

COVANTA HOLDING CORP

Form 10-K

March 02, 2015

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-06732

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

95-6021257

(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

445 South Street, Morristown, NJ

(Address of Principal Executive Office)

07960

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (862) 345-5000

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock, \$0.10 par value per share

New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes No

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

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

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

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

As of June 30, 2014, the aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$2.2 billion. The aggregate market value was computed by using the closing price of the common stock as of that date on the New York Stock Exchange. (For purposes of calculating this amount only, all directors and executive officers of the registrant have been treated as affiliates.)

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	Outstanding at February 20, 2015
Common Stock, \$0.10 par value	132,864,784 shares
Documents Incorporated By Reference: Part of Form 10-K of Covanta Holding Corporation	Documents Incorporated by Reference Portions of the Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.
Part III	

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Availability of Information</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Availability of Information</u>	<u>4</u>
PART I	
<u>Item 1. Business</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Markets, Competition And Business Conditions</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Regulation Of Business</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Employees</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Executive Officers Of The Registrant</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>33</u>
PART II	
<u>Item 5. Market For Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters And Issuer Purchases Of Equity Securities</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Item 6. Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Item 7. Management’s Discussion And Analysis Of Financial Condition And Results Of Operations</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Overview</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Consolidated Results Of Operations</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Year Ended December 31, 2014 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2013</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Year Ended December 31, 2013 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2012</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Adjusted EPS and Adjusted EBITDA (Non-GAAP)</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Liquidity And Capital Resources</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Free Cash Flow (Non-GAAP)</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Discussion Of Critical Accounting Policies And Estimates</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative And Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>Item 9. Changes In And Disagreements With Accountants On Accounting And Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>130</u>
<u>Item 9A. Controls And Procedures</u>	<u>130</u>
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	<u>133</u>
PART III	
<u>Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers And Corporate Governance</u>	<u>133</u>
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	<u>133</u>
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership Of Certain Beneficial Owners And Management And Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>133</u>
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships And Related Transactions, And Director Independence</u>	<u>134</u>
<u>Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees And Services</u>	<u>134</u>
PART IV	
<u>Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>134</u>

OTHER

Signatures

140

2

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K may constitute “forward-looking” statements as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”), Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the “PSLRA”) or in releases made by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), all as may be amended from time to time. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Covanta Holding Corporation and its subsidiaries (“Covanta”) or industry results, to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Statements that are not historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements can be identified by, among other things, the use of forward-looking language, such as the words “plan,” “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “estimate,” “project,” “may,” “will,” “would,” “could,” “should,” “seeks,” or “schedule,” or the negative of these terms or other variations of these terms or comparable language, or by discussion of strategy or intentions. These cautionary statements are being made pursuant to the Securities Act, the Exchange Act and the PSLRA with the intention of obtaining the benefits of the “safe harbor” provisions of such laws. Covanta cautions investors that any forward-looking statements made by us are not guarantees or indicative of future performance. Important factors, risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- seasonal or long-term fluctuations in the prices of energy, waste disposal, scrap metal and commodities;
- our ability to renew or replace expiring contracts at comparable prices and with other acceptable terms;
- adoption of new laws and regulations in the United States and abroad, including energy laws, environmental laws, labor laws and healthcare laws;
- our ability to utilize net operating loss carryforwards;
- failure to maintain historical performance levels at our facilities and our ability to retain the rights to operate facilities we do not own;
- our ability to avoid adverse publicity relating to our business;
- advances in technology;
- difficulties in the operation of our facilities, including fuel supply and energy delivery interruptions, failure to obtain regulatory approvals, equipment failures, labor disputes and work stoppages, and weather interference and catastrophic events;
- difficulties in the financing, development and construction of new projects and expansions, including increased construction costs and delays;
- limits of insurance coverage;
- our ability to avoid defaults under our long-term contracts;
- performance of third parties under our contracts and such third parties' observance of laws and regulations;
- concentration of suppliers and customers;
- geographic concentration of facilities;
- increased competitiveness in the energy and waste industries;
- changes in foreign currency exchange rates;
- limitations imposed by our existing indebtedness and our ability to perform our financial obligations and guarantees and to refinance our existing indebtedness;
- exposure to counterparty credit risk and instability of financial institutions in connection with financing transactions;
- the scalability of our business;
- restrictions in our certificate of incorporation and debt documents regarding strategic alternatives;
- failures of disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting;
- our ability to attract and retain talented people;
- general economic conditions in the United States and abroad, including the availability of credit and debt financing;
- and
-

other risks and uncertainties affecting our businesses described in Item 1A. Risk Factors of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and in other filings by Covanta with the SEC.

Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in or suggested by such forward-looking statements are reasonable, actual results could differ materially from a projection or assumption in any of our forward-looking statements. Our future financial condition and results of operations, as well as any forward-looking statements, are subject to change and inherent risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are made only as of the date hereof and we do not have, or undertake, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, subsequent events or otherwise, unless otherwise required by law.

Table of Contents

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

You may read and copy any materials Covanta files with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such materials also can be obtained free of charge at the SEC's website, www.sec.gov, or by mail from the Public Reference Room of the SEC, at prescribed rates. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. Covanta's SEC filings are also available to the public, free of charge, on its corporate website, www.covanta.com as soon as reasonably practicable after Covanta electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the SEC. Covanta's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Material filed by Covanta can be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange at 20 Broad Street, New York, N.Y. 10005.

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. BUSINESS

The terms “we,” “our,” “ours,” “us,” “Covanta” and “Company” refer to Covanta Holding Corporation and its subsidiaries and term “Covanta Energy” refers to our subsidiary Covanta Energy, LLC (formerly known as Covanta Energy Corporation) and its subsidiaries.

About Covanta Holding Corporation

We are organized as a holding company which was incorporated in Delaware on April 16, 1992. We conduct all of our operations through subsidiaries which are engaged predominantly in the businesses of waste and energy services. We have one reportable segment, North America, which is comprised of waste and energy services operations located primarily in the United States and Canada. Outside of North America, we are currently constructing an energy-from-waste facility in Dublin, Ireland, which we own and will operate upon completion and we hold equity interests in energy-from-waste facilities in China and Italy. Additional information about our reportable segment and our operations by geographic area is contained in Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 6. Financial Information by Business Segments.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, we sold all of our interests in subsidiaries engaged in the insurance business. These subsidiaries had operations in California, primarily in property and casualty insurance. The business was transitioned into run-off in 2012 and collectively accounted for less than 1% of our consolidated revenue.

Our Energy-From-Waste Business

Our mission is to provide sustainable waste and energy solutions. We seek to do this through a variety of service offerings, including our core business of owning and operating infrastructure for the conversion of waste to energy (known as “energy-from-waste” or “EfW”). Energy-from-waste serves two key markets as both a sustainable waste management solution that is environmentally superior to landfilling and as a source of clean energy that reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Our EfW facilities earn revenue from both the disposal of waste and the generation of electricity, generally under long-term contracts, as well as from the sale of metals recovered during the EfW process. Our facilities process approximately 20 million tons of solid waste annually, equivalent to 5% of the municipal solid waste (“MSW”) generated in the United States. We operate and/or have ownership positions in 46 EfW facilities, which are primarily located in North America, and 11 additional energy generation facilities, including other renewable energy production facilities in North America (wood biomass and hydroelectric). In total, these assets produce approximately 10 million megawatt hours (“MWh”) of baseload electricity annually. We also operate a waste management infrastructure, including 18 transfer stations that is complementary to our core EfW business.

Energy-from-waste serves two key markets as both a sustainable waste management solution that is environmentally superior to landfilling and as a source of clean energy that reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy-from-waste is considered renewable under the laws of many states and under federal law. Our facilities are critical infrastructure assets that allow our customers, which are principally municipal entities, to provide an essential public service through sustainable practices.

Energy-from-waste facilities produce energy through the combustion of non-hazardous MSW in specially-designed power plants. Most of our facilities are “mass-burn” facilities, which combust the MSW on an as-received basis without any pre-processing such as shredding, sorting, or sizing. The process reduces the waste to an inert ash while extracting ferrous and non-ferrous metals for recycling. In addition to our mass-burn facilities, we own and/or operate additional facilities that use other processes or technologies, such as refuse-derived fuel facilities which process waste prior to combustion and a gasification technology, in which waste is heated to create gases which are then combusted.

Environmental Benefits of Energy-From-Waste

We believe that EfW offers solutions to public sector leaders around the world for addressing two key issues: sustainable management of waste and renewable energy generation. We believe that the environmental benefits of EfW, as an alternative to landfilling, are clear and compelling: by processing municipal solid waste in EfW facilities, we reduce greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions, lower the risk of groundwater contamination, and conserve land.

Increased use of EfW facilities can reduce GHG emissions, as the methane emitted by landfills is over 80 times more

potent than carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) over a 20 year period. At the same time, EfW generates clean, reliable energy from a renewable fuel source, thus reducing dependence on fossil fuels, the combustion of which is itself a major contributor of GHG emissions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), using lifecycle tools such as its own Municipal Solid Waste Decision Support Tool, has found that, on average, approximately one ton of CO₂-equivalent is reduced relative to landfilling for every ton of waste processed. Compared with fossil based generation, each ton of waste processed eliminates the need to consume approximately one barrel of oil or one-quarter ton of coal, in order to generate the equivalent amount of electricity. As public planners address their needs for more environmentally sustainable waste management and energy generation in the years ahead, we believe that EfW will be an increasingly attractive alternative.

Table of Contents

Other Sustainable Service Offerings

In addition to our core EfW business, we offer a variety of sustainable waste management solutions in response to customer demand, which are sometimes offered through joint ventures or with third parties. We can help clients adopt a holistic “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover” waste management strategy from end to end. We offer tailored recycling and recovery solutions, providing alternatives to landfills to enhance our customers' reputation and reduce their risk.

STRATEGY

Each of our service offerings responds to customer demand for sustainable waste management services that are superior to landfilling according to the “waste hierarchy”. Our primary offering is energy-from-waste, but we are increasingly offering a variety of sustainable services in response to customer demand, with some of our new services being offered through joint ventures or with third parties. Each of our service offerings is focused on providing cost effective and sustainable solutions that leverage our extensive network of EfW facilities and transfer stations in North America.

We intend to pursue our mission through the following key strategies:

Preserve and grow the value of our existing portfolio. We intend to maximize the long-term value of our existing portfolio of facilities by continuously improving safety, health and environmental performance, working to provide superior customer service, continuing to operate at our historic production levels, maintaining our facilities in optimal condition, extending waste and service contracts, and conducting our business more efficiently. We intend to achieve organic growth by expanding our customer base, service offerings and metal recovery, adding waste, service or energy contracts, investing in and enhancing the capabilities of our existing assets, and deploying new or improved technologies, systems, processes and controls, all targeted at increasing revenue or reducing costs.

Expand through acquisitions and/or development in selected attractive markets. We seek to grow our portfolio primarily through acquisitions, competitive bids for new contracts, and development of new facilities or businesses where we believe that market and regulatory conditions will enable us to utilize our skills and/or invest our capital at attractive risk-adjusted rates of return on capital. We are currently focusing on opportunities in the United States, Canada, Ireland, and China. In addition to our focus on EfW and related waste sourcing service, we are targeting businesses that provide services for treatment, management, and disposal of industrial waste and industrial site / facility remediation.

We believe that our approach to these opportunities is highly-disciplined, both with regard to our required rates of return on invested capital and the manner in which potential acquired businesses or new projects will be structured and financed.

Develop and commercialize new technology. We believe that our efforts to protect and expand our business will be enhanced by the development of additional technologies in such fields as recycling, alternative waste treatment processes, gasification, combustion controls, emission controls and residue recovery, reuse or disposal. We have advanced our research and development efforts in some of these areas relevant to our EfW business, and have patents and patents pending for advances in controlling emissions.

Advocate for public policy favorable to EfW and other sustainable waste solutions. We seek to educate policymakers and regulators about the environmental and economic benefits of energy-from-waste and advocate for policies and regulations that appropriately reflect these benefits. Our business is highly regulated, and as such we believe that it is critically important for us, as an industry leader, to play an active role in the debates surrounding potential policy developments that could impact our business.

Allocate capital efficiently for long-term shareholder value. We plan to allocate capital to maximize shareholder value by: investing in our existing businesses to maintain and enhance assets; investing in strategic acquisitions or development projects; that offer attractive returns on invested capital and further our strategic goals; maintaining a strong balance sheet; and by returning capital to our shareholders.

Maintain a focus on sustainability. Our corporate culture is focused on themes of sustainability in all of its forms in support of our mission. We seek to achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance, beyond mere compliance with legally required standards.

Table of Contents

EXECUTION ON STRATEGY

Growth and Asset Management

During 2014, we:

entered into agreements to build, own and operate a new 600,000 metric ton per-year, 58 megawatt facility in Dublin, Ireland and commenced construction of the facility;

entered into a ten-year service fee contract to operate an existing 3,150 ton per day energy-from-waste facility located in Pinellas County, Florida;

entered into a waste disposal agreement with our client at the Fairfax County EfW facility, extending our relationship under a tip fee arrangement effective at the end of the current service agreement in February 2016;

extended long-term service fee contracts at our Onondaga County and York County EfW facilities;

entered into an agreement with the City of Indianapolis for the construction and operation of an Advanced Recycling Center ("ARC") adjacent to our Indianapolis EfW facility which will recover recyclables from mixed municipal solid waste using state-of-the-art sorting technology (in conjunction with the extension of our existing waste disposal agreement);

in addition to the aforementioned contracts, we extended and/or entered into new long-term municipal waste disposal contracts totaling approximately 2.5 million tons per year, most notably at our Essex County, Haverhill, SeMass, Hempstead and Plymouth EfW facilities;

- installed and/or upgraded metal recovery systems at 8 EfW facilities, increasing recovery of ferrous and non-ferrous metal by approximately 9,000 and 2,000 tons, respectively, on an annualized basis;

procured intermodal transportation equipment and commenced certain facility modifications in preparation for operations under our new long-term waste transportation and disposal contract with New York City in early 2015; and

- acquired a business located in North Carolina, specializing in the treatment, storage and disposal of industrial waste and industrial site / facility remediation projects.

For additional information on these activities, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

Efficiency Improvements

In 2014, we implemented several initiatives to improve process efficiency and reduce ongoing expenses across our business. We targeted cost savings that we expect will benefit Adjusted EBITDA by approximately \$30 million in 2015. The initiatives did not materially impact Adjusted EBITDA in 2014, as the costs of implementation generally were offset by initial savings. We expect to continue to study our cost structure as well as our revenue generating activities to pursue ongoing improvements in support of our strategic goals.

The initiatives we announced in 2014 can be categorized under two broad themes:

1. Reducing costs of goods and services. This was driven by:

- New strategic procurement practices to further leverage our scale and purchasing power; and

- A multi-year effort to increase labor efficiency during maintenance outages. This is planned to be accomplished with a combination of best practices, enhanced planning and modest capital investments.

2. Reducing staff by improving process efficiency and implementing best practices including:

- Adding, upgrading and leveraging existing information technology systems to streamline processes; and

- Centralization and reorganization of certain overhead functions, including accounting, finance, and procurement.

Capital Allocation

During 2014, we:

invested \$136 million in growth projects, including \$59 million in preparation for our New York City transportation and disposal contract, \$21 million towards the development and construction of the Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility, \$13 million for acquisitions, and \$43 million for various organic growth investments, including metals recovery projects;

borrowed \$468 million in financing for the projects referenced above; and

increased our quarterly cash dividend to \$1.00 per share on an annualized basis, beginning in the third quarter of 2014.

Table of Contents

NORTH AMERICA SEGMENT

Energy-From-Waste Projects

Our EfW projects generate revenue from three main sources: (1) fees charged for operating projects or processing waste received, (2) the sale of electricity and/or steam, and (3) the sale of ferrous and non-ferrous metals that are recovered from the waste stream as part of the EfW process. We may also generate additional revenue from the construction, expansion or upgrade of a facility, when a municipal client owns the facility. Our customers for waste services or facility operations are principally municipal entities, though we also market disposal capacity at certain facilities to commercial customers. Our facilities primarily sell electricity, either to utilities at contracted rates or, in situations where a contract is not in place, at prevailing market rates in regional markets (primarily PJM, NEPOOL and NYISO in the Northeastern United States), and in some cases sell steam directly to industrial users.

We also operate, and in some cases have ownership interests in, transfer stations and landfills (primarily used for ash disposal rather than municipal solid waste) that are ancillary and complementary to our EfW projects and generate additional revenue from disposal fees or operating fees.

EfW Contract Structures

Most of our EfW projects were developed and structured contractually as part of competitive procurement processes conducted by municipal entities. As a result, many of these projects have common features. However, each contractual agreement is different, reflecting the specific needs and concerns of a client community, applicable regulatory requirements and/or other factors.

Our EfW projects can generally be divided into three categories, based on the applicable contract structure at a project: (1) “Tip Fee” projects, (2) “Service Fee” projects that we own, and (3) “Service Fee” projects that we do not own but operate on behalf of a municipal owner. At Tip Fee projects, we receive a per-ton fee for processing waste, and we typically retain all of the revenue generated from energy and recycled metal sales. We own or lease the Tip Fee facilities. At Service Fee projects, we typically charge a fixed fee for operating the facility, and the facility capacity is dedicated either primarily or exclusively to the host community client, which also retains the majority of any revenue generated from energy and recycled metal sales. As a result of these distinctions, the revenue and income generated at Tip Fee projects is heavily dependent on operating performance, as well as waste, energy and metal market conditions. Service Fee projects have much less revenue exposed to waste, energy or metal markets and variations in operating performance have a smaller impact on revenue. At service fee projects that we do not own, we are typically responsible for maintaining and replacing capital equipment as necessary. Notwithstanding distinctions among these general classifications in contract structures, in all cases we focus on a consistent set of performance indicators to optimize service to customers and operating results: (i) boiler availability; (ii) turbine availability; (iii) safety and environmental performance measures; (iv) tons processed; (v) steam sold; (vi) megawatt hours sold; and (vii) recycled metal tons sold.

The following summarizes the typical contractual and economic characteristics of the three project structures in the North America segment:

	Tip Fee	Service Fee (Owned)	Service Fee (Operated)
Number of facilities:	19	6	17
Client(s):	Host community and municipal and commercial waste customers	Host community, with limited merchant capacity in some cases	Dedicated to host community exclusively
Waste or service revenue:	Per ton “tipping fee”	Fixed fee, with performance incentives and inflation escalation	
Energy revenue:	Covanta retains 100%	Share with client (Covanta retains approximately 20% on average)	
Metals revenue:	Covanta retains 100%	Share with client (Covanta typically retains approximately 50%)	

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Operating costs:	Covanta responsible for all operating costs	Pass through certain costs to municipal client (e.g. ash disposal)	
Project debt service:	Covanta project subsidiary responsible	Paid by client explicitly as part of service fee	Client responsible for debt service
After service contract expiration:	N/A	Covanta owns the facility; clients have certain rights set forth in contracts; facility converts to Tip Fee or remains Service Fee with new terms	Client owns the facility; extend with Covanta or tender for new contract

The following describes features generally common to these agreements, as well as important distinctions among them:

For new facilities or significant expansions, we design the facility, help to arrange for financing and then we either construct and equip the facility on a fixed price and schedule basis, or we undertake an alternative role, such as construction management, if our municipal client so desires.

Projects we own were financed at construction with project debt in the form of tax-exempt municipal bonds issued by a sponsoring municipality, which generally mature at the same time the initial term of our service contract expires and are

Table of Contents

repaid over time based on set amortization schedules. Generally, project debt is secured by the project's revenue contracts and other assets of our project subsidiary.

At Tip Fee facilities, our project subsidiary is responsible for meeting any debt service or lease payment obligations from the revenue generated by the facility.

At Service Fee projects that we own and where project debt is in place, a portion of our monthly fee from the municipal client is dedicated, dollar-for-dollar, to project debt service. For these facilities, the bond proceeds are loaned to us to pay for facility construction and to fund a debt service reserve for the project, which is generally sufficient to pay principal and interest for one year. Project-related debt is included as "project debt" and the debt service reserves are included as "restricted funds held in trust" in our consolidated financial statements. When the service contract expires and the debt is paid off, the project owner (either Covanta or the municipal entity) will determine the form of any new contractual arrangements. We are not responsible for debt service for projects that we neither own nor lease.

We recognize revenue earned explicitly to service project debt principal on a levelized basis over the term of the applicable service agreement. The total revenue is equal to the amount of project debt originally issued, less any debt service reserve accounts. While we recognize debt service revenue over the term of the applicable service agreement, once project debt is retired (or, if applicable, covered by amounts held in reserve accounts), we no longer receive payments.

Our project debt repayment schedule and related debt service revenue for our North America segment are as follows (in millions):

Project Debt Repayment	2008 - 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Beyond 2019
Total Principal Payments ⁽¹⁾	\$872	\$37	\$14	\$15	\$16	\$11	\$72
Total Change in Principal-Related Restricted Funds	(188)	(6)	—	—	(5)	(9)	—
Net Cash Used for Project Debt Principal Repayment	\$684	\$31	\$14	\$15	\$11	\$2	\$72
Client Payments for Debt Service	2008 - 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Beyond 2019
Debt Service Revenue - Principal ⁽²⁾	\$342	\$9	\$3	\$3	\$2	\$—	\$—
Debt Service Revenue - Interest	94	2	1	1	—	—	—
Debt Service Billings in Excess of Revenue Recognized	105	2	5	5	—	—	—
Client Payments for Debt Service ⁽³⁾	\$541	\$13	\$9	\$9	\$2	\$—	\$—
Net Change in Debt Service Billings Per Period	\$(99)	\$(11)	\$(4)	\$—	\$(7)	\$(2)	\$—

(1) Excludes payments related to project debt refinancings.

(2) Includes pass-through lease payments for emission control system (approximately \$4 million per year 2008-2012).

(3) Related to Service Fee Facilities only.

Following construction and during operations, we receive revenue from three primary sources: fees we receive for operating and maintaining projects or for processing waste received; payments we receive from the sale of electricity and/or steam, and payments we receive from the sale of recycled metals we recover.

In contracts with our client communities, we agree to operate the facility and meet minimum performance standards. Typically these include waste processing, energy efficiency standards, energy production and environmental standards. Failure to meet these requirements or satisfy the other material terms of our agreement (unless the failure is caused by our client community or by events defined in the contract as beyond our control), may result in damages

charged to us or, if the breach is substantial, continuing and unremedied, termination of the applicable agreement. These damages could include amounts sufficient to repay project debt (as reduced by amounts held in trust and/or proceeds from sales of facilities securing project debt) and as such, these contingent obligations cannot readily be quantified. For our client communities and, in some cases other parties, we have guaranteed that our project subsidiaries will perform in accordance with contractual terms including, where required, the payment of such damages. If one or more contracts were terminated for our default, these contractual damages may be material to our cash flow and financial condition. To date, we have not incurred material liabilities under such performance guarantees.

At Service Fee projects, a client community generally must deliver minimum quantities of municipal solid waste to the facility on a put-or-pay basis and is obligated to pay a fee for its disposal regardless of whether the full amount of waste is actually delivered. Client communities have consistently met their commitment to deliver the stated quantity of waste. Where a Service Fee structure exists, portions of the service fee escalate to reflect indices for inflation, and in many cases, the client community must also pay for other costs, such as insurance, taxes, and transportation and disposal of the ash residue to the disposal site. Generally, expenses resulting from the delivery of unacceptable and hazardous waste on the site

Table of Contents

are also borne by the client community. In addition, the contracts generally require the client community to pay increased expenses and capital costs resulting from unforeseen circumstances, subject to specified limits. At two publicly-owned facilities we operate, our client community may terminate the operating contract under certain circumstances without cause.

We either own or lease the real estate related to our facilities. Where we have a leasehold interest in the real estate, we typically lease the real estate from the local client community with whom we originally contracted for waste disposal service, for a term that exceeds the term of the service contract. Rent prior to the expiration of service contracts is generally nominal; during site lease renewal periods rent may be either factored into service renewal terms, or set based on market conditions and other commercial considerations. Site leases typically have renewal rights beyond their original terms, at our option. If we are unwilling or unable to negotiate leasehold extensions beyond all existing renewal terms, we generally have rights to remove and retain the facility components.

Our financial returns from facility operations are expected to be stable if we do not incur material unexpected operation and maintenance costs or other expenses, and if we do not experience material shifts in market pricing. Across our fleet of facilities, we operate and maintain a large number of combustion units, turbine generators, among other systems, and the average age of our facilities is approximately 26 years. On an ongoing basis, we assess the effectiveness of our preventative maintenance programs, and implement adjustments to those programs which improve facility safety, reliability and performance. These assessments are tailored to each facility's particular technologies, age, historical performance and other factors. As our facilities age, we expect that the annual expenditures required to maintain our facilities will increase in order to replace or extend the useful life of facility components and to ensure that historical levels of safe, reliable performance continue. In addition, most of our EfW project contracts are structured so that contract counterparties generally bear, or share in, the costs associated with events or circumstances not within our control, such as uninsured force majeure events and changes in legal requirements. The stability of our revenues and returns could be affected by our ability to continue to enforce these obligations. Also, at some of our EfW facilities, commodity price risk is mitigated by passing through commodity costs to contract counterparties. With respect to our other renewable energy projects, such structural features generally do not exist because either we operate and maintain such facilities for our own account or we do so on a cost-plus basis rather than a fixed-fee basis.

Contracted and Merchant Revenue

We generated 83% of our waste and service revenues in the North America segment in 2014 under contracts at set rates, while 17% was generated at prevailing market prices. Our waste disposal / service and energy contracts expire at various times between 2015 and 2038. The extent to which any such expiration will affect us will depend upon a variety of factors, including whether we own the project and/or the real estate to which a contract relates, market conditions then prevailing, and whether the municipal client exercises options it may have to extend the contract term. As our contracts expire, we become subject to greater market risk in maintaining and enhancing our revenues. As service agreements at municipally-owned facilities expire, we intend to seek to enter into renewal or replacement contracts to operate such facilities. As our waste service agreements at facilities we own or lease expire, we intend to seek replacement or additional contracts, and because project debt on these facilities will be paid off at such time, we expect to be able to offer rates that will attract sufficient quantities of waste while providing acceptable revenues to us. At facilities we own, the expiration of existing energy contracts will require us to sell our output either into the local electricity grid at prevailing rates or pursuant to new contracts.

Over time, we will seek to renew, extend or sign new waste and service contracts and pursue opportunities with commercial customers and municipalities that are not necessarily stakeholders in our facilities in order to maintain a significant majority of our waste and service revenue (and EfW fuel supply) under multi-year contracts. For example, in 2013 we entered into a new agreement with New York City to accept waste from its marine transfer station system. We expect this waste will fill merchant capacity at our Niagara and Delaware Valley facilities. See discussion under Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions for additional information regarding this agreement.

To date, we have been successful in extending the substantial majority of our existing contracts to operate EfW facilities owned by municipal clients where market conditions and other factors make it attractive for both us and our municipal clients to do so. See discussion under Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions for additional information. The extent to which additional extensions will be attractive to us and to our municipal clients who own their projects will depend upon the market and other factors noted above. See Item 1A. Risk Factors — Our results of operations may be adversely affected by market conditions existing at the time our contracts expire.

We expect that multi-year contracts for waste supply at facilities we own or lease will continue to be available on acceptable terms in the marketplace, at least for a substantial portion of facility capacity, as municipalities continue to value long-term committed and sustainable waste disposal capacity. We also expect that an increasing portion of system capacity will be contracted on a shorter-term basis, and so we will have more frequent exposure to waste market risk.

In contrast, as a result of structural and regulatory changes in the energy markets over time, we expect that multi-year contracts for energy sales will generally be less available than in the past, thereby increasing our exposure to energy market prices upon expiration. As our existing contracts have expired and our exposure to market energy prices has increased, we entered into hedging arrangements in order to mitigate our exposure to near-term (one to three years) revenue fluctuations in energy markets, and we

Table of Contents

expect to continue to do so in the future. Our efforts in this regard will involve only mitigation of price volatility for the energy we produce in order to limit our energy revenue "at risk", and will not involve speculative energy trading. Our 2015 projected mix of contracted and market-exposed energy generation is as follows (in millions):

Projected Energy Megawatt Hours (MWh) At Market and Contracted by Facility Type ^(a)

	Full Year 2015E As of January 1, 2015
EfW	
At Market	1.6
Contracted & Hedged	4.3
Total EfW	5.9
Biomass ^(b)	
At Market	0.2
Contracted	0.3
Total Biomass	0.6
Total	6.5

(a) Covanta share only. Certain amounts may not total due to rounding.

(b) Additional 0.4 million MWh of Biomass energy is economically dispatched, but available to run.

EfW Asset Details

We currently operate EfW projects in 16 states and one Canadian province, and are constructing an EfW project in a second Canadian province. The following map illustrates our energy-generating facility locations in North America:

Table of Contents

Summary information regarding our North America segment energy-from-waste assets is provided in the following table:

	Location	Design Capacity		Nature of Interest	Contract Expiration Dates ⁽¹⁾		
		Waste Processing (TPD)	Gross Electric (MW)		Waste Service	Energy	
TIP FEE STRUCTURES							
1.	Southeast Massachusetts ⁽²⁾	Massachusetts	2,700	78.0	Owner/Operator	N/A	2017
2.	Delaware Valley	Pennsylvania	2,688	87.0	Owner/Operator	2017	2016
3.	Hempstead	New York	2,505	72.0	Owner/Operator	2034	2027
4.	Indianapolis ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	Indiana	2,362	6.5	Owner/Operator	2028	2028
5.	Niagara ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	New York	2,250	50.0	Owner/Operator	N/A	2015-2024
6.	Essex County ⁽⁵⁾	New Jersey	2,277	66.0	Owner/Operator	2032	N/A
7.	Haverhill ⁽⁵⁾	Massachusetts	1,650	44.6	Owner/Operator	N/A	N/A
8.	Union County ⁽⁵⁾	New Jersey	1,440	42.1	Lessee/Operator	2031	N/A
9.	Plymouth ⁽⁶⁾	Pennsylvania	1,216	32.0	Owner/Operator	N/A	N/A
10.	Tulsa ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	Oklahoma	1,125	16.8	Owner/Operator	2022	2019
11.	Camden ⁽⁵⁾	New Jersey	1,050	21.0	Owner/Operator	N/A	N/A
12.	Alexandria/Arlington ⁽⁵⁾	Virginia	975	22.0	Owner/Operator	N/A	2023
13.	Stanislaus County	California	800	22.4	Owner/Operator	2027	2016
14.	Bristol ⁽⁵⁾	Connecticut	650	16.3	Owner/Operator	2034	N/A
15.	Lake County	Florida	528	14.5	Owner/Operator	N/A	2024
16.	Warren County ⁽⁵⁾	New Jersey	450	13.5	Owner/Operator	N/A	N/A
17.	Wallingford ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁷⁾	Connecticut	420	11.0	Owner/Operator	2020	N/A
18.	Springfield ⁽⁵⁾	Massachusetts	400	9.4	Owner/Operator	2024	N/A
19.	Pittsfield ⁽⁴⁾	Massachusetts	240	0.9	Owner/Operator	2015	2015
SERVICE FEE (OWNED) STRUCTURES							
20.	Fairfax County ⁽³⁾	Virginia	3,000	93.0	Owner/Operator	2021	2015
21.	Onondaga County ⁽³⁾	New York	990	39.2	Owner/Operator	2035	2025
22.	Huntington ⁽³⁾	New York	750	24.3	Owner/Operator	2019	2027
23.	Babylon	New York	750	16.8	Owner/Operator	2019	2027
24.	Southeast Connecticut ⁽³⁾	Connecticut	689	17.0	Owner/Operator	2017	2017
25.	Marion County ⁽³⁾	Oregon	550	13.1	Owner/Operator	2017	2017
SERVICE FEE (OPERATED) STRUCTURES							
26.	Pinellas County ⁽³⁾	Florida	3,150	75.0	Operator	2024	2024
27.	Miami-Dade County ⁽²⁾⁽⁵⁾	Florida	3,000	77.0	Operator	2023	N/A
28.	Honolulu ⁽²⁾⁽⁸⁾	Hawaii	2,950	90.0	Operator	2032	2033
29.	Lee County ⁽⁸⁾	Florida	1,836	57.3	Operator	2024	2028
30.	Montgomery County ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁸⁾	Maryland	1,800	63.4	Operator	2021	N/A
31.	Hillsborough County	Florida	1,800	46.5	Operator	2029	2025
32.	Long Beach	California	1,380	36.0	Operator	2018	2018
33.	York County ⁽³⁾	Pennsylvania	1,344	42.0	Operator	2020	2016
34.	Hennepin County	Minnesota	1,212	38.7	Operator	2018	2018
35.	Lancaster County	Pennsylvania	1,200	33.1	Operator	2017	2016
36.	Pasco County ⁽³⁾	Florida	1,050	29.7	Operator	2024	2024
37.	Harrisburg ⁽⁵⁾	Pennsylvania	800	20.8	Operator	2017	2034

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

38. Burnaby	British Columbia	800	23.9	Operator	2025	2025
39. Huntsville ⁽⁴⁾	Alabama	690	—	Operator	2016	N/A
40. Kent County	Michigan	625	16.8	Operator	2023	2023
41. MacArthur ⁽³⁾	New York	486	12.0	Operator	2030	2027
42. Durham-York	Durham Region, Canada	480	17.4	Under Construction/Operator	2035	N/A
	SUBTOTAL	57,058	1,509.0			

12

Table of Contents

Expiration dates are significant contracts; expiration dates refer to contracts with the host client communities (if (1) any) or other contracts representing at least 40% of facility waste capacity. "N/A" denotes that no contract represents greater than 40% of facility capacity.

(2) These facilities use a refuse-derived fuel technology.

(3) For additional information related to recent changes in agreements related to these facilities, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

These facilities have been designed to export steam for sale. See table below for the equivalent electric output. The (4) equivalent electric output is part of, not in addition to, the design capacity megawatts ("MW") listed in the table above.

Facility	Equivalent Electric Output (MW)
Niagara	66
Indianapolis	52
Tulsa	25
Huntsville	15
Pittsfield	5

At our Niagara EfW Facility, we export steam to local customers under various agreements which expire between 2015 and 2024.

(5) These facilities either sell electricity into the regional power pool at prevailing market rates or have contractual arrangements to sell electricity at prevailing market rates.

(6) This facility transitioned from a service fee (owned) to a tip fee contract effective January 2015.

(7) This facility is expected to cease operating as an energy-from-waste facility and convert to a transfer station in 2015.

(8) The client has a termination option under the service agreement.

New EfW Projects

Durham-York EfW Facility

During 2011, we began construction of a municipally-owned 480 metric ton-per-day greenfield EfW facility located in the Durham Region of Ontario, Canada and owned by our municipal clients, the Durham and York Regions. We are building the facility under the terms of a fixed-price construction contract for which we will be paid approximately C\$250 million. The facility is expected to begin operations in early 2015, after which we will operate the facility under a 20 year service fee contract.

Pinellas County EfW Facility

In the fourth quarter of 2014, we were selected as the preferred bidder for a ten-year service fee contract to operate an existing 3,150 ton-per-day energy-from-waste facility located in Pinellas County, Florida and we assumed operations of the facility in December of 2014. During the early years of the contract, we will complete a number of projects, funded by our client, to improve the operating performance of the facility for which we will record additional revenue and expense.

Other Waste Management Infrastructure and Operations

In conjunction with our EfW business, we also own and/or operate 18 transfer stations (with aggregate capacity of approximately 25,000 TPD), one industrial waste treatment, storage and disposal facility, and four ash landfills, which we utilize to supplement and more efficiently manage the waste supply and ash disposal requirements at our EfW operations, and in some cases to expand our sustainable solutions service offerings.

New York City Waste Transport and Disposal Contract

We have executed a 20-year contract with the New York City Department of Sanitation to handle waste transport and disposal from two marine transfer stations located in Queens and Manhattan. Service for the Queens marine transfer station is expected to begin in early 2015, with service for the Manhattan marine transfer station expected to follow pending notice to proceed to be issued by New York City. The 20-year contract is effective from the date of commencement of operations, with options for New York City to extend the term for two additional five-year periods. When both transfer stations are operating at targeted capacity, we expect to handle approximately 800,000 tons per

year of municipal solid waste under the contract.

New York City owns and will operate the two marine transfer stations. Under our contract, we will operate the crane-loading of containerized waste onto marine barges from the pier at each of the marine transfer stations. Utilizing subcontractors, we will manage (i) delivering the waste containers via barge to a container terminal in New York Harbor, (ii) transloading the containers onto rail, and (iii) transporting the waste via rail to destinations for final disposal. We plan to utilize capacity at our Niagara and Delaware Valley EfW facilities for disposal of the waste, satisfying New York City's goal of reducing the amount of its waste going into landfills.

Table of Contents**Biomass Projects**

We own and operate seven wood-fired generation facilities. Five of these facilities are located in California, and two are located in Maine. The combined gross energy output from these facilities is 165 MW. We generate income from our biomass facilities from sales of electricity, capacity, and where available, income from the sale of renewable energy credits. These facilities sell their energy output into local power pools or to local utilities at rates that are either fixed or float with the market.

