildcat Insurance (which are eliminated upon consolidation).

Elimination – Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense and coal sales eliminations significantly increased in the 2015 Quarter to \$36.5 million and \$37.8 million, respectively, reflecting additional intercompany coal sales to Alliance Coal, the ARLP Partnership’s operating subsidiary, to support increased coal brokerage activity resulting from new coal supply agreements acquired from Patriot on December 31, 2014. For more information on the Patriot acquisition, please read “Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 4. Acquisitions” of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

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 rely on distributions from the ARLP Partnership to fund our cash requirements.

The ARLP Partnership has historically satisfied its working capital requirements and funded its capital expenditures, equity investments and debt service obligations with cash generated from operations, cash provided by the issuance of debt or equity and borrowings under credit and securitization facilities. The ARLP Partnership believes that existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under credit facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity will be sufficient to meet 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 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 our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Cash Flows

Cash provided by operating activities was \$161.1 million for the 2015 Quarter compared to \$139.5 million for the 2014 Quarter. The increase in cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to a decrease in trade receivables during the 2015 Quarter as compared to an increase during the 2014 Quarter, partially offset by an increase in advanced royalties related to recent mineral interest leases acquired in late 2014 and a greater decrease in payroll and related benefits accruals reflecting higher annual incentive compensation payments in the 2015 Quarter.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$94.4 million for the 2015 Quarter compared to \$104.6 million for the 2014 Quarter. The decrease in cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to the lower capital expenditures for mine infrastructure and equipment at various mines, particularly at the Gibson South and River View mines, and a decrease in funding of the White Oak equity investment in the 2015 Quarter, partially offset by the acquisitions of businesses in the 2015 Quarter. For more information regarding acquisitions, please read “Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 4. Acquisitions” of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$64.6 million for the 2015 Quarter compared to \$114.2 million for the 2014 Quarter. The decrease in cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to a decrease in payments and an increase in borrowings under the revolving credit facilities during the 2015 Quarter, partially offset by increased distributions paid to partners in the 2015 Quarter and payments under the term loan in the 2015 Quarter, which is discussed in more detail below under “–Debt Obligations.”

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures decreased to \$50.3 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$69.5 million in the 2014 Quarter.

The ARLP Partnership’s anticipated total capital expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2015 are estimated in a range of \$270.0 million to \$300.0 million, which includes expenditures for infrastructure projects and maintenance capital at various mines. In addition to these capital expenditures, the ARLP Partnership anticipates investments of approximately \$20.0 to \$25.0 million in 2015 to purchase oil and gas mineral interests. Management anticipates funding remaining 2015 capital requirements with cash and cash equivalents, cash flows from operations, borrowings under the ARLP Partnership’s revolving credit and securitization facilities as discussed below and, if 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 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 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 \$700.0 million and a term loan (the “ARLP Term Loan”) in the aggregate principal amount of \$250.0 million (collectively, the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and ARLP Term Loan are referred to as the “ARLP Credit Facility”). 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 (each as defined in the Credit Agreement). The ARLP Partnership has elected a Eurodollar Rate

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which, with applicable margin, was 1.58% on borrowings outstanding as of March 31, 2015. The ARLP Credit Facility matures May 23, 2017, at which time all amounts then outstanding are required to be repaid. Interest is payable quarterly, with principal of the ARLP Term Loan due as follows: for each quarter commencing June 30, 2014 and ending March 31, 2016, quarterly principal payments in an amount per quarter equal to 2.50% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding; for each quarter beginning June 30, 2016 through December 31, 2016, 20% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding; and the remaining balance of the ARLP Term Loan advances at maturity. In June 2014, the ARLP Partnership began making quarterly principal payments on the ARLP Term Loan, leaving a balance of \$225.0 million at March 31, 2015. 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 Credit Agreement would become due and payable.

At March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had borrowings of \$170.0 million and \$5.4 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$524.6 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 0.20% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

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 ARLP 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 ARLP Partnership issued under the 2008 Note Purchase Agreement \$145.0 million of Series B senior notes (together with the ARLP 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 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 distributions by the Intermediate Partnership, incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, sale of assets, investments, mergers and consolidations and 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 1.04 to 1.0 and 24.5 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended March 31, 2015. The ARLP Partnership was in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of March 31, 2015.