At all of these projects, we purchase fuel at prevailing market rates which exposes us to fuel price risk. The price of fuel varies depending upon the time of year, local supply, and price of energy. Income at our biomass facilities is based on the margin between our cost, which is predominantly fuel and our revenue from selling the related output. Several of our biomass facilities are not currently operating because they are not profitable under market conditions. If market conditions deteriorate, we may shutdown additional biomass facilities, and if market conditions improve, we may re-start some or all of our biomass facilities. In each of the years 2014, 2013, and 2012, revenue from our biomass projects represented approximately 4% of our North America segment revenue.

OTHER PROJECTS

Outside the North America segment, we presently have interests in international power projects in Ireland, China and Italy, all but one of which are EfW projects. We intend to pursue additional international EfW projects where the regulatory and market environments are attractive. Ownership and operation of facilities in foreign countries potentially involves greater political and financial uncertainties than we experience in the United States, as described below and discussed in Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Energy-From-Waste Projects

In Ireland, we entered into agreements in September 2014 to build, own and operate a new 600,000 metric ton-per-year, 58 megawatt facility in Dublin, Ireland (the “Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility”). We commenced construction of the facility in the fourth quarter of 2014, with operational commencement expected in late 2017. We expect to source residential, commercial and industrial waste from Dublin and the surrounding areas and sell electricity into the local electricity grid, with over 50% of the facility’s generation expected to qualify for preferential pricing under Ireland’s renewable feed-in tariff. Our agreement with Dublin is structured with substantial alignment of interest, such that both parties share in the financial success of the project and provide limited financial support in the event the project under performs expectations. Our total investment in the project is expected to be approximately €500 million, funded by a combination of third party non-recourse project financing (€375 million) and project equity (approximately €125 million). For additional information related to funding for this project, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt - Dublin Project Financing.

In China, we have equity interests in two EfW projects and have a 40% equity interest in Sanfeng Covanta, a company that provides a suite of engineering, construction and operating services and equipment sales to EfW facilities in China. Sanfeng Covanta also has a minority equity interest in an EfW facility in China.

Summary information regarding our other EfW projects is provided in the following table:

	Location	Design Capacity		Nature of Interest	Contract Expiration Dates	
		Waste Processing (Metric TPD)	Gross Electric (MW)		Waste Service	Energy
ENERGY-FROM-WASTE TIP FEE STRUCTURES						
1. Dublin ⁽¹⁾	Ireland	1,800	58	100% Owner/Operator	2062	N/A
2. Chengdu ⁽²⁾	China	1,800	36	49% Owner/JV Operator	2033	N/A
3. Tongxing ⁽³⁾	China	1,200	24	16% Owner/JV Operator	2027	N/A
4. Trezzo	Italy	500	18	13% Owner/JV Operator	2023	2023
5. Taixing ⁽⁴⁾	China	350	N/A	85% Owner/Operator	2034	2015
	SUBTOTAL	5,650	136			

- (1) We will operate the facility under a 45-year public-private-partnership agreement, after which ownership of the facility will transfer to Dublin City Council.
- (2) The waste service contract and energy contract are renewed annually. Ownership of the project transfers to the host municipality at the expiration of the concession agreement. Sanfeng Covanta serves as operator for the project.
- (3) Ownership of the project transfers to the host municipality at the expiration of the concession agreement. Sanfeng Covanta has an equity interest in and serves as operator for the project.
- (4) This facility generates only steam for local industrial users. Total steam capacity is 348 metric tons per hour.

Independent Power Projects

In China, we have an 85% interest in a project company which owns and operates a 24 MW (gross) coal-fired facility, adjacent to our EfW facility in Taixing City, Jiangsu Province.

Table of Contents

MARKETS, COMPETITION AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Waste Services

Post-recycled municipal solid waste generation in the United States is over 275 million tons per year, of which the EfW industry processes approximately 11% (of which we process approximately two-thirds).

EfW is an important part of the waste management infrastructure of the United States, particularly in regions with high population density but limited availability of land for landfilling, with 80 facilities currently in operation that collectively process over 25 million tons of post-recycled solid waste and serve the needs of over 25 million people and produce enough electricity for the equivalent of 1.3 million homes. The use of EfW is even more prevalent in Western Europe and many countries in Asia, such as Japan. Nearly 1,000 EfW facilities are in use today around the world, processing approximately 200 million tons of waste per year. In the waste management hierarchies of the United States EPA and the European Union, EfW is designated as a superior solution to landfilling.

Renewable Energy

Public policy in the United States, at both the state and national levels, has developed over the past several years in support of increased generation of renewable energy as a means of combating the potential effects of climate change, as well as increasing domestic energy security. Today in the United States, approximately 13% of electricity is generated from renewable sources, slightly over half of which is hydroelectric power.

EfW contributes approximately 6% of the nation's non-hydroelectric renewable power. EfW is designated as renewable energy in 31 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as in several federal statutes and policies. Unlike most other renewable resources, EfW generation can serve base-load demand and is more often located near population centers where demand is greatest, minimizing the need for expensive incremental transmission infrastructure.

General Business Conditions

Economic - Changes in the economy affect the demand for goods and services generally, which affects overall volumes of waste requiring management and the pricing at which we can attract waste to fill available capacity. We receive the majority of our revenue under short- and long-term contracts, which limits our exposure to price volatility, but with adjustments intended to reflect changes in our costs. Where our revenue is received under other arrangements and depending upon the revenue source, we have varying amounts of exposure to price volatility.

The largest component of our revenue is waste revenue, which has generally been subject to less price volatility than our revenue derived from the sale of energy and metals. Waste markets tend to be affected, both with respect to volume and price, by local and regional economic activity, as well as state and local waste management policies. Furthermore, global demand and pricing of certain commodities, such as the scrap metals we recycle from our EfW facilities, can be materially affected by economic activity.

At the same time, United States natural gas market prices influence electricity and steam pricing in regions where we operate, and thus affect our revenue for the portion of the energy we sell that is not under fixed-price contracts. Energy markets tend to be affected by regional supply and demand, as well as national economic activity and regulations.

At our biomass facilities, lower energy prices combined with higher fuel prices have caused us to economically dispatch operations where continued operations are not currently profitable. We will continue to consider this practice. The following are various published pricing indices relating to the U.S. economic drivers that are relevant to those aspects of our business where we have market exposure; however there is not a precise correlation between our results and changes in these metrics.

	As of December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	
Consumer Price Index ⁽¹⁾	0.8	% 1.5	% 1.7	% 3.0	%
PJM Pricing (Electricity) ⁽²⁾	\$56.99	\$41.93	\$34.76	\$48.31	
NE ISO Pricing (Electricity) ⁽³⁾	\$64.58	\$56.43	\$36.08	\$46.38	
Henry Hub Pricing (Natural Gas) ⁽⁴⁾	\$4.33	\$3.72	\$2.75	\$4.04	
#1 HMS Pricing (Ferrous Metals) ⁽⁵⁾	\$355	\$344	\$368	\$410	

(1)

Represents the year-over-year percent change in the Headline CPI number. The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) data is provided by the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) Average price per MWh for full year. Pricing for the PJM PSEG Zone is provided by the PJM ISO.

(3) Average price per MWh for full year. Pricing for the Mass Hub Zone is provided by the NE ISO.

(4) Average price per MMBtu for full year. The Henry Hub Pricing data is provided by the Natural Gas Weekly Update, Energy Information

Table of Contents

Administration, Washington, DC.

(5) Average price per gross ton for full year. The #1 Heavy Melt Steel ("HMS") composite index (\$/gross ton) price is published by American Metal Market.

Seasonal - Our quarterly operating income within the same fiscal year typically differs substantially due to seasonal factors, primarily as a result of the timing of scheduled plant maintenance. We conduct scheduled maintenance periodically each year, which requires that individual boiler and/or turbine units temporarily cease operations. During these scheduled maintenance periods, we incur material repair and maintenance expenses and receive less revenue until the boiler and/or turbine units resume operations. This scheduled maintenance usually occurs during periods of off-peak electric demand and/or lower waste volumes, which can vary regionally, but generally are our first, second and fourth fiscal quarters. The scheduled maintenance period in the first half of the year (primarily first quarter and early second quarter) is typically the most extensive, while the third quarter scheduled maintenance period is the least extensive. Given these factors, we normally experience our lowest operating income from our projects during the first half of each year.

Our operating income may also be affected by seasonal weather extremes during summers and winters. Increased demand for electricity and natural gas during unusually hot or cold periods may affect certain operating expenses and may trigger material price increases for a portion of the electricity and steam we sell.

Performance - Our EfW facilities have historically demonstrated consistent reliability; our average boiler availability was 92% in 2014. We have historically performed our operating obligations without experiencing material unexpected service interruptions or incurring material increases in costs. In addition, with respect to many of our contracts, we generally have limited our exposure for risks not within our control. Across our fleet of facilities, we operate and maintain a large number of combustion units, turbine generators, and air-cooled condensers, among other systems. On an ongoing basis, we assess the effectiveness of our preventative maintenance programs, and implement adjustments to those programs in order to improve facility safety, reliability and performance. These assessments are tailored to each facility's particular technologies, age, historical performance and other factors. As our facilities age, we expect that the scope of work required to maintain our portfolio of facilities will increase in order to replace or extend the useful life of facility components and to ensure that historical levels of safe, reliable performance continue. For additional information about such risks and damages that we may owe for unexcused operating performance failures, see Item 1A. Risk Factors. In monitoring and assessing the ongoing operating and financial performance of our businesses, we focus on certain key factors: tons of waste processed, electricity and steam sold, boiler availability, and safety and environmental performance.

Our ability to meet or exceed historical levels of performance at projects, and our general financial performance, is affected by the following:

- seasonal or long-term changes in market prices for waste, energy, or ferrous and non-ferrous metals for projects where we sell into those markets;
- our ability to operate at historic performance levels as our facilities age, and the extent to which our annual maintenance expenditures increase over time;
- our ability to avoid increases in operating and maintenance costs and unscheduled or extended outages while ensuring that adequate facility maintenance is conducted so that historic levels of operating performance can be sustained;
- seasonal or geographic changes in the price and availability of wood waste as fuel for our biomass facilities;
- seasonal, geographic and other variations in the heat content of waste processed, and thereby the amount of waste that can be processed by an EfW facility;
- contract counterparties' ability to fulfill their obligations, including the ability of our various municipal and commercial customers to supply waste in contractually committed amounts, as well as to pay us for the services we provide;
- the availability of alternate or additional sources of waste if excess processing capacity exists at our facilities;
- our ability to extend or replace existing waste and energy contracts, and the extent to which prevailing market conditions result in decreased or increased pricing or adjustment of other terms under such contracts;
-

the success or lack of success in implementing our organic growth programs which are focused on growing our waste revenue, increasing our metal revenue, managing our assets and improving efficiency to reduce cost; the extent and success of our construction activity and the timing of payments we receive for such activity; and the availability and adequacy of insurance to cover losses from business interruption in the event of casualty or other insured events.

General financial performance at our international projects is also affected by the financial condition and creditworthiness of our international customers and partners, fluctuations in the value of the domestic currency against the value of the U.S. dollar, and political risks inherent to the international business.

Table of Contents

Waste, Energy and Metals Markets - With respect to our existing waste-related businesses, including our EfW and waste procurement businesses, we compete in waste markets which are highly competitive. In the United States, the market for waste management is almost entirely price-driven and is greatly influenced by economic factors within regional waste markets. These factors include:

- regional population and overall waste production rates;
- the number of waste disposal sites (including principally landfills, other EfW facilities and transfer stations) in existence or in the planning or permitting process;
- the available disposal capacity (in terms of tons of waste per day) that can be offered by other regional disposal sites;
- the extent to which local governments seek to control transportation and/or disposal of waste within their jurisdictions;
- the extent to which local governments and businesses continue to value sustainable approaches to handling of wastes; and
- the availability and cost of transportation options (e.g., rail, inter-modal, trucking) to provide access to more distant disposal sites, thereby affecting the size of the waste market itself.

In the waste market of our North America segment, waste service providers seek to obtain waste supplies for their facilities by competing on price (usually on a per-ton basis) with other service providers. At our service fee EfW facilities, we typically do not compete in this market because we do not have the contractual right to solicit merchant waste. At these facilities, the client community is responsible for obtaining the waste, if necessary by competing on price to obtain the tons of waste it has contractually promised to deliver to us. At our EfW facilities governed by tip fee contracts and our waste procurement services businesses, we are responsible for obtaining waste supply, and therefore, actively compete in these markets to enter into spot, medium- and long-term contracts. These EfW projects are generally in densely-populated areas, with high waste generation rates and numerous large and small participants in the regional market. Our waste operations are largely concentrated in the northeastern United States. See Item 1A. Risk Factors — Our waste operations are concentrated in one region, and expose us to regional economic or market declines for additional information concerning this geographic concentration. Certain of our competitors in these markets are vertically-integrated waste companies which include waste collection operations, and thus have the ability to control supplies of waste which may restrict our ability to offer services at attractive prices. Our business does not include waste collection operations.

If a long-term contract expires and is not renewed or extended by a client community, our percentage of contracted processing capacity will decrease and we will need to compete in the regional market for waste supply at the facilities we own, from both municipal and commercial services. At that point, we will compete on price with landfills, transfer stations, other EfW facilities and other waste technologies that are then offering disposal or other services in the region.

Our sustainable service offerings seek to respond to increasing customer demand for environmentally preferred waste handling and disposal, as well as specific business risk mitigation requirements for certain materials. For these services, we compete with many large and small companies offering these services, in local and regional waste markets that are similarly influenced by the factors noted above which affect the broader waste markets.

With respect to our sales of electricity and other energy products, we currently sell the majority of our output pursuant to contracts, and for this portion of our energy output we do not compete on price. As these contracts expire, we will sell an increasing portion of our energy output into competitive energy markets or pursuant to short-term contracts and, as such, generally expect to have a growing exposure to energy market price volatility.

We have entered into hedging arrangements in order to mitigate our exposure to this volatility, and we expect to continue to do so in the future. Our efforts in this regard will involve only mitigation of price volatility for the energy we produce, and will not involve speculative energy trading.

For the portion of our portfolio that is exposed to electricity markets, we expect prices will be driven by several factors including natural gas supply/demand conditions, regional electricity supply/demand factors, regional transmission and natural gas supply capacity and system conditions, weather conditions, and emerging environmental regulations. All of these factors will have national and regional impacts that affect electricity and steam prices.

Electricity and steam prices in the markets where the majority of our facilities are located are heavily impacted by movements in natural gas prices. The recent substantial increase in unconventional or shale gas supply has created downward pressure on gas prices relative to historical levels and therefore prices for the electricity we sell which is not under contract. However, when demand for gas is high during certain seasons or weather conditions, the gas pipeline system has been limited in its ability to transport enough gas to certain regions, such as New England and California. As result, gas prices can experience short-term spikes, and electricity prices follow.

Table of Contents

Several long-term trends are expected to affect U.S. natural gas prices; including shale gas production, storage capacity, liquefied natural gas ("LNG") exports, and coal plant retirements, as well as industrial, transportation and residential demand. Furthermore, regional natural gas prices, especially in the Northeast are expected to be affected by changes in regional production and transportation capacity.

With respect to our sales of ferrous and non-ferrous metals recovered from our operations, we generally enter into short-term contracts with either end-users (i.e., mills) or brokers who sell to end-users. We compete in selling metals with other suppliers who are generally not in the EfW industry and whose product may be less costly to process than metals from EfW sources. In addition, third parties to whom we sell our metals are often not well-capitalized, which creates greater credit and performance risk to us than we typically experience in our other lines of business. Because of these and other factors, and because we expect to continue to enhance our metals recovery activities, we generally expect to have a growing exposure to metals market volatility. We also have enhanced our focus on mitigating commercial risks associated with metals recovery and revenue generation.

Technology, Research and Development

In our EfW business, we deploy and operate a diverse number of mass-burn waste combustion technologies. For EfW projects we have developed in North America, we have used the proprietary mass-burn combustion technology of Martin GmbH fur Umwelt und Energietechnik, referred to herein as "Martin." Through our investment in Sanfeng, we also have non-exclusive access to certain of Martin's mass-burn combustion technology in China. We believe that our know-how and worldwide reputation in the field of EfW and our know-how in designing, constructing and operating EfW facilities of a variety of designs and incorporating numerous technologies, rather than the use of a particular technology, are important to our competitive position in the EfW industry.

Through facility acquisitions, we own and/or operate EfW facilities which utilize various technologies from several different vendors, including non-Martin mass-burn combustion technologies and refuse-derived fuel technologies which include pre-combustion waste processing not required with a mass-burn design. As we continue our efforts to develop and/or acquire additional EfW projects internationally, we will consider mass-burn combustion and other technologies, which best fit the needs of the local environment of a particular project.

In addition, we will continue to consider technologies better suited than mass-burn combustion for smaller scale applications, including gasification technologies, such as our modular system, CLEERGAS™ ("Covanta Low Emissions Energy Recovery Gasification").

We believe that all forms of EfW technologies offer an environmentally superior solution to post-recycled waste management and energy challenges faced by leaders around the world, and that our efforts to expand our business will be enhanced by the development of additional technologies in such fields as emission controls, residue disposal, alternative waste treatment processes, gasification, and combustion controls. We have advanced our research and development efforts in these areas, and have developed new and cost-effective technologies that represented major advances in controlling NOx emissions. These technologies, for which patents have been granted, have been tested at existing facilities and we are now operating and/or installing such systems at a number of our facilities. We intend to maintain a focus on research and development of technologies in these and other areas that we believe will enhance our competitive position, and offer new technical solutions to waste and energy problems that augment and complement our business.

A number of other companies are similarly engaged in new technology development focused on extracting energy from waste materials through a variety of technical approaches, including: gasification, pyrolysis or other combustion designs; converting waste to fuels; or processing waste to enable co-firing in larger power plants or industrial boilers. Firms engaged in these activities generally are less well-capitalized than Covanta, although some engage in joint ventures with larger and more well-capitalized companies. To date, we believe such efforts have not produced technologies that offer economically attractive alternatives in the absence of policy support.

REGULATION OF BUSINESS

Regulations Affecting Our North America Segment

Environmental Regulations — General

Our business activities in the United States are extensively regulated pursuant to federal, state and local environmental laws. Federal laws, such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and their state counterparts, govern discharges of pollutants to air and water. Other federal, state and local laws comprehensively govern the generation, transportation, storage, treatment and disposal of solid and hazardous waste and also regulate the storage and handling of chemicals and petroleum products (such laws and regulations are referred to collectively as the “Environmental Regulatory Laws”).

Other federal, state and local laws, such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, commonly known as “CERCLA” and collectively referred to with such other laws as the “Environmental Remediation Laws,” make us potentially liable on a joint and several basis for any onsite or offsite environmental contamination which may be associated with our activities and the activities at our sites. These include landfills we have owned, operated or leased, or at which there has

Table of Contents

been disposal of residue or other waste generated, handled or processed by our facilities. Some state and local laws also impose liabilities for injury to persons or property caused by site contamination. Some service agreements provide us with indemnification from certain liabilities.

The Environmental Regulatory Laws prohibit disposal of regulated hazardous waste at our municipal solid waste facilities. The service agreements recognize the potential for inadvertent and improper deliveries of hazardous waste and specify procedures for dealing with hazardous waste that is delivered to a facility. Under some service agreements, we are responsible for some costs related to hazardous waste deliveries. We have not incurred material hazardous waste disposal costs to date.

The Environmental Regulatory Laws also require that many permits be obtained before the commencement of construction and operation of any waste or renewable energy project, and further require that permits be maintained throughout the operating life of the facility. We can provide no assurance that all required permits will be issued or re-issued, and the process of obtaining such permits can often cause lengthy delays, including delays caused by third-party appeals challenging permit issuance. Our failure to meet conditions of these permits or of the Environmental Regulatory Laws can subject us to regulatory enforcement actions by the appropriate governmental authority, which could include fines, penalties, damages or other sanctions, such as orders requiring certain remedial actions or limiting or prohibiting operation. See Item 1A. Risk Factors — Compliance with environmental laws, including changes to such laws, could adversely affect our results of operations. To date, we have not incurred material penalties, been required to incur material capital costs or additional expenses, or been subjected to material restrictions on our operations as a result of violations of Environmental Regulatory Laws or permit requirements. Although our operations are occasionally subject to proceedings and orders pertaining to emissions into the environment and other environmental violations, which may result in fines, penalties, damages or other sanctions, we believe that we are in compliance with existing Environmental Regulatory and Remediation Laws. We may be identified, along with other entities, as being among parties potentially responsible for contribution to costs associated with the correction and remediation of environmental conditions at disposal sites subject to CERCLA and/or analogous state Environmental Remediation Laws. Our ultimate liability in connection with such environmental claims will depend on many factors, including our volumetric share of waste, the total cost of remediation, and the financial viability of other companies that have also sent waste to a given site and, in the case of divested operations, our contractual arrangement with the purchaser of such operations.

The Environmental Regulatory Laws may change. New technology may be required or stricter standards may be established for the control of discharges of air or water pollutants, for storage and handling of petroleum products or chemicals, or for solid or hazardous waste or ash handling and disposal. Thus, as new technology is developed and proven, we may be required to incorporate it into new facilities or make major modifications to existing facilities. This new technology may be more expensive than the technology we use currently.

Environmental Regulations — Recent Developments

Maximum Achievable Control Technology ("MACT") Rules — EPA is authorized under the Clean Air Act to issue rules periodically which tighten air emission requirements to achievable standards, as determined under a specified regulatory framework. EPA is required to establish these MACT rules for a variety of industries, including new and existing municipal waste combustion ("MWC") units, industrial boilers and solid waste incinerators. All of our facilities comply with all applicable MACT rules currently in effect.

EPA has indicated that in 2015 it is planning to conduct a combined Risk and Technology Review for the large MWC source category and subsequently propose revised MWC MACT rules. While the scope of and timing for implementation of these rules is uncertain, the revised MWC MACT rules are expected to lower existing MWC MACT emission limits for most, if not all, regulated air pollutants emitted by our facilities, and may require capital improvements and/or increased operating costs. We are unable at this time, to estimate the magnitude of such costs, which may be material, or to determine the potential impact on the profitability of our MWC facilities.

In some cases, the costs incurred to meet the revised MACT rules at facilities may be recovered from municipal clients and other users of our facilities through increased fees permitted to be charged under applicable contracts; however, to the extent we incur costs at other of our facilities to meet the applicable MACT rules, such costs are not

subject to contractual recovery and instead will be borne directly by the affected facilities.

In December 2012, EPA finalized Commercial/Industrial Solid Waste Incinerator ("CISWI") and Industrial Boiler MACT rules which are applicable to our biomass facilities. The CISWI MACT rule is not expected to have a material effect on the profitability of the plants impacted. Boiler MACT rules are expected to require minor air pollution control modifications at one biomass facility and establish additional testing, monitoring and administrative requirements at all biomass plants, but are not expected to have a material effect on the profitability of those plants. Proposed Revised Ground Level Ozone Standards — On November 25, 2014, EPA proposed to revise and strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards ("NAAQS") for ground-level ozone or "smog". EPA has indicated that it expects to issue the final

Table of Contents

rules in October 2015. Once implemented by EPA and affected states, this rule could impact changes that we pursue to our existing air permits in the future.

Revised PM2.5 Rule — In 2006, EPA issued a final rule to implement the revised NAAQS for fine particulate matter, or PM2.5. While state implementation plans to meet this rule did not result in any new PM2.5 emission control requirements for existing MWCs, they could impact changes that we pursue to our existing air permits in the future.

Energy Regulations

Our businesses are subject to the provisions of federal, state and local energy laws applicable to the development, ownership and operation of facilities located in the United States. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), among other things, regulates the transmission and the wholesale sale of electricity in interstate commerce under the authority of the Federal Power Act (“FPA”). In addition, under existing regulations, FERC determines whether an entity owning a generation facility is an Exempt Wholesale Generator (“EWG”), as defined in the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005 (“PUHCA 2005”). FERC also determines whether a generation facility meets the ownership and technical criteria of a Qualifying Facility (cogeneration facilities and other facilities making use of non-fossil fuel power sources, such as waste, which meet certain size and other applicable requirements, referred to as “QFs”), under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended (“PURPA”). Each of our United States generating facilities has either been determined by FERC to qualify as a QF or is otherwise exempt, or the subsidiary owning the facility has been determined to be an EWG.

Federal Power Act — The FPA gives FERC exclusive rate-making jurisdiction over the wholesale sale of electricity and transmission of electricity in interstate commerce. Under the FPA, FERC, with certain exceptions, regulates the owners of facilities used for the wholesale sale of electricity or transmission of electricity in interstate commerce as public utilities. The FPA also gives FERC jurisdiction to review certain transactions and numerous other activities of public utilities. Most of our QFs are currently exempt from FERC’s rate regulation under the FPA because (i) the QF is 20 MW or smaller, (ii) its sales are made pursuant to a state regulatory authority’s implementation of PURPA, (iii) the QF is owned by a municipality or subdivision thereof; or (iv) its sales are made pursuant to a contract executed on or before March 17, 2006. Our QFs that are not exempt, or that lose these exemptions from rate regulation, are or would be required to obtain market-based rate authority from FERC or otherwise make sales pursuant to rates on file with FERC.

Under the FPA, public utilities are required to obtain FERC’s acceptance of their rate schedules for the wholesale sale of electricity. Our generating companies in the United States that are not otherwise exempt from FERC’s rate regulation have sales of electricity pursuant to market-based rates or other rates authorized by FERC. With respect to our generating companies with market-based rate authorization, FERC has the right to suspend, revoke or revise that authority and require our sales of energy to be made on a cost-of-service basis if FERC subsequently determines that we can exercise market power, create barriers to entry, or engage in abusive affiliate transactions. In addition, amongst other requirements, our market-based rate sellers are subject to certain market behavior and market manipulation rules and, if any of our subsidiaries were deemed to have violated any one of those rules, such subsidiary could be subject to potential disgorgement of profits associated with the violation and/or suspension or revocation of market-based rate authority, as well as criminal and civil penalties. If the market-based rate authority for one (or more) of our subsidiaries was revoked or it was not able to obtain market-based rate authority when necessary, and it was required to sell energy on a cost-of-service basis, it could become subject to the full accounting, record keeping and reporting requirements of FERC. Even where FERC has granted market-based rate authority, FERC may impose various market mitigation measures, including price caps, bidding rules and operating restrictions where it determines that potential market power might exist and that the public interest requires such potential market power to be mitigated. A loss of, or an inability to obtain, market-based rate authority could have a material adverse impact on our business. We can offer no assurance that FERC will not revisit its policies at some future time with the effect of limiting market-based rate authority, regulatory waivers, and blanket authorizations.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (“EPAct 2005”), FERC has approved the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or “NERC,” to address the development and enforcement of mandatory reliability standards for the wholesale electric power system. Certain of our subsidiaries are responsible for complying with the standards in the

regions in which we operate. NERC also has the ability to assess financial penalties for non-compliance. In addition to complying with NERC requirements, certain of our subsidiaries must comply with the requirements of the regional reliability council for the region in which that entity is located. Compliance with these reliability standards may require significant additional costs, and noncompliance could subject us to regulatory enforcement actions, fines, and increased compliance costs.

Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005 — PUHCA 2005 provides FERC with certain authority over and access to books and records of public utility holding companies not otherwise exempt by virtue of their ownership of EWGs, QFs, and Foreign Utility Companies, as defined in PUHCA 2005. We are a public utility holding company, but because all of our generating facilities have QF status, are otherwise exempt, or are owned through EWGs, we are exempt from the accounting, record retention, and reporting requirements of PUHCA 2005.

Table of Contents

EPA Act 2005 eliminated the limitation on utility ownership of QFs. Over time, this may result in greater utility ownership of QFs and serve to increase competition with our businesses. EPA Act 2005 also extended or established certain renewable energy incentives and tax credits which might be helpful to expand our businesses or for new development.

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act — PURPA was passed in 1978 in large part to promote increased energy efficiency and development of independent power producers. PURPA created QFs to further both goals, and FERC is primarily charged with administering PURPA as it applies to QFs. FERC has promulgated regulations that exempt QFs from compliance with certain provisions of the FPA, PUHCA 2005, and certain state laws regulating the rates charged by, or the financial and organizational activities of, electric utilities. The exemptions afforded by PURPA to QFs from regulation under the FPA and most aspects of state electric utility regulation are of great importance to us and our competitors in the EfW and independent power industries.

PURPA also initially included a requirement that utilities must buy and sell power to QFs. Among other things, EPA Act 2005 eliminated the obligation imposed on utilities to purchase power from QFs at an avoided cost rate where the QF has non-discriminatory access to wholesale energy markets having certain characteristics, including nondiscriminatory transmission and interconnection services. In addition, FERC has established a regulatory presumption that QFs with a capacity greater than 20 MW have non-discriminatory access to wholesale energy markets in most geographic regions in which we operate. As a result, many of our expansion, renewal and development projects must rely on competitive energy markets rather than PURPA's historic avoided cost rates in establishing and maintaining their viability. Existing contracts entered into under PURPA are not impacted, but as these contracts expire, a significant and increasing portion of our electricity output will be sold at rates determined through our participation in competitive energy markets.

Recent Policy Debate Regarding Climate Change and Renewable Energy

The public and political debate over GHG emissions (principally CO₂ and methane) and their contribution to climate change continues both internationally and domestically. Any resulting regulations could in the future affect our business. As is the case with all combustion, our facilities emit CO₂, however EfW is recognized as creating net reductions in GHG emissions and is otherwise environmentally beneficial, because it:

- avoids CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel power plants;
- avoids methane emissions from landfills; and
- avoids GHG emissions from mining and processing metal because it recovers and recycles metals from waste.

In addition, EfW facilities are a domestic source of energy, preserve land, and are typically located close to the source of the waste and thus typically reduce fossil fuel consumption and air emissions associated with long-haul transportation of waste to landfills.

For policy makers at the local level who make decisions on sustainable waste management alternatives, we believe that using EfW instead of landfilling will result in significantly lower net GHG emissions, while also introducing more control over the cost of waste management and supply of local electrical power. We are actively engaged in encouraging policy makers at state and federal levels to enact legislation that supports EfW as a superior choice for communities to avoid both the environmental harm caused by landfilling waste, and reduce local reliance on fossil fuels as a source of energy.

Many of these same policy considerations apply equally to other renewable technologies, especially with respect to our biomass business. The extent to which such potential legislation and policy initiatives will affect our business will depend in part on whether EfW and our other renewable technologies are included within the range of clean technologies that could benefit from such legislation.

In the absence of new legislative efforts, EPA is continuing to move forward with its regulation of GHGs under the Clean Air Act ("CAA"). In 2011, GHG emissions became subject to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") and Title V programs of the CAA. While the inclusion of GHGs under the Title V program does not introduce new requirements for existing facilities other than additional reporting requirements, the inclusion of GHGs under PSD will impact new facilities and potentially expansions of existing facilities. In 2013, EPA re-proposed GHG performance standards for new power plants. The newly proposed rule does not apply to biomass or MWC units and

the rule has not been finalized. In 2014, EPA proposed rules for existing power plants which set aggressive targets for states to reduce GHG emissions associated with fossil fuel-fired utility electricity generation. While these proposed rules do not apply to MWC units, they do provide states a pathway to include MWC units as compliance tools in their mandatory “State Plans” designed to achieve the GHG reduction goals established. We cannot predict at this time the potential impact to our business of EPA’s regulatory initiatives under the CAA, or whether EPA’s regulation will be impacted or superseded by any future climate change legislation. We continue to closely follow developments in this area.

While the political discussion in Congress, as well as at the state and regional levels, has not been aimed specifically at waste or EfW businesses, regulatory initiatives developed to date have been broad in scope and designed generally to promote renewable energy, develop a certified GHG inventory, and ultimately reduce GHG emissions. Many of these more developed initiatives have been at the state or regional levels, and some initiatives exist in regions where we have projects. For example:

21

Table of Contents

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) is an operating regional “cap-and-trade” program focused on fossil fuel-fired electric generators which does not directly affect EfW facilities. We operate one fossil-fuel fired boiler at our Niagara facility included in the RGGI program.

California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (“AB 32”), seeks to reduce GHG emissions in California to 1990 levels by 2020. AB 32 includes an economy-wide “cap-and-trade” program, which could impact our California EfW facilities, but not our biomass facilities. In 2013 and 2014, regulatory amendments were finalized to exclude EfW facilities from the cap-and-trade program through the end of 2015. However, the treatment of EfW facilities beyond 2015 is uncertain at this time.

Other Regulations

Most countries have expansive systems for the regulation of the energy business. These generally include provisions relating to ownership, licensing, rate setting and financing of generation and transmission facilities.

We provide waste and energy services through environmentally-protective project designs, regardless of the location of a particular project. Compliance with environmental standards comparable to those of the United States are often conditions to credit agreements by multilateral banking agencies, as well as other lenders or credit providers. The laws of various countries include pervasive regulation of emissions into the environment and provide governmental entities with the authority to impose sanctions for violations, although these requirements are generally different from those applicable in the United States. See Item 1A. Risk Factors — Exposure to international economic and political factors may materially and adversely affect our international businesses and — Compliance with environmental laws, including changes to such laws, could adversely affect our results of operations.

International Climate Change Policies

Certain international markets in which we compete have recently adopted regulatory or policy frameworks that encourage EfW projects as important components of GHG emission reduction strategies, as well as waste management planning and practice.

The European Union

The European Union has adopted legislation which requires member states to reduce the utilization of and reliance upon landfill disposal. The legislation emanating from the European Union is primarily in the form of “Directives,” which are binding on the member states but must be transposed through national enabling legislation to implement their practical requirements, a process which can result in significant variance between the legislative schemes introduced by member states. Certain Directives notably affect the regulation of EfW facilities across the European Union. These include (1) Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (the “Industrial Emissions Directive”) which consolidated and replaced seven existing Directives, including Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (known as the “IPPC Directive”) which governed emissions to air, land and water from certain large industrial installations, and Directive 2000/76/EC concerning the incineration of waste (known as the “Waste Incineration Directive” or “WID”), which imposed limits on emissions to air or water from the incineration and co-incineration of waste, (2) Directive 1999/31/EC concerning the landfill of waste (known as the “Landfill Directive”) which imposes operational and technical controls on landfills and restricts, on a reducing scale, the amount of biodegradable municipal waste which member states may dispose of to landfill, and (3) Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (known as the revised “Waste Framework Directive”) which enshrines the waste hierarchy to divert waste from landfill and underpins a preference for efficient energy-from-waste for the recovery of value from residual wastes.

China

China currently has a favorable regulatory environment for the development of EfW projects. The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China has set a goal to increase the volume of waste disposed of by EfW facilities from 1% (2005 estimate) to 30% by 2030. The Chinese central government has further called for an increase in EfW output generation from 200 MW (2005 estimate) to three gigawatts by 2020. Energy-from-waste and municipal waste disposal services are designated by the Chinese central government as “encouraged industries” for foreign investment. According to the latest Catalogue of Industries for Guiding Foreign Investment, the EfW industry remains within the “encouraged industries” for foreign investment. China also has various promotional laws and policies in place to promote EfW and municipal waste disposal projects including exemptions

and reductions of corporate income tax, value added tax refunds, prioritized commercial bank loans, state subsidies for loan interest, and a guaranteed subsidized price at RMB 0.65/KWh for the sale of electricity, as long as certain statutory conditions are met.

Employee Health and Welfare

We are subject to numerous regulations enacted to protect and promote worker health and welfare through the implementation and enforcement of standards designed to prevent illness, injury and death in the workplace. The primary law relating to employee health and welfare applicable to our business in the United States is the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 ("OSHA"), which establishes certain employer responsibilities including maintenance of a workplace free of recognized hazards likely to cause illness, death or serious injury, compliance with standards promulgated by OSHA, and assorted reporting and record keeping

Table of Contents

obligations, as well as disclosure and procedural requirements. Various OSHA standards apply to certain aspects of our operations.

Employee health and welfare laws governing our business in foreign jurisdictions include the Workplace Health and Safety Directive and the Directive concerning ionizing radiation in the European Union, and various provisions of the Canada Labour Code and related regulations in Canada.

EMPLOYEES

As of December 31, 2014, we employed approximately 3,500 full-time employees worldwide, the majority of which were employed in the United States. Of our employees in the United States and Canada, approximately 8% are represented by organized labor. Currently, we are party to 10 collective bargaining agreements: one which expired in 2014 has been mutually extended and is still in good-faith negotiations; one expires in 2015; five expire in 2016; two expire in 2017; and one expires in 2019. We consider relations with our employees to be good.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

A list of our executive officers and their business experience follows. Ages shown are as of February 1, 2015

Name and Title	Age	Experience
Anthony J. Orlando President and Chief Executive Officer (1)	55	President and Chief Executive Officer since October 2004. Mr. Orlando was elected as one of our directors in September 2005 and is a member of the Public Policy and Technology Committee. Previously, he had been President and Chief Executive Officer of Covanta Energy since November 2003. From March 2003 to November 2003, he served as Senior Vice President, Business and Financial Management of Covanta Energy. From January 2001 until March 2003, Mr. Orlando served as Covanta Energy's Senior Vice President, Waste-to-Energy. Mr. Orlando joined Covanta Energy in 1987.
Bradford J. Helgeson Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	38	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since November 2013. Mr. Helgeson served as Vice President and Treasurer from May 2007 to November 2013. Prior to joining Covanta in May 2007, Mr. Helgeson was Vice President, Finance and Treasurer at Waste Services, Inc., a publicly-traded environmental services company with operations in the United States and Canada, from 2004 to 2007. Prior to these roles, Mr. Helgeson held positions in the investment banking departments at Lehman Brothers from 2000 to 2004 and at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette from 1998 to 2000, where he worked on a wide range of capital markets and merger and acquisition transactions for industrial companies, with a particular focus in the environmental services sector.
Seth Myones Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer	56	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since March 2012. Mr. Myones served as Covanta Energy's President, Americas, which was comprised principally of Covanta Energy's domestic business, from November 2007 to March 2012. Mr. Myones served as Covanta Energy's Senior Vice President, Business Management, from January 2004 to November 2007. From September 2001 until January 2004, Mr. Myones served as Vice President, Waste-to-Energy Business Management for Covanta Projects, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Covanta Energy. Mr. Myones joined Covanta Energy in 1989.
Timothy J. Simpson Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	56	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since December 2007. Mr. Simpson served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary from October 2004 to December 2007. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Covanta Energy from March 2004 to October 2004. From June 2001 to March 2004, Mr. Simpson served as Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Covanta Energy. Mr. Simpson joined Covanta Energy in 1992.
Derek W. Veenhof Executive Vice President, Sustainable Solutions	48	Executive Vice President - Sustainable Solutions since November 2013. Mr. Veenhof served as Senior Vice President of Covanta 4Recovery L.P., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Covanta Energy, from November 2011 to November 2013. From January 2007 to November 2011, Mr. Veenhof served as Vice President of TransRiver Marketing, a Covanta Energy subsidiary, and managed contract efforts in recycling and waste. From July 2002 to December 2006, Mr. Veenhof was Covanta Energy's New York Metro Area Manager responsible for waste

Neil C. Zieselman
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer 39

contract negotiations, business operations and business marketing and development for the Metro NY, NJ and Philadelphia market areas. Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer since June 2014. Mr. Zieselman served as Corporate Controller from August 2010 to June 2014. Mr. Zieselman served as Domestic Operations Controller from November 2007 to August 2010 and Director of External Reporting from February 2006 to November 2007. Prior to these roles, Mr. Zieselman held accounting and finance positions with Cendant Corporation and Avaya Inc. He began his career as an auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

(1) In January 2015, Covanta announced its CEO succession plan which calls for Anthony J. Orlando to step down from his role as Chief Executive Officer in March 2015 at which time Stephen J. Jones will become Covanta's President and Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Orlando will remain on the Board of Directors.

Table of Contents

Item 1A. RISK FACTORS

The following risk factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Weakness in the economy may have an adverse effect on our revenue, cash flow and our ability to grow our business. Our business is directly affected by economic slowdowns and general reduction in demand for goods and services. A weak economy generally results in reduced overall demand for waste disposal, recycled metal and energy production. Under such conditions, the pricing we are able to charge for our waste management services, and for our energy and recycled metals, may decline and/or experience increased volatility. In addition, many of our customers are municipalities and public authorities which may be adversely affected in an economic downturn due to reduced tax revenue. Consequently some of these entities could be unable to pay amounts owed to us or renew contracts with us for similar volumes or at previous or increased rates.

Furthermore, lower prices for waste disposal and energy production, particularly in the absence of energy policies which encourage renewable technologies such as EfW, may also make it more difficult for us to sell waste and energy services at prices sufficient to allow us to grow our business through developing and building new projects. These factors could have a material adverse effect on our profitability and cash flow.

Exposure to energy, waste disposal, recycled metal and commodity prices may affect our results of operations. Some of the electricity and steam we sell and all of the recycled metals we sell, are subject to market price volatility. Changes in the market prices for electricity and steam in particular can be affected by changes in natural gas prices, weather conditions and other market variables, while recycled metals prices are affected by general economic conditions and global demand for construction, goods and services. Similarly, the portion of waste processing capacity which is not under contract may be subject to volatility, principally as a result of general economic activity and waste generation rates, as well as the availability of alternative disposal sites and the cost to transport waste to alternative disposal. Volatility with respect to all of these revenues could adversely impact our businesses' profitability and financial performance. We may not be successful in our efforts to mitigate our exposure to price swings relating to these revenue streams.

We may experience volatility in the market prices and availability of commodities we purchase, such as reagents, chemicals and fuel. Any price increase, delivery disruption or reduction in the availability of such supplies could affect our ability to operate the facilities and impair our cash flow and profitability. We may not be successful in our efforts to mitigate our exposure to supply and price swings for these commodities.

Operation of our businesses involves significant risks, which could have an adverse effect on our cash flows and results of operations.

The operation of our businesses involves many risks, including:

- supply or transportation interruptions;
- the breakdown, failure or unplanned maintenance or repair of equipment or processes;
- difficulty or inability to find suitable replacement parts for equipment;
- the unavailability of sufficient quantities of waste or fuel;
- fluctuations in the heating value of the waste we use for fuel at our EfW facilities;
- failure or inadequate performance by subcontractors;
- disruption in the transmission of electricity generated;
- labor disputes and work stoppages;
- unforeseen engineering and environmental problems;
- unanticipated cost overruns;
- weather interferences and catastrophic events including fires, explosions, earthquakes, droughts, pandemics and acts of terrorism; and
- the exercise of the power of eminent domain.

We cannot predict the impact of these risks on our business or operations. One or more of these risks, if they were to occur, could prevent us from meeting our obligations under our operating contracts and have an adverse effect on our cash flows and results of operations.

Contracts to provide new services or services through new or different methods involves significant risks, which could have an adverse effect on our cash flows and results of operations.

As we enter into contracts to provide new services or services through new or different methods, such as our waste disposal contract with New York City, we may face additional operating risks. These may include:

- performance by multiple contractors critical to our ability to perform under our new customer agreements;
- logistics associated with transportation of waste via barge, rail or other methods with which we have limited experience; and
- reliance on joint venture parties or technology providers with whom we have limited experience.

Table of Contents

Compliance with environmental laws, including changes to such laws, could adversely affect our results of operations. Our waste and energy services businesses are subject to extensive environmental laws and regulations by federal, state, local and foreign authorities, primarily relating to air, waste (including residual ash from combustion) and water. Costs relating to compliance with these laws and regulations are material to our business. If our businesses fail to comply with these regulations, our cash flow and profitability could be adversely affected, and we could be subject to civil or criminal liability, damages and fines.

In addition, lawsuits or enforcement actions by federal, state, local and/or foreign regulatory agencies may materially increase our costs. Stricter environmental regulation of air emissions, solid waste handling or combustion, residual ash handling and disposal, and waste water discharge could materially affect our cash flow and profitability. Certain environmental laws make us potentially liable on a joint and several basis for the remediation of contamination at or emanating from properties or facilities we currently or formerly owned or operated or properties to which we arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances. Such liability is not limited to the cleanup of contamination we actually caused. We cannot provide any assurance that we will not incur liability relating to the remediation of contamination, including contamination we did not cause. For additional information on environmental regulation, see Item 1.

Business — Regulation of Business.

Existing environmental laws and regulations have been and could be revised or reinterpreted, and future changes in environmental laws and regulations are expected to occur. This may materially increase the amount we must invest to bring our facilities into compliance, impose additional expense on our operations, limit our ability to operate at capacity, or at all, or otherwise impose structural changes to markets which would adversely affect our competitive positioning in those markets.

Our results of operations may be adversely affected by market conditions existing at the time our contracts expire. For the EfW facilities that we own or lease, the contracts pursuant to which we provide waste services and sell energy output expire on various dates between 2015 and 2038. Expiration of these contracts subjects us to greater market risk in entering into new or replacement contracts at pricing levels that may not generate comparable revenues. We cannot assure you that we will be able to enter into renewal or replacement contracts on favorable terms, or at all. We also expect that medium- and long-term contracts for sales of energy may be less available than in the past, and so after expiration of existing contracts we expect to sell our energy output either in short-term transactions or on a spot basis or pursuant to new contracts which may subject us to greater market risk in maintaining and enhancing revenue. As a result, following the expiration of our existing long-term contracts, we may have more exposure on a relative basis to market risk, and therefore revenue fluctuations, in energy markets than in waste markets.

Where we have leasehold interests, we cannot assure you that market conditions prevailing when such interests expire will allow us to enter into an extension or that the terms available in the market at the time will be favorable to us.

Our revenue and cash flows may decline if we are not successful in retaining rights or such rights terminate to operate facilities after our contracts expire.

We operate some facilities owned by municipal clients, under long-term contracts. If, when existing contracts expire, we are unable to reach agreement with our municipal clients on the terms under which they would extend our operating contracts, this may adversely affect our revenue, cash flow and profitability. We cannot assure you that we will be able to enter into such contracts or that the terms available in the market at the time will be favorable to us.

At a limited number of facilities we operate that are owned by municipal clients, our clients have certain rights to terminate such contracts without cause. If any such terminations were to occur, this may adversely affect our revenue, cash flow and profitability. We cannot assure you that such contract terminations will not occur in the future.

Some of our EfW projects involve greater risk of exposure to performance levels which, if not satisfied, could result in materially lower revenues.

At our EfW facilities where tip fee structures exist, we receive 100% of the energy revenues they generate. As a result, if we are unable to operate these facilities at their historical performance levels for any reason, our revenues from energy sales could materially decrease.

Our revenue and cash flows may be subject to greater volatility if we extend or renew our contracts under tip fee structures more often than service fee structures.

Our revenue and cash flows may be subject to greater volatility if we extend or renew our contracts, under tip fee structures more often than under service fee structures. Due to the nature of tip fee structures, if that were to occur, we may be exposed to greater performance and price risk on the energy we sell. For additional information on the tip fee contract structure, see Item 1. Business — North America Segment — Energy-from-Waste Projects.

Table of Contents

Changes in public policies and legislative initiatives could materially affect our business and prospects. There has been substantial debate recently in the United States and abroad in the context of environmental and energy policies affecting climate change, the outcome of which could have a positive or negative influence on our existing business and our prospects for growing our business. Congress has considered proposed legislation which is designed to increase the proportion of the nation's electricity that is generated from technologies considered "clean" or "renewable", through mandatory generation levels, tax incentives, and other means. Congress has also considered enacting legislation which sets declining limits on greenhouse gas emissions, and requires generators to purchase rights to emit in excess of such limits, and allows such rights to be traded. For those sources of greenhouse gas emissions that are unable to meet the required limitations, such legislation could impose substantial financial burdens. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed rules which require states to develop plans to reduce carbon emissions from the energy sector, through a variety of methods generally subject to state discretion. Our business and future prospects could be adversely affected if renewable technologies we use were not included among those technologies identified in any final laws or regulations as being clean or renewable or greenhouse gas reducing, or not included in the state plans to reduce carbon emissions, and therefore not entitled to the benefits of such laws, regulations, or plans. Dislocations in credit and capital markets and increased capital constraints on banks may make it more difficult for us to borrow money or raise capital needed to finance the construction of new projects, expand existing projects, acquire certain businesses and refinance our existing debt. Our business is capital intensive, and we seek to finance a significant portion of our existing assets, as well as our investments in new assets, with debt capital to the extent that we believe such financing is prudent and accretive to shareholder value. As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately \$2.2 billion in long-term debt and project debt. Prolonged instability or deterioration in the bank credit and/or debt and equity capital markets may adversely affect our ability to obtain refinancing of our existing debt on favorable terms, or at all. Such circumstances could adversely affect our business, financial condition, and/or the share price of our common stock. We intend to grow our business through the development of new projects, the expansion and/or enhancement of existing facilities, and opportunistic acquisitions of projects or businesses. Such investments may be large enough to require capital in excess of our cash on hand and availability under our existing credit facilities. Prolonged instability or deterioration in the credit markets may adversely impact our access to capital on terms that we find acceptable, thereby impacting our ability to execute our strategy to grow our business. Our reputation could be adversely affected if we are unable to operate our businesses in compliance with laws, or if our efforts to grow our business results in adverse publicity. If we encounter regulatory compliance issues in the course of operating our businesses, we may experience adverse publicity, which may intensify if such non-compliance results in civil or criminal liability. This adverse publicity may harm our reputation, and result in difficulties in attracting new customers, or retaining existing customers. With respect to our efforts to grow and maintain our business globally, we sometimes experience opposition from advocacy groups or others intended to halt our development or on-going business. Such opposition is often intended to discourage third parties from doing business with us and may be based on misleading, inaccurate, incomplete or inflammatory assertions. Our reputation may be adversely affected as a result of adverse publicity resulting from such opposition. Such damage to our reputation could adversely affect our ability to grow and maintain our business. Changes in technology may have a material adverse effect on our profitability. Our company and others have recognized the value of the traditional waste stream as a potential resource. Research and development activities are ongoing to provide alternative and more efficient technologies to manage waste, produce or extract by-products from waste, or to produce power. We and many other companies are pursuing these technologies, and capital is being invested to find new approaches to waste management, waste treatment, and renewable power generation. It is possible that this deployment of capital may lead to advances in these or other technologies which will reduce the cost of waste management or power production to a level below our costs and/or provide new or alternative methods of waste management or energy generation that become more accepted than those we currently utilize. Unless we are able to participate in these advances, any of these changes could have a material

adverse effect on our revenues, profitability and the value of our existing facilities.

Our ability to optimize our operations depends in part on our ability to compete for and obtain fuel for our facilities, and our failure to do so may adversely affect our financial results.

Our EfW facilities depend on solid waste for fuel, which provides a source of revenue. For some of our EfW facilities, the availability of solid waste to us, as well as the tipping fee that we charge to attract solid waste to our facilities, depends upon competition from a number of sources such as other EfW facilities, landfills and transfer stations competing for waste in the market area. In addition, we may need to obtain waste on a competitive basis as our long-term contracts expire at our owned facilities. There has been consolidation, and there may be further consolidation, in the solid waste industry that would reduce the number

Table of Contents

of solid waste collectors or haulers that are competing for disposal facilities or enable such collectors or haulers to use wholesale purchasing to negotiate favorable below-market rates. The consolidation in the solid waste industry has resulted in companies with vertically integrated collection activities and disposal facilities. Such consolidation may result in economies of scale for those companies, as well as the use of disposal capacity at facilities owned by such companies or by affiliated companies. Such activities can affect both the availability of waste to us for processing at some of our EfW facilities and market pricing, which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations. Development and construction of new projects and expansions may not commence as anticipated, or at all.

Development and construction involves many risks including:

- difficulties in identifying, obtaining and permitting suitable sites for new projects;
- the inaccuracy of our assumptions with respect to the cost of and schedule for completing construction;
- difficulty, delays or inability to obtain financing for a project on acceptable terms;
- delays in deliveries of, or increases in the prices of, equipment sourced from other countries;
- the unavailability of sufficient quantities of waste or other fuels for startup;
- permitting and other regulatory issues, license revocation and changes in legal requirements;
- labor disputes and work stoppages;
- unforeseen engineering and environmental problems;
- interruption of existing operations;
- unanticipated cost overruns or delays; and
- weather interferences and catastrophic events including fires, explosions, earthquakes, droughts, pandemics and acts of terrorism.

In addition, new facilities have no operating history and may employ recently developed technology and equipment. A new facility may be unable to fund principal and interest payments under its debt service obligations or may operate at a loss. In certain situations, if a facility fails to achieve commercial operation, at certain levels or at all, termination rights in the agreements governing the facilities financing may be triggered, rendering all of the facility's debt immediately due and payable. As a result, the facility may be rendered insolvent and we may lose our interest in the facility.

Construction activities may cost more and take longer than we estimate.

The design and construction of new projects or expansions requires us to contract for services from engineering and construction firms, and make substantial purchases of equipment such as boilers, turbine generators and other components that require large quantities of steel to fabricate. These are complex projects that include many factors and conditions which may adversely affect our ability to successfully compete for new projects, or construct and complete such projects on time and within budget.

Exposure to foreign currency fluctuations may affect our results from operations or construction costs of facilities we develop in international markets.

We have sought to participate in projects where the host country has allowed the convertibility of its currency into U.S. dollars and repatriation of earnings, capital and profits subject to compliance with local regulatory requirements. As and if we grow our business in other countries and enter new international markets, we expect to invest substantial amounts in foreign currencies to pay for the construction costs of facilities we develop, or for the cost to acquire existing businesses or assets. Currency volatility in those markets, as well as the effectiveness of any currency hedging strategies we may implement, may impact the amount we are required to invest in new projects, as well as our reported results.

Our growth could strain our resources and cause our business to suffer.

We have made and may continue to plan and execute acquisitions and take other actions to grow our base business. Acquisitions present significant challenges and risks relating to the integration of the business into the company. If we make acquisitions, it could place a strain on our management systems, infrastructure and resources, as well as present new or different risks to our business. We expect that we will need to continually evaluate and maintain our financial and managerial controls, reporting systems and procedures. We will also need to expand, train and manage our workforce worldwide. We can provide no assurances that the company will manage acquisitions successfully.

Our ability to successfully manage organizational, process and cost-efficiency initiatives could strain our resources and affect our profitability.

We have made and may continue to undertake organizational, process and cost efficiency changes intended to improve our business. These changes, which may include implementation of new systems and processes, staff adjustments and reassignments of responsibilities, are important to our business success. Failure or delay in implementing these actions, or ineffective implementation could strain our resources and systems, resulting in disruption to our business and/or adversely affecting our results.

Table of Contents

Our businesses generate their revenue primarily under long-term contracts and must avoid defaults under those contracts in order to service their debt and avoid material liability to contract counterparties.

We must satisfy performance and other obligations under contracts governing EfW facilities. These contracts typically require us to meet certain performance criteria relating to amounts of waste processed, energy generation rates per ton of waste processed, residue quantity and environmental standards. Our failure to satisfy these criteria may subject us to termination of operating contracts. If such a termination were to occur, we would lose the cash flow related to the projects and incur material termination damage liability, which may be guaranteed by us. In circumstances where the contract has been terminated due to our default, we may not have sufficient sources of cash to pay such damages. We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to perform our respective obligations under such contracts in order to avoid such contract terminations, or damages related to any such contract termination, or that if we could not avoid such terminations that we would have the cash resources to pay amounts that may then become due.

We have provided guarantees and financial support in connection with our projects.

We are obligated to guarantee or provide financial support for our projects in one or more of the following forms:

- support agreements in connection with construction, service or operating agreement-related obligations;
- direct guarantees of certain debt relating to our facilities;
- contingent obligations to pay lease payment installments in connection with certain of our facilities;
- agreements to arrange financing for projects under development;
- contingent credit support for damages arising from performance failures;
- environmental indemnities; and
- contingent capital and credit support to finance costs, in most cases in connection with a corresponding increase in service fees, relating to uncontrollable circumstances.

Many of these contingent obligations cannot readily be quantified, but, if we were required to provide this support, it could materially and adversely affect our cash flow, results of operations and financial condition.

Our businesses depend on performance by third parties under contractual arrangements.

Our waste and energy services businesses depend on a limited number of third parties to, among other things, purchase the electric and steam energy produced by our facilities, supply and deliver the waste and other goods and services necessary for the operation of our energy facilities, and purchase the metals we recover. The viability of our facilities depends significantly upon the performance by third parties in accordance with long-term and short-term contracts, and such performance depends on factors which may be beyond our control. If those third parties do not perform their obligations, or are excused from performing their obligations because of nonperformance by our waste and energy services businesses or other parties to the contracts, or due to force majeure events or changes in laws or regulations, our businesses may not be able to secure alternate arrangements on substantially the same terms, or at all. In addition, the bankruptcy or financial stability of third parties with whom we do business could result in nonpayment or nonperformance of that party's obligations to us. The economic slowdown and disruptions in credit markets have strained resources of these third parties, and could make it difficult for them to honor their obligations to us.

We cannot be certain that our NOLs will continue to be available to offset our federal tax liability.

As of December 31, 2014, we had \$486 million of net operating loss carryforwards ("NOLs"). NOLs offset our consolidated taxable income and will expire in various amounts, if not used, between 2028 and 2033. The NOLs are also used to offset income from certain grantor trusts that were established as part of the reorganization in 1990 of certain of our subsidiaries engaged in the insurance business and are administered by state regulatory agencies. As the administration of these grantor trusts concludes, taxable income could result, utilizing a portion of our NOLs and, accelerating the date on which we may be otherwise obligated to pay incremental cash taxes. For additional information related to our NOLs, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 15. Income Taxes. We are subject to counterparty and market risk with respect to transactions with financial and other institutions.

Following the expiration of our initial contracts to sell electricity from our projects, we expect to have on a relative basis more exposure to market risk, and therefore revenue fluctuations, in energy markets than in waste markets.

Consequently, we may enter into futures, forward contracts, swaps or options with financial institutions to hedge our exposure to market risk in energy markets. We can provide no assurances as to the financial stability or viability of

these financial and other institutions.

Concentration of suppliers and customers may expose us to heightened financial exposure.

Our waste and energy services businesses often rely on single suppliers and single customers at our facilities, exposing such facilities to financial risks if any supplier or customer should fail to perform its obligations.

For example, our businesses often rely on a single supplier to provide waste, fuel, water and other services required to operate a facility and on a single customer or a few customers to purchase all or a significant portion of a facility's output. The financial

Table of Contents

performance of these facilities depends on such customers and suppliers continuing to perform their obligations under their long-term agreements. A facility's financial results could be materially and adversely affected if any one customer or supplier fails to fulfill its contractual obligations and we are unable to find other customers or suppliers to produce the same level of profitability. We cannot assure you that such performance failures by third parties will not occur, or that if they do occur, such failures will not adversely affect the cash flows or profitability of our businesses.

In addition, we rely on the municipal clients as a source not only of waste for fuel, but also of revenue from the fees for waste services we provide. Because our contracts with municipal clients are generally long-term, we may be adversely affected if the credit quality of one or more of our municipal clients were to decline materially.

Our waste operations are concentrated in one region, and expose us to regional economic or market declines.

The majority of our waste disposal facilities are located in the northeastern United States, primarily along the Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts corridor. Adverse economic developments in this region could affect regional waste generation rates and demand for waste management services provided by us. Adverse market developments caused by additional waste processing capacity in this region could adversely affect waste disposal pricing. Either of these developments could have a material adverse effect on our profitability and cash generation. Exposure to international economic and political factors may materially and adversely affect our international businesses.

Our international operations expose us to political, legal, tax, currency, inflation, convertibility and repatriation risks, as well as potential constraints on the development and operation of potential business, any of which can limit the benefits to us of an international project.

The financing, development and operation of projects outside the United States can entail significant political and financial risks, which vary by country, including:

- changes in law or regulations;
- changes in electricity pricing;
- changes in foreign tax laws and regulations;
- changes in United States federal, state and local laws, including tax laws, related to foreign operations;
- compliance with United States federal, state and local foreign corrupt practices laws;
- changes in government policies or personnel;
- changes in general economic conditions affecting each country, including conditions in financial markets;
- changes in labor relations in operations outside the United States;
- political, economic or military instability and civil unrest;
- expropriation and confiscation of assets and facilities; and
- credit quality of entities that purchase our power.

The legal and financial environment in foreign countries in which we currently own assets or projects could also make it more difficult for us to enforce our rights under agreements relating to such projects.

Any or all of the risks identified above with respect to our international projects could adversely affect our profitability and cash generation. As a result, these risks may have a material adverse effect on our business, consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

Our reputation could be adversely affected if our businesses, or third parties with whom we have a relationship, were to fail to comply with United States or foreign anti-corruption laws or regulations.

Some of our projects and new business may be conducted in countries where corruption has historically penetrated the economy to a greater extent than in the United States. It is our policy to comply, and to require our local partners and those with whom we do business to comply, with all applicable anti-bribery laws, such as the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and with applicable local laws of the foreign countries in which we operate. Our reputation may be adversely affected if we were reported to be associated with corrupt practices or if we or our local partners failed to comply with such laws. Such damage to our reputation could adversely affect our ability to grow our business.

Energy regulation could adversely affect our revenues and costs of operations.

Our waste and energy services businesses are subject to extensive energy regulations by federal, state and foreign authorities. We cannot predict whether the federal, state or foreign governments will modify or adopt new legislation

or regulations relating to the solid waste or energy industries. The economics, including the costs, of operating our facilities may be adversely affected by any changes in these regulations or in their interpretation or implementation or any future inability to comply with existing or future regulations or requirements.

If our businesses lose existing exemptions under the Federal Power Act, the economics and operations of our energy projects could be adversely affected, including as a result of rate regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with respect

Table of Contents

to our output of electricity, which could result in lower prices for sales of electricity and increased compliance costs. In addition, depending on the terms of the project's power purchase agreement, a loss of our exemptions could allow the power purchaser to cease taking and paying for electricity under existing contracts. Such results could cause the loss of some or all contract revenues or otherwise impair the value of a project and could trigger defaults under provisions of the applicable project contracts and financing agreements. Defaults under such financing agreements could render the underlying debt immediately due and payable. Under such circumstances, we cannot assure you that revenues received, the costs incurred, or both, in connection with the project could be recovered through sales to other purchasers. For more information on energy regulations applicable to us, see Item 1. Business — Regulation of Business — Regulations Affecting Our North America Segment - Energy Regulations.

Failure to obtain regulatory approvals could adversely affect our operations.

Our waste and energy services businesses are continually in the process of obtaining or renewing federal, state, local and foreign approvals required to operate our facilities. While we believe our businesses currently have all necessary operating approvals, we may not always be able to obtain all required regulatory approvals, and we may not be able to obtain any necessary modifications to existing regulatory approvals or maintain all required regulatory approvals. If there is a delay in obtaining any required regulatory approvals or if we fail to obtain and comply with any required regulatory approvals, the operation of our facilities or the sale of electricity to third parties could be prevented, made subject to additional regulation or subject our businesses to additional costs or a decrease in revenue.

The energy industry is becoming increasingly competitive, and we might not successfully respond to these changes. We may not be able to respond in a timely or effective manner to the changes resulting in increased competition in the energy industry in global markets. These changes may include deregulation of the electric utility industry in some markets, privatization of the electric utility industry in other markets and increasing competition in all markets. To the extent competitive pressures increase and the pricing and sale of electricity assumes more characteristics of a commodity business, the economics of our business may be subject to greater volatility.

Changes in climate conditions could materially affect our business and prospects.

Significant changes in weather patterns and volatility could have a positive or negative influence on our existing business and our prospects for growing our business. Such changes may cause episodic events (such as floods or storms) that are difficult to predict or prepare for, or longer-term trends (such as droughts or sea-level rise). These or other meteorological changes could lead to increased operating costs, capital expenses, disruptions in facility operations or supply chains, changes in waste generation and interruptions in waste deliveries, limited availability of water for plant cooling operations, and changes in energy pricing, among other effects.

Our substantial indebtedness could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to meet our payment obligations under our indebtedness.

The level of our consolidated indebtedness could have significant consequences on our future operations, including:

- making it difficult for us to meet our payment and other obligations under our outstanding indebtedness;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;
- subjecting us to the risk of increased sensitivity to interest rate increases on indebtedness under our credit facilities;
- limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, and increasing our vulnerability to, changes in our business, the industries in which we operate and the general economy; and
- placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt or are less leveraged.

Any of the above-listed factors could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to meet our payment obligations under our consolidated debt, and the price of our common stock.

We cannot assure you that our cash flow from operations will be sufficient to service our indebtedness, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

Our ability to meet our obligations under our indebtedness depends on our ability to receive dividends and distributions from our subsidiaries in the future. This, in turn, is subject to many factors, some of which are beyond our control, including the following:

- the continued operation and maintenance of our facilities, consistent with historical performance levels;
- maintenance or enhancement of revenue from renewals or replacement of existing contracts and from new contracts to expand existing facilities or operate additional facilities;
- market conditions affecting waste disposal and energy pricing, as well as competition from other companies for contract renewals, expansions and additional contracts, particularly after our existing contracts expire;
- the continued availability of the benefits of our net operating loss carryforwards; and
- general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors.

Table of Contents

We cannot assure you that our business will generate cash flow from operations, or that future borrowings will be available to us under our credit facilities or otherwise, in an amount sufficient to enable us to meet our payment obligations under our outstanding indebtedness and to fund other liquidity needs. If we are not able to generate sufficient cash flow to service our debt obligations, we may need to refinance or restructure our debt, sell assets, reduce or delay capital investments, or seek to raise additional capital. If we are unable to implement one or more of these alternatives, we may not be able to meet our payment obligations under our outstanding indebtedness, which could have a material and adverse effect on our financial condition.

Our credit facilities and the indentures for our other corporate debt contain covenant restrictions that may limit our ability to operate our business.

Our credit facilities and the indentures for our other corporate debt contain operating and financial restrictions and covenants that impose operating and financial restrictions on us and require us to meet certain financial tests.

Complying with these covenant restrictions may limit our ability to engage in certain transactions or activities, including incurring additional indebtedness, making certain investments, and distributions, and selling certain assets. As a result of these covenant restrictions, our ability to respond to changes in business and economic conditions and to obtain additional financing, if needed, may be restricted, and we may be prevented from engaging in transactions that might otherwise be beneficial to us. For more information on these restrictions, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

Our ability to comply with these covenants is dependent on our future performance, which will be subject to many factors, some of which are beyond our control, including prevailing economic conditions. In addition, the failure to comply with these covenants may result in a default under our credit facilities and other corporate debt. Upon the occurrence of such an event of default, the lenders under our credit facilities could elect to declare all amounts outstanding under such credit facilities, together with accrued interest, to be immediately due and payable. If the lenders accelerate the payment of the indebtedness under our credit facilities, we cannot assure you that the assets securing such indebtedness would be sufficient to repay in full that indebtedness and our other indebtedness, which could have a material and adverse effect on our financial condition.

Future impairment charges could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations. In accordance with accounting guidance, we evaluate long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances, such as significant adverse changes in regulation, business climate or market conditions, could potentially indicate the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Significant reductions in our expected revenues or cash flows for an extended period of time resulting from such events could result in future asset impairment charges, which could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

Security breaches and other disruptions to our information technology infrastructure could interfere with our operations, compromise information belonging to us and our customers, suppliers or employees, and expose us to liability that could adversely impact our business and reputation.

In the ordinary course of business, we rely on information technology networks and systems to process, transmit and store electronic information, and to manage or support a variety of business processes and activities. Despite security measures and business continuity plans, interruptions and breaches of computer and communications systems, including computer viruses, "hacking" and "cyber-attacks," power outages, telecommunication or utility facilities, system failures, natural disasters or other catastrophic events that could impair our ability to conduct business and communicate internally and with our customers, or result in the theft of trade secrets or other misappropriation of assets, or otherwise compromise privacy of sensitive information belonging to us, our customers or other business partners. Any such events could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability or penalties under privacy laws, disruption in operations, and damage to our reputation, which could adversely affect our business.

Our insurance and contractual protections may not always cover lost revenues, increased expenses or contractual liabilities.

Although our businesses maintain insurance, obtain warranties from vendors, require contractors to meet certain performance levels and, in some cases, pass risks we cannot control to the service recipient or output purchaser, the proceeds of such insurance, warranties, performance guarantees or risk sharing arrangements may not be adequate to

cover lost revenues, increased expenses or contractual liabilities.

We depend on our senior management and key personnel and we may have difficulty attracting and retaining qualified professionals.

Our future operating results depend to a large extent upon the continued contributions of key senior managers and personnel. In addition, we are dependent on our ability to attract, train, retain and motivate highly skilled employees. However, there is significant competition for employees with the requisite level of experience and qualifications. If we cannot attract, train, retain and motivate qualified personnel, we may be unable to compete effectively and our growth may be limited, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects and our ability to fulfill our debt obligations.

Table of Contents

Our controls and procedures may not prevent or detect all errors or acts of fraud.

Any disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls and procedures, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must consider the benefits of controls relative to their costs. Inherent limitations within a control system include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by an unauthorized override of the controls. While the design of any system of controls is to provide reasonable assurance of the effectiveness of disclosure controls, such design is also based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and such assumptions, while reasonable, may not take into account all potential future conditions. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in a cost effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and may not be prevented or detected.

Failure to maintain an effective system of internal controls over financial reporting may have an adverse effect on our stock price.

We have in the past discovered, and may potentially in the future discover, areas of internal control over financial reporting which may require improvement. If we are unable to assert that our internal control over financial reporting is effective now or in any future period, or if our independent auditors are unable to express an opinion on the effectiveness of our internal controls, we could lose investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, which could have an adverse effect on our stock price.

Provisions of our certificate of incorporation, our credit facilities and our other corporate debt could discourage an acquisition of us by a third party.

Certain provisions of our credit facilities and our other corporate debt could make it more difficult or more expensive for a third party to acquire us. Upon the occurrence of certain transactions constituting a fundamental change, holders of our credit facilities and our other corporate debt will have the right to require Covanta Holding or Covanta Energy, as the case may be, to repurchase their corporate debt or repay the facilities, as applicable. In addition, provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, each as amended, could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us. For example, our restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock without requiring any stockholder approval, and preferred stock could be issued as a defensive measure in response to a takeover proposal. All these provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us or discourage a third party from acquiring us even if an acquisition might be in the best interest of our stockholders.

Item 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

Item 2. PROPERTIES

We lease 104,000 square feet of office space in Morristown, New Jersey. In addition, we own 83 acres of undeveloped land in California. As of December 31, 2014, we owned, had equity investments in and/or operated 74 projects in the North America segment consisting primarily of 42 EfW operations, four ash landfills, 18 transfer stations, one treatment, storage and disposal facility, seven wood waste (biomass) energy projects and two water (hydroelectric) energy projects. Principal projects are described above under Item 1. Business — North America Segment. Projects in the North America segment which we own or lease are conducted at properties, which we also own or lease, aggregating approximately 1,752 acres, of which 1,415 acres are owned and 337 acres are leased.

We operate projects outside of our North America segment and have offices located in Dublin, Ireland and Shanghai, China, where we lease office space of approximately 6,180 square feet. As of December 31, 2014, we are the part owner/operator of four international projects with businesses conducted at properties which are either leased or have land rights aggregating to 67 acres. Principal projects are described above under Item 1. Business — Other Projects.

Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

For information regarding legal proceedings, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 19. Commitments and Contingencies, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

PART II

Item MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND
5. ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CVA". On February 20, 2015, there were approximately 965 holders of record of our common stock. On February 20, 2015, the closing price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$21.31 per share. The following table sets forth the high and low stock prices of our common stock for the last two years.

	2014			2013		
	High	Low	Dividend Declared	High	Low	Dividend Declared
First Quarter	\$18.78	\$16.42	\$0.18	\$20.26	\$18.33	\$0.165
Second Quarter	\$21.00	\$17.36	\$0.18	\$21.30	\$18.94	\$0.165
Third Quarter	\$21.73	\$20.23	\$0.25	\$21.89	\$19.74	\$0.165
Fourth Quarter	\$25.35	\$20.56	\$0.25	\$21.71	\$16.70	\$0.165

Under current financing arrangements, there are restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to transfer funds to us in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances that could limit the future payment of dividends on our common stock. However, given our strong cash generation, we anticipate returning additional capital to our shareholders. See Item 7. Management's Discussion And Analysis Of Financial Condition And Results of Operations — Liquidity And Capital Resources and Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 5. Equity and Earnings Per Share for additional information on the restrictions under our financing arrangements and our dividend payments. See Item 12. Security Ownership Of Certain Beneficial Owners And Management And Related Stockholder Matters regarding securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans.

Share Repurchases

Under our share repurchase program, common stock repurchases may be made in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions from time to time, or by other available methods, at management's discretion in accordance with applicable federal securities laws. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including our capital structure, the market price of our common stock and overall market conditions, and whether any restrictions then exist under our policies relating to trading in compliance with securities laws.

In 2013, we increased the authorization for share repurchases to a total of \$150 million. During the year ended December 31, 2013, we repurchased 1.7 million shares for approximately \$34 million at a weighted average cost per share of \$19.37. We did not repurchase shares of common stock during the second half of fiscal 2013 or in 2014. As of December 31, 2014, the amount remaining under our currently authorized share repurchase program was \$116 million.

During each of the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, we repurchased 0.02 million and 0.5 million shares of our common stock, respectively, in connection with tax withholdings for vested stock awards.

Unregistered sales of equity securities and use of proceeds

During the three months ended December 31, 2014, 1,274,138 shares of our common stock were issued in connection with exercises of warrants issued as part of the 3.25% Notes offering for an aggregate of 1,430,870 shares of common stock issued upon exercise of such warrants during the year ended December 31, 2014. The warrant exercises were net share settled, meaning that we delivered to the warrant holders a number of shares for each warrant equal to the excess (if any) of the volume weighted average price of our common stock on each exercise date over the then effective strike price of the warrants, divided by such volume-weighted average price of our common stock, with a cash payment in lieu of fractional shares. Accordingly, we did not receive any proceeds from the exercise of the warrants. The shares of common stock issued upon exercise of the warrants were issued in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Section 3(a)(9) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and no underwriters were used in connection with the warrant exercises. For additional information related to the warrants, see Note 11 Consolidated Debt — 3.25%

Cash Convertible Senior Notes due 2014.

34

Table of Contents

The following performance graph sets forth a comparison of the yearly percentage change in the Company's cumulative total stockholder return on common stock with the Standard and Poor's Midcap 400 Index*, the Dow Jones US Conventional Electricity Index**, and the Dow Jones US Waste & Disposal Services Index**. The foregoing cumulative total returns are computed assuming (a) an initial investment of \$100, and (b) the reinvestment of dividends at the frequency which dividends were paid during the applicable years. The graph below reflects comparative information for the five fiscal years beginning with the close of trading on December 31, 2009 and ending December 31, 2014.