ARLP Accounts Receivable Securitization. On December 5, 2014, certain direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership entered into a \$100.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility (“ARLP Securitization Facility”) providing additional liquidity and funding. Under the ARLP Securitization Facility, certain subsidiaries sell trade receivables on an ongoing basis to the Intermediate Partnership, which then sells the trade receivables to AROP Funding, a wholly owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership, which in turn

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borrowed on a revolving basis up to \$100.0 million secured by the trade receivables. After the sale, Alliance Coal, as servicer of the assets, collects the receivables on behalf of AROP Funding. The ARLP Securitization Facility bears interest based on a Eurodollar Rate. The ARLP Securitization Facility has an initial term of 364 days, however the ARLP Partnership has the contractual ability and the intent to extend the term for an additional 364 days. At March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had \$100.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Securitization Facility. Debt issuance costs were immaterial for this transaction.

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 March 31, 2015, 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, mineral and equipment leases with SGP and its affiliates and agreements relating to the use of aircraft. Recently, the ARLP Partnership entered into three mineral leases with WKY CoalPlay, LLC, an affiliate of SGP. The ARLP Partnership also has ongoing transactions with White Oak to support their longwall mining operation and AllDale Minerals to support the acquisition of oil and gas mineral interests.

Please read our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Related-Party Transactions" for additional information concerning related-party transactions.

White Oak IRS Notice

The ARLP Partnership received notice that the Internal Revenue Service issued White Oak a "Notice of Beginning of Administrative Proceeding" in conjunction with an audit of the income tax return of White Oak for the tax year ended December 31, 2011.

New Accounting Standards

New Accounting Standard Issued and Adopted

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-08, *Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity* ("ASU 2014-08"). ASU 2014-08 changes the requirements for reporting discontinued operations in Accounting Standards Codification 205, Presentation of Financial Statements, by updating the criteria for determining which disposals can be presented as discontinued operations and requires new disclosures of both discontinued operations and certain other disposals that do not meet the definition of discontinued operations. ASU 2014-08 was effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2014. The adoption of ASU 2014-08 did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

New Accounting Standards Issued and Not Yet Adopted

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ("ASU 2014-09"). ASU 2014-09 is a new revenue recognition standard that provides a five-step analysis of

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transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle of the new standard is an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2016 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. Early adoption is currently not permitted. In April 2015, the FASB issued a Proposed Accounting Standards Update that would defer the effective date of ASU 2014-09 by one year. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2014-09.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, *Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern* ("ASU 2014-15"). ASU 2014-15 provides guidance on management's responsibility in evaluating whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. ASU 2014-15 is effective for the annual period ending after December 15, 2016, and for annual periods and interim periods thereafter with early adoption permitted. We do not anticipate the adoption of ASU 2014-15 will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, *Consolidation* ("ASU 2015-02"). ASU 2015-02 changes the requirements and analysis required when determining the reporting entity's need to consolidate an entity, including modifying the evaluation of limited partnership variable interest status, presumption that a general partner should consolidate a limited partnership and the consolidation criterion applied by a reporting entity involved with variable interest entities. ASU 2015-02 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2015-02.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, *Interest – Imputation of Interest* ("ASU 2015-03"). ASU 2015-03 changes the classification and presentation of debt issuance costs by requiring debt issuance costs to be reported as a direct deduction from the face amount of the debt liability rather than an asset. Amortization of the costs is reported as interest expense. The amendment does not affect the current guidance on the recognition and measurement of debt issuance costs. ASU 2015-03 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. We do not anticipate the adoption of ASU 2015-03 will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-06, *Effects on Historical Earnings per Unit of Master Limited Partnership Dropdown Transactions* ("ASU 2015-06"). ASU 2015-06 specifies that for purposes of calculating historical earnings per unit under the two-class method, the earnings of a transferred business before the date of a dropdown transaction should be allocated entirely to the general partner. Earnings per unit of the limited partners would not change as a result of the dropdown transaction. ASU 2015-06 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2015-06.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

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 to principally 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 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 the creditworthiness of each customer 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 prepayment 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

Almost all of the ARLP Partnership's transactions are 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 and ARLP Securitization 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 \$170.0 million in borrowings under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, \$225.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Term Loan and \$100.0 million in borrowings under the ARLP Securitization Facility at March 31, 2015. A one percentage point increase in the interest rates related to the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, ARLP Term Loan and ARLP Securitization Facility would result in an annualized increase in 2015 interest expense of \$5.0 million, based on interest rate and borrowing levels at March 31, 2015. 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 \$5.1 million in the estimated fair value of these borrowings.

As of March 31, 2015, the estimated fair value of the ARLP Debt Arrangements was approximately \$855.3 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 March 31, 2015. 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, 2014.

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 Securities and Exchange Commission ("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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (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 Exchange Act) as of March 31, 2015. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these controls and procedures are effective as of March 31, 2015.