The stockholder return reflected above is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

The Standard and Poor's Midcap 400 Index is a capitalization-weighted index designed to measure performance of *the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of the component stocks representing all major industries. © 2015 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

** The Dow Jones US Waste & Disposal Services Index and the Dow Jones US Conventional Electricity Index are maintained by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. As described by Dow Jones, the Dow Jones US Waste & Services Index consists of providers of pollution control and environmental services for the management, recovery and disposal of solid and hazardous waste materials, such as landfills and recycling centers. The Dow Jones US Conventional Electricity Index consists of companies generating and distributing electricity through the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas, and through nuclear energy. © 2015 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

Table of Contents

Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected financial information presented below should be read in conjunction with Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(In millions, except per share amounts)				
Statements of Operations Data:					
Operating revenues	\$1,682	\$1,630	\$1,643	\$1,650	\$1,583
Operating expenses ⁽²⁾	\$(1,538)	\$(1,408)	\$(1,366)	\$(1,409)	\$(1,411)
Net (write-offs) gains	\$(64)	\$(15)	\$57	\$—	\$(34)
Operating income ⁽²⁾	\$144	\$222	\$277	\$241	\$172
Loss on extinguishment of debt	\$(2)	\$(1)	\$(3)	\$(1)	\$(15)
(Loss) income from continuing operations ⁽²⁾	\$(1)	\$42	\$138	\$98	\$44
(Loss) income from discontinued operations, net of taxes ⁽²⁾	\$—	\$(52)	\$(20)	\$129	\$26
Net (loss) income ⁽²⁾	\$(1)	\$(10)	\$118	\$227	\$70
Net loss (income) from continuing operations attributable to noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	\$(1)	\$1	\$(2)	\$(5)	\$(5)
Net loss from discontinued operations attributable to noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$(3)	\$(4)
Net (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation ⁽²⁾	\$(2)	\$(9)	\$116	\$219	\$61
Net (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders:					
Continuing operations ⁽²⁾	\$(2)	\$43	\$136	\$93	\$39
Discontinued operations ⁽²⁾	—	(52)	(20)	126	22
Net (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation ⁽²⁾	\$(2)	\$(9)	\$116	\$219	\$61
Basic (Loss) Earnings per share attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation:					
Continuing operations ⁽²⁾	\$(0.01)	\$0.33	\$1.03	\$0.66	\$0.25
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40)	(0.15)	0.89	0.14
Covanta Holding Corporation ⁽²⁾	\$(0.01)	\$(0.07)	\$0.88	\$1.55	\$0.39
Diluted (Loss) Earnings per share attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation:					
Continuing operations ⁽²⁾	\$(0.01)	\$0.33	\$1.02	\$0.66	\$0.25
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40)	(0.15)	0.88	0.14
Covanta Holding Corporation ⁽²⁾	\$(0.01)	\$(0.07)	\$0.87	\$1.54	\$0.39

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Cash dividend declared per share	\$0.86	\$0.66	\$0.60	\$0.30	\$1.50
Weighted average common shares outstanding:					
Basic	130	129	132	141	153
Diluted	130	130	133	142	154

36

Table of Contents

	As of December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(In millions, except per share amounts)				
Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$91	\$195	\$235	\$220	\$119
Restricted funds held in trust	\$196	\$167	\$214	\$191	\$233
Assets held for sale	\$—	\$71	\$137	\$144	\$306
Property, plant and equipment, net ⁽²⁾	\$2,653	\$2,621	\$2,543	\$2,406	\$2,459
Total assets ⁽²⁾	\$4,204	\$4,380	\$4,527	\$4,385	\$4,675
Long-term debt	\$1,973	\$2,085	\$2,015	\$1,486	\$1,565
Project debt	\$247	\$236	\$317	\$680	\$803
Liabilities held for sale	\$—	\$49	\$65	\$56	\$94
Total Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders equity ⁽²⁾	\$782	\$902	\$1,042	\$1,075	\$1,120
Shares of common stock outstanding	133	130	132	136	150

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(In millions)				
Cash Flow Data:					
Net cash flow from continuing operations provided by (used in):					
Operating activities	\$340	\$324	\$357	\$376	\$405
Investing activities	\$(235)	\$(258)	\$(222)	\$(118)	\$(246)
Financing activities	\$(207)	\$(111)	\$(132)	\$(418)	\$(450)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment:					
Maintenance capital expenditures	\$101	\$87	\$85	\$80	\$74
Other capital expenditures ⁽¹⁾	115	101	41	38	41
Total purchase of property, plant and equipment	\$216	\$188	\$126	\$118	\$115

See Item 7. Management's Discussion And Analysis Of Financial Condition And Results of Operations — Liquidity — (1) Supplementary Financial Information — Free Cash Flow (Non-GAAP Discussion) for details related to other capital expenditures.

(2) As revised for the years ended December 31, 2013 and prior. See Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data - Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Table of Contents

Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The terms "we," "our," "ours," "us," "Covanta" and "Company" refer to Covanta Holding Corporation and its subsidiaries; the term "Covanta Energy" refers to our subsidiary Covanta Energy, LLC (formerly known as Covanta Energy Corporation) and its subsidiaries.

OVERVIEW

Covanta is one of the world's largest owners and operators of infrastructure for the conversion of waste to energy (known as "energy-from-waste" or "EfW"), as well as other waste disposal and renewable energy production businesses. Energy-from-waste serves two key markets as both a sustainable waste management solution that is environmentally superior to landfilling and as a source of clean energy that reduces overall greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions. Energy-from-waste is also considered renewable under the laws of many states and under federal law. Our facilities are critical infrastructure assets that allow our customers, which are principally municipal entities, to provide an essential public service. For a discussion of our facilities, the energy-from-waste process and the environmental benefits of energy-from-waste, see Item. 1. Business.

We have one reportable segment, North America, which is comprised of waste and energy services operations located primarily in the United States and Canada. Additional information about our reportable segment is contained in Item. 1. Business and Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 6. Financial Information by Business Segments.

Our mission is to provide sustainable waste and energy solutions. We intend to pursue our mission through the following key strategies:

- Preserve and grow the value of our existing portfolio;
- Expand through acquisitions and/or development in selected attractive markets;
- Develop and commercialize new technology;
- Advocate for public policy favorable to energy-from-waste and other sustainable waste solutions;
- Allocate capital efficiently for long-term shareholder value; and
- Maintain a focus on sustainability.

For a discussion of these strategies and the execution on these strategies in 2014, see Item. 1. Business — Strategy and Business — Execution on Strategy.

General Business Conditions

See Item. 1. Business — Markets, Competition and Business Conditions for a discussion of factors affecting business conditions and financial results.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following general discussions should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements, the notes to the consolidated financial statements and other financial information appearing and referred to elsewhere in this report. Additional detail relating to changes in operating revenues and operating expenses and the quantification of specific factors affecting or causing such changes, is provided in the segment discussion below.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, assets related to our development activities in the United Kingdom met the criteria for classification as Discontinued Operations and as such all prior periods have been reclassified to conform to this presentation. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 4. Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations for additional information.

The comparability of the information provided below with respect to our revenues, expenses and certain other items for periods during each of the years presented was affected by several factors. As outlined in Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions, our business development initiatives, contract transitions, and acquisitions resulted in various transactions which are reflected in comparative revenues and expenses. These factors must be taken into account in developing meaningful comparisons between the periods compared below.

The Results of Operations discussion below compares our revenues, expenses and certain other items during each of the years presented for continuing operations.

The following terms used within the Results of Operations discussion are defined as follows:

• “Same store”: reflects the performance at each facility on a comparable period-over-period basis, excluding the impacts of transitions and transactions.

• “Transitions”: includes the impact of the expiration of: (a) long-term major waste and service contracts, most typically representing the transition to a new contract structure, and (b) long-term energy contracts.

• “Transactions”: includes the impacts of acquisitions, divestitures, and the addition or loss of operating contracts.

Table of Contents

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — OPERATING INCOME

Year Ended December 31, 2014 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2013

	Consolidated		North America		Variance Increase (Decrease)	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	Consolidated	North America
	(In millions)					
OPERATING REVENUES:						
Waste and service revenues	\$1,032	\$1,008	\$1,030	\$1,006	\$24	\$24
Recycled metals revenues	93	73	93	73	20	20
Energy revenues	460	431	423	401	29	22
Other operating revenues	97	118	95	115	(21)	(20)
Total operating revenues	1,682	1,630	1,641	1,595	52	46
OPERATING EXPENSES:						
Plant operating expenses	1,055	992	1,023	959	63	64
Other operating expenses	101	97	98	92	4	6
General and administrative expenses	97	82	94	80	15	14
Depreciation and amortization expense	211	209	208	207	2	1
Net interest expense on project debt	10	13	9	11	(3)	(2)
Net write-offs	64	15	50	15	49	35
Total operating expenses	1,538	1,408	1,482	1,364	130	118
Operating income	\$144	\$222	\$159	\$231	\$(78)	\$(72)
Plus: Net write-offs	\$64	\$15	\$50	\$15		
Operating income excluding Net write-offs:	\$208	\$237	\$209	\$246	\$(29)	\$(37)

Operating Revenues

Waste and Service Revenues

Waste and service revenues increased by \$24 million on both a consolidated and North America segment basis.

Waste and service revenues from North America segment EfW operations increased by \$5 million year-over-year, driven by the following:

- same store revenues increased by \$14 million, or 1.5%, primarily driven by \$11 million in price improvement, primarily due to contract escalation and special waste growth, and \$6 million in higher volume, offset by a decrease of \$2 million in other revenues;

contract transitions reduced revenue by \$17 million, of which \$13 million related to revenue earned explicitly to service project debt; and

transactions increased revenue by \$7 million.

Waste and service revenue from non-EfW operations in the North America segment increased by \$18 million, primarily due to transfer stations acquired in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Consolidated (in millions):	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	Variance
Waste and service revenue unrelated to project debt	\$1,010	\$973	\$37
Revenue earned explicitly to service project debt - principal	19	30	(11)
Revenue earned explicitly to service project debt - interest	3	5	(2)
Total waste and service revenue	\$1,032	\$1,008	24

Table of Contents

North America Segment - EfW Facilities - Tons Received ⁽¹⁾ (in millions):	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	Variance
Contracted	\$16.0	\$15.0	1.0
Uncontracted	2.7	3.5	(0.8)
Total Tons	\$18.7	\$18.5	0.2

(1) Includes solid tons only. Certain amounts may not total due to rounding.

Recycled Metal Revenues

For the twelve month comparative period, recycled metal revenues on both a consolidated and North America segment basis increased by \$20 million. This increase was almost entirely driven by higher same store revenues in North America segment EfW operations as follows:

• \$13 million from higher volume of recovered metals, primarily as a result of improvements to existing recovery systems and installation of new recovery systems; and

• \$5 million from higher recycled metal pricing, due to both higher market prices and selling product at a higher percentage of underlying market indices.

Revenue from non-EfW operations increased by \$3 million.

Recycled Metal Revenues (in millions):

	For the Quarters Ended	
	2014	2013
March 31,	\$21	\$16
June 30,	25	17
September 30,	26	19
December 31,	21	21
Total for the Year Ended December 31,	\$93	\$73

Year Ended December 31,

	Metal Revenue by Type (in millions)		Tons Sold by Type (in thousands) ⁽¹⁾	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Ferrous Metal	\$65	\$56	340	311
Non-Ferrous Metal	28	17	30	20
Total	\$93	\$73		

(1) Represents the portion of total volume sold that is equivalent to Covanta's share of revenue under applicable client revenue sharing arrangements.

Energy Revenues

For the twelve month comparative period, energy revenues on a consolidated basis increased by \$29 million.

Energy revenues from North America segment EfW operations increased by \$19 million year-over-year, driven by the following:

• same store revenues increased by \$18 million, driven by \$11 million in higher energy pricing, primarily resulting from cold weather energy demands in the first quarter, and \$7 million in higher energy production;

• service fee contract transitions increased revenue by \$3 million due to reduced client revenue sharing;

• energy contract transitions to market prices reduced revenue by \$4 million; and

• transactions increased revenue by \$4 million.

All other energy revenue (non-EfW operations) increased by \$10 million on a consolidated basis, driven by a \$2 million increase in revenue from biomass operations due to higher energy prices and \$8 million in higher steam revenue from a facility in China.

Table of Contents

North America Segment - Energy Revenue and MWh by Contract Status and Facility Type (in millions):

	Year Ended December 31,							Variance	
	2014			2013					
	Revenue (1)	Volume ⁽¹⁾ (2)	% of Total Volume	Revenue (1)	Volume ⁽¹⁾ (2)	% of Total Volume	Revenue	Volume	
EfW									
At Market	\$52	1.1	17 %	\$39	1.0	16 %			
Contracted	247	3.2	51 %	268	3.6	59 %			
Hedged	59	1.4	21 %	31	0.8	13 %			
Total EfW	\$358	5.6	89 %	\$338	5.3	88 %	\$20	0.3	
Biomass									
At Market	\$24	0.4	6 %	\$18	0.4	6 %			
Contracted	41	0.3	5 %	45	0.3	6 %			
Total Biomass	\$65	0.7	11 %	\$63	0.7	12 %	\$2	—	
Total	\$423	6.3	100 %	\$401	6.0	100 %	\$22	0.3	

(1) Covanta share only. Represents the sale of electricity and steam based upon output delivered and capacity provided.

(2) Steam converted to MWh at an assumed average rate of 11 klbs of steam / MWh.

Other Operating Revenues

The decrease of \$21 million in other operating revenues for the twelve month comparative period was primarily due to lower construction revenue.

Operating Expenses**Plant Operating Expenses**

For the twelve month comparative period, plant operating expenses on a consolidated and North America segment basis increased by \$63 million and \$64 million, respectively.

Plant operating expenses from North America segment EfW operations increased \$23 million year-over-year, driven by the following:

same store plant operating expenses increased by \$11 million, impacted by higher fuel expense incurred primarily as a result of cold weather in the first quarter of 2014 (\$6 million), insurance recoveries in Q2 2013 (\$3 million), higher hauling and disposal costs (\$3 million), and increased bad debt reserves (\$2 million), partially offset by lower operating lease expense (\$2 million);

contract transitions increased plant operating expenses by \$1 million due to reduced client pass-through costs; and transactions increased plant operating expenses by \$11 million.

Plant operating expenses from non-EfW operations in our North America segment increased by \$41 million, with additional expenses from transfer stations acquired in the fourth quarter of 2013 (\$15 million), higher wood fuel cost at our biomass facilities (\$3 million), higher employee incentive compensation (\$14 million), and other expenses related to increased revenue as noted above (\$11 million), partially offset by the benefit of higher renewable energy credits which are accounted for as a contra-expense (\$2 million).

Plant operating expenses outside of the North America segment decreased by \$1 million due to lower wages and benefits at a facility in China.

North America Segment (in millions):	For the Years Ended		
	December 31, 2014	2013	Variance
Plant Operating Expenses:			
Plant maintenance ⁽¹⁾	\$244	\$232	\$12
All other	779	727	52

Plant operating expenses	\$1,023	\$959	64
--------------------------	---------	-------	----

41

Table of Contents

(1) Plant maintenance costs include our internal maintenance team and non-facility employee costs for facility scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and repair expenses.

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses in our North America segment increased by \$6 million for the twelve month comparative period with lower construction expenses (\$14 million) offset by a gain related to the termination of our defined benefit pension plans in the first quarter of 2013 (\$6 million), an energy contract termination payment in the second quarter of 2013 (\$8 million), lower insurance recoveries in 2014 (\$2 million), a gain related to a contract amendment in the third quarter of 2013 (\$3 million) and other items in Q4 2013 (\$2 million).

For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 14. Supplementary Information — Other Operating Expenses.

Net Write-offs

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded non-cash write-offs totaling \$64 million consisting of \$14 million related to the sale of our insurance business, a \$34 million impairment charge related to our California biomass facility assets, and write-offs of contract intangibles of \$16 million. For additional information, see Item 1. Financial Statements — Note 14. Supplementary Information — Net Write-off (Gains).

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we recorded non-cash write-offs in our North America segment totaling \$15 million, consisting of \$4 million against our outstanding loan receivable balance related to the Harrisburg EfW facility, a \$9 million impairment of our Wallingford EfW facility assets, and a \$2 million impairment of our 55% equity investment in the Pacific Ultrapower Chinese Station biomass facility, which we subsequently sold in the fourth quarter of 2013. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 14. Supplementary Information — Net Write-off (Gains).

Operating Income

Excluding the net write-offs discussed above, operating income decreased by \$29 million on a consolidated basis for the twelve month comparative period. In our North America segment, operating income decreased by \$37 million, with higher contribution from EfW operations (\$9 million) offset by lower profit from construction activities, higher employee incentive compensation expenses, third party consultant costs incurred to implement long-term cost efficiency improvements (see Item 1. Business — Execution on Strategy — Efficiency Improvements), and certain one-time gains realized in 2013. Outside of our North America segment operating income improved by \$7 million primarily due to lower development spending and increased steam sales at a facility in China.

Table of Contents

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — OPERATING INCOME

Year Ended December 31, 2013 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Consolidated		North America		Variance Increase (Decrease)	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	Consolidated	North America
(In millions)						
OPERATING REVENUES:						
Waste and service revenues	\$1,008	\$1,010	\$1,006	\$1,008	\$(2)	\$(2)
Recycled metals revenues	73	72	73	72	1	1
Energy revenues	431	394	401	367	37	34
Other operating revenues	118	167	115	156	(49)	(41)
Total operating revenues	1,630	1,643	1,595	1,603	(13)	(8)
OPERATING EXPENSES:						
Plant operating expenses	992	967	959	934	25	25
Other operating expenses	97	157	92	140	(60)	(48)
General and administrative expenses	82	78	80	74	4	6
Depreciation and amortization expense	209	194	207	191	15	16
Net interest expense on project debt	13	27	11	26	(14)	(15)
Net write-offs (gains)	15	(57)	15	(57)	72	72
Total operating expenses	1,408	1,366	1,364	1,308	42	56
Operating income	\$222	\$277	\$231	\$295	\$(55)	\$(64)
Plus: Net write-offs (gains)	\$15	\$(57)	\$15	\$(57)		
Operating income excluding Net write-offs (gains):	\$237	\$220	\$246	\$238	\$17	\$8

Operating Revenues

Waste and Service Revenues

Waste and service revenues decreased by \$2 million on both a consolidated and North America segment basis. Within our North America segment, waste and service revenues from EfW operations decreased by \$7 million, with lower revenue earned explicitly to service project debt (\$12 million) and the net impact of service contract transitions (\$3 million) partially offset by an \$11 million or 1.2% increase (0.5% from price and 0.7% from volume) in same store revenue.

Consolidated (in millions):	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2013	2012	Variance
Waste and service revenue unrelated to project debt	\$973	\$963	\$10
Revenue earned explicitly to service project debt - principal	30	39	(9)
Revenue earned explicitly to service project debt - interest	5	8	(3)
Total waste and service revenue	\$1,008	\$1,010	(2)
North America Segment - EfW Facilities - Tons Received ⁽¹⁾ (in millions):	For the Years Ended December 31,		
Contracted	\$15.0	\$15.2	\$(0.2)
Uncontracted	3.5	3.3	0.2
Total Tons	\$18.5	\$18.5	—

(1) Includes solid tons only.

Table of Contents

Recycled Metal Revenues

Recycled metal revenues increased slightly primarily due to higher volume of recovered metals as a result of the installation of new non-ferrous recovery systems (\$4 million), offset by lower recycled metal market pricing (\$3 million).

Recycled Metal Revenues (in millions):	For the	
	Quarters Ended	
	2013	2012
March 31,	\$16	\$20
June 30,	17	18
September 30,	19	17
December 31,	21	17
Total for the Year Ended December 31,	\$73	\$72

Metal Revenue by Type (in millions)	Year Ended December 31,		Tons Sold by Type (in thousands) ⁽¹⁾	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Ferrous Metal	\$56	\$58	311	309
Non-Ferrous Metal	17	14	20	15
Total	\$73	\$72		

(1) Covanta share only.

Energy Revenues

Energy revenues in our North America segment increased by \$34 million, with \$31 million from our EfW facilities and \$3 million from our biomass facilities. The average energy price was essentially flat in 2013. The increase in EfW energy revenues was primarily driven by service contract transitions that increased our share of the energy revenue at certain facilities (\$23 million), increased energy production in same store revenues (\$5 million) and an increase due to transactions (\$2 million). Consolidated energy revenues included \$3 million of higher revenue from our international projects.

North America Segment - Energy Revenue and MWh by Contract Status and Facility Type (in millions):

North America segment:	Year Ended December 31,			2012			Variance	
	2013		% of	2012		% of	Revenue	Volume
	Revenue	Volume ⁽¹⁾ ,	Total	Revenue	Volume ⁽¹⁾ ,	Total		
	(1)	(2)	Volume	(1)	(2)	Volume		
EfW								
At Market	\$39	1.0	16 %	\$36	0.9	16 %		
Contracted	268	3.6	59 %	250	3.5	63 %		
Hedged	31	0.8	13 %	21	0.4	8 %		
Total EfW	\$338	5.3	88 %	\$307	4.8	87 %	\$31	0.5
Biomass								
At Market	\$18	0.4	6 %	\$13	0.4	7 %		
Contracted	45	0.3	6 %	47	0.4	6 %		
Total Biomass	\$63	0.7	12 %	\$60	0.8	13 %	\$3	(0.1)
Total	\$401	6.0	100 %	\$367	5.6	100 %	\$34	0.4

(1) Covanta share only. Represents the sale of electricity and steam based upon output delivered and capacity provided.

(2) Steam converted to MWh at an assumed average rate of 11 klbs of steam / MWh.

Other Operating Revenues

The decrease of \$41 million in other operating revenues in the North America segment was primarily due to lower construction revenue with the Honolulu facility expansion project commencing commercial operations in 2012. Consolidated other operating revenues further decreased by \$8 million primarily due to lower revenues from our insurance subsidiaries, whose remaining business was transitioned to run-off during 2012.

Table of Contents

Operating Expenses

Plant Operating Expenses

Plant operating expenses in our North America segment increased by \$25 million, including \$6 million in plant maintenance expense and \$19 million in other plant operating expenses. The increase in other plant operating expenses was driven by higher hauling and disposal costs for ash and bypassed waste (\$16 million) and other same store cost escalation (\$12 million), as well as increased costs from service contract transitions (\$14 million), partially offset by higher renewable energy credits which are accounted for as a contra expense which are accounted for as a contra expense (\$12 million), and lower operating lease expense (\$11 million) resulting from the acquisition of the Delaware Valley EfW facility in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Consolidated plant operating expenses included \$2 million of higher operating expenses from our international projects.

North America Segment (in millions):	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2013	2012	Variance
Plant Operating Expenses:			
Plant maintenance ⁽¹⁾	\$232	\$226	\$6
All other	727	708	19
Plant operating expenses	\$959	\$934	25

⁽¹⁾ Plant maintenance costs include our internal maintenance team and non-facility employee costs for facility scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and repair expenses.

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses in our North America segment decreased by \$48 million primarily due to lower construction expense (\$29 million) for the same reason noted above, an energy contract termination payment recorded as a contra expense (\$8 million), and the net change in pension plan settlement expense related to the termination of our defined benefit pension plan (\$17 million), partially offset by lower property insurance recoveries. On a consolidated basis, other operating expenses further decreased due to lower operating expenses at our insurance subsidiaries, whose remaining business was transitioned to run-off during 2012.

For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 14. Supplementary Information — Other Operating Expenses.

Net Write-offs (Gains)

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we recorded non-cash write-offs in our North America segment totaling \$15 million consisting of \$4 million against our outstanding loan receivable balance related to the Harrisburg EfW facility, a \$9 million impairment of our Wallingford EfW facility assets, and a \$2 million impairment of our 55% equity investment in the Pacific Ultrapower Chinese Station biomass facility, which we subsequently sold in the fourth quarter of 2013. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 14. Supplementary Information — Net Write-off (Gains).

During the year ended December 31, 2012, we recorded non-cash write-offs (gains) totaling \$(57) million consisting of a net gain of \$44 million related to the termination of the pre-existing lease in connection with the Delaware Valley EfW acquisition, a non-cash write-off of an intangible liability in connection with a contract amendment for our Essex County EfW facility, which resulted in a gain of \$29 million, offset by a non-cash write-off of \$16 million representing the capitalized costs of a suspended renewable fuels project. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 14. Supplementary Information — Net Write-off (Gains).

Operating Income

Operating income excluding net write-offs (gains) for 2013 was \$237 million, compared to \$220 million in the prior year period. The increase of \$17 million was due to lower interest expense on project debt (\$14 million), offset by the net impact of the factors described above.

Table of Contents

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — NON-OPERATING INCOME ITEMS

Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

Other Expenses:

	For the Years Ended			Variance	
	December 31,			Increase (Decrease)	
	2014	2013	2012	2014 vs 2013	2013 vs 2012
	(In millions)				
CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:					
Investment income	\$(1)	\$—	\$(1)	\$(1)	\$ 1
Interest expense	125	118	94	7	24
Non-cash convertible debt related expense	13	28	25	(15)	3
Loss on extinguishment of debt	2	1	3	1	(2)
Other expenses (income), net	1	(4)	(3)	5	(1)
Total other expenses	\$140	\$143	\$118	(3)	25

Interest expense increased for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to higher interest expense related to the 5.875% Senior Notes, which were issued in March 2014, as compared to the 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes, which matured in June, partially offset by lower interest expense related to our Term Loan. Interest expense increased for the year ended December 31, 2013, compared to the year ended December 31, 2012, primarily due to the higher interest expense of \$31 million related to the 6.375% Senior Notes, Tax-Exempt Bonds and Term Loan issued in 2012.

Non-cash convertible debt related expense decreased for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013, due to the maturity of the 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes in June 2014. Non-cash convertible debt related expense increased for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012, primarily due to net changes to the valuation of the derivatives associated with the 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes.

The components of loss on extinguishment of debt are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Credit Facility refinancing ⁽¹⁾	\$2	\$1	\$2
Project Debt refinancing ⁽²⁾	—	—	1
Total loss on extinguishment of debt	\$2	\$1	\$3

(1) Comprised of the write-off of deferred financing costs in connection with previously existing financing arrangements. See Liquidity and Capital Resources below.

(2) Comprised of the write-off of unamortized premium on refinanced project debt, net of expensed financing costs on new tax-exempt bonds and additional interest payments for refinanced project debt. See Liquidity and Capital Resources below.

For the years ended 2013 and 2012, other (income) expense included a \$4 million gain related to a distribution received from an insurance subsidiary grantor trust and \$3 million foreign currency exchange gain related to intercompany loans, respectively. For additional information, see income tax expense discussion below and see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 15. Income Taxes.

Income Tax Expense:

	For the Years Ended			Variance	
	December 31,			Increase (Decrease)	
	2014	2013	2012	2014 vs 2013	2013 vs 2012
	(In millions, except percentages)				

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF
OPERATIONS:

Income tax expense	\$15	\$43	\$31	\$(28) \$ 12
--------------------	------	------	------	-------	---------

Effective income tax rate	388	% 55	% 19	%
---------------------------	-----	------	------	---

The income tax expense decrease for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to the year ended December 31, 2013, was primarily due to lower pre-tax income for the year ended December 31, 2014. The income tax expense increase for the year ended December 31, 2013, compared to the year ended December 31, 2012, was primarily due to the absence of the tax benefit in 2013

Table of Contents

from the Delaware Valley EfW acquisition that gave rise to the net gain on the settlement of a pre-existing lease in 2012 and the income tax impact of our unrecognized tax positions for the year ended December 31, 2013. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

Net (Loss) Income Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation and Earnings Per Share:

For the Years Ended			Variance	
December 31,			Increase (Decrease)	
2014	2013	2012	2014 vs 2013	2013 vs 2012

(In millions, except per share amounts)

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Net (Loss) Income Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation Stockholders:

Continuing operations	\$ (2)	\$ 43	\$ 136	\$ (45)	\$ (93)
Discontinued operations ⁽¹⁾	—	(52)	(20)	52	(32)
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ (2)	\$ (9)	\$ 116	7	(125)

(Loss) Earnings Per Share Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders:

Basic:

Continuing operations	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.33	\$ 1.03	(0.34)	(0.70)
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40)	(0.15)	0.40	(0.25)
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.07)	\$ 0.88	0.06	(0.95)
Weighted Average Shares	130	129	132	1	(3)

Diluted:

Continuing operations	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.33	\$ 1.02	(0.34)	(0.69)
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40)	(0.15)	0.40	(0.25)
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.07)	\$ 0.87	0.06	(0.94)
Weighted Average Shares	130	130	133	—	(3)

Cash Dividend Declared Per Share ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.60	0.20	0.06
---	---------	---------	---------	------	------

Adjusted EPS — Non-GAAP ⁽³⁾	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.59	0.03	(0.23)
--	---------	---------	---------	------	---------

Discontinued operations in 2013 are comprised of the impairment of assets related to our development activities in the United Kingdom. In 2012, discontinued operations primarily relate to our interests in our fossil fuel (1) independent power production facilities in the Philippines, India, and Bangladesh, but also included our development activities in the United Kingdom. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 4. Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations for additional information.

(2) For information on dividends declared to shareholders and share repurchases, see Liquidity and Capital Resources below.

(3) See Supplementary Financial Information — Adjusted EPS (Non-GAAP Discussion) below.

Supplementary Financial Information — Adjusted Earnings Per Share (“Adjusted EPS”) (Non-GAAP Discussion) We use a number of different financial measures, both United States generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and non-GAAP, in assessing the overall performance of our business. To supplement our results prepared in accordance with GAAP, we use the measure of Adjusted EPS, which is a non-GAAP financial measure as defined by

the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). The non-GAAP financial measure of Adjusted EPS is not intended as a substitute or as an alternative to diluted earnings per share as an indicator of our performance or any other measure of performance derived in accordance with GAAP. In addition, our non-GAAP financial measures may be different from non-GAAP financial measures used by other companies, limiting their usefulness for comparison purposes. We use the non-GAAP financial measure of Adjusted EPS to enhance the usefulness of our financial information by providing a measure which management internally uses to assess and evaluate the overall performance and highlight trends in the ongoing business.

Adjusted EPS excludes certain income and expense items that are not representative of our ongoing business and operations, which are included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share in accordance with GAAP. The following items are not all-inclusive, but are examples of reconciling items in prior comparative and future periods. They would include the results of operations of our insurance subsidiaries, write-offs of assets and liabilities, the effect of derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments, significant gains or losses from the disposition or restructuring of businesses, gains and losses on assets held for sale, transaction-related costs, income and loss on the extinguishment of debt and other significant items that would not be representative

Table of Contents

of our ongoing business.

In order to provide a meaningful basis for comparison, we are providing information with respect to our Adjusted EPS for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, reconciled for each such period to diluted earnings per share from continuing operations, which is believed to be the most directly comparable measure under GAAP (in millions, except per share amounts):

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Diluted (Loss) Earnings Per Share from Continuing Operations	\$ (0.01	) \$ 0.33	\$ 1.02
Reconciling Items ⁽¹⁾	0.40	0.03	(0.43
Adjusted EPS	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.59

(1) Additional information is provided in the Reconciling Items table below.

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Reconciling Items			
Operating loss related to insurance subsidiaries ^(a)	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 10
Net write-offs (gains) ^(b)	64	15	(57
Severance and other restructuring ^(c)	9	2	—
Pension plan settlement (gain) expense ^(d)	—	(6	) 11
Gain related to trust distribution ^(e)	—	(4) —
Loss on extinguishment of debt ^(f)	2	1	3
Loss on derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments	—	(1	) (1
Effect of foreign exchange loss on indebtedness ^(g)	1	—	(3
Other	1	—	—
Total reconciling items, pre-tax	79	9	(37
Proforma income tax impact ^(h)	(32	) (5	) (22
ARC purchase accounting adjustment tax impact	4	—	—
Grantor trust activity	1	—	1
Total Continuing Operations Reconciling Items, net of tax	\$ 52	\$ 4	\$ (58
Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Share Impact	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.03	\$ (0.43
Weighted Average Diluted Shares Outstanding	130	130	133

Represents operating losses for our insurance subsidiaries. During 2012, we transitioned our remaining insurance (a) business to run-off and recorded additional losses of \$7 million primarily relating to adverse loss development and reserve increases.

(b) For additional information, see table below.

(c) Includes certain costs incurred in connection with costs savings initiatives. See Item 1. Business — Execution on Strategy — Efficiency Improvements.

(d) For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Information — Note 16. Employee Benefit Plans.

(e) In 2013, we recorded a \$4 million gain related to a distribution received from an insurance subsidiary grantor trust.

(f) See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 15. Income Taxes.

(g) For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Information — Note 11.

(h) Consolidated Debt.

(g) In 2012, we recorded a foreign exchange gain related to an intercompany loan.

(h) For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 15. Income Taxes.

Table of Contents

The components of net write-offs (gains) are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
North America segment:			
Write-off of intangible assets (liability)	\$ 16	\$—	\$(29)
Net gain related to lease termination - intangible related	—	—	(44)
Write-down of California biomass facilities and equity investment	34	2	—
Write-down of EfW facility assets	—	9	—
Write-off of loan issued to fund certain facility improvements	—	4	—
Write-off of renewable fuels project	—	—	16
North America segment sub-total:	50	15	(57)
Other:			
Write-down of insurance business	14	—	—
Total net write-offs (gains)	\$64	\$15	\$(57)

For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Information — Note 14.

Supplementary Information — Net Write-offs (Gains).

Supplementary Financial Information — Adjusted EBITDA (Non-GAAP Discussion)

To supplement our results prepared in accordance with GAAP, we use the measure of Adjusted EBITDA, which is a non-GAAP financial measure as defined by the SEC. This non-GAAP financial measure is described below, and is not intended as a substitute and should not be considered in isolation from measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP. In addition, our use of non-GAAP financial measures may be different from non-GAAP financial measures used by other companies, limiting their usefulness for comparison purposes. The presentation of Adjusted EBITDA is intended to enhance the usefulness of our financial information by providing a measure which management internally uses to assess and evaluate the overall performance of its business and those of possible acquisition candidates, and highlight trends in the overall business.

We use Adjusted EBITDA to provide further information that is useful to an understanding of the financial covenants contained in the credit facilities of our most significant subsidiary, Covanta Energy, and as additional ways of viewing aspects of its operations that, when viewed with the GAAP results and the accompanying reconciliations to corresponding GAAP financial measures, provide a more complete understanding of our core business. The calculation of Adjusted EBITDA is based on the definition in Covanta Energy's Credit Facilities (as defined and described below under Liquidity and Capital Resources), which we have guaranteed. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, as adjusted for additional items subtracted from or added to net income. Because our business is substantially comprised of that of Covanta Energy, our financial performance is substantially similar to that of Covanta Energy. For this reason, and in order to avoid use of multiple financial measures which are not all from the same entity, the calculation of Adjusted EBITDA and other financial measures presented herein are measured on a consolidated basis, less the results of operations of our insurance subsidiaries. Under the Credit Facilities, Covanta Energy is required to satisfy certain financial covenants, including certain ratios of which Adjusted EBITDA is an important component. Compliance with such financial covenants is expected to be the principal limiting factor which will affect our ability to engage in a broad range of activities in furtherance of our business, including making certain investments, acquiring businesses and incurring additional debt. Covanta Energy was in compliance with these covenants as of December 31, 2014. Failure to comply with such financial covenants could result in a default under the Credit Facilities, which default would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and liquidity.

Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to net income or cash flow provided by operating activities as indicators of our performance or liquidity or any other measures of performance or liquidity derived in accordance with GAAP.

In order to provide a meaningful basis for comparison, we are providing information with respect to our Adjusted EBITDA for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, reconciled for each such period to net income from continuing operations and cash flow provided by operating activities from continuing operations, which are believed to be the most directly comparable measures under GAAP. The following is a reconciliation of Net Income to Adjusted EBITDA (in millions):

49

Table of Contents

	Twelve Months Ended			
	December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
Adjusted EBITDA				
Net (Loss) Income Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation —				
Continuing Operations	\$(2	) \$43	\$136
Operating loss related to insurance subsidiaries ^(a)	2	2	10	
Depreciation and amortization expense	211	209	194	
Debt service:				
Net interest expense on project debt	10	13	27	
Interest expense	125	118	94	
Non-cash convertible debt related expense	13	28	25	
Investment income	(1) —	(1)
Subtotal debt service	147	159	145	
Income tax expense	15	43	31	
Net write-offs (gains) ^(a)	64	15	(57)
Pension plan settlement (gain) expense ^(a)	—	(6	) 11
Loss on extinguishment of debt ^(a)	2	1	3	
Gain related to trust distribution ^(a)	—	(4) —	
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	1	(1	) 2
Other adjustments:				
Debt service billing in excess of revenue recognized	2	9	9	
Severance and other restructuring ^(a)	9	2	—	
Non-cash compensation expense	17	15	16	
Other non-cash items ^(b)	6	7	7	
Subtotal other adjustments	34	33	32	
Total adjustments	476	451	371	
Adjusted EBITDA	\$474	\$494	\$507	

(a) For additional information, see Adjusted EPS above.

(b) Includes certain non-cash items that are added back under the definition of Adjusted EBITDA in Covanta Energy's credit agreement.

The following is a reconciliation of cash flow provided by operating activities to Adjusted EBITDA (in millions):

	Twelve Months Ended			
	December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
Cash flow provided by operating activities from continuing operations	\$340	\$324	\$357	
Cash flow used in operating activities from insurance activities ^(a)	1	8	5	
Debt service	147	159	145	
Change in working capital	(4	) 33	21
Change in restricted funds held in trust	(11) (20) (34)
Non-cash convertible debt related expense	(13) (28) (25)
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	10	6	10	
Dividends from unconsolidated investments	(11) (7) (8)
Current tax provision	11	12	12	
Other	4	7	24	
Sub-total:	(14	) 3	—

Adjusted EBITDA	\$474	\$494	\$507
-----------------	-------	-------	-------

(a) See Adjusted EPS above.

For additional discussion related to management's use of non-GAAP measures, see Liquidity and Capital Resources — Supplementary Financial Information — Free Cash Flow (Non-GAAP Discussion) below.

50

Table of Contents

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

In 2015 and beyond, we expect that our financial results will be affected by several factors, including: market prices, contract transitions, new contracts, organic growth and acquisitions, and our ability to manage facility production and operating costs.

In 2015, the following specific factors are expected to impact our financial results as compared to 2014:

Positive factors include:

- Approximately \$30 million in targeted cost savings that will benefit Adjusted EBITDA (as described above in Item 1. Business — Execution on Strategy — Efficiency Improvements); and

- Contribution from our new waste transportation and disposal contract with New York City and our new contract to operate the Pinellas County EfW facility.

Negative factors include:

- Transitions of existing contracts will reduce our Adjusted EBITDA, primarily through:

- \$10 million reduction in debt service billed under Service Fee projects we own;

- \$15 to \$20 million reduction in revenue earned under waste and service contracts;

- Lower anticipated market prices for electricity and recycled metals; and

- Higher scheduled maintenance capital expenditures.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our principal sources of liquidity are our cash and cash equivalents, the cash flow generated from our ongoing operations, and the available capacity under our Revolving Credit Facility, which we believe will allow us to meet our liquidity needs.

The following summarizes our key financing activities completed during the twelve months ended December 31, 2014:

- In September 2014, we executed agreements for project financing totaling €375 million to fund a majority of the construction costs of the Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility (see discussion below).

- In August 2014 and December 2014, we borrowed \$47 million and \$16 million, respectively, under equipment financing capital lease arrangements to purchase barges, rail cars, containers and intermodal equipment related to our contract with New York City.

- On July 1, 2014, we issued \$12 million of tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds due July 1, 2043, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility. Proceeds from the offering were utilized to refinance \$12 million of project debt at our Delaware Valley facility due on July 1, 2014.

- On June 1, 2014, we repaid the \$460 million of 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes upon maturity. In addition, we settled the Note Hedge for \$83 million effectively offsetting the \$83 million that we were required to pay to satisfy our obligation under the Cash Conversion Option.

- In March 2014, we issued \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 5.875% Senior Notes due March 2024. We used the net proceeds of the 5.875% Notes offering in part for the repayment of the 3.25% Cash Convertible Notes at maturity on June 1, 2014.

- In March 2014, we extended the termination date of the Revolving Credit Facility by two years from March 28, 2017 to March 21, 2019; increased the aggregate commitment amount of the Revolving Credit Facility by \$100 million to a total commitment of \$1 billion; reduced the applicable margin payable on the Term Loan by 25 basis points; and made a voluntary prepayment on the Term Loan of \$95 million that reduced the outstanding principal to \$200 million. See discussion below under Available Sources of Liquidity.

As of December 31, 2014, Covanta Energy had \$1.2 billion in senior secured credit facilities, which include a \$1.0 billion Revolving Credit Facility that expires in 2019. As of December 31, 2014, our available liquidity was as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31, 2014
Cash	\$91

Available borrowing capacity under Revolving Credit Facility	693
Total available liquidity	\$784

Table of Contents

In addition, as of December 31, 2014, we had restricted cash of \$196 million, of which \$86 million was designated for future payment of project debt principal.

We typically receive cash distributions from our North America segment projects on a monthly basis. The frequency and predictability of our receipt of cash from projects differs depending upon various factors, including, whether a project is domestic or international, and whether a project has been able to operate at its historical levels of production. The timing of our receipt of cash from construction projects for public sector clients is generally based upon our reaching completion milestones as set forth in the applicable contracts, and the timing and size of these milestone payments can result in material working capital variability between periods.

Our primary future cash requirements will be to fund capital expenditures to maintain our existing businesses, service our debt, invest in the growth of our business, and return capital to our shareholders. We believe that our liquidity position and ongoing cash flow from operations will be sufficient to finance these requirements.

Share Repurchases and Dividends

Under our share repurchase program, common stock repurchases may be made in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions from time to time, or by other available methods. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including our capital structure, the market price of our common stock and overall market conditions, and whether any restrictions then exist under our policies relating to trading in compliance with securities laws. As of December 31, 2014, the amount remaining under our currently authorized share repurchase program was \$116 million.

During the first quarter of 2014, we increased our quarterly cash dividend by 9%, to \$0.72 per share on an annualized basis. During the third quarter of 2014, we further increased our dividend by 39% to \$1.00 per share on an annualized basis.

During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 common shares repurchased and dividends declared were as follows (in millions, except per share amounts):

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Total repurchases	\$—	\$34	\$88
Shares repurchased	—	1.7	5.3
Weighted average cost per share	\$—	\$19.37	\$16.55
Dividends declared	\$114	\$87	\$81
Per share	\$0.86	\$0.66	\$0.60

Sources and Uses of Cash Flow from Continuing Operations

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Increase (Decrease)	
	2014	2013	2012	2014 vs 2013	2013 vs 2012
	(In millions)				
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$340	\$324	\$357	\$16	\$(33)
Net cash used in investing activities	(235)	(258)	(222)	(23)	36
Net cash used in financing activities	(207)	(111)	(132)	96	(21)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(5)	(1)	—	(4)	(1)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$(107)	\$(46)	\$3	(61)	(49)

Year Ended December 31, 2014 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2013

Net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$340 million, an increase of \$16 million from the prior year period. The increase was primarily due to the timing of

working capital.

Net cash used in investing activities from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$235 million, a decrease of \$23 million from the prior year period. The decrease was primarily due to lower outflows for the lower payments for the acquisition of businesses and noncontrolling interests of \$46 million, and lower payments received for loans repaid of \$9 million, offset by higher payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment of \$28 million and higher proceeds from the sale of marketable securities of \$11 million.

52

Table of Contents

Net cash used in financing activities from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$207 million, representing a net higher outflow of \$96 million as compared to the prior period. The net decrease was primarily driven by the net financing activities completed during the year ended December 31, 2014 as described above under Liquidity and Capital Resources, higher cash dividends of \$36 million, offset by lower repayments of project debt of \$31 million.

Year Ended December 31, 2013 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2012

Net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$324 million, a decrease of \$33 million from the prior year period. The decrease was primarily due to the timing of working capital, lower distributions from restricted funds held in trust of \$14 million, and higher cash interest payments of \$11 million.

Net cash used in investing activities from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$258 million, an increase of \$36 million from the prior year period. The increase was primarily due to higher investments in organic growth projects of \$74 million (see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions for further discussion), offset by lower outflows for the acquisition of businesses of \$37 million and the receipt of a \$9 million repayment of our loan related to the Harrisburg EfW facility.

Net cash used in financing activities from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$111 million, representing a net lower outflow of \$21 million as compared to the prior period. The net change was primarily driven by lower share repurchases (\$54 million) and dividend payments (\$25 million), offset by lower net borrowings (including release of restricted funds and payments of deferred financing costs) of \$43 million.

Supplementary Financial Information — Free Cash Flow (Non-GAAP Discussion)

To supplement our results prepared in accordance with GAAP, we use the measure of Free Cash Flow, which is a non-GAAP measure as defined by the SEC. This non-GAAP financial measure is not intended as a substitute and should not be considered in isolation from measures of liquidity prepared in accordance with GAAP. In addition, our use of Free Cash Flow may be different from similarly identified non-GAAP measures used by other companies, limiting its usefulness for comparison purposes. The presentation of Free Cash Flow is intended to enhance the usefulness of our financial information by providing measures which management internally uses to assess and evaluate the overall performance of its business and those of possible acquisition candidates, and highlight trends in the overall business.

We use the non-GAAP financial measure of Free Cash Flow as a criterion of liquidity and performance-based components of employee compensation. Free Cash Flow is defined as cash flow provided by operating activities, excluding the cash flow provided by or used in our insurance subsidiaries, less maintenance capital expenditures, which are capital expenditures primarily to maintain our existing facilities. We use Free Cash Flow as a measure of liquidity to determine amounts we can reinvest in our core businesses, such as amounts available to make acquisitions, invest in construction of new projects, make principal payments on debt, or return capital to our shareholders through dividends and/or stock repurchases. For additional discussion related to management's use of non-GAAP measures, see Results of Operations — Supplementary Financial Information — Adjusted EBITDA (Non-GAAP Discussion) above. In order to provide a meaningful basis for comparison, we are providing information with respect to our Free Cash Flow for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, reconciled for each such period to cash flow provided by operating activities from continuing operations, which we believe to be the most directly comparable measure under GAAP.

The following is a reconciliation of Free Cash Flow and its primary uses (in millions):

Table of Contents

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Cash flow provided by operating activities of continuing operations	\$340	\$324	\$357
Plus: Cash flow used in operating activities from insurance activities	1	8	5
Less: Maintenance capital expenditures ^(a)	(101	) (87	) (85
Free Cash Flow	\$240	\$245	\$277
Weighted Average Diluted Shares Outstanding	130	130	133
Uses of Free Cash Flow			
Investments:			
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired ^(b)	\$(13	) \$(57	) \$(94
Property insurance proceeds	2	4	8
Non-maintenance capital expenditures ^{(a)(b)}	(115	) (101	) (41
Change in restricted funds held in trust for project development	(3) —	—
Acquisition of land use rights ^(b)	—	—	(1
Other growth investments ^(b)	(15	) (4	) (2
Other investing activities, net ^(c)	10	(13	) (7
Total investments	\$(134	) \$(171	) \$(137
Return of capital to shareholders:			
Cash dividends paid to shareholders	\$(101	) \$(65	) \$(90
Common stock repurchased	—	(34	) (88
Total return of capital to shareholders	\$(101	) \$(99	) \$(178
Capital raising activities:			
Net proceeds from issuance of corporate debt ^{(d) (f)}	\$405	\$21	\$1,001
Net proceeds from issuance of project debt ^(e)	—	—	—
Net proceeds from equipment financing capital lease	63	—	—
Net proceeds from the exercise of options for common stock	10	1	—
Other financing activities, net	(3	) (25	) 2
Net proceeds from capital raising activities	\$475	\$(3	) \$1,003
Debt repayments:			
Net cash used for scheduled principal payments on corporate debt ^(f)	\$(462	) \$(3	) \$(26
Payments related to Cash Conversion Option	(83) —	—
Proceeds from the settlement of Note Hedge	83	—	—
Net cash used for scheduled principal payments on project debt ^(g)	(29	) (56	) (121
Payment of equipment financing capital lease	(1) —	—
Voluntary prepayment of corporate debt ^{(f)(h)}	(95	) —	(621
Net cash used for optional repayment of project debt ⁽ⁱ⁾	—	—	(238
Fees incurred for debt refinancing	(29) \$—	—
Total debt repayments	\$(616	) \$(59	) \$(1,006
Borrowing activities - Revolving Credit Facility, net ^(e)	\$35	\$50	\$60

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Short-term borrowing activities - Financing of insurance premiums, net	\$—	\$—	\$(10))
Distribution to partners of noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	\$—	\$—	\$(1))
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	\$(5	) \$(1) \$—	
Net change in cash and cash equivalents from continuing operations	\$(106	) \$(38	) \$8	

54

Table of Contents

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are also referred to as capital expenditures. Capital expenditures that primarily maintain existing facilities are classified as maintenance capital expenditures. Growth investments (a) include investments in growth opportunities, including organic growth initiatives, technology, business development, and other similar expenditures. The following table provides the components of total purchases of property, plant and equipment:

	Twelve Months Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Maintenance capital expenditures	\$(101)	\$(87)	\$(85)
Capital expenditures associated with organic growth initiatives	(42)	(78)	(27)
Capital expenditures associated with the New York City contract	(59)	(23)	—
Capital expenditures associated with Dublin EfW facility construction	(14)	—	—
Capital expenditures other	—	—	(14)
Total capital expenditures associated with organic growth investments, New York City contract and Dublin construction	(115)	(101)	(41)
Total purchases of property, plant and equipment	\$(216)	\$(188)	\$(126)

Growth investments include investments in growth opportunities, including organic growth initiatives, technology, (b) business development, and other similar expenditures. Other organic growth investments include investments primarily in our TARTECH joint venture.

	Twelve Months Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Capital expenditures associated with organic growth initiatives	\$(42)	\$(78)	\$(27)
Capital expenditures associated with the New York City contract	(59)	(23)	—
Capital expenditures associated with Dublin EfW facility construction	(14)	—	—
Other organic growth investments	(1)	(4)	(2)
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	(13)	(57)	(94)
Acquisition of land use rights	—	—	(1)
Investments in connection with the Dublin EfW facility construction	(14)	—	—
Total growth investments	\$(143)	\$(162)	\$(124)

(c) Other investing activities include net payments from the purchase/sale of investment securities.

(d) Excludes borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility. Calculated as follows:

	Twelve Months Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Proceeds from borrowings on long-term debt ^(e)	\$412	\$22	\$1,034
Less: Financing costs related to issuance of long-term debt	(7)	(1)	(33)
Net proceeds from issuance of corporate debt ^(e)	\$405	\$21	\$1,001

(e) During the third quarter in 2014, we received proceeds from a Junior Term Loan related to our Dublin project:

	Twelve Months Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Proceeds from borrowings on project debt	\$63	\$—	\$—
Less: Funding into escrow	(63)	—	—

Net proceeds from issuance of project debt	\$—	\$—	\$—
--	-----	-----	-----

55

Table of Contents

(f) During the first quarter in 2014, we completed the following financing transactions:

- We issued \$400 million aggregate principal amount 5.875% senior notes due 2024. The proceeds of the Notes were used for general corporate purposes, including to repay the 3.25% Cash Convertible Notes due June 1, 2014 at maturity.
 - We amended our credit facilities. The amendment: (i) raised the revolving credit facility maximum available credit by a \$100 million to \$1.0 billion; (ii) extended the maturity of the revolving credit facility by two additional years through March 2019; and (iii) reduced the interest rate on the term loan by 25 basis points.
 - We made a voluntary prepayment on the term loan of \$95 million, consisting of principal and accrued interest.
- As a result of these transactions, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$2 million, pre-tax, consisting of the write-off of deferred financing costs and discounts related to the pre-amended credit facilities. We incurred \$10 million in costs related to these transactions which have been paid as of December 31, 2014.

(g) Calculated as follows:

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Total scheduled principal payments on project debt	\$ (52)	\$ (83)	\$ (146)
Decrease in related restricted funds held in trust	23	27	25
Net cash used for principal payments on project debt	\$ (29)	\$ (56)	\$ (121)

(h) Calculated as follows:

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Repayment of Term Loan ^(e)	\$ (95)	\$ —	\$ (619)
Redemption of Convertible Debentures	—	—	(2)
Total voluntary prepayment of corporate debt	\$ (95)	\$ —	\$ (621)

(i) Calculated as follows:

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Total optional principal payments on project debt	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (278)
Decrease in related restricted funds held in trust	—	—	40
Net cash used for optional repayments of project debt	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (238)

Available Sources of Liquidity

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all cash balances and highly liquid investments having maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase. These short-term investments are stated at cost, which approximates market value. As of December 31, 2014, we had unrestricted cash and cash equivalents of \$91 million. Balances held by our international and insurance subsidiaries are not generally available for near-term liquidity in our domestic operations.

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(in millions)	
Domestic	\$ 18	\$ 21
International	73	174
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 91	\$ 195

Table of Contents

Credit Facilities

Our subsidiary, Covanta Energy, has senior secured credit facilities consisting of a \$1.0 billion revolving credit facility expiring in 2019 (the "Revolving Credit Facility") and a \$198 million term loan due 2019 (the "Term Loan") (collectively referred to as the "Credit Facilities").

In March 2014, we made a voluntary prepayment on the Term Loan of \$95 million, that reduced the outstanding principal to \$200 million and we amended the Credit Facilities to:

- extend the termination date of the Revolving Credit Facility by two years from March 28, 2017 to March 21, 2019;
- increase the aggregate amount of the Revolving Credit Facility by \$100 million to \$1.0 billion; and
- reduce the applicable margin payable on the Term Loan by 25 basis points, as noted below under Interest and Fees.

We incurred approximately \$3 million in costs related to this amendment which will be deferred and amortized over the remaining term of the Credit Facilities.

The Revolving Credit Facility is available for the issuance of letters of credit up to the full amount of the facility, provides for a \$50 million sub-limit for the issuance of swing line loans (a loan that can be requested in US Dollars on a same day basis for a short drawing period); and is available in US Dollars, Euros, Pounds Sterling, Canadian Dollars and certain other currencies to be agreed upon, in each case for either borrowings or for the issuance of letters of credit.

We have the option to establish additional term loan commitments and/or increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility (collectively, the "Incremental Facilities"), subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions and obtaining sufficient lender commitments, in an amount up to the greater of \$500 million and the amount that, after giving effect to the incurrence of such Incremental Facilities, would not result in a leverage ratio, as defined in the credit agreement governing our Credit Facilities (the "Credit Agreement"), exceeding 2.75:1.00.

Availability under Revolving Credit Facility

As of December 31, 2014, we had availability under the Revolving Credit Facility as follows (in millions):

	Total Facility Commitment	Expiring	Direct Borrowings as of December 31, 2014	Outstanding Letters of Credit as of December 31, 2014	Available Capacity as of December 31, 2014
Revolving Credit Facility	\$1,000	2019	\$145	\$162	\$693

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we made aggregate cumulative direct borrowings of \$531 million under the Revolving Credit Facility, of which we subsequently repaid \$496 million prior to the end of the period.

Repayment Terms

As of December 31, 2014, the Term Loan has mandatory amortization payments of \$2 million each year from 2015 through 2018 and \$190 million in 2019. The Credit Facilities are pre-payable at our option at any time.

Under certain circumstances, the Credit Facilities obligate us to apply 25% of our excess cash flow (as defined in the Credit Agreement) for each fiscal year commencing in 2013, as well as net cash proceeds from specified other sources, such as asset sales or insurance proceeds, to prepay the Term Loan, provided that this excess cash flow percentage shall be reduced to 0% in the event the Leverage Ratio (as defined below under Credit Agreement Covenants) is at or below 3.00:1.00.

For a detailed description of the terms of the Credit Facilities, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

Interest and Fees

Borrowings under the Credit Facilities bear interest, at our option, at either a base rate or a Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin determined by a pricing grid, in the case of the Revolving Credit Facility, which is based on Covanta Energy's leverage ratio. Base rate is defined as the higher of (i) the Federal Funds Effective Rate plus 0.50%, (ii) the rate the administrative agent announces from time to time as its per annum "prime rate" or (iii) the one-month LIBOR rate plus 1.00%. Eurodollar rate borrowings bear interest at the London Interbank Offered Rate, commonly referred to as "LIBOR", or a comparable or successor rate, for the interest period selected by us. Base rate borrowings

under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest at the base rate plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.25% to 1.75%. Eurodollar borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest at LIBOR plus an applicable margin ranging from 2.00% to 2.75%. Fees for issuances of letters of credit include fronting fees equal to 0.125% per annum and a participation fee for the lenders equal to the applicable interest margin for LIBOR rate borrowings. We will incur an unused commitment fee ranging from 0.375% to 0.50% on the unused amount of commitments under the Revolving

57

Table of Contents

Credit Facility. Effective March 21, 2014 the Term Loan bears interest, at our option, at either (i) the base rate plus an applicable margin of 1.50% , or (ii) LIBOR plus an applicable margin of to 2.50%, subject to a LIBOR floor of 0.75%.

Guarantees and Security

The Credit Facilities are guaranteed by us and by certain of our subsidiaries. The subsidiaries that are party to the Credit Facilities agreed to secure all of the obligations under the Credit Facilities by granting, for the benefit of secured parties, a first priority lien on substantially all of their assets, to the extent permitted by existing contractual obligations; a pledge of substantially all of the capital stock of each of our domestic subsidiaries and 65% of substantially all the capital stock of each of our foreign subsidiaries which are directly owned, in each case to the extent not otherwise pledged.

Credit Agreement Financial Covenants

The Credit Facilities contain customary affirmative and negative covenants and financial covenants as discussed in Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt. As of December 31, 2014, we were in compliance with all of the affirmative and negative covenants under the Credit Facilities.

The financial covenants of the Credit Facilities, which are measured on a trailing four quarter period basis, include the following:

a maximum Leverage Ratio of 4.00 to 1.00 for the trailing four quarter period, which measures the principal amount of Covanta Energy’s consolidated debt less certain restricted funds dedicated to repayment of project debt principal and construction costs (“Consolidated Adjusted Debt”) to its adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, as calculated under the Credit Facilities (“Adjusted EBITDA”). The definition of Adjusted EBITDA in the Credit Facilities excludes certain non-cash charges.

a minimum Interest Coverage Ratio of 3.00 to 1.00, which measures Covanta Energy’s Adjusted EBITDA to its consolidated interest expense plus certain interest expense of ours, to the extent paid by Covanta Energy.

For additional information on the calculation of Adjusted EBITDA, see Results of Operations — Supplementary Financial Information — Adjusted EBITDA (Non-GAAP Discussion) above.

Consolidated Debt

Consolidated debt is as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31, 2014		As of December 31, 2013	
	Face Value	Book Value	Face Value	Book Value
Corporate Debt:				
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 110	\$ 110
Term Loan due 2019	198	197	294	293
7.25% Senior Notes due 2020	400	400	400	400
6.375% Senior Notes due 2022	400	400	400	400
5.875% Senior Notes due 2024	400	400	—	—
3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes due 2014	—	—	460	525
4.00% - 5.25% Tax-Exempt Bonds due 2024 - 2043	369	369	357	357
3.48% - 4.52% Equipment Leases due 2024 - 2026	62	\$62	—	—
Total corporate debt (including current portion)	\$ 1,974	\$ 1,973	\$ 2,021	\$ 2,085
Project Debt:				
Domestic project debt - service fee facilities	\$ 135	\$ 136	\$ 167	\$ 168
Domestic project debt - tip fee facilities	29	29	45	45
Dublin Junior Term Loan due 2022	61	60	—	—
China project debt	22	22	23	23
Total project debt (including current portion)	\$ 247	\$ 247	\$ 235	\$ 236
Total Debt Outstanding	\$ 2,221	\$ 2,220	\$ 2,256	\$ 2,321

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2014, the maturities of debt, excluding premiums are as follows (in millions):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total
Revolving Credit Facility	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$ 145	\$—	\$ 145
Term Loan	2	2	2	2	190	—	198
Senior Notes	—	—	—	—	—	1,200	1,200
Tax-Exempt Bonds	—	—	—	—	—	369	369
Equipment Leases	3	3	3	3	4	46	62
Project Debt	42	17	19	22	17	130	247
Total	\$47	\$22	\$24	\$27	\$356	\$1,745	\$2,221

Long-Term Debt

7.25% Senior Notes due 2020 (the "7.25% Notes")

In 2010, we sold \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 7.25% Senior Notes due 2020. Interest on the 7.25% Notes is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on June 1, 2011 and the 7.25% Notes will mature on December 1, 2020 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. In 2010, we used \$317 million of the net proceeds of the 7.25% Notes offering to purchase 85% of the total outstanding 1.00% Senior Convertible Debentures due 2027 (described below), for an aggregate purchase price of \$313 million plus \$1 million in accrued and unpaid interest. The remaining net proceeds were used for general corporate purposes.

For a detailed description of the terms of the 7.25% Notes see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

6.375% Senior Notes due 2022 (the "6.375% Notes")

In March 2012, we sold \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 6.375% Senior Notes due 2022. Interest on the 6.375% Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year, commencing on October 1, 2012 and the 6.375% Notes will mature on October 1, 2022 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. Net proceeds from the sale of the 6.375% Notes were \$392 million, consisting of gross proceeds of \$400 million net of \$8 million in offering expenses. We used a portion of the net proceeds of the 6.375% Notes offering to repay a portion of the amounts outstanding under Covanta Energy's previously existing term loan.

For a detailed description of the terms of the 6.375% Notes see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

5.875% Senior Notes due 2024 (the "5.875% Notes")

In March 2014, we sold \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 5.875% Senior Notes due March 2024. Interest on the 5.875% Notes is payable semi-annually on March 1 and September 1 of each year, commencing on September 1, 2014, and the 5.875% Notes will mature on March 1, 2024 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. Net proceeds from the sale of the 5.875% Notes were approximately \$393 million, consisting of gross proceeds of \$400 million net of approximately \$7 million in offering expenses. We used the net proceeds of the 5.875% Notes offering in part for the repayment of the 3.25% Cash Convertible Notes at maturity on June 1, 2014.

The 5.875% Notes are senior unsecured obligations, ranking equally in right of payment with any of the current and future senior unsecured indebtedness of Covanta Holding Corporation. The 5.875% Notes are effectively junior to our existing and future secured indebtedness, including any guarantee of indebtedness under the Credit Facilities. The 5.875% Notes are not guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and are effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.

For a detailed description of the terms of the 6.375% Notes see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes due 2014 (the "3.25% Notes")

In 2009, we issued \$460 million aggregate principal amount of the 3.25% Notes due in 2014 in a private transaction exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. We used the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures, permitted investments or permitted acquisitions. On

June 1, 2014, we repaid the \$460 million 3.25% Notes utilizing net proceeds from the March 2014 5.875% Notes issuance.

59

Table of Contents

During the period from March 1, 2014 to May 30, 2014, and under certain additional limited circumstances, the 3.25% Notes were cash convertible by holders thereof (the "Cash Conversion Option"). The conversion rate was 64.6669 shares of our common stock (which represented a conversion price of approximately \$15.46 per share) for the period from March 17, 2014 through March 21, 2014, and 65.3501 shares of our common stock (which represented a conversion price of approximately \$15.30 per share), as adjusted for the dividend paid on April 2, 2014, for the period from March 24, 2014 to May 30, 2014. We did not deliver common stock (or any other securities) upon conversion. Upon maturity, we were required to pay \$83 million to satisfy the obligation under the Cash Conversion Option in addition to the principal amount of the 3.25% Notes.

In connection with the issuance of 3.25% Notes offering, we entered into privately negotiated cash convertible note hedge transactions (the "Note Hedge") with affiliates of certain of the initial purchasers of the 3.25% Notes (the "Option Counterparties") which we cash-settled for \$83 million upon maturity of the 3.25% Notes and effectively offset our liability under the Cash Conversion Option.

In connection with the issuance of the 3.25% Notes, we also sold warrants, correlating to the number of shares underlying the 3.25% Notes. The warrants were exercisable only at expiration in equal tranches over a 60 day period which began on September 2, 2014 and ended on November 26, 2014. During the year ended December 31, 2014, 1,430,870 shares of our common stock were issued in connection with warrant exercises.

For a detailed description of the terms of the 3.25% Notes, the Note Hedge, the Cash Conversion Option, and the Warrants, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt, Note 12. Financial Instruments and Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

1.00% Senior Convertible Debentures due 2027 (the "Debentures")

In 2007, we completed an underwritten public offering of \$374 million aggregate principal amount of Debentures. In November 2010, we commenced a tender offer to purchase for cash any and all of our outstanding 1.00% Senior Convertible Debentures due 2027. In 2012, we subsequently redeemed the remaining outstanding Debentures. During the year ended December 31, 2012, \$25 million of the Debentures were purchased. We used a portion of the net proceeds of the 7.25% Note offering discussed above to fund the purchase price and accrued and unpaid interest of the Debentures.

Tax-Exempt Bonds

In November 2012, we issued tax-exempt corporate bonds totaling \$335 million. Proceeds from the offerings were utilized to refinance tax-exempt project debt at our Haverhill, Niagara and Southeast Massachusetts ("SEMASS") facilities, as well as to fund certain capital expenditures in Massachusetts. We incurred approximately \$7 million of financing costs related to this transaction, of which \$3 million was expensed and \$4 million will be recognized over the term of the debt. Details of the issues and use of proceeds are as follows (dollars in millions):

Series	Amount	Maturity	Coupon	Use of Proceeds
Massachusetts Series 2012A	\$20	2027	4.875%	New proceeds for qualifying capital expenditures in Massachusetts
Massachusetts Series 2012B	67	2042	4.875%	Redeem SEMASS project debt
Massachusetts Series 2012C	83	2042	5.25%	Redeem Haverhill project debt
Niagara Series 2012A	130	2042	5.25%	Redeem Niagara project debt
Niagara Series 2012B	35	2024	4.00%	Redeem Niagara project debt
	\$335			

We entered into a loan agreement with the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency under which they issued the Resource Recovery Revenue Bonds (the "Massachusetts Series" bonds in the table above) and loaned the proceeds of the Massachusetts Series bonds to us for the purposes of (i) financing qualifying capital expenditures at certain solid waste disposal facilities in Massachusetts and (ii) redeeming the outstanding principal balance of the SEMASS and Haverhill project debt.

We entered into a loan agreement with the Niagara Area Development Corporation under which they issued the Solid Waste Disposal Facility Refunding Revenue Bonds (the "Niagara Series" bonds in the table above) and loaned the

proceeds of the Niagara Series bonds to us for the purpose of redeeming the outstanding principal balance of the Niagara project debt.

The Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara Series bonds are obligations of Covanta Holding Corporation, are guaranteed by Covanta Energy; and are not secured by project assets. Principal and interest on the Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara Series bonds are payable from the payments we make to the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency and Niagara Area Development Corporation, respectively, pursuant to the respective loan agreements.

Table of Contents

The Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara Series bonds bear interest at the interest rates per annum set forth in the table above, payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2013. For a detailed description of the terms of the Tax-Exempt bonds, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

Tax-Exempt Variable Rate Demand Bonds due 2043 ("Variable Rate Bonds")

In July 2013, we issued \$22 million of tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility and will mature on July 1, 2043. Proceeds from the offering were utilized to refinance \$22 million of the tax-exempt project debt at our Delaware Valley facility which matured on July 1, 2013. Financing costs were not material.

In July 2014, we issued an additional \$12 million of tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility and will mature on July 1, 2043. Proceeds from the offering were utilized to refinance \$12 million of project debt at our Delaware Valley facility due on July 1, 2014. Financing costs were not material.

The Variable Rate Bonds are unsecured obligations that are guaranteed by Covanta Energy, and are not secured by project assets. Except for amounts payable out of drawings under the letter of credit, principal and interest on the Variable Rate Bonds will be payable solely from, and secured solely by, a pledge of payments derived under a loan agreement between us and the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency as Issuer.

The Variable Rate Bonds bear interest either on a daily or weekly interest rate as determined by the remarketing agent on the basis of examination of comparable bonds known by the remarketing agent to have been priced or traded under then prevailing market conditions. As of December 31, 2014, the weekly interest rate was 0.06%. Interest on the Variable Rate Bonds is paid monthly on the first business day of each month.

The Variable Rate Bonds are subject to redemption at our option, in whole or in part, at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued interest. The Variable Rate Bonds also contain a mandatory tender for purchase feature, contingent upon a conversion of the interest rate period or failure to procure a renewal or alternate letter of credit, at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued interest.

Equipment Financing Capital Lease Arrangements

In 2014, we entered into equipment financing capital lease arrangements to finance the purchase of barges, railcars, containers and intermodal equipment related to our New York City contract. During the year ended December 31, 2014, we borrowed \$63 million under the equipment financing capital lease arrangements. The lease terms range from 10 to 12 years and the fixed interest rates range from 3.48% to 4.52%, with payments commencing on October 1, 2014.

Project Debt

Dublin Project Financing

In September 2014, we executed agreements for project financing totaling €375 million to fund a majority of the construction costs of the Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility. The project financing package includes: (i) €300 million of project debt under a credit facility agreement with various lenders (the "Dublin Credit Agreement"), which consists of a €250 million senior secured term loan (the "Dublin Senior Term Loan") and a €50 million second lien term loan (the "Dublin Junior Term Loan"), and (ii) a €75 million convertible preferred investment (the "Dublin Convertible Preferred"), which has been committed by a leading global energy infrastructure investor. For information on repayment terms and interest rate details for the borrowings discussed below, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

Dublin Senior Term Loan due 2021

The €250 million Dublin Senior Term Loan is expected to be drawn over the course of 2016 and 2017 to fund remaining construction costs after our equity investment into the project (estimated at approximately €125 million), the Dublin Convertible Preferred, and the Dublin Junior Term Loan have been fully utilized. Key commercial terms of the Dublin Senior Term Loan include:

- Final maturity on September 30, 2021 (approximately four years after the anticipated operational commencement date of the facility).

Scheduled repayments will be made semi-annually according to a 15-year amortization profile, beginning in 2018.

The loan is pre-payable at our option following operational commencement.

Borrowings will bear interest at the Euro Interbank Offered Rate ("EURIBOR") plus an applicable margin, which will range from 4.00% to 4.50% according to a pre-determined schedule. Interest on outstanding borrowings will be payable in cash monthly prior to the operational commencement date of the facility, and payable in cash semi-annually after the operational commencement date, based on the prevailing one and six month EURIBOR rates, respectively. Undrawn commitments will

Table of Contents

accrue commitment fees at a rate of 2.25% per annum. We entered into interest rate swap agreements in order to hedge our exposure to adverse variable interest rate fluctuations under the Dublin Senior Term Loan. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

The Dublin Senior Term Loan is a senior obligation of the project company and certain other related subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned by us, and is secured by a first priority lien on substantially all of the project-related assets. The Dublin Senior Term Loan is non-recourse to us and our subsidiary Covanta Energy. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 19. Commitments and Contingencies for a description of the commitments of Covanta Energy related to the Dublin project financing.

The Dublin Credit Agreement contains positive, negative and financial maintenance covenants that are customary for a project financing of this type. Our ability to service the Dublin Junior Term Loan and the Dublin Convertible Preferred and to make cash distributions to common equity following the operational commencement date is subject to ongoing compliance with these covenants, including maintaining a minimum debt service coverage ratio and loan life coverage ratio on the Dublin Senior Term Loan.

Dublin Junior Term Loan due 2022

The €50 million Dublin Junior Term Loan was funded into an escrow account in September 2014 and we expect to draw proceeds from the account to fund construction costs in 2015 and 2016 after our initial equity investment into the project and the Dublin Convertible Preferred have been fully utilized. As of December 31, 2014, \$63 million (€50 million) is included in both project debt and noncurrent restricted funds held in trust on our consolidated balance sheet. Key commercial terms of the Dublin Junior Term Loan include:

- Final maturity on March 31, 2022 (six months after the maturity of the Dublin Senior Term Loan).

- Scheduled repayments will be made semi-annually according to a 15-year amortization profile, beginning in 2018.

- The loan is pre-payable at our option following operational commencement.

- Borrowings will bear interest at a fixed rate of 5.23% during the first six months of the loan, and thereafter at fixed rates from 9.23% to 9.73% according to a pre-determined schedule. Interest on outstanding borrowings is payable semi-annually and will be payable 50% in cash and 50% accrued to the balance of the loan prior to the operational commencement date of the facility, and payable 100% in cash after the operational commencement date.

- The Dublin Junior Term Loan is a junior obligation of the project company and certain other related subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned by us, and is secured by a second priority lien on substantially all of the project-related assets and a first priority lien on the assets of the top tier project holding company. The Dublin Junior Term Loan is non-recourse to us and our subsidiary Covanta Energy.

Under the Dublin Credit Agreement, our ability to service the Dublin Convertible Preferred and to make cash distributions to common equity is subject to ongoing compliance with the covenants under the agreement, including maintaining a minimum debt service coverage ratio and loan life coverage ratio on the Dublin Junior Term Loan.

Dublin Convertible Preferred

The €75 million Dublin Convertible Preferred is expected to be drawn to fund construction costs in 2015 after our initial equity investment into the project has been fully utilized. The instrument has: (i) a liquidation preference equal to par value of the investment, (ii) a preferred claim on project cash flows during operations (after debt service) to pay a fixed dividend rate and repay principal according to an amortization schedule, and (iii) an option to convert loan principal into a common equity interest in the project.

The Dublin Convertible Preferred is structured as a shareholder loan (the “Stakeholder Loan”) with the concurrent issuance of warrants (the “Stakeholder Warrants”). Key commercial terms of the Dublin Convertible Preferred include: The Stakeholder Loan will accrue dividends at a fixed rate of 13.50% per annum. The dividends are payable 50% in cash and 50% accrued to the principal balance on a monthly basis prior to the operational commencement date, and payable 100% in cash semi-annually thereafter, subject to available project cash flows after debt service.

Scheduled repayments of principal of the Stakeholder Loan will be made semi-annually according to a 13-year amortization profile beginning in 2020 (two years after the operational commencement date), with a final repayment date of September 30, 2032, all subject to available project cash flows after debt service.

Voluntary prepayments are not permitted during the first five years of the Stakeholder Loan, after which the principal is pre-payable at our option in increments of 33% of the aggregate outstanding principal balance per year.

• The Stakeholder Loan is mandatorily pre-payable at the option of the Stakeholder Loan holder(s) under certain circumstances in the event of a refinancing of the Dublin Senior Term Loan and/or the Dublin Junior Term Loan.