During the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015, there have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) 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;
- legislation, regulations, and court decisions and interpretations thereof, including those relating to the environment, mining, miner health and safety and health care;
- 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;
- the ARLP Partnership’s productivity levels and margins earned on its coal sales;
- changes in raw material costs;
- changes in the availability of skilled labor;
- the ARLP Partnership’s ability to maintain satisfactory relations with its employees;
- increases in labor costs, adverse changes in work rules, or cash payments or projections associated with post-mine reclamation and workers’ compensation claims;
- increases in transportation costs and risk of transportation delays or interruptions;
- operational interruptions due to geologic, permitting, labor, weather-related or other factors;
- risks associated with major mine-related accidents, such as mine fires, or interruptions;
- results of litigation, including claims not yet asserted;
- 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;
- the coal industry’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 other sources of electricity, such as natural gas, nuclear energy and renewable fuels;

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- uncertainties in estimating and replacing the ARLP Partnership's coal reserves;
- a loss or reduction of benefits from certain tax deductions and 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 our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

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, 2014 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 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.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference				Filed Herewith*
		Form	SEC File No. and Film No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	
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 May 8, 2015, 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 May 8, 2015, 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 May 8, 2015, 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 May 8, 2015, 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 March 31, 2015 filed 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 May 8, 2015.

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 March 31, 2015 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: May 8, 2015

/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 March 31, 2015 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: May 8, 2015

/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 months ended March 31, 2015 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: May 8, 2015

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

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 Federal Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (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 March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership's mines were subject to 1,727 MSHA inspection days with an average of only 0.11 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 regard to 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 March 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiaries have contested approximately 28% of all citations and 85% 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 Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("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 March 31, 2015. 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.

<i>Subsidiary Name / MSHA Identification Number ⁽¹⁾</i>	<i>Section 104(a) S&S Citations⁽²⁾</i>	<i>Section 104(b) Orders ⁽³⁾</i>	<i>Section 104(d) Citations and Orders ⁽⁴⁾</i>	<i>Section 110(b)(2) Violations ⁽⁵⁾</i>	<i>Section 107(a) Orders ⁽⁶⁾</i>	<i>Total Dollar Value of MSHA Assessments Proposed (in thousands) ⁽⁷⁾</i>
<u>Illinois Basin Operations</u>						
Webster County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502132	19	-	-	-	-	\$ 95.7
1511935	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 0.2
Warrior Coal, LLC (KY)						
1505230	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1512083	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1513514	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1516460	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517216	35	-	-	-	-	\$ 114.7
1517232	1	-	-	-	-	\$ 6.7
1517678	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517740	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517758	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1514335	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 0.3
Hopkins County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502013	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517377	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517515	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1518826	22	-	-	-	-	\$ 54.9
1517378	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
River View Coal, LLC (KY)						
1503178	4	-	-	-	-	\$ 0.8
1519374	32	-	-	-	-	\$ 68.3
White County Coal, LLC (IL)						
1102662	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1103058	9	-	-	-	-	\$ 45.6
Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (IL)						
1103242	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 0.5
Gibson County Coal, LLC (IN)						
1202388	8	-	-	-	-	\$ 6.4
1202215	11	-	-	-	-	\$ 29.0
Sebree Mining, LLC (KY)						
1519264	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1518547	27	-	-	-	-	\$ 59.4
1518864	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517044	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
<u>Appalachia Operations</u>						
MC Mining, LLC (KY)						
1508079	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1517733	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1.0
1519515	7	-	-	-	-	\$ 9.4
Mettiki Coal, LLC (MD)						
1800621	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1800671	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 0.6
Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC						
4609028	8	-	-	-	-	\$ 13.0
Tunnel Ridge, LLC (PA/WV)						
4608864	12	-	-	-	-	\$ 36.8
<u>Other</u>						
4403236	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
4403255	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
4406630	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
4406867	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
Pontiki Coal, LLC (KY)						
1508413	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1509571	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1514324	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1518839	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
1518056	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -

<i>Subsidiary Name / MSHA Identification Number ⁽¹⁾</i>	<i>Total Number of Mining Related Fatalities</i>	<i>Received Notice of Pattern of Violations Under Section 104(e) (yes/no) ⁽⁸⁾</i>	<i>Legal Actions Pending as of Last Day of Period</i>	<i>Legal Actions Initiated During Period</i>	<i>Legal Actions Resolved During Period</i>
<u>Illinois Basin Operations</u>					
Webster County Coal, LLC (KY)					
1502132	-	No	13	5	7
1511935	-	No	-	-	-
Warrior Coal, LLC (KY)					
1505230	-	No	-	-	-
1512083	-	No	-	-	-
1513514	-	No	-	-	-
1516460	-	No	-	-	-
1517216	-	No	21	7	1
1517232	-	No	5	2	1
1517678	-	No	-	-	-
1517740	-	No	-	-	-
1517758	-	No	-	-	-
1514335	-	No	3	1	-
Hopkins County Coal, LLC (KY)					
1502013	-	No	-	-	-
1517377	-	No	-	-	-
1517515	-	No	-	-	-
1518826	-	No	20	6	5
1517378	-	No	-	-	-
River View Coal, LLC (KY)					
1503178	-	No	1	1	-
1519374	-	No	12	4	-
White County Coal, LLC (IL)					
1102662	-	No	-	-	-
1103058	-	No	21	5	-
Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (IL)					
1103242	-	No	-	-	-
Gibson County Coal, LLC (IN)					
1202388	-	No	1	-	1
1202215	-	No	10	2	2
Sebree Mining, LLC (KY)					
1519264	-	No	-	-	-
1518547	-	No	10	6	4
1518864	-	No	-	-	-
1517044	-	No	-	-	-
<u>Appalachia Operations</u>					
MC Mining, LLC (KY)					
1508079	-	No	2	-	-
1517733	-	No	-	-	-
1519515	-	No	-	-	1
Mettiki Coal, LLC (MD)					
1800621	-	No	-	-	-
1800671	-	No	1	1	-
Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC					
4609028	-	No	8	-	2
Tunnel Ridge, LLC (PA/WV)					
4608864	-	No	13	2	2
<u>Other</u>					
4403236	-	No	-	-	-
4403255	-	No	-	-	-
4406630	-	No	-	-	-
4406867	-	No	-	-	-
Pontiki Coal, LLC (KY)					
1508413	-	No	-	-	-
1509571	-	No	-	-	-
1514324	-	No	-	-	-
1518839	-	No	1	-	1
1518056	-	No	-	-	-

The number of legal actions pending before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission as of March 31, 2015 that fall into each of the following categories is as follows:

<i>Subsidiary Name / MSHA Identification Number ⁽¹⁾</i>	<i>Contests of Citations and Orders</i>	<i>Contests of Proposed Penalties</i>	<i>Complaints for Compensation</i>	<i>Complaints of Discharge/ Discrimination/ Interference</i>	<i>Applications for Temporary Relief</i>	<i>Appeals of Judges Rulings</i>
<u>Illinois Basin Operations</u>						
Webster County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502132	1	12	-	-	-	-
1511935	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warrior Coal, LLC (KY)						
1505230	-	-	-	-	-	-
1512083	-	-	-	-	-	-
1513514	-	-	-	-	-	-
1516460	-	-	-	-	-	-
1517216	6	15	-	-	-	3
1517232	-	5	-	-	-	-
1517678	-	-	-	-	-	-
1517740	-	-	-	-	-	-
1517758	-	-	-	-	-	-
1514335	-	3	-	-	-	-
Hopkins County Coal, LLC (KY)						
1502013	-	-	-	-	-	-
1517377	-	-	-	-	-	-
1517515	-	-	-	-	-	-
1518826	4	16	-	-	-	5
1517378	-	-	-	-	-	-
River View Coal, LLC (KY)						
1503178	-	1	-	-	-	-
1519374	-	12	-	-	-	1
White County Coal, LLC (IL)						
1102662	-	-	-	-	-	-
1103058	-	21	-	-	-	-
Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (IL)						
1103242	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibson County Coal, LLC (IN)						
1202388	-	1	-	-	-	-
1202215	-	10	-	-	-	-
Sebree Mining, LLC (KY)						
1519264	-	-	-	-	-	-
1518547	-	10	-	-	-	-
1518864	-	-	-	-	-	-
1517044	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Appalachia Operations</u>						
MC Mining, LLC (KY)						
1508079	-	2	-	-	-	-
1517733	-	-	-	-	-	-
1519515	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mettiki Coal, LLC (MD)						
1800621	-	-	-	-	-	-
1800671	-	1	-	-	-	-
Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC						
4609028	-	8	-	-	-	-
Tunnel Ridge, LLC (PA/WV)						
4608864	-	13	-	-	-	-
<u>Other</u>						
4403236	-	-	-	-	-	-
4403255	-	-	-	-	-	-
4406630	-	-	-	-	-	-
4406867	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pontiki Coal, LLC (KY)						
1508413	-	-	-	-	-	-
1509571	-	-	-	-	-	-
1514324	-	-	-	-	-	-
1518839	-	1	-	-	-	-
1518056	-	-	-	-	-	-

- (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 time period 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 an alleged "flagrant" failure (*i.e.*, reckless or repeated) to make reasonable efforts to eliminate a known violation of a mandatory safety or health standard that substantially and 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 March 31, 2015 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.
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