Table of Contents

The Stakeholder Warrants are exercisable into ordinary shares of our subsidiary holding company that owns 100% of the project company on five conversion dates, scheduled at six month intervals, beginning on the operational commencement date, or upon a refinancing of the Dublin Credit Agreement. The warrants contain customary anti-dilution protection and are exercisable on a cashless basis at a specified conversion price on each conversion date, representing a set premium to the original subscription price for common shares (i.e., Covanta's subscription price) that increases over time. The number of shares that can potentially be issued upon exercise is limited to a maximum of 24.99% of the outstanding shares.

The Dublin Convertible Preferred holder(s) is entitled to nominate two out of five voting board members of the project subsidiary holding company. The right to nominate board members will be reduced with future reductions in the outstanding principal amount of the Stakeholder Loan and/or number of common shares held following conversion of the Stakeholder Warrants.

Financing Costs and Capitalized Interest

Financing costs related to the Dublin project financing totaled approximately \$24 million. Interest expense paid on the Dublin project financing and costs amortized to interest expense will be capitalized during the construction phase of the project.

Project Debt - North America

Financing for the construction of our existing energy-from-waste projects in the North America segment was generally raised through tax-exempt and taxable municipal revenue bonds issued by or on behalf of the municipal client. In the case of facilities owned by a subsidiary of ours, the municipal issuers of the bond loaned the bond proceeds to our subsidiary to pay for facility construction. At such owned facilities, project-related debt is included as "Project debt (short- and long-term)" in our consolidated financial statements. Generally, such project debt is secured by the project revenues and by the project assets including the related facility. The potential recourse to us with respect to such project debt arises primarily under the operating performance guarantees described below under Other Commitments. As of December 31, 2014, certain of our intermediate subsidiaries had recourse liability for project debt of \$44 million at our Southeast Connecticut facility, which is non-recourse to us.

In July 2014 and 2013, we issued \$12 million and \$22 million, respectively, of new tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility. Proceeds from the offering were utilized to refinance \$12 million and \$22 million of the tax-exempt project debt at our Delaware Valley facility which matured on July 1, 2014 and 2013, respectively. For details, see the Long-Term Debt — Tax-Exempt Variable Rate Demand Bonds due 2043 discussion above.

In November 2012, we issued new tax-exempt corporate bonds totaling \$335 million. Proceeds from the offerings were utilized to refinance tax-exempt project debt for the Haverhill, Niagara and SEMASS facilities, as well as to fund certain capital expenditures in Massachusetts. For details of the redeemed project debt, see the Long-Term Debt — Tax-Exempt Bonds discussion above.

Project Debt — Other

Financing for international projects in which we have an ownership or operating interest is generally raised through commercial loans from local lenders; financing arranged through international banks; and/or bonds issued to institutional investors. Such debt is generally secured by the revenues generated by the project and by project assets and is without recourse to us. In most international projects, the instruments defining the rights of debt holders generally provide that the project subsidiary may not make distributions to its parent until periodic debt service obligations are satisfied and other financial covenants are complied with.

Restricted Funds Held in Trust

Restricted funds held in trust are primarily amounts received and held by third-party trustees relating to certain projects we own. We generally do not control these accounts and these funds may be used only for specified purposes. These funds primarily include debt service reserves for payment of principal and interest on project debt. Revenue funds are comprised of deposits of revenues received with respect to projects prior to their disbursement. Other funds are primarily amounts held in trust for operations, maintenance, environmental obligations, operating lease reserves in accordance with agreements with our clients, and amounts held for future scheduled distributions. Such funds are

invested principally in money market funds, bank deposits and certificates of deposit, United States treasury bills and notes, United States government agency securities, and high-quality municipal bonds. Restricted fund balances are as follows (in millions):

63

Table of Contents

	As of		December 31, 2013	
	December 31, 2014		Current	Noncurrent
	Current	Noncurrent	Current	Noncurrent
Debt service funds - principal	\$78	\$8	\$31	\$14
Debt service funds - interest	2	—	4	—
Total debt service funds	80	8	35	14
Revenue funds	2	—	3	—
Other funds	23	83	3	112
Total	\$105	\$91	\$41	\$126

Of the \$196 million in total restricted funds as of December 31, 2014, approximately \$86 million was designated for future payment of project debt principal.

The increase in restricted funds is primarily due to net proceeds from borrowings in September 2014 under the Dublin Junior Term Loan of approximately \$63 million that were funded into escrow. The funds will be available to fund project costs after our equity investment and the Dublin Convertible Preferred have been utilized.

Capital Requirements

The following table summarizes our gross contractual obligations including project debt, leases and other obligations as of December 31, 2014 (in millions):

	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		2015	2016 and 2017	2018 and 2019	2020 and Beyond
RECORDED LIABILITIES:					
Project debt	\$247	\$42	\$36	\$39	\$130
Term Loan ⁽¹⁾	198	2	4	192	—
Revolving Credit Facility ⁽¹⁾	145	—	—	145	—
7.25% Senior Notes ⁽²⁾	400	—	—	—	400
6.375% Senior Notes ⁽³⁾	400	—	—	—	400
5.875% Senior Notes ⁽⁴⁾	400	—	—	—	400
Tax-exempt bonds due 2024-2043 ⁽⁵⁾	369	—	—	—	369
Equipment leases ⁽⁶⁾	62	3	6	8	45
Total debt obligations	2,221	47	46	384	1,744
Less: Non-recourse debt ⁽⁷⁾	(309)	(45)	(42)	(47)	(175)
Total recourse debt	\$1,912	\$2	\$4	\$337	\$1,569
Uncertainty in income tax obligations ⁽⁸⁾	\$135	\$—	\$—	\$1	\$134
OTHER:					
Interest payments ⁽⁹⁾	\$1,290	\$133	\$265	\$263	\$629
Less: Non-recourse interest payments	(106)	(15)	(28)	(28)	(35)
Total recourse interest payments	\$1,184	\$118	\$237	\$235	\$594
Dublin future obligations ⁽¹⁰⁾	\$410	\$—	\$13	\$39	\$358
Interest related to Dublin future obligations ⁽¹⁰⁾	\$116	\$12	\$26	\$37	\$41
Purchase obligations ⁽¹¹⁾	\$180	\$111	\$69	\$—	\$—
Operating leases	\$167	\$18	\$33	\$30	\$86
Less: Non-recourse rental payments	(119)	(12)	(21)	(20)	(66)
Total recourse rental payments	\$48	\$6	\$12	\$10	\$20
Retirement plan obligations ⁽¹²⁾	\$7	\$—	\$3	\$1	\$3
Total obligations	\$3,466	\$237	\$325	\$584	\$2,320

(1)

Interest payments on the Term Loan and letter of credit fees are estimated based on current LIBOR rates and are estimated assuming contractual principal repayments. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

Table of Contents

- Interest on the 7.25% Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1 of each year, (2) commencing on June 1, 2011 and will mature on December 1, 2020 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.
- Interest on the 6.375% Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on April 1 and October 1 of each year, (3) commencing on October 1, 2012 and will mature on October 1, 2022 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.
- Interest on the 5.875% Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on March 1 and September 1 of each year, (4) commencing on September 1, 2014 and will mature on March 21, 2024 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.
- The tax-exempt bonds issued in 2012 totaling \$335 million bear interest between 4% and 5.25%, payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2013. The \$12 million and \$22 million of tax-exempt bonds issued in July 2014 and July 2013, respectively, are corporate variable-rate demand bonds, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility and will mature on July 1, (5) 2043. The Variable Rate Bonds bear interest either on a daily or weekly interest rate as determined by the remarketing agent on the basis of examination of bonds comparable to the Variable Rate Bonds known by the remarketing agent to have been priced or traded under then prevailing market conditions. For a detailed description of the terms of the Tax-Exempt bonds, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.
- The lease terms range from 10 years to 12 years and the fixed interest rates range from 3.48% to 4.52%, with (6) payments commencing on October 1, 2014.
- Payment obligations for the project debt and equipment leases associated with owned energy-from-waste facilities (7) are limited recourse to operating subsidiaries and non-recourse to us, subject to operating performance guarantees and commitments.
- (8) Accounting for uncertainty in income tax obligations is based upon the expected date of settlement taking into account all of our administrative rights including possible litigation.
- (9) Interest payments represent accruals for cash interest payments.
- (10) Projected obligations relating to our Dublin Senior Term Loan and Dublin Convertible Preferred. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.
- (11) Purchase obligations relate to capital commitments at our Essex County and Niagara EfW facilities and for equipment purchases and existing facility enhancements related to our New York City waste transport and disposal contract. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.
- (12) Retirement plan obligations are based on actuarial estimates for the non-qualified pension plan obligations and post-retirement plan obligations only as of December 31, 2014. In 2012, the qualified pension plan was terminated and final settlement occurred in 2013. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 16. Employee Benefit Plans.

Other Commitments

Other commitments as of December 31, 2014 were as follows (in millions):

	Commitments Expiring by Period		
	Total	Less Than One Year	More Than One Year
Letters of credit issued under the Revolving Credit Facility	\$162	\$13	\$149
Letters of credit - other	76	5	71
Surety bonds	336	—	336
Total other commitments — net	\$574	\$18	\$556

The letters of credit were issued to secure our performance under various contractual undertakings related to our domestic and international projects, or to secure obligations under our insurance program. Each letter of credit relating to a project is required to be maintained in effect for the period specified in related project contracts, and generally

may be drawn if it is not renewed prior to expiration of that period.

We believe that we will be able to fully perform under our contracts to which these existing letters of credit relate, and that it is unlikely that letters of credit would be drawn because of a default of our performance obligations. If any of these letters of credit were to be drawn by the beneficiary, the amount drawn would be immediately repayable by us to the issuing bank. If we do not immediately repay such amounts drawn under letters of credit issued under the Revolving Credit Facility, unreimbursed amounts would be treated under the Credit Facilities as either additional term loans or as revolving loans.

The surety bonds listed on the table above relate primarily to performance obligations (\$320 million) and support for closure obligations of various energy projects when such projects cease operating (\$16 million). Were these bonds to be drawn upon, we would have a contractual obligation to indemnify the surety company.

Table of Contents

We have certain contingent obligations related to the 7.25% Notes, 6.375% Notes, 5.875% Notes, and Tax-Exempt Bonds. Holders may require us to repurchase their 7.25% Notes, 6.375% Notes, 5.875% Notes and Tax-Exempt Bonds if a fundamental change occurs.

As discussed in the Overview discussion above, we are focused on developing new projects and making acquisitions to grow our business. We are pursuing additional growth opportunities through the development and construction of new waste and energy facilities. Due to permitting and other regulatory factors, these projects generally evolve over lengthy periods and project financing is generally obtained at the time construction begins, at which time, we can more accurately determine our commitment for a development project.

We have either issued or are party to guarantees and related contractual support obligations undertaken pursuant to agreements to construct and operate EfW facilities. For some projects, such performance guarantees include obligations to repay certain financial obligations if the project revenues are insufficient to do so, or to obtain or guarantee financing for a project. With respect to our businesses, we have issued guarantees to municipal clients and other parties that our subsidiaries will perform in accordance with contractual terms, including, where required, the payment of damages or other obligations. Additionally, damages payable under such guarantees for our energy-from-waste facilities could expose us to recourse liability on project debt. If we must perform under one or more of such guarantees, our liability for damages upon contract termination would be reduced by funds held in trust and proceeds from sales of the facilities securing the project debt and is presently not estimable. Depending upon the circumstances giving rise to such damages, the contractual terms of the applicable contracts, and the contract counterparty's choice of remedy at the time a claim against a guarantee is made, the amounts owed pursuant to one or more of such guarantees could be greater than our then-available sources of funds. To date, we have not incurred material liabilities under such performance guarantees. See Item 1A. Risk Factors — We have provided guarantees and financial support in connection with our projects.

Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility

The total investment in the Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility is expected to be approximately €500 million, funded by a combination of third party non-recourse project financing (€375 million) and the contribution of project equity by Covanta Energy (approximately €125 million net investment through commencement of operations, including previously invested amounts towards project development and pre-construction works, which total approximately €30 million). We expect to fund the majority of our additional project equity in 2015. Following the utilization of Covanta's initial equity investment for project costs (approximately €125 million), the Dublin project company will utilize committed funding from the Dublin Convertible Preferred (€75 million, anticipated funding in 2015), the Dublin Junior Term Loan (€50 million, anticipated funding in 2015 / 2016), and finally the Dublin Senior Term Loan (€250 million, anticipated in 2016 / 2017).

We plan to fund the majority of our equity investment with existing offshore cash balances, with any additional or interim project funding requirements to be funded with ongoing cash flow and/or capacity under the Revolving Credit Facility.

Essex County Energy-from-Waste Facility

We are implementing significant operational improvements at our Essex County EfW facility, including a state-of-the-art particulate emissions control system at a total estimated cost of approximately \$90 million. Construction on the system commenced in 2014 and is expected to be completed near the end of 2016. As of December 31, 2014, we have approximately \$75 million of capital expenditures remaining to be incurred related to these improvements. The facility's environmental performance is currently compliant with all environmental permits and will be further improved with the installation of these improvements. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

New York City Waste Transport and Disposal Contract

In August 2013, New York City awarded us a contract to handle waste transport and disposal from two marine transfer stations located in Queens and Manhattan. We expect to invest approximately \$140 million in new equipment and enhancements to existing facilities that support service under this contract. These investments commenced in 2013 and will be made over several years. As of December 31, 2014, we have approximately \$60 million of capital

expenditures remaining to be incurred relating to this contract. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

Income Tax Implications on Liquidity

We had consolidated federal NOLs estimated to be \$486 million for federal income tax purposes as of December 31, 2014, based on the income tax returns filed. Our federal and state NOLs act to reduce the cash taxes we pay and thus enhance our liquidity. We expect that our federal NOLs will be fully utilized over the next two to three years, and thereafter, our cash tax liability for federal income tax will increase. However, the increase will be less than otherwise would have occurred for several years because we expect to utilize production tax credit carryforwards and minimum tax credits. Our actual utilization of federal NOL and other tax assets will be a function of numerous factors, including in particular federal tax law changes that may come into effect, the outcome of the current audit of our consolidated federal tax returns by the IRS, and any tax planning measures we are able to put

Table of Contents

into effect. For additional information, see discussion under Item 1A. Risk Factors — We cannot be certain that our NOLs will continue to be available to offset our federal tax liability and Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 15. Income Taxes.

Other Factors Affecting Liquidity

We may from time to time engage in construction activity for public sector clients, either for new projects or expansions of existing projects. We historically receive payments for this activity based upon completion of milestones as set forth in the applicable contracts, and the timing and size of these milestone payments can result in material working capital variability between periods. This variability can in turn result in meaningful swings between periods in our Cash Flow from Operations and Free Cash Flow (which we use as a non-GAAP liquidity measure). During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, construction working capital reduced cash flow from operations by \$28 million and \$6 million, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2015, we expect construction working capital to increase cash flow from operations by \$15 million when we receive final payments related to our Durham York construction project. For additional information related to Cash Flow from Operations see Liquidity and Capital Resources — Sources and Uses of Cash Flow from Continuing Operations and Liquidity and Capital Resources — Supplementary Financial Information — Free Cash Flow (Non-GAAP Discussion) above.

Our capital structure includes multiple debt securities and credit facilities, each with different maturity dates. As and when we refinance each element of our capital structure, we may consider utilizing the same or different types of debt securities and credit facilities, depending upon market conditions and general business requirements. Our selection of the same or different refinancing structures could materially increase or decrease our annual cash interest expense in future periods.

Insurance Coverage

We periodically review our insurance programs to ensure that our coverage is appropriate for the risks attendant to our business. As part of this review, we assess whether we have adequate coverage for risk to our physical assets from extreme weather events. We have obtained insurance for our assets and operations that provide coverage for what we believe are probable maximum losses, subject to self-insured retentions, policy limits and premium costs which we believe to be appropriate. However, the insurance obtained does not cover us for all possible losses, and coverage available in the market may change over time.

The regulated waste and energy industries involve potentially significant risks of liability claims. Potential liability claims could involve, for example:

- cleanup costs;
- personal injury;
- damage to the environment;
- employee matters;
- property damage; or
- alleged negligence or professional errors or omissions in the planning or performance of work.

We carry liability insurance, which we consider sufficient to meet regulatory and customer requirements and to protect our employees, assets and operations.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We are party to a lease arrangement at our Union County, New Jersey energy-from-waste facilities in which we lease the facility from the Union County Utilities Authority, referred to as the “UCUA.” We amended the facility site lease with the UCUA to extend the terms from 2023 to 2031. We guarantee a portion of the rent due under the lease. Rent under the lease is sufficient to allow UCUA to make debt service payments due on the tax exempt bonds issued by it to finance the construction of the facility and which mature in 2031.

We are also a party to various lease arrangements pursuant to which we lease rolling stock in connection with our operating activities, as well as lease certain office space and equipment. Rent payable under these arrangements is not material to our financial condition. We generally use operating lease treatment for all of the foregoing arrangements. A summary of our operating lease obligations is contained in Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 10. Leases.

As described above under Other Commitments, we have issued or are party to performance guarantees and related contractual obligations undertaken mainly pursuant to agreements to construct and operate certain energy-from-waste facilities. To date, we have not incurred material liabilities under our guarantees.

We have investments in several investees and joint ventures which are accounted for under the equity and cost methods and therefore we do not consolidate the financial information of those companies. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 9. Equity Method Investments for additional information regarding these investments.

Table of Contents

DISCUSSION OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

In preparing our consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP, we are required to use judgment in making estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in our consolidated financial statements and related notes. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. These estimates form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Many of our critical accounting policies are subject to significant judgments and uncertainties which could potentially result in materially different results under different conditions and assumptions. Future events rarely develop exactly as forecast, and the best estimates routinely require adjustment.

Policy	Judgments and estimates	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
<p>Purchase Accounting We allocate acquisition purchase prices to identified tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their estimated fair values at the dates of acquisition, with any residual amounts allocated to goodwill. The fair value estimates used reflect our best estimates for the highest and best use by market participants.</p>	<p>These estimates are subject to uncertainties and contingencies. For example, we used the discounted cash flow method to estimate the value of many of our assets, which entailed developing projections of future cash flows.</p>	<p>If the cash flows from the acquired net assets differ significantly from our estimates, the amounts recorded could be subject to impairments. Furthermore, to the extent we change our initial estimates of the remaining useful life of the assets or liabilities, future depreciation and amortization expense could be impacted.</p>
<p>Goodwill and Indefinite-Lived Intangibles As of December 31, 2014, we had \$274 million of goodwill, all of which is recorded on our North America reporting unit. We evaluate our goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment at least annually or when indications of impairment exist.</p>	<p>Our judgments regarding the existence of impairment indicators are based on regulatory factors, market conditions, anticipated cash flows and operational performance of our assets.</p>	<p>The impairment assessments of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets performed in the periods presented resulted in the conclusion that the fair value was not less than the carrying value.</p>
<p>We have the option to perform our initial assessment over the possible impairment of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles either qualitatively or quantitatively. Under the qualitative assessment, consideration is given to both external factors (including the macroeconomic and industry conditions) and our own internal factors (including internal costs, recent financial performance, management, business strategy, customers, and stock price). We performed the required annual impairment review of our recorded</p>	<p>When determining the fair value of our reporting units and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment assessments, we make assumptions regarding their fair values which are dependent on estimates of future cash flows, discount rates, and other factors.</p>	<p>In future years, if there is a significant change in the estimated cash flows, discount rates or other factors that cause the fair values to significantly decrease, there could be impairments which could materially impact our results of operations.</p>

goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for our reporting unit using a qualitative assessment during the fourth quarter of 2014 and determined that it was more likely than not that the fair value of our reporting unit was not less than its carrying value and no further assessment was necessary.

Table of Contents

Policy	Judgments and estimates	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
<p>Long-lived Assets and Intangible Assets Our long-lived assets include property, plant and equipment; waste, service and energy contracts; amortizable intangible assets; and other assets. We evaluate the recoverability of the long-lived assets when there are indicators of possible impairment. Such indicators may include a decline in market, new regulation, recurring or expected operating losses, change in business strategy, or other changes that would impact the use or benefit received from the assets. The assessment is performed by grouping the long-lived assets at the lowest level of identifiable cash flows for the related assets or group of assets (such as the facility level). Initially the carrying value of the asset or asset group is compared to its undiscounted expected future cash flows. If the carrying value is in excess of the undiscounted cash flows, the carrying value is then compared to the fair value. Fair value may be estimated based upon the discounted cash flows, market or replacement cost methods based on the assumptions of a third-party market participant. Impairment is recognized if the fair value is less than the carrying value.</p>	<p>Our judgments regarding the existence of impairment indicators are based on regulatory factors, market conditions, anticipated cash flows and operational performance of our assets.</p> <p>When determining the fair value of our reporting units and intangible assets for impairment assessments, we make assumptions regarding their fair values which are dependent on estimates of future cash flows, discount rates, and other factors.</p>	<p>Future events or change in circumstances may occur that require another assessment in future periods based on cash flows and discount rates in effect at that time.</p>
<p>Revenue and Expense Recognition (Construction Contracts) Construction contracts are typically signed in conjunction with agreements to operate a newly constructed project. Upon completion of the construction element of these contracts, we recognize service revenue over the term of the service element of the contract.</p>	<p>We estimate our total construction costs for the contract throughout the project. As the project progresses, revisions to our estimated costs may be necessary.</p> <p>Given the unique nature of our business, we are likely to use our best estimate of selling price in allocating revenues between construction, and other project revenue (waste and service revenue, and electricity and steam sales). This allocation would be performed</p>	<p>If a revision to our estimated construction costs is required, the amount of revenue and the related operating income recognized will also fluctuate.</p> <p>The allocation of revenue will impact the timing of revenue recognized for each unit, where the amount allocated to construction will be recognized in earlier periods followed by the remainder over the service period. Any subsequent modification to the contracts that are</p>
<p>Revenues under existing fixed-price construction contracts are recognized using the percentage-of-completion method, measured by the cost-to-cost method.</p>		

<p>If we enter new contracts that contain multiple element arrangements, the revenue will be allocated between construction revenue and other project revenue (waste disposal revenue and electricity and steam sales) based on the relative fair value of each element provided the delivered elements have value to customers on a standalone basis. Amounts allocated to each element are based on its objectively determined fair value, such as the sales price for the product or service when it is sold separately or competitor prices for similar products or services.</p>	<p>at the inception of the new contracts and when a material modification occurs.</p>	<p>considered material could result in a change in the amount and timing of revenue to be recognized.</p>
---	---	---

Table of Contents

Policy	Judgments and estimates	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
<p>Insurance Reserves and Self-Insurance for Employee Benefit Plans We retain a substantial portion of the risk related to certain general liability, workers' compensation and medical claims. However, we maintain stop-loss coverage to limit the exposure related to employee benefit plans and liability insurance over retained risks. Liabilities associated with these losses include estimates of both claims filed and losses incurred but not yet reported ("IBNR"). We use actuarial methods which consider a number of factors to estimate our ultimate cost of losses. Our insurance reserves and medical liability accrual was \$13 million and \$12 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.</p>	<p>We believe that the amounts accrued are adequate; however, our liabilities could be significantly affected if future occurrences or loss developments differ from our estimates of both claims filed and losses incurred but not yet reported.</p>	<p>For example, a 1% change in average claim costs would impact our self-insurance expense by less than \$1 million.</p>
<p>Deferred Tax Assets As described in Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 15. Income Taxes, we have recorded a deferred tax asset related to our NOLs.</p>	<p>We estimated that we had NOLs of approximately \$486 million for federal income tax purposes and \$561 million for state income tax purposes as of the end of 2014. We also estimated our tax credits as approximately \$63 million and our deferred tax assets are offset by a valuation allowance of approximately \$96 million.</p>	<p>To the extent our estimation of the reversal of temporary differences and operating income generated differs from actual results, we could be required to adjust the carrying amount of the deferred tax assets.</p>
<p>The NOLs will expire in various amounts beginning on December 31, 2028 through December 31, 2032, if not used.</p>	<p>The amount recorded was calculated based upon future taxable income arising from (a) the reversal of temporary differences during the period the NOLs are available and (b) future operating income expected, to the extent it is reasonably predictable.</p>	<p>The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") audited our tax returns for the tax years 2004 to 2009, a period which includes both years in which NOLs generated in prior years were utilized and years in which losses giving rise to additional NOLs were reported. In connection with this audit, the IRS proposed certain adjustments to our 2008 tax return, which we did not believe were consistent with applicable rules, and we challenged these adjustments through the IRS's administrative appeals procedures. As a result of this process, we have reached an agreement with the IRS that would result in substantially all of the NOLs remaining available to offset</p>
<p>Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance if, based on available evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.</p>	<p>Judgment is involved in assessing whether a valuation allowance is required on our deferred tax assets.</p>	

consolidated taxable income. This proposed agreement is subject to documentation and approval, which is expected within the next twelve months.

RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Note 2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements for a summary of additional accounting policies and new accounting pronouncements.

RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

One member of our Board of Directors is Senior Counsel to a major international law firm which provides Covanta Energy with certain legal services. We paid this law firm approximately \$0.07 million, \$0.03 million, and \$0.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Such member of the Board of Directors has had no direct or indirect involvement in the procurement, provision, or oversight of billings of such legal services and does not directly or indirectly benefit from amounts paid to such law firm.

Table of Contents

Item 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

In the normal course of business, our subsidiaries are party to financial instruments that are subject to market risks arising from changes in commodity prices, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, and derivative instruments. Our use of derivative instruments is very limited and we do not enter into derivative instruments for trading purposes. The following analysis provides quantitative information regarding our exposure to financial instruments with market risks. We use a sensitivity model to evaluate the fair value or cash flows of financial instruments with exposure to market risk that assumes instantaneous, parallel shifts in exchange rates and interest rate yield curves. There are certain limitations inherent in the sensitivity analysis presented, primarily due to the assumption that exchange rates change in a parallel manner and that interest rates change instantaneously. In addition, the fair value estimates presented herein are based on pertinent information available to us as of December 31, 2014. Further information is included in Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 12. Financial Instruments and Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

Commodity Price Risk

Energy Price Risk

Energy-from-Waste Energy Price Risk

In contrast to our waste disposal agreements, as a result of structural and regulatory changes in the energy markets over time, we expect that multi-year contracts for energy sales will generally be less available than in the past, thereby increasing our exposure to energy market prices upon expiration. As our historic energy contracts have expired and our service fee contracts have transitioned to tip fee contracts, our exposure to market energy prices has increased. We expect this trend to continue. To mitigate our exposure to near-term (one to three years) revenue fluctuations in energy markets we enter into hedging arrangements and we expect to do so in the future. Our efforts in this regard will involve only mitigation of price volatility for the energy we produce, and will not involve speculative energy trading. Consequently, we have entered into swap agreements with various financial institutions to hedge our exposure to market risk. As of December 31, 2014, the fair value of the energy derivatives of \$5 million, pre-tax, was recorded as a current asset and as a component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (“AOCI”).

Biomass Energy Price Risk

At our biomass projects, we plan to minimize risk with a combination of contracts and hedges, and by curtailing operations of these facilities when the spread between wood fuel prices and electricity output prices is not favorable.

Recycled Metals Price Risk

We recover and sell ferrous and non-ferrous metals, with pricing linked to related commodity indices. Therefore, our metals revenues are completely exposed to market price fluctuations. A 10% change in the current market rate would impact recycled metals revenues by approximately \$12 million. We are currently unable to mitigate this exposure either via long-term pricing contracts or with hedging instruments as there are no speculative metals markets or metals hedging agreements available for this segment of the market.

Waste Price Risk

Municipal Solid Waste

We have some protection against fluctuations in fuel (municipal waste) price risk in our North America segment energy-from-waste business because approximately 80% of our municipal waste is provided under multi-year contracts where we are paid for our fuel at fixed rates. At our tip fee energy-from-waste facilities, differing amounts of waste processing capacity are not subject to long-term contracts and, therefore, we are partially exposed to the risk of market fluctuations in the waste disposal fees we may charge for fuel. At service fee facilities, waste disposal fees generally increase annually due to annual contract price escalations intended to reflect changes in our costs. Declines in waste disposal fees at our energy-from-waste facilities are mitigated through internalizing waste disposal by utilizing our network of transfer stations located throughout the northeast United States and by increasing our profiled waste volumes, which we can sell at a higher price than municipal solid waste.

We expect that multi-year contracts for waste supply at facilities we own or lease, will continue to be available on acceptable terms in the marketplace, at least for a substantial portion of facility capacity, as municipalities continue to value long-term committed and sustainable waste disposal capacity. We also expect that an increasing portion of

system capacity will be contracted on a shorter-term basis, and so we will have more frequent exposure to waste market risk.

Wood Waste

We generate income from our biomass facilities from sales of electricity, capacity, and where available, additional value from the sale of renewable energy credits. Some of these facilities sell their energy output into local power pools or to local utilities at rates that are either fixed or float with the market.

71

Table of Contents

At all of these projects, we purchase fuel at prevailing market rates which exposes us to fuel price risk. The price of fuel varies depending upon the time of year, local supply, and price of energy. Income at our biomass facilities is based on the margin between our cost, which is predominantly fuel and our revenue from selling the related output. Several of our biomass facilities are not currently operating because market conditions are not attractive. If market conditions deteriorate, we may shutdown additional biomass facilities. If however market conditions improve, we may re-start some or all of our biomass facilities. In each of the years ended 2014, 2013 and 2012, revenue from our biomass projects represented approximately 4% of our North America segment revenue.

Interest Rate Risk

Outstanding loan balances under the Credit Facilities bear interest at floating rates, which are calculated as either interest at a reserve adjusted British Bankers Association Interest Settlement Rate, commonly referred to as "LIBOR," the "prime rate" or the Federal Funds rate plus 0.5% per annum, plus a borrowing margin. For details as to the various election options under the Credit Facility, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt. As of December 31, 2014, the outstanding balance of the Term Loan was \$198 million. We have not entered into any interest rate hedging arrangements against this balance. A hypothetical increase of 1% in the underlying December 31, 2014 market interest rates would result in a potential reduction to twelve month future earnings of less than \$1 million, pre-tax.

On July 1, 2014 and July 1 2013, we issued \$12 million and \$22 million of new tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds ("Variable Rate Bonds"), which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility and will mature on July 1, 2043. The Variable Rate Bonds bear interest either on a daily or weekly interest rate as determined by the remarketing agent on the basis of examination of comparable bonds known by the remarketing agent to have been priced or traded under then prevailing market conditions. As of December 31, 2014, the weekly interest rate was 0.06%. Interest on the Variable Rate Bonds is paid monthly on the first business day of each month beginning on August 1, 2013. We have not entered into any interest rate hedging arrangements against this balance. A hypothetical increase of 1% in the underlying December 31, 2014 market interest rates would have an immaterial impact on future earnings. For details, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

In order to hedge the risk of adverse variable interest rate fluctuations associated with the Dublin Project Senior Term Loan, we have entered into floating to fixed rate swap agreements, denominated in Euros for the full €250 million loan amount with various financial institutions that terminate between 2016 and 2021. This interest rate swap is designated as a cash flow hedge which is recorded at fair value as a noncurrent liability with changes in fair value recorded as a component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income ("AOCI"). As of December 31, 2014, the fair value of the interest rate swap derivative of \$15 million pre-tax, was recorded as a noncurrent liability. For additional information, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

Cash Conversion Option, Note Hedge and Contingent Interest related to the 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes The \$460 million of 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes matured on June 1, 2014. Upon maturity, we were required to pay \$83 million to satisfy the obligation under the Cash Conversion Option in addition to the principal amount of the 3.25% Notes. We cash- settled the Note Hedge for \$83 million effectively offsetting our liability under the Cash Conversion Option. The income recognized as a result of changes in the credit valuation adjustment related to the Note Hedge was not material. For additional information related to the settlement of the 3.25% Notes, Cash Conversion Option, and Note Hedge, see Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 11.

Consolidated Debt and Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

We have operations in various foreign markets, including China, Canada, Ireland and Italy. As and to the extent we grow our international business, we expect to invest in foreign currencies to pay either for the construction costs of facilities we develop, or for the cost to acquire existing businesses or assets. Currency volatility in those markets, as well as the effectiveness of any currency hedging strategies we may implement, may impact both the amount we are required to invest in new projects as well as our financial returns on these projects and our reported results. We have mitigated our currency risks in certain cases by structuring our project contracts so that our revenues adjust in line

with corresponding changes in the relevant currency rates. In such cases, only that portion of our working capital investment and associated project debt, if any, that are denominated in a currency other than the project entity's functional currency are exposed to currency risks.

As of December 31, 2014, we also had equity investments in foreign subsidiaries and projects. See Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data — Note 9. Equity Method Investments for further discussion.

Table of Contents

Item 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

	Page
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>74</u>
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	<u>75</u>
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	<u>77</u>
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013	<u>78</u>
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012	<u>79</u>
Consolidated Statements of Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	<u>81</u>
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Note 2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions</u>	<u>91</u>
<u>Note 4. Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations</u>	<u>94</u>
<u>Note 5. Equity and Earnings Per Share</u>	<u>96</u>
<u>Note 6. Financial Information by Business Segments</u>	<u>98</u>
<u>Note 7. Amortization of Waste, Service and Energy Contracts</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Note 8. Other Intangible Assets and Goodwill</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Note 9. Equity Method Investments</u>	<u>101</u>
<u>Note 10. Leases</u>	<u>101</u>
<u>Note 11. Consolidated Debt</u>	<u>102</u>
<u>Note 12. Financial Instruments</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Note 13. Derivative Instruments</u>	<u>112</u>
<u>Note 14. Supplementary Information</u>	<u>113</u>
<u>Note 15. Income Taxes</u>	<u>116</u>
<u>Note 16. Employee Benefit Plans</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>Note 17. Stock-Based Award Plans</u>	<u>123</u>
<u>Note 18. Related-Party Transactions</u>	<u>126</u>
<u>Note 19. Commitments and Contingencies</u>	<u>126</u>
<u>Note 20. Quarterly Data (Unaudited)</u>	<u>128</u>
<u>Financial Statement Schedule:</u>	<u>129</u>
<u>Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	<u>129</u>

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Covanta Holding Corporation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Covanta Holding Corporation (the "Company") as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive (loss) income, equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 8. These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Covanta Holding Corporation at December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed its method for the criteria used to determine which asset disposal activities qualify for presentation as a discontinued operation as a result of the adoption of the amendments to the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification resulting from Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-08, "Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of an Entity," effective January 1, 2014.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Covanta Holding Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework) and our report dated March 2, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP
MetroPark, New Jersey

March 2, 2015

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(In millions, except per share amounts)		
OPERATING REVENUES:			
Waste and service revenues	\$1,032	\$1,008	\$1,010
Recycled metals revenues	93	73	72
Energy revenues	460	431	394
Other operating revenues	97	118	167
Total operating revenues	1,682	1,630	1,643
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Plant operating expenses	1,055	992	967
Other operating expenses	101	97	157
General and administrative expenses	97	82	78
Depreciation and amortization expense	211	209	194
Net interest expense on project debt	10	13	27
Net write-offs (gains)	64	15	(57)
Total operating expenses	1,538	1,408	1,366
Operating income	144	222	277
Other income (expense):			
Investment income	1	—	1
Interest expense, net	(125)	(118)	(94)
Non-cash convertible debt related expense	(13)	(28)	(25)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(2)	(1)	(3)
Other (expense) income, net	(1)	4	3
Total other expenses	(140)	(143)	(118)
Income from continuing operations before income tax expense and equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	4	79	159
Income tax expense	(15)	(43)	(31)
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	10	6	10
Loss (income) from continuing operations	(1)	42	138
Loss from discontinued operations, net of income tax benefit of \$0, \$1, and \$5, respectively	—	(52)	(20)
NET (LOSS) INCOME	(1)	(10)	118
Less: Net loss (income) from continuing operations attributable to noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(1)	1	(2)
NET (LOSS) INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION	\$(2)	\$(9)	\$116
Net (Loss) Income Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders:			
Continuing operations	\$(2)	\$43	\$136
Discontinued operations	—	(52)	(20)
Net (Loss) Income Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(2)	\$(9)	\$116

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (Continued)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(In millions, except per share amounts)		
(Loss) Earnings Per Share Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders:			
Basic			
Continuing operations	\$ (0.01	) \$ 0.33	\$ 1.03
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40	) (0.15
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ (0.01	) \$ (0.07	) \$ 0.88
Weighted Average Shares	130	129	132
Diluted			
Continuing operations	\$ (0.01	) \$ 0.33	\$ 1.02
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40	) (0.15
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ (0.01	) \$ (0.07	) \$ 0.87
Weighted Average Shares	130	130	133
Cash Dividend Declared Per Share:	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.60

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME

	For the Years Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
	(In millions)			
Net (loss) income	\$(1	) \$(10	) \$118
Foreign currency translation	(12	) (4	) 1
Adjustment for pension plan settlement, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$0, \$(2) and \$5, respectively	—	(4	) 7
Pension and postretirement plan unrecognized benefits, net of tax expense of \$0 and \$2, and \$0, respectively	—	4	—	
Net unrealized loss on derivative instruments, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$2, \$(2), and \$(1), respectively	(7) (5) (2)
Net unrealized gain on available for sale securities, net of tax expense of \$0, \$0 and \$0, respectively	(1) —	—	
Other comprehensive (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	(20	) (9	) 6
Comprehensive (loss) income	(21	) (19	) 124
Less:				
Net loss (income) attributable to noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(1) 1	(2)
Comprehensive (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(22	) \$(18	) \$122

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(In millions, except per share amounts)	
ASSETS		
Current:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$91	\$195
Restricted funds held in trust	105	41
Receivables (less allowances of \$6 and \$4, respectively)	302	264
Unbilled service receivables	8	16
Deferred income taxes	29	25
Note Hedge	—	78
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	96	100
Assets held for sale	—	71
Total Current Assets	631	790
Property, plant and equipment, net	2,653	2,621
Restricted funds held in trust	91	126
Unbilled service receivables	8	13
Waste, service and energy contracts, net	314	362
Other intangible assets, net	17	20
Goodwill	274	268
Investments in investees and joint ventures	46	47
Other assets	170	133
Total Assets	\$4,204	\$4,380
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$5	\$528
Current portion of project debt	40	55
Accounts payable	34	24
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	310	250
Liabilities held for sale	—	49
Total Current Liabilities	389	906
Long-term debt	1,968	1,557
Project debt	207	181
Deferred income taxes	740	729
Waste and service contracts	19	30
Other liabilities	97	71
Total Liabilities	3,420	3,474
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 19)		
Equity:		
Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock (\$0.10 par value; authorized 10 shares; none issued and outstanding)	—	—
Common stock (\$0.10 par value; authorized 250 shares; issued 136 and 136 shares, respectively; outstanding 133 and 130 shares, respectively)	14	14
Additional paid-in capital	805	790
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(22	) (2

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Accumulated (deficit) earnings	(15	) 101
Treasury stock, at par	—	(1)
Total Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders equity	782	902
Noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	2	4
Total Equity	784	906
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4,204	\$4,380

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

78

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	(In millions)		
Net (loss) income	\$(1	) \$(10	) \$118
Less: Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax expense	—	(52	) (20
(Loss) income from continuing operations	(1	) 42	138
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) income from continuing operations to net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations:			
Depreciation and amortization expense	211	209	194
Amortization of long-term debt deferred financing costs	8	8	8
Amortization of debt premium and discount	(1	) (1	) (3
Net write-offs (gains)	64	15	(57
Pension plan settlement (gain) expense	—	(6	) 11
Loss on extinguishment of debt	2	1	3
Non-cash convertible debt related expense	13	28	25
Provision for doubtful accounts	4	2	2
Stock-based compensation expense	17	15	16
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	(10	) (6	) (10
Dividends from unconsolidated investments	11	7	8
Deferred income taxes	4	31	19
Change in restricted funds held in trust	11	20	34
Other, net	2	(8	) (10
Change in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions			
Receivables	(40	) (9	) 3
Debt services billings in excess of revenue recognized	17	21	21
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	57	(12	) 8
Deferred revenue	(22	) (12	) (42
Other, net	(7	) (21	) (11
Total adjustments for continuing operations	341	282	219
Net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations	340	324	357
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities from discontinued operations	1	(8	) (15
Net cash provided by operating activities	341	316	342
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	(13	) (57	) (94
Proceeds from the sale of investment securities	6	11	5
Purchase of investment securities	(4	) (8	) (12
Acquisition of noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(12	) (14) —
Proceeds from available-for-sale marketable securities	11	—	—
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(216	) (188	) (126
Change in restricted funds held in trust	(3) —	—
Acquisition of land use rights	—	—	(1
Payment received for loan issued for the Harrisburg EfW facility	—	9	—
Property insurance proceeds	2	4	8
Other, net	(6	) (15	) (2
Net cash used in investing activities from continuing operations	(235	) (258	) (222

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Net cash provided by investing activities from discontinued operations	3	—	9
Net cash used in investing activities	(232	) (258	) (213

79

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS – (Continued)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(In millions)		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from borrowings on long-term debt	412	22	1,034
Proceeds from borrowings on project debt	63	—	—
Proceeds from borrowings on revolving credit facility	531	645	251
Principal payments on long-term debt	(557	) (3	) (622
Payments related to Cash Conversion Option	(83) —	—
Proceeds from settlement of Note Hedge	83	—	—
Principal payments on project debt	(52	) (83	) (424
Convertible debenture repurchases	—	—	(25
Payments of borrowings on revolving credit facility	(496	) (595	) (191
Cash dividends paid to stockholders	(101	) (65	) (90
Common stock repurchased	—	(34	) (88
Proceeds from equipment financing capital lease	63	—	—
Payment of equipment financing capital lease	(1) —	—
Change in restricted funds held in trust	(40	) 27	65
Payment of deferred financing costs	(36	) (1	) (33
Financing of insurance premiums, net	—	—	(10
Distributions to partners of noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	—	—	(1
Proceeds from the exercise of options for common stock, net	10	1	2
Payments to pre-petition creditors	—	(3) —
Decrease in restricted funds for pre-petition creditors	—	3	—
Other, net	(3	) (25) —
Net cash used in financing activities from continuing operations	(207	) (111	) (132
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities from discontinued operations	(6	) 8	15
Net cash used in financing activities	(213	) (103	) (117
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(5	) (1) —
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(109	) (46	) 12
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	200	246	234
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	91	200	246
Less: Cash and cash equivalents of discontinued operations at end of period	—	5	11
Cash and cash equivalents of continuing operations at end of period	\$91	\$195	\$235
Cash Paid for Interest and Income Taxes:			
Interest	\$121	\$123	\$112
Income taxes, net of refunds	\$11	\$11	\$8

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY

	Covanta Holding Corporation Stockholders' Equity							Noncontrolling Interests in Subsidiaries	Total
	Common Stock Shares	Amount	Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Accumulated Earnings (Deficit)	Treasury Stock Shares	Amount		
	(In millions)								
Balance as of December 31, 2011, as previously reported	158	\$ 16	\$ 824	\$ 1	\$ 244	22	\$ (2)	\$ 5	\$ 1,088
Adjustment - See Note 1.			(4)		(4)				(8)
Balance as of December 31, 2011, as adjusted	158	16	820	1	240	22	(2)	5	1,080
Stock-based compensation expense			17						17
Dividend declared					(81)				(81)
Common stock repurchased			(32)		(55)	5	(1)		(88)
Shares repurchased for tax withholdings for vested stock awards			(5)						(5)
Exercise of options to purchase common stock			2						2
Shares issued in non-vested stock award	1								—
Comprehensive income, net of income taxes				6	116			2	124
Balance as of December 31, 2012	159	16	802	7	220	27	(3)	7	1,049
Stock-based compensation expense			15						15
Dividend declared					(87)				(87)
Common stock repurchased			(12)		(22)	2	—		(34)
Shares repurchased for tax withholdings for vested stock awards			(8)			1			(8)
Exercise of options to purchase common stock			1						1
Treasury shares canceled	(23)	(2)				(23)	2		—
Shares issued in non-vested stock award	—					(1)			—

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Other				(1	)				(1)	
Acquisition of noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries		(8	)			(2	)		(10)	
Comprehensive loss, net of income taxes			(9	)	(9	)		(1	)	(19)
Balance as of December 31, 2013	136	14	790	(2	)	101	6	(1	)	4	906
Stock-based compensation expense			17							17	
Dividend declared						(114	)			(114)
Shares repurchased for tax withholdings for vested stock awards			(4	)						(4)
Exercise of options to purchase common stock			10				(1	)		10	
Exercise of warrants							(1	)	1	1	
Shares issued in non-vested stock award							(1)		—	
Other			1							1	
Acquisition of noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries			(9	)				(3	)	(12)
Comprehensive loss, net of income taxes				(20	)	(2	)		1	(21)
Balance as of December 31, 2014	136	\$14	\$ 805	\$ (22	)	\$ (15	)	3	\$—	\$ 2	\$784

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The terms “we,” “our,” “ours,” “us” and “Company” refer to Covanta Holding Corporation and its subsidiaries; the term “Covanta Energy” refers to our subsidiary Covanta Energy, LLC (formerly known as Covanta Energy Corporation) and its subsidiaries.

Organization

Covanta is one of the world’s largest owners and operators of infrastructure for the conversion of waste to energy (known as “energy-from-waste” or “EfW”), and also owns and operates related waste transport and disposal and other renewable energy production businesses. EfW serves two key markets as both a sustainable waste management solution that is environmentally superior to landfilling and as a source of clean energy that reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions and is considered renewable under the laws of many states and under federal law. Our facilities are critical infrastructure assets that allow our customers, which are principally municipal entities, to provide an essential public service.

Our EfW facilities earn revenue from both the disposal of waste and the generation of electricity and/or steam, generally under contracts, as well as from the sale of metal recovered during the EfW process. We process approximately 20 million tons of solid waste annually. We operate and/or have ownership positions in 46 energy-from-waste facilities, which are primarily located in North America, and 11 additional energy generation facilities, including other renewable energy production facilities in North America (wood biomass and hydroelectric). In total, these assets produce approximately 10 million megawatt hours (“MWh”) of baseload electricity annually. We also operate a waste management infrastructure that is complementary to our core EfW business.

We have one reportable segment, North America, which is comprised of waste and energy services operations located primarily in the United States and Canada. We are currently constructing a waste to energy facility in Dublin, Ireland, which we own and will operate upon completion. We hold equity interests in EfW facilities in China and Italy. For additional information, see Note 6. Financial Information by Business Segments.

We also held investments in subsidiaries engaged in insurance operations in California, primarily in property and casualty insurance, whose remaining business was transitioned into run-off in 2012, and which collectively accounted for less than 1% of our consolidated revenue. During the fourth quarter of 2014, we sold our insurance business. For additional information, see Note 4. Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements reflect the results of our operations, cash flows and financial position of our majority-owned or controlled subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

Equity Method Investments

We use the equity method to account for our investments for which we have the ability to exercise significant influence over the operating and financial policies of the investee. Consolidated net income includes our proportionate share of the net income or loss of these companies. Such amounts are classified as “Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments” in our consolidated financial statements. Investments in companies in which we do not have the ability to exercise significant influence are carried at the lower of cost or estimated realizable value. We monitor investments for other-than-temporary declines in value and make reductions when appropriate.

Revenue Recognition

Waste and Service Revenues — Revenues from waste and service agreements consist of the following:

- 1) Fees earned under contract to operate and maintain energy-from-waste and independent power facilities are recognized as revenue when services are rendered, regardless of the period they are billed;
- 2) Fees earned to service project debt (principal and interest) where such fees are expressly included as a component of the service fee paid by the client community pursuant to applicable energy-from-waste service agreements. Regardless of the timing of amounts paid by client communities relating to project debt principal, we record service revenue with respect to this principal component on a levelized basis over the term of the agreement. Unbilled

service receivables related to energy-from-waste operations are discounted in recognizing the present value for services performed currently in order to service the principal component of the project debt;

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Fees earned for processing waste in excess of contractual requirements are recognized as revenue beginning in the period when we process the excess waste. Some of our contracts include stated fixed fees earned by us for processing waste up to certain base contractual amounts during specified periods. These contracts also set forth the per-ton fees that are payable if we accept waste in excess of the base contractual amounts; and

4) Tipping fees earned under waste disposal agreements are recognized as revenue in the period the waste is received.

Recycled Metals Revenues — Revenue for ferrous and non-ferrous metal recovered are generally recognized as revenue when ferrous and non-ferrous metal is shipped from our site to metals processors.

Energy Revenues — Revenue from the sale of electricity and steam are earned and recorded based upon output delivered and capacity provided at rates specified under contract terms or prevailing market rates net of amounts due to client communities under applicable service agreements. We account for certain long-term power contracts in accordance with accounting standards for revenue recognition of long-term power sales contracts that require power revenues under these contracts be recognized as the lesser of (a) amounts billable under the respective contracts; or (b) an amount determinable by the kilowatt hours made available during the period multiplied by the estimated average revenue per kilowatt hour over the term of the contract. The determination of the lesser amount is to be made annually based on the cumulative amounts that would have been recognized had each method been applied consistently from the beginning of the contract. The difference between the amount billed and the amount recognized is included in other long-term liabilities.

Construction Revenues — Revenues under current fixed-price construction contracts are recognized using the percentage-of-completion method, measured by the cost-to-cost method. Under this method, total contract costs are estimated, and the ratio of costs incurred to date to the estimated total costs on the contract is used to determine the percentage-of-completion. This method is used because we consider the costs incurred to be the best available measure of progress on these contracts. Construction revenues are recorded as other operating revenues in the consolidated statements of operations. These contracts are typically signed in conjunction with agreements to operate the project constructed and are therefore multiple element arrangements. The contractual price of the undelivered service element has been determined to be its fair value. Upon completion of the construction element of these contracts, we will begin to recognize service revenue over the term of the service element of the contract.

For multiple element arrangements, revenue is allocated between construction revenue and other project revenue (waste disposal revenue and energy revenues) based on the relative fair value of each element provided the delivered elements have value to customers on a standalone basis. Amounts allocated to each element are based on its objectively determined fair value, such as the sales price for the product or service when it is sold separately or competitor prices for similar products or services.

Plant Operating Expenses

Plant operating expenses include facility employee costs, expenses for materials and parts for facility scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and repair expenses, including costs related to our internal maintenance team and non-facility employee costs. Plant operating expenses also include hauling and disposal expenses, fuel costs, chemicals and reagents, operating lease expenses, and other facility operating related expenses.

Renewable Energy Credits

Renewable Energy Credits (“REC”) are environmental commodities that can be sold and traded in certain states, and represent the renewable energy attributes created when electricity is produced from an eligible renewable energy source. The RECs are recognized at fair value as a reduction to plant operating expense in the consolidated statements of operations and as an intangible asset within other current assets in the consolidated balance sheets on the date the renewable energy is generated. The fair value amount recognized is reduced by a valuation allowance for those RECs which management believes will ultimately be sold at below market or depressed market prices. As the RECs are delivered, the intangible asset is relieved. Fair values for the RECs are based on prices established by executed contracts, pending contracts or management estimates of current market prices. The total REC amount recognized as a reduction to plant operating expense in the consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$22 million, \$17 million and \$5 million, respectively.

Pass Through Costs

Pass through costs are costs for which we receive a direct contractually committed reimbursement from the municipal client which sponsors an EfW project. These costs generally include utility charges, insurance premiums, ash residue transportation and disposal, and certain chemical costs. These costs are recorded net of municipal client reimbursements in our consolidated financial statements. Total pass through costs for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were \$59 million, \$73 million, and \$78 million, respectively.

83

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Income Taxes

Deferred income taxes are based on the difference between the financial reporting and tax basis of assets and liabilities. The deferred income tax provision represents the change during the reporting period in the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities, net of the effect of acquisitions and dispositions. Deferred tax assets include tax losses and credit carryforwards and are reduced by a valuation allowance if, based on available evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

We file a consolidated federal income tax return for each of the periods covered by the consolidated financial statements, which include all eligible United States subsidiary companies. Foreign subsidiaries are taxed according to regulations existing in the countries in which they do business. Our subsidiary, Covanta Lake II, Inc. has not been a member of any consolidated tax group since February 20, 2004, however the income taxes recorded for this subsidiary are recorded in our consolidated financial statements. Our federal consolidated income tax return also includes the taxable results of certain grantor trusts, which are excluded from our consolidated financial statements; however, certain related tax attributes are recorded in our consolidated financial statements since they are part of our federal tax return. For additional information, see Note 15. Income Taxes.

Stock-Based Compensation

Stock-based compensation is accounted for in accordance with accounting standards for share-based awards to employees that require entities to recognize compensation expense for these awards. The cost for equity-based stock awards is expensed based on their grant date fair value. For additional information, see Note 17. Stock-Based Award Plans.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all cash balances and highly liquid investments having maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase. These short-term investments are stated at cost, which approximates market value. Balances held by our international subsidiaries are not generally available for near-term liquidity in our domestic operations.

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable consist of amounts due to us from normal business activities. Allowances for doubtful accounts are the estimated loss from the inability of customers to make required payments. We use historical experience, as well as current market information, in determining the estimate. While actual losses have historically been within management's expectations and provisions established, if the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required. Alternatively, if certain customers paid their delinquent receivables, reductions in allowances may be required.

Restricted Funds Held in Trust

Restricted funds held in trust are primarily amounts received and held by third party trustees relating to certain projects we own. We generally do not control these accounts and these funds may be used only for specified purposes. These funds primarily include debt service reserves for payment of principal and interest on project debt. Revenue funds are comprised of deposits of revenues received with respect to projects prior to their disbursement. Other funds are primarily amounts held in trust for operations, maintenance, environmental obligations, operating lease reserves in accordance with agreements with our clients, and amounts held for future scheduled distributions. Such funds are invested principally in money market funds, bank deposits and certificates of deposit, United States treasury bills and notes, United States government agency securities, and high-quality municipal bonds.

Restricted fund balances are as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31,			
	2014		2013	
	Current	Noncurrent	Current	Noncurrent
Debt service funds - principal	\$78	\$8	\$31	\$14
Debt service funds - interest	2	—	4	—
Total debt service funds	80	8	35	14

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Revenue funds	2	—	3	—
Other funds	23	83	3	112
Total	\$105	\$91	\$41	\$126

Of the \$196 million in total restricted funds as of December 31, 2014, approximately \$86 million was designated for future payment of project debt principal. For a discussion of debt service funds under some of our service arrangements, see Note 14. Supplementary Information — Operating Revenues.

84

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Deferred Financing Costs

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, we had \$55 million and \$31 million, respectively, of net deferred financing costs recorded on the consolidated balance sheets. These costs were incurred in connection with our various financing arrangements. These costs are being amortized using the effective interest rate method over the expected period that the related financing is to be outstanding.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue consisted of the following (in millions):

	As of December 31,		2013	
	2014		Current	Noncurrent
Advance billings to municipalities	\$8	\$—	\$7	\$—
Other	7	1	27	2
Total	\$15	\$1	\$34	\$2

Advance billings to certain customers are billed one or two months prior to performance of service and are recognized as income in the period the service is provided. As of December 31, 2013, other current deferred revenue related primarily to pre-construction billings for the Durham-York energy-from-waste facility.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment acquired in business acquisitions were recorded at our estimate of their fair values on the date of the acquisition. Additions, improvements and major expenditures are capitalized if they increase the original capacity or extend the remaining useful life of the original asset more than one year. Maintenance repairs and minor expenditures are expensed in the period incurred. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated remaining useful lives of the assets, which ranges up to 31 years for energy-from-waste facilities. The original useful lives generally range from three years for computer equipment to 50 years for components of energy-from-waste facilities. Property, plant and equipment at our service fee operated facilities, as well as our leaseholds improvements, is depreciated over the remaining life of the service fee contract/lease or the asset, whichever is shorter. Upon retirement or disposal of assets, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the consolidated balance sheets and any gain or loss is reflected in the consolidated statements of operations.

Property, plant and equipment consisted of the following (in millions):

	Useful Lives	As of December 31,	
		2014	2013
Land		\$21	\$29
Facilities and equipment	3-31 years	3,850	3,780
Landfills (primarily ash)	3-34 years	62	59
Construction in progress		191	69
Total		4,124	3,937
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization		(1,471	) (1,316
Property, plant, and equipment — net		\$2,653	\$2,621

Depreciation and amortization expense related to property, plant and equipment was \$191 million, \$184 million, and \$168 million, for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Asset Retirement Obligations

In accordance with accounting standards for asset retirement obligations, we recognize a liability for asset retirement obligations when it is incurred which is generally upon acquisition, construction, or development. Our liabilities include closure and post-closure costs for landfill cells and site restoration for certain energy-from-waste and power producing sites. We principally determine the liability using internal estimates of the costs using current information, assumptions, and interest rates, but also use independent appraisals as appropriate to estimate costs. When a new liability for asset retirement obligation is recorded, we capitalize the cost of the liability by increasing the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. The liability is accreted to its present value each period and the capitalized cost

is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. We recognize period-to-period changes in the liability resulting from revisions to the timing or the amount of the original estimate of the undiscounted cash flows. Any changes are incorporated into the carrying amount of the liability and will result in an adjustment to the amount of asset retirement cost allocated to expense in subsequent periods.

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Our asset retirement obligation is presented as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Beginning of period asset retirement obligation	\$28	\$29
Accretion expense	2	2
Net change ⁽¹⁾	(2	) (3
End of period asset retirement obligation	\$28	\$28
Less: current portion	(4	) (6
Noncurrent asset retirement obligation	\$24	\$22

(1) Comprised of expenditures and settlements of the asset retirement obligation liability, net revisions based on current estimates of the liability and revised expected cash flows and life of the liability.

Amortization of Waste, Service and Energy Contracts and Intangible Assets

Our waste, service and energy contracts are intangible assets related to long-term operating contracts at acquired facilities. Intangible assets and liabilities, as well as lease interest, and other indefinite-lived assets, are recorded at their estimated fair market values based primarily upon discounted cash flows in accordance with accounting standards related to business combinations. See Note 7. Amortization of Waste, Service and Energy Contracts and Note 8. Other Intangible Assets and Goodwill.

Impairment of Goodwill, Other Intangibles and Long-Lived Assets

We evaluate goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets not subject to amortization for impairment on an annual basis, or more frequently if events occur or circumstances change indicating that the fair value of a reporting unit may be below its carrying amount. The annual assessment may be performed either on a qualitative or quantitative basis. The qualitative assessment takes into consideration both external factors (including the macroeconomic and industry conditions) and our own internal factors (including internal costs, recent financial performance, management, business strategy, customers, and stock price). The quantitative assessment is based upon either discounted cash flows or external data. The discounted cash flow approach is based on management's best estimate of the highest and best use of future waste and service revenues, electricity revenues and operating expenses, discounted at an appropriate market participant risk adjusted rate. Facts and circumstances are evaluated each year to determine whether to use the qualitative or quantitative assessment.

The quantitative assessment of goodwill requires a comparison of the estimated fair value of the reporting unit to which the goodwill has been assigned to its carrying value. All goodwill is related to the North America reporting unit. A reporting unit is defined as an operating segment or a component of an operating segment to the extent discrete financial information is available that is reviewed by segment management. As the components of the North America reporting unit share similar operating and economic characteristics, we have aggregated them into one reporting unit as permitted by the accounting standard related to goodwill and intangible assets. If the carrying value of the reporting unit exceeds the fair value, the reporting unit's goodwill is compared to its implied value of goodwill. If the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill exceeds the implied value, an impairment charge is recognized to reduce the carrying value to the implied value.

Based on our annual assessment performed during the fourth quarter of 2014, there was no impairment of either goodwill or our indefinite-lived intangible assets.

Intangible and other long-lived assets such as property, plant and equipment and purchased intangible assets with finite lives, are evaluated for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate their carrying value may not be recoverable over their estimated useful life. In reviewing for impairment, we compare the carrying value of the relevant assets to their estimated undiscounted future cash flows. When the estimated undiscounted future cash flows are less than their carrying amount, an impairment charge is recognized to reduce the asset's carrying value to their fair value. As of December 31, 2014, there were no indicators of impairment identified.

There were no impairment charges recognized related to our evaluation of goodwill for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. During the year ended, December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, we recorded net write-offs (gains) related to other long-lived assets and other intangible assets of \$64 million, \$15 million and \$(57) million, pre-tax, respectively. For additional information, see Note 14. Supplementary Information.

Business Combinations

In accordance with accounting standards for business combinations, we recognize the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the transaction at fair value including any noncontrolling interest of the acquired entity; recognize any goodwill acquired or gain resulting from a bargain purchase; establish the acquisition-date fair value based on the highest and best use by market participants for the asset as the measurement objective; and disclose information needed to evaluate and understand the nature and financial

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

effect of the business combination. We expense direct transaction costs as incurred; capitalize in-process research and development costs, if any; and record a liability for contingent consideration at the measurement date with subsequent remeasurement recognized in the results of operations. Any costs for business restructuring and exit activities related to the acquired company are included in the post-combination results of operations. Tax adjustments related to previously recorded business combinations, if any, will be recognized in the results of operations.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income ("AOCI")

AOCI, in the consolidated statements of equity, includes unrealized gains and losses excluded from the consolidated statements of operations. These unrealized gains and losses consist of unrecognized gains or losses on our pension and other postretirement benefit obligations, foreign currency translation adjustments, unrealized gains or losses on securities, and net unrealized gains or losses on derivatives. AOCI, net of income taxes, consisted of the following (in millions):

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Foreign currency translation	\$ (12) \$ —
Pension and other postretirement plan unrecognized net gain	2	2
Net unrealized loss on derivatives	(12	) (5
Net unrealized gain on securities	—	1
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$ (22	) \$ (2

The changes in accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income are as follows (in millions):

	Foreign Currency Translation	Pension and Other Postretirement Plan Unrecognized Net Gain (Loss)	Net Unrealized Loss on Derivatives	Net Unrealized Gain on Securities	Total
Balance December 31, 2012	\$4	\$2	\$—	\$1	\$7
Other comprehensive (loss) income before reclassifications	(4	) 4	(5	) —	(5
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	—	(4	) —	—	(4
Net current period comprehensive loss	(4	) —	(5	) —	(9
Balance December 31, 2013	\$—	\$2	\$ (5	) \$1	\$ (2
Other comprehensive loss before reclassifications	(12	) —	(7	) (1	) (20
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	—
Net current period comprehensive loss	(12	) —	(7	) (1	) (20
Balance December 31, 2014	\$ (12	) \$2	\$ (12	) \$—	\$ (22

Reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income are as follows (in millions):

Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income component	For the Year Ended December 31, 2013	Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statement of Operations
Defined benefit pension plan		
Prior service costs	\$ (9	) Other operating expenses
Net actuarial loss	3	Other operating expenses

(6	)	Total before tax
2		Tax benefit
\$(4	)	Net of tax

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Derivative Instruments

We recognize derivative instruments on the balance sheet at their fair value. The Cash Conversion Option and Note Hedge are derivative instruments which were recorded at fair value quarterly with changes in fair value recognized in our consolidated statements of operations as non-cash convertible debt related expense. We have entered into swap agreements with various financial institutions to hedge our exposure to energy price risk and interest rate risk. Changes in the fair value of the energy derivatives and the interest rate swap are recognized as a component of AOCI. For additional information, see Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

Foreign Currency Translation

For foreign operations, assets and liabilities are translated at year-end exchange rates and revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates during the year. Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency translation are included in the consolidated statements of equity as a component of AOCI. Currency transaction gains and losses are recorded in other operating expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

Pension and Postretirement Benefit Obligations

Our pension and other postretirement benefit plans are accounted for in accordance with accounting standards for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans which require costs and the related obligations and assets arising from the pension and other postretirement benefit plans to be accounted for based on actuarially-determined estimates. In 2012, we terminated our pension plan and final settlement occurred in 2013. For additional information, see Note 16. Employee Benefit Plans.

Share Repurchases

Under our share repurchase program, common stock repurchases may be made, from time to time, in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions, or by other available methods, at management's discretion and in accordance with applicable federal securities laws. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including our capital structure, the market price of our common stock and overall market conditions, and whether any restrictions then exist under our policies relating to trading in compliance with securities laws. Purchase price over par value for share repurchases are allocated to additional paid-in capital up to the weighted average amount per share recorded at the time of initial issuance of our common stock, with any excess recorded as a reduction to retained earnings. For additional information, see Note 5. Equity and Earnings Per Share.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets or liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include useful lives of long-lived assets, asset retirement obligations, construction expense estimates, unbilled service receivables, fair value of financial instruments, fair value of the reporting units for goodwill impairment analysis, fair value of long-lived assets for impairment analysis, renewable energy credits, stock-based compensation, purchase accounting allocations, cash flows and taxable income from future operations, deferred taxes, allowances for uncollectible receivables, and liabilities related to employee medical benefit obligations, workers' compensation, severance and certain litigation.

Reclassifications

As more fully described in Note 4. Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations, during 2014 we sold our insurance business. Prior to the sale, we determined the assets related to our insurance subsidiary met the criteria for classification as Assets Held for Sale, but did not meet the criteria for classification as Discontinued Operations. The assets and liabilities associated with our insurance business are presented in our consolidated balance sheets as Current "Assets Held for Sale" and Current "Liabilities Held for Sale".

During the fourth quarter of 2013, assets related to our development activities in the United Kingdom met the criteria for classification as Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations. The assets and liabilities associated with these development activities are presented in our consolidated balance sheets as Current "Assets Held for Sale" and Current "Liabilities Held for Sale". The results of operations related to the development activities in the United Kingdom are

included in the consolidated statements of operations as “Income (loss) earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax.” The cash flows of these businesses are also presented separately in our consolidated statements of cash flows. Certain amounts have been reclassified in our prior period consolidated statement of operations to conform to current year presentation and such amounts were not material to current and prior periods.

Correction of Errors in Previously Issued Financial Statements

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we identified errors associated with partnership tax basis accounting from acquisitions completed in prior years. The impact of the errors in the prior year financial statements was not material to any of those years,

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

however the cumulative effect of all of the prior period errors would be material to our current year consolidated financial statements. Consequently we have corrected the aforementioned errors and other insignificant tax related errors for all prior periods presented by restating the consolidated financial statements and other information included herein. Provided below is a reconciliation of the previously reported amounts and impact of the restatement as of December 31, 2013 and for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

	December 31, 2013		
	Previously Reported	Adjustment	As Adjusted
	(In millions, except per share amounts)		
Consolidated Statement of Operations			
Depreciation and amortization expense	\$210	\$(1)	) \$209
Operating income	\$221	\$1	) \$222
Income tax expense	\$40	\$3	) \$43
Income from continuing operations	\$44	\$(2)	) \$42
Net loss	\$(8)	) \$(2)	) \$(10)
Net loss attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(7)	) \$(2)	) \$(9)
Basic Earnings (Loss) Per Share Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation			
Continuing operations	\$0.35	\$(0.02)	) \$0.33
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(0.05)	) \$(0.02)	) \$(0.07)
Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Share Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation			
Continuing operations	\$0.35	\$(0.02)	) \$0.33
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(0.05)	) \$(0.02)	) \$(0.07)
Consolidated Balance Sheet			
Property, plant and equipment, net	\$2,636	\$(15)	) \$2,621
Waste, service and energy contracts, net	\$364	\$(2)	) \$362
Goodwill	\$249	\$19	) \$268
Total assets	\$4,378	\$2	) \$4,380
Deferred income taxes (non-current liability)	\$722	\$7	) \$729
Total liabilities	\$3,467	\$7	) \$3,474
Accumulated earnings	\$106	\$(5)	) \$101
Total Covanta Holding Corporation stockholders equity	\$907	\$(5)	) \$902
Total equity	\$911	\$(5)	) \$906
Total liabilities and equity	\$4,378	\$2	) \$4,380

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

	December 31, 2012		
	Previously Reported	Adjustment	As Adjusted
	(In millions, except per share amounts)		
Consolidated Statement of Operations			
Depreciation and amortization expense	\$ 195	\$(1)	) \$ 194
Operating income	\$ 276	\$ 1	\$ 277
Income tax expense	\$ 32	\$(1)	) \$ 31
Income from continuing operations	\$ 136	\$ 2	\$ 138
Net income	\$ 116	\$ 2	\$ 118
Net income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ 114	\$ 2	\$ 116
Basic Earnings Per Share Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation			
Continuing operations	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.03
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ 0.87	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.88
Diluted Earnings Per Share Attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation			
Continuing operations	\$ 1.01	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.02
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.87

NOTE 2. RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In February 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued updated guidance to improve the existing consolidation guidance for legal entities such as limited partnerships, limited liability corporations, and securitization structures. The amendment simplifies consolidation accounting by reducing the number of consolidation models that a reporting entity may apply. The amendments in this update are to be applied on a modified retrospective basis by recording a cumulative-effect adjustment to equity as of the beginning of the fiscal year of adoption. We are required to adopt this standard in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this guidance on our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance to simplify income statement presentation by eliminating the concept of extraordinary items. Extraordinary items are items that are unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence which were required to be reported separately in the statement of operations, net of tax, after income from continuing operations. The FASB concluded that the cost of identifying and reporting extraordinary items outweighed the benefits to stakeholders. We are required to adopt this standard in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and early adoption is permitted. This standard will not have an impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance related to the application of pushdown accounting for business combinations. The amendments in this update provide that an acquired entity may elect to apply pushdown accounting in its separate financial statements upon a change-in-control event in which an acquirer obtains control of the acquired entity. The amendments in this update are effective immediately. This standard will not have an impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance related to derivatives and hedging, specifically, to determine whether the host contract in a hybrid financial instrument issued in the form of a share is more akin to debt or equity. The amendment clarifies how an entity should apply current standards to determine the nature of the host contract by considering the economic characteristics and risks of the entire hybrid financial instrument, including the embedded derivative feature that is being evaluated for separate accounting from the host contract. The amendments in this

update are to be applied on a modified retrospective basis and are required to be adopted by in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this guidance on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2014, the FASB issued guidance for accounting for share-based payments when the terms of an award provide that a performance target could be achieved after the requisite service period. The standard states that a performance target in a share-based payment that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period should be accounted for as a performance condition. As such, the performance target should not be reflected in estimating the grant-date fair value of the award. We are required to adopt this standard in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and early adoption is permitted. This standard will not have an impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

In May 2014, the FASB issued amended guidance for recognizing revenue which outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers and supersedes current revenue recognition guidance. The core principle of this update is that an entity should recognize revenue for the transfer of goods or services equal to the amount that it expects to be entitled to receive for those goods or services. Further, the guidance requires disclosures to help users of financial statements better understand the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue that is recognized. We are required to adopt this standard in the first quarter of fiscal 2017. Early adoption is not permitted. The amended guidance permits the initial application to be applied either retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented, or retrospectively with a cumulative effect adjustment made at the date of initial application. We are currently evaluating our adoption method and the impact of adopting this guidance on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2014, the FASB issued an update modifying the criteria under which asset disposal activities qualify for presentation as a discontinued operation. The amendment restricts presentation as a discontinued operation to disposals that represent a strategic shift that has, or will have, a major effect on an entity's operations and financial results. The amendments in this update are to be applied prospectively to all disposals or classifications as held for sale of components of an entity. We are required to adopt this standard for the first quarter of 2015. Early adoption is permitted. We have early adopted this standard in the first quarter of 2014. In the third quarter of 2014 we entered into an agreement to sell our insurance subsidiary and concluded the sale in the fourth quarter of 2014. Had we not early adopted this standard, the results of operations for the current and prior years would have been reclassified as discontinued operations. This would have resulted in \$9 million, \$1 million and \$5 million of net losses and \$0.07, \$0.01 and \$0.04 of diluted loss per share for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, being reclassified from continuing operations to discontinued operations.

In January 2014, the FASB issued an update concerning accounting for service concession arrangements. The amendments apply to an operating entity of a service concession arrangement entered into with a public-sector entity grantor when the arrangement meets both of the following conditions: (i) the grantor controls or has the ability to modify or approve the services that the operating entity must provide with the infrastructure, to whom it must provide them, and at what price; and (ii) the grantor controls, through ownership, beneficial entitlement, or otherwise, any residual interest in the infrastructure at the end of the term of the arrangement. The amendments in this update are to be applied on a modified retrospective basis to service concession arrangements that exist at the beginning of an entity's fiscal year of adoption. The modified retrospective approach requires the cumulative effect of applying this update to arrangements existing at the beginning of the period of adoption to be recognized as an adjustment to the opening retained earnings balance for the annual period of adoption. As of December 31, 2014, we have approximately \$88 million of property, plant and equipment on our consolidated balance sheet related to our service fee operated facilities with arrangements that are potentially in the scope of this guidance. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this guidance on our consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 3. GROWTH AND CONTRACT TRANSACTIONS

Our growth opportunities include: organic growth, new energy-from-waste and other renewable energy projects, existing project expansions, contract extensions, acquisitions, and businesses ancillary to our existing business, such as additional waste transfer, transportation, processing and disposal businesses. We also intend to maintain a focus on research and development of technologies that we believe will enhance our competitive position, and offer new technical solutions to waste and energy problems that augment and complement our business. The results of operations reflect the period of ownership of the acquired businesses, business development projects and dispositions. The acquisitions in the section below are not material to our consolidated financial statements individually or in the aggregate and therefore, disclosures of pro forma financial information have not been presented.

New Business / Assets**Pinellas County Energy-from-Waste Facility**

In the fourth quarter of 2014, we entered into a ten-year service fee contract to operate an existing 3,150 ton-per-day energy-from-waste facility located in Pinellas County, Florida, and we assumed operations of the facility in December

of 2014. In addition to the annual service fee, during the initial few years of the contract we will complete a number of projects to improve operations of the facility. Our client will pay for these projects, for which we will record construction revenue and expense.

Dublin Energy-from-Waste Facility

In September 2014, we entered into agreements to build, own and operate the Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility, a new 600,000 metric ton-per-year, 58 megawatt facility in Dublin, Ireland. The project will source residential, commercial and industrial waste from Dublin and the surrounding areas and will sell electricity into the local electricity grid, with over 50% of the facility's generation expected to qualify for preferential pricing under Ireland's renewable feed-in tariff. We have commenced construction of the facility in the fourth quarter of 2014, with operational commencement expected in late 2017. We will operate the facility under a 45-year public-private-partnership, after which ownership of the facility will transfer to Dublin City Council. Our total investment in the project is expected to be approximately €500 million, funded by a combination of third party non-recourse project

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

financing (€375 million) and project equity (approximately €125 million). For additional information related to funding for this project, see Note 11. Consolidated Debt - Dublin Project Financing.

Industrial Waste/Service Acquisition

In September 2014, we acquired a treatment, storage and disposal business located in North Carolina, specializing in the treatment, management, and disposal of industrial waste and field/facility remediation projects. This acquisition is not material to our consolidated financial statements and therefore, disclosures of pro forma financial information have not been presented.

New York City Waste Transport and Disposal Contract

In 2013, New York City's Department of Sanitation awarded us a contract to handle waste transport and disposal from two marine transfer stations located in Queens and Manhattan. We plan to utilize capacity at existing facilities for the disposal of an estimated 800,000 tons per year of municipal solid waste. Service for the Queens marine transfer station is expected to begin in early 2015, with service for the Manhattan marine transfer station expected to follow pending notice to proceed to be issued by New York City. The contract is for 20 years, effective from the date operations commence, with options for New York City to extend the term for two additional five-year periods, and requires waste to be transported using a multi-modal approach. We have acquired equipment, including barges, railcars, containers, and intermodal equipment to support this contract. We expect that our total initial investment will be approximately \$140 million, including the cost to acquire equipment of approximately \$110 million and approximately \$30 million of enhancements to existing facilities that will be part of the network of assets supporting this contract. These investments commenced in 2013 and will be made over several years. During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, we invested \$59 million and \$23 million, respectively, in property, plant and equipment relating to this contract.

New Jersey Transfer Stations

In 2013, we acquired two strategically-located transfer stations in New Jersey with a combined capacity of 2,500 ton-per-day. This acquisition is not material to our consolidated financial statements and therefore, disclosures of pro forma financial information have not been presented.

Camden Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2013, we acquired a 1,050 ton-per-day EfW facility located in Camden, New Jersey for cash consideration of \$49 million. The EfW facility provides sustainable waste management services to Camden County and surrounding communities while generating approximately 21 MW of renewable energy, which is sold at prevailing market rates. The majority of the purchase price allocation included \$53 million of property, plant, and equipment and a \$5 million intangible liability related to a long-term above market contract. The acquired intangible liability will be amortized as a contra-expense to the contract expiration date of December 2019. The purchase price allocation included no goodwill.

Durham-York Energy-from-Waste Facility

During 2011, we began construction of a municipally-owned 140,000 metric ton-per-year greenfield EfW facility located in Durham Region of Canada and owned by our municipal clients, the Durham and York Regions. We are building the facility under the terms of a fixed-price construction contract for which we will be paid approximately C\$250 million. The facility will process waste from the Regions of Durham and York. The project will be funded and owned by the Durham and York Regions. The project is expected to begin operations in early 2015, after which we will operate the facility under a 20 year service fee contract.

Existing Assets

Onondaga County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In November 2014, we extended our existing service fee agreement with Onondaga County, New York for 20 years on substantially the same terms as the existing agreement. The agreement will commence upon expiration of the current agreement in May 2015, provided all conditions precedent are achieved.

Fairfax County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In April 2014, we entered into a waste disposal agreement with our client at the Fairfax County EfW facility, extending our relationship under a tip fee arrangement effective at the end of the current service agreement in February 2016. The initial term of the new agreement will end in 2021, with two additional five year renewal periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. Beginning in 2016, the client will provide approximately 60% of the facility's waste capacity under the new agreement.

York County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In May 2014, we extended the service agreement for the York County EfW facility from 2015 to 2020 on substantially the same terms as the existing agreement.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Indianapolis Energy-from-Waste Facility and Advanced Recycling Center

In August 2014, we extended our existing waste disposal agreement with the City of Indianapolis from 2018 to 2028, under which it will continue to supply approximately 35% of the facility's waste capacity. The agreement also contemplates the construction and operation of an Advanced Recycling Center ("ARC") adjacent to our Indianapolis EfW facility, which will recover recyclables from mixed municipal solid waste using state-of-the-art sorting technology. Once necessary permits are received, we expect to invest approximately \$45 million to build the ARC facility.

Waste Disposal Contracts

Over the course of 2014, in addition to the aforementioned contracts, we extended and/or entered into new waste disposal contracts totaling approximately 2.5 million tons per year, most notably to supply our Essex, Haverhill, SeMass, Hempstead and Plymouth EfW facilities.

Alexandria/Arlington Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2013, the City of Alexandria and Arlington County exercised an option to extend their tip agreement from 2025 to 2038. The site lease agreement for this facility was extended to 2038. This contract represents approximately 15% of the capacity at our Alexandria EfW facility.

Huntington Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2013, we purchased the remaining equity interests in the Huntington EfW facility from two minority partners for approximately \$14 million, increasing our ownership interest to 100%.

MacArthur Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2013, we extended the service agreement for the MacArthur EfW facility from 2015 to 2030 on substantially the same terms as the existing agreement. The Town of Islip will supply virtually all of the facility's waste capacity.

Marion County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2013, we extended the service agreement for the Marion County EfW facility effective at the end of the current agreement which ended in September 2014, with the new agreement term ending in 2017 on substantially the same terms as the existing agreement. Marion County will supply virtually all of the facility's waste capacity. The agreement also provides Marion County with the option to extend the agreement to 2019.

Pasco County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2013, we extended the service agreement for the Pasco County EfW facility from 2016 to 2024 on substantially the same terms as the existing agreement.

Delaware Valley Energy-from-Waste Facility

In December 2012, we acquired a 100% ownership interest in TIFD III-L LLC and subsequently changed the name of the company to Covanta Delaware Valley OP, LLC (the "Owner Participant"). The Owner Participant is the beneficiary of an established trust (the "Owner Trust") that owns the Delaware Valley Resource Recovery Facility ("Delaware Valley"). Outstanding bonds totaling \$64 million are secured by the rental obligations to the Owner Trust. The purchase price for the Owner Participant was \$94 million in cash and was funded from cash on hand and available liquidity under our revolving credit facility. The Delaware Valley facility has processing capacity of approximately 2,700 tons per day and services Delaware County, PA and surrounding communities. We had operated Delaware Valley since our Ref-Fuel acquisition in 2005 through the lease which was scheduled to expire in 2019. Upon acquisition of Owner Participant, we have effectively settled our pre-existing rental obligation under the lease. The acquisition secures the ownership and long-term control of the large capacity, well-run facility in an attractive location.

The value of the pre-existing lease has been determined based upon current market conditions for similar properties (using level 3 information). The difference between the previously-recognized lease intangible and the fair value of the lease at acquisition of \$44 million, pre-tax, was reflected as a gain on the settlement of a pre-existing relationship in net write-offs (gains) in the consolidated statements of operations. The purchase price allocation is as follows (in millions):

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Restricted funds held in trust - current	\$ 19
Restricted funds held in trust	103
Property, plant and equipment	216
Goodwill	17
Total assets acquired	\$355
Current liabilities	2
Current portion of project debt	23
Project debt	41
Deferred income taxes	59
Total liabilities assumed	\$ 125
Net assets acquired	\$230

Essex County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2012, we entered into a series of agreements with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (“Port Authority”) and the New York City Department of Sanitation (“DSNY”) relating to our Essex County EfW facility, including agreements which convert the service agreement with the Port Authority into a tip fee arrangement effective January 1, 2013 through 2032 and extend the lease (with renewal options) through 2052. DSNY will continue to utilize about half of the facility's disposal capacity under a new 20 year contract with the Port Authority.

We are implementing significant operational improvements at our Essex County EfW facility, including a state-of-the-art particulate emissions control system at a total estimated cost of approximately \$90 million. Construction on the system commenced in 2014 and is expected to be completed near the end of 2016. As of December 31, 2014, we have approximately \$75 million of capital expenditures remaining to be incurred related to these improvements. The facility's environmental performance is currently compliant with all environmental permits and will be further improved with the installation of these improvements.

Long Island, New York Energy Agreements

In 2012, we entered into power purchase agreements with the Long Island Power Authority ("LIPA") for the sale of electric power from our Hempstead, Huntington, and Babylon energy-from-waste facilities, and the client community entered into a power purchase agreement with LIPA for the sale of electric power from the MacArthur energy-from-waste facility. The agreements are retroactive to April 1, 2012 and have an initial term of five years with two, five-year renewal terms at the seller's option. At Hempstead, revenue under the LIPA agreement is for our account. At Huntington and Babylon, which each have service fee (owned) structures, most of the revenue from their respective LIPA agreements will be retained by the client communities for the duration of their respective service agreements, both expiring in 2019. At MacArthur, a publicly-owned facility at which we have a service fee (operated) structure, most of the revenue under the LIPA agreement will be retained by the client community indefinitely.

Montgomery County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2012, we extended the service agreement to operate the Montgomery County EfW facility and Derwood transfer station, both publicly owned, from 2016 to 2021 on substantially the same terms as in the existing agreement.

Stanislaus County Energy-from-Waste Facility

In 2012, we amended and extended our service fee agreement with the City of Modesto and the County of Stanislaus, California. The contract was amended to a tip fee agreement under which the City of Modesto and the County of Stanislaus will continue to supply nearly all the facility's waste through 2027.

NOTE 4. DISPOSITIONS, ASSETS HELD FOR SALE, AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Dispositions and Other

Insurance Business

During the third quarter of 2014, we entered into an agreement to sell our insurance subsidiary. We recorded a non-cash write-down of \$14 million comprised of the write-down of the carrying amount in excess of the realizable

fair value of \$12 million, plus \$2 million in disposal costs. During the fourth quarter of 2014, we concluded on the sale of our insurance business.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Hudson Valley Energy-from-Waste Facility

In June 2014, our service agreement with the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency under which we operated the Hudson Valley EfW facility expired.

Chinese Station Biomass Facility

In November 2013, we sold our 55% interest in a partnership which owns a wood-fired generation facility in California for cash proceeds of \$0.2 million. The effect of the loss of revenues and related expenses from this contract was not material to our consolidated financial statements.

Hartford Energy-from-Waste Facility

In May 2012, our contract with the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority, under which we operated the boilers and turbines for the Hartford EfW facility, expired.

China Energy-from-Waste Facilities

We own a 40% equity interest in Chongqing Sanfeng Covanta Environmental Industry Co., Ltd. (“Sanfeng”). In June 2012, Sanfeng sold its existing 32% interest in the Fuzhou EfW project in China. Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments included a \$2 million gain for our equity interest in the sale of Sanfeng's interest in the Fuzhou EfW project. In a related transaction, Sanfeng increased its ownership interest in the Tongxing EfW facility in China from 25% to 40%.

Development Projects - United Kingdom

In 2013, we received notification that we were not selected as the preferred bidder for the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority's (“MRWA”) waste procurement. The MRWA waste procurement would have accounted for a significant portion of the capacity at a project located at Ince Park, Cheshire, England. Following the notification, we reviewed our overall business strategy in the United Kingdom and decided to cease further development activities in the United Kingdom and implement a staff reduction and began to evaluate alternatives for disposal, sale or abandonment of these projects.

IPP Assets - Asia

In April 2012, we completed the sale of our interest in a barge-mounted 126 MW (gross) diesel/natural gas-fired electric power generation facility located near Haripur, Bangladesh, the last of the four Asia fossil fuel IPP assets designated as assets held for sale. The results of operations of these businesses are included in the consolidated statements of operations as “Income (loss) earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax.” The cash flows of these businesses are also presented separately in our consolidated statements of cash flows.

Assets Held for Sale Summary

The assets related to our development activities in the United Kingdom were determined to have met the requirements for assets held for sale in the second quarter of 2013, and the assets and liabilities associated with our insurance business were determined to have met the requirements for assets and liabilities held for sale in the third quarter of 2014. All corresponding prior year periods presented in our consolidated balance sheet and related information in the accompanying notes have been reclassified to reflect the Assets Held for Sale presentation. The following table sets forth the assets and liabilities of the Assets Held for Sale included in the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2013 (in millions):

	As of December 31, 2013		
	UK Development	Insurance Business	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2	\$3	\$5
Accounts receivable	2	1	3
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	—	10	10
Investments in fixed maturities at market (cost: \$32)	—	32	32
Other noncurrent assets ⁽¹⁾	3	18	21
Assets held for sale	\$7	\$64	\$71

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Accrued expenses and other	\$2	\$—	\$2
Other liabilities ⁽²⁾	—	47	47
Liabilities held for sale	\$2	\$47	\$49

(1) Other noncurrent assets of our insurance business primarily include reinsurance recoverables.

(2) Other liabilities of our insurance business primarily include unpaid loss and loss adjustment expenses.

95

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Discontinued Operations Summary

During the fourth quarter of 2013, assets related to our development activities in the United Kingdom met the criteria to be presented in discontinued operations. The results of operations of these businesses are included in the consolidated statements of operations as “Income (loss) earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax.” The cash flows of these businesses are also presented separately in our consolidated statements of cash flows. The following table summarizes the operating results of the discontinued operations for the periods indicated (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Revenues	\$1	\$6	\$1
Operating expenses, including net gain on disposal of assets held for sale ⁽¹⁾	\$1	\$60	\$28
Loss before income tax expense and equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	\$—	\$(53)	\$(27)
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	\$—	\$—	\$2
Loss from discontinued operations, net of income tax benefit of \$0, \$1 and \$5, respectively	\$—	\$(52)	\$(20)

⁽¹⁾ During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, operating expenses includes the write-down of capitalized developments costs of \$0, \$47 million and \$13 million, respectively.

NOTE 5. EQUITY AND EARNINGS PER SHARE (“EPS”)

Equity

In May 2014, the stockholders of the Company approved the Covanta Holding Corporation 2014 Equity Award Plan. For additional information, see Note 17. Stock-Based Award Plans.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we granted awards of 721,479 shares of restricted stock, 246,825 restricted stock units and 25,000 stock options. For information related to stock-based award plans, see Note 17. Stock-Based Award Plans.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we withheld 230,061 shares of our common stock in connection with tax withholdings for vested stock awards.

In 2014, we declared quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.86 per share. In 2013, we declared quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.66 per share and we repurchased 1.7 million shares of our common stock at a weighted average cost of \$19.37 per share for an aggregate amount of approximately \$34 million. In 2012, we declared quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.60 per share and we repurchased 5.3 million shares of our common stock at a weighted average cost of \$16.55 per share for an aggregate amount of approximately \$88 million.

As of December 31, 2014, there were 136 million shares of common stock issued of which 133 million shares were outstanding; the remaining 3 million shares of common stock issued but not outstanding were held as treasury stock. As of December 31, 2014, there were 6.5 million shares of common stock reserved and available for future issuance under equity plans.

As of December 31, 2014, there were 10 million shares of preferred stock authorized, with none issued or outstanding. The preferred stock may be divided into a number of series as defined by our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are authorized to fix the rights, powers, preferences, privileges and restrictions granted to and imposed upon the preferred stock upon issuance.

Earnings Per Share

Per share data is based on the weighted average number of outstanding shares of our common stock, par value \$0.10 per share, during the relevant period. Basic earnings per share are calculated using only the weighted average number of outstanding shares of common stock. Diluted earnings per share computations, as calculated under the treasury stock method, include the weighted average number of shares of additional outstanding common stock issuable for stock options, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units and warrants whether or not currently exercisable. Diluted

earnings per share for each of the periods presented does not include securities if their effect was anti-dilutive.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Net (loss) income and (loss) earnings per share attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation are as follows (in millions, except per share amounts):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2011
Net (loss) income from continuing operations	\$(2	) \$43	\$136
Net loss from discontinued operations	—	(52	) (20
Net (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(2	) \$(9	) \$116
Basic (loss) earnings per share:			
Weighted average basic common shares outstanding	130	129	132
Continuing operations	\$(0.01	) \$0.33	\$1.03
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40	) (0.15
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(0.01	) \$(0.07	) \$0.88
Diluted (loss) earnings per share:			
Weighted average basic common shares outstanding	130	129	132
Dilutive effect of stock options	—	—	—
Dilutive effect of restricted stock	—	1	1
Dilutive effect of convertible debentures	—	—	—
Dilutive effect of warrants	—	—	—
Weighted average diluted common shares outstanding	130	130	133
Continuing operations	\$(0.01	) \$0.33	\$1.02
Discontinued operations	—	(0.40	) (0.15
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(0.01	) \$(0.07	) \$0.87

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Securities excluded from the weighted average dilutive common shares outstanding because their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive:			
Stock options	1	2	2
Restricted stock	1	—	—
Restricted stock units	—	—	—
Warrants	25	29	29

In 2009, we issued warrants in connection with the issuance of 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes which matured on June 1, 2014. The warrants were exercisable only at expiration in equal tranches over a 60 day period which began on September 2, 2014 and ended on November 26, 2014. The warrants were net share settled, which means that, with respect to any exercise date, we delivered to the warrant holders a number of shares for each warrant equal to the excess of the volume-weighted average price of our common stock on each exercise date over the then effective strike price of the warrants, divided by such volume-weighted average price of our common stock, with a cash payment in lieu of fractional shares. During the year ended December 31, 2014, 1,430,870 shares of our common stock were issued in connection with warrant exercises. For additional information see Note 11. Consolidated Debt - 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes due 2014.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS

We have one reportable segment, North America, which is comprised of waste and energy services operations located primarily in the United States and Canada. The results of our reportable segment are as follows (in millions):

	North America	All Other ⁽¹⁾	Total
Year Ended December 31, 2014:			
Operating revenues	\$1,641	\$41	\$1,682
Depreciation and amortization expense	\$208	\$3	\$211
Net write-offs	\$50	\$14	\$64
Operating income (loss)	\$159	\$(15)	\$144
Interest expense, net	\$54	\$83	\$137
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	\$—	\$10	\$10
As of December 31, 2014:			
Total assets (includes goodwill of \$274 in the North America segment)	\$3,908	\$296	\$4,204
Capital additions	\$188	\$28	\$216
Year Ended December 31, 2013:			
Operating revenues	\$1,595	\$35	\$1,630
Depreciation and amortization expense	\$207	\$2	\$209
Net write-offs	\$15	\$—	\$15
Operating income (loss)	\$231	\$(9)	\$222
Interest expense, net	\$52	\$94	\$146
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	\$—	\$6	\$6
As of December 31, 2013:			
Total assets (includes goodwill of \$268 in the North America segment)	\$4,013	\$367	\$4,380
Capital additions	\$173	\$15	\$188
Year Ended December 31, 2012:			
Operating revenues	\$1,603	\$40	\$1,643
Depreciation and amortization expense	\$191	\$3	\$194
Net gains	\$(57)	\$—	\$(57)
Operating income (loss)	\$295	\$(18)	\$277
Interest expense, net	\$46	\$72	\$118
Equity in net income from unconsolidated investments	\$—	\$10	\$10

(1) All other is comprised of the financial results of our insurance subsidiaries' operations through the date of disposal and our international assets.

Our operations are principally in the United States. See the list of projects for the North America segment in Item 1. Business. Operations outside of the United States are primarily in Asia. A summary of operating revenues and total assets by geographic area is as follows (in millions):

	United States	Other	Total	
Operating Revenues:				
Year Ended December 31, 2014	\$1,567	\$115	\$1,682	
Year Ended December 31, 2013	\$1,478	\$152	\$1,630	
Year Ended December 31, 2012	\$1,514	\$129	\$1,643	
Total Assets:				
	United States	Assets Held for Sale	Other	Total

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

As of December 31, 2014	\$3,828	\$—	\$376	\$4,204
As of December 31, 2013	\$3,993	\$71	\$316	\$4,380

98

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 7. AMORTIZATION OF WASTE, SERVICE AND ENERGY CONTRACTS

Waste, Service and Energy Contracts

Our waste, service and energy contracts are intangible assets and liabilities relating to long-term operating contracts at acquired facilities and are recorded upon acquisition at their estimated fair market values based upon discounted cash flows. Intangible assets and liabilities are amortized using the straight line method over their remaining useful lives, which average approximately 23 years for the waste, service and energy intangible contract assets and 2 years for the waste and service intangible contract liabilities. Waste, Service and Energy contracts consisted of the following (in millions):

	Useful Life	As of December 31, 2014			As of December 31, 2013		
		Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net
Waste, service and energy contracts (asset)	1 — 29 years	\$542	\$228	\$314	\$609	\$247	\$362
Waste and service contracts (liability)	1 — 5 years	\$(131)	\$(112)	\$(19)	\$(131)	\$(101)	\$(30)

The following table details the amount of the actual/estimated amortization expense and contra-expense associated with these intangible assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2014 included or expected to be included in our consolidated statements of operations for each of the years indicated (in millions):

	Waste, Service and Energy Contracts (Amortization Expense)	Waste and Service Contracts (Contra-Expense)
Year ended December 31, 2014	\$ 27	\$(11)
2015	25	(6)
2016	22	(6)
2017	14	(4)
2018	13	(2)
2019	13	(1)
Thereafter	227	—
Total	\$ 314	\$(19)

The weighted average number of years prior to the next renewal period for contracts that we have an intangible recorded is 8 years.

During year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded non-cash impairment write-offs totaling \$16 million related to service contract intangibles that were recorded upon acquisition in 2009. See Note 14. Supplementary Information - Net Write-offs discussion for additional information.

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 8. OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS AND GOODWILL

Other Intangible Assets

Other intangible assets consisted of the following (in millions):

	Useful Life	As of December 31, 2014			As of December 31, 2013		
		Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net
Lease interest and other	6 –17 years	\$17	\$ 4	\$13	\$14	\$ 4	\$10
Other intangibles	Indefinite	4	—	4	10	—	10
Intangible assets, net		\$21	\$ 4	\$17	\$24	\$ 4	\$20

The following table details the amount of the actual/estimated amortization expense associated with other intangible assets as of December 31, 2014 expected to be included in our statements of operations for each of the years indicated (in millions):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total
Annual Remaining Amortization	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$1	\$1	\$5	\$13

Amortization Expense related to other intangible assets was \$1 million, \$3 million and \$6 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Lease interest amortization is recorded as rent expense in plant operating expenses and was \$0, \$0 and \$3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the total consideration paid in excess of the fair value of the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and the liabilities assumed in acquisitions. Goodwill has an indefinite life and is not amortized but is reviewed for impairment under the provisions of accounting standards for goodwill. All goodwill is related to the North America reporting unit. We performed the required annual impairment review of our recorded goodwill for our reporting unit using a qualitative assessment as of October 1, 2014 and determined that it was more likely than not that the fair value of our reporting unit was not less than its carrying value and no further assessment was necessary. As of December 31, 2014, goodwill of approximately \$35 million was deductible for federal income tax purposes.

The following table details the changes in carrying value of goodwill (in millions):

	Total
Balance as of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2013	\$268
Goodwill related to the acquisition of a treatment, storage and disposal business (See Note 3)	6
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$274

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 9. EQUITY METHOD INVESTMENTS

Our subsidiaries are party to joint venture agreements through which we have equity investments in several operating projects. The joint venture agreements generally provide for the sharing of operational control as well as voting percentages. We record our share of earnings from our equity investees in equity in net income from unconsolidated investments in our consolidated statements of operations.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, investments in investees and joint ventures accounted for under the equity method were as follows (dollars in millions):

	Ownership Interest as of December 31, 2014	2014	Ownership Interest as of December 31, 2013	2013
Pacific Ultrapower Chinese Station Plant (U.S.) ⁽¹⁾	—%	\$—	—%	\$—
South Fork Plant (U.S.)	50%	1	50%	1
Koma Kulshan Plant (U.S.)	50%	5	50%	5
TARTECH (U.S.)	50%	5	50%	5
Ambiente 2000 (Italy)	40%	1	40%	1
Sanfeng (China) ⁽¹⁾	40%	12	40%	12
Chengdu (China)	49%	22	49%	23
Total investments		\$46		\$47

(1) See Note 4. Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations.

NOTE 10. LEASES

Leases are primarily operating leases for leaseholds on EfW facilities, as well as for trucks and automobiles, office space and machinery and equipment. Some of these operating leases have renewal options. Expense under operating leases was \$15 million, \$17 million, and \$29 million, for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The following is a schedule, by year, of future minimum rental payments required under operating leases that have initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2014 (in millions):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total
Future Minimum Rental Payments	\$18	\$17	\$16	\$15	\$15	\$86	\$167
Non-Recourse Portion of Future Minimum Rental Payments	\$12	\$11	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$66	\$119

Future minimum rental payment obligations include \$119 million of future non-recourse rental payments that relate to EfW facilities. Of this amount \$59 million is supported by third-party commitments to provide sufficient service revenues to meet such obligations. The remaining \$60 million is related to an EfW facility at which we serve as the operator, through a lease, and directly market one half of the facility's disposal capacity. This facility currently generates sufficient revenues from short-, medium-, and long-term contracts to meet rental payments. We anticipate renewing the contracts or entering into new contracts to generate sufficient revenues to meet remaining future rental payments.

Table of ContentsCOVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 11. CONSOLIDATED DEBT

Consolidated debt is as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
LONG-TERM DEBT:		
Revolving credit facility expiring 2019	\$ 145	\$ 110
Term loan due 2019	198	294
Debt discount related to Term loan	(1	) (1
Term loan, net	197	293
Credit Facilities Sub-total	\$ 342	\$ 403
7.25% Senior Notes due 2020	\$ 400	\$ 400
6.375% Senior Notes due 2022	400	400
5.875% Senior Notes due 2024	400	—
3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes due 2014	—	460
Debt discount related to 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes	—	(13
Cash conversion option derivative at fair value	—	78
3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes, net	—	525
Notes Sub-total	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,325
4.00% - 5.25% Tax-Exempt Bonds due from 2024 to 2042	\$ 335	\$ 335
Variable Rate Tax-Exempt Bonds due 2043	34	22
Tax-Exempt Bonds Sub-total	\$ 369	\$ 357
3.48% - 4.52% Equipment Financing Capital Lease Arrangements due 2024 through 2026	\$ 62	\$ —
Total long-term debt	\$ 1,973	\$ 2,085
Less: current portion (includes \$0 and \$13 of unamortized discount, respectively, and \$0 and \$78 of cash conversion option derivative at fair value, respectively)	(5	) (528
Noncurrent long-term debt	\$ 1,968	\$ 1,557
PROJECT DEBT:		
North America segment project debt		
4.00% - 7.00% Americas Project Debt related to Service Fee structures due 2015 through 2022	\$ 135	\$ 167
5.248% - 6.20% Americas Project Debt related to Tip Fee structures due 2019 through 2020	29	45
Unamortized debt premium, net	1	1
Total North America segment project debt	165	213
Other project debt:		
Dublin Junior Term Loan due 2022	61	—
Debt discount related to Dublin Junior Term Loan	(1) —
Dublin Junior Term Loan, net	60	—
China project debt	22	23
Total Other project debt	82	23
Total project debt	247	236
Less: Current project debt (includes \$(2) and \$1 of unamortized (discount) premium, respectively)	(40	) (55
Noncurrent project debt	\$ 207	\$ 181
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED DEBT	\$ 2,220	\$ 2,321
Less: Current debt	(45	) (583

TOTAL NONCURRENT CONSOLIDATED DEBT	\$2,175	\$1,738
------------------------------------	---------	---------

102

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

LONG-TERM DEBT

Credit Facilities

Our subsidiary, Covanta Energy, has senior secured credit facilities consisting of a \$1.0 billion revolving credit facility expiring in 2019 (the "Revolving Credit Facility") and a \$198 million term loan due 2019 (the "Term Loan") (collectively referred to as the "Credit Facilities").

In March 2014, we made a voluntary prepayment on the Term Loan of \$95 million, that reduced the outstanding principal to \$200 million and we amended the Credit Facilities to:

- extend the termination date of the Revolving Credit Facility by two years from March 28, 2017 to March 21, 2019;
- increase the aggregate commitment amount of the Revolving Credit Facility by \$100 million to \$1.0 billion; and
- reduce the applicable margin payable on the Term Loan by 25 basis points, as noted below under Interest and Fees.

We incurred approximately \$3 million in costs related to this amendment which will be deferred and amortized over the remaining term of the Credit Facilities.

The Revolving Credit Facility is available for the issuance of letters of credit up to the full amount of the facility, provides for a \$50 million sub-limit for the issuance of swing line loans (a loan that can be requested in US Dollars on a same day basis for a short drawing period); and is available in US Dollars, Euros, Pounds Sterling, Canadian Dollars and certain other currencies to be agreed upon, in each case for either borrowings or for the issuance of letters of credit.

We have the option to issue additional term loan commitments and/or increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility (collectively, the "Incremental Facilities"), subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions and obtaining sufficient lender commitments, in an amount up to the greater of \$500 million and the amount that, after giving effect to the incurrence of such Incremental Facilities, would not result in a leverage ratio, as defined in the credit agreement governing our Credit Facilities (the "Credit Agreement"), exceeding 2.75:1.00.

Availability under Revolving Credit Facility

As of December 31, 2014, we had availability under the Revolving Credit Facility as follows (in millions):

	Total Facility Commitment	Expiring	Direct Borrowings as of December 31, 2014	Outstanding Letters of Credit as of December 31, 2014	Available Capacity as of December 31, 2014
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 1,000	2019	\$145	\$162	\$693

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we made aggregate cumulative direct borrowings of \$531 million under the Revolving Credit Facility, of which we subsequently repaid \$496 million prior to the end of the period.

Repayment Terms

As of December 31, 2014, the Term Loan has mandatory amortization payments of \$2 million each year from 2015 through 2018 and \$190 million in 2019. The Credit Facilities are pre-payable at our option at any time.

Under certain circumstances, the Credit Facilities obligate us to apply 25% of our excess cash flow (as defined in the Credit Agreement) for each fiscal year commencing in 2013, as well as net cash proceeds from specified other sources, such as asset sales or insurance proceeds, to prepay the Term Loan, provided that this excess cash flow percentage shall be reduced to 0% in the event the Leverage Ratio (as defined below under Credit Agreement Covenants) is at or below 3.00:1.00.

Interest and Fees

Borrowings under the Credit Facilities bear interest, at our option, at either a base rate or a Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin determined by a pricing grid, in the case of the Revolving Credit Facility, which is based on Covanta Energy's leverage ratio. Base rate is defined as the higher of (i) the Federal Funds Effective Rate plus 0.50%, (ii) the rate the administrative agent announces from time to time as its per annum "prime rate" or (iii) the one-month LIBOR rate plus 1.00%. Eurodollar rate borrowings bear interest at the London Interbank Offered Rate, commonly referred to as "LIBOR", or a comparable or successor rate, for the interest period selected by us. Base rate borrowings

under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest at the base rate plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.25% to 1.75%. Eurodollar borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest at LIBOR plus an applicable margin ranging from 2.00% to 2.75%. Fees for issuances of letters of credit include fronting fees equal to 0.125% per annum and a participation fee for the lenders equal to the applicable interest margin for LIBOR rate borrowings. We will incur an unused commitment fee ranging from 0.375% to 0.50% on the unused amount of commitments under the Revolving Credit

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Facility. Effective March 21, 2014 the Term Loan bears interest, at our option, at either (i) the base rate plus an applicable margin of 1.50% , or (ii) LIBOR plus an applicable margin of to 2.50%, subject to a LIBOR floor of 0.75%.

Guarantees and Securitization

The Credit Facilities are guaranteed by us and by certain of our subsidiaries. The subsidiaries that are party to the Credit Facilities agreed to secure all of the obligations under the Credit Facilities by granting, for the benefit of secured parties, a first priority lien on substantially all of their assets, to the extent permitted by existing contractual obligations. The Credit Facilities are also secured by a pledge of substantially all of the capital stock of each of our domestic subsidiaries and 65% of substantially all the capital stock of each of our directly-owned foreign subsidiaries, in each case to the extent not otherwise pledged.

Credit Agreement Covenants

The loan documentation governing the Credit Facilities contains various affirmative and negative covenants, as well as financial maintenance covenants, that limit our ability to engage in certain types of transactions. We were in compliance with all of the affirmative and negative covenants under the Credit Facilities as of December 31, 2014. The negative covenants of the Credit Facilities limit our and our restricted subsidiaries' ability to, among other things:

- incur additional indebtedness (including guarantee obligations);
- create certain liens against or security interests over certain property;
- pay dividends on, redeem, or repurchase our capital stock or make other restricted junior payments;
- enter into agreements that restrict the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions or other payments to us;
- make investments;
- consolidate, merge or transfer all or substantially all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries on a consolidated basis;
- dispose of certain assets; and
- make certain acquisitions.

The financial maintenance covenants of the Credit Facilities, which are measured on a trailing four quarter period basis, include the following:

a maximum Leverage Ratio of 4.00 to 1.00 for the trailing four quarter period, which measures the principal amount of Covanta Energy's consolidated debt less certain restricted funds dedicated to repayment of project debt principal and construction costs ("Consolidated Adjusted Debt") to its adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, as calculated in the Credit Agreement ("Adjusted EBITDA"). The definition of Adjusted EBITDA in the Credit Facilities excludes certain non-recurring and non-cash charges.

a minimum Interest Coverage Ratio of 3.00 to 1.00, which measures Covanta Energy's Adjusted EBITDA to its consolidated interest expense plus certain interest expense of ours, to the extent paid by Covanta Energy as calculated in the Credit Agreement.

Senior Notes and Debentures

7.25% Senior Notes due 2020 (the "7.25% Notes")

In 2010, we sold \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 7.25% Senior Notes due 2020. Interest on the 7.25% Notes is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on June 1, 2011 and the 7.25% Notes will mature on December 1, 2020 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. In 2010, we used \$317 million of the net proceeds of the 7.25% Notes offering to purchase 85% of the total outstanding 1.00% Senior Convertible Debentures due 2027 (described below), for an aggregate purchase price of \$313 million plus \$1 million in accrued and unpaid interest. The remaining net proceeds were used for general corporate purposes. Net proceeds from the sale of the 7.25% Notes were \$390 million, consisting of gross proceeds of \$400 million net of \$10 million in offering expenses.

At our option, the 7.25% Notes are subject to redemption at any time on or after December 1, 2015, in whole or in part, at the redemption prices set forth in the indenture, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. At any time prior to December 1, 2015, we may redeem some or all of the 7.25% Notes at a price equal to

100% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, plus a “make-whole” premium.

Other terms and conditions of the 7.25% Notes, including guarantees and security, covenants, and repurchase requirements in the case of certain asset sales or a change of control, are substantially similar to those described below under 6.375% Notes.

104

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

6.375% Senior Notes due 2022 (the "6.375% Notes")

In March 2012, we sold \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 6.375% Senior Notes due 2022. Interest on the 6.375% Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year, commencing on October 1, 2012, and the 6.375% Notes will mature on October 1, 2022 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. Net proceeds from the sale of the 6.375% Notes were \$392 million, consisting of gross proceeds of \$400 million net of \$8 million in offering expenses. We used a portion of the net proceeds of the 6.375% Notes offering to repay a portion of the amounts outstanding under Covanta Energy's previously existing term loan.

The 6.375% Notes are senior unsecured obligations, ranking equally in right of payment with any of the future senior unsecured indebtedness of Covanta Holding Corporation. The 6.375% Notes are effectively junior to our existing and future secured indebtedness, including any guarantee of indebtedness under the Credit Facilities. The 6.375% Notes are not guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and are effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The indenture for the 6.375% Notes may limit our ability and the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to:

- incur additional indebtedness;
- pay dividends or make other distributions or repurchase or redeem their capital stock;
- prepay, redeem or repurchase certain debt;
- make loans and investments;
- sell restricted assets;
- incur liens;
- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- alter the businesses they conduct;
- enter into agreements restricting our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends; and
- consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of their assets.

If and for so long as the 6.375% Notes have an investment grade rating and no default under the indenture has occurred, certain of the covenants will be suspended. At our option, the 6.375% Notes are subject to redemption at any time on or after April 1, 2017, in whole or in part, at the redemption prices set forth in the indenture, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. At any time prior to April 1, 2015, we may redeem up to 35% of the original principal amount of the 6.375% Notes with the proceeds of certain equity offerings at a redemption price of 106.375% of their principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. In addition, at any time prior to April 1, 2017, we may redeem some or all of the 6.375% Notes at a price equal to 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, plus a "make-whole premium".

If we sell certain of our assets or experience specific kinds of changes in control, we must offer to purchase the 6.375% Notes. The occurrence of specific kinds of changes in control will be a triggering event requiring us to offer to purchase from the holders all or a portion of the 6.375% Notes at a price equal to 101% of their principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase. In addition, certain asset dispositions will be triggering events that may require us to use the proceeds from those asset dispositions to make an offer to purchase the 6.375% Notes at 100% of their principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase if such proceeds are not otherwise used within 365 days to repay indebtedness or to invest or commit to invest such proceeds in additional assets related to our business or capital stock of a restricted subsidiary.

5.875% Senior Notes due 2024 (the "5.875% Notes")

In March 2014, we sold \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 5.875% Senior Notes due March 2024. Interest on the 5.875% Notes is payable semi-annually on March 1 and September 1 of each year, commencing on September 1, 2014, and the 5.875% Notes will mature on March 1, 2024 unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. Net proceeds from the sale of the 5.875% Notes were approximately \$393 million, consisting of gross proceeds of \$400 million net of approximately \$7 million in offering expenses. We used the net proceeds of the 5.875% Notes offering in part for the repayment of the 3.25% Cash Convertible Notes at maturity on June 1, 2014.

The 5.875% Notes are subject to redemption at our option, at any time on or after March 1, 2019, in whole or in part, at the redemption prices set forth in the prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid interest. At any time prior to March 1, 2017, we may redeem up to 35% of the original principal amount of the 5.875% Notes with the proceeds of certain equity offerings at a redemption price of 105.875% of the principal amount of the 5.875% Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest. At any time prior to March 1, 2019, we may also redeem the 5.875% Notes, in whole but not in part, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 5.875% Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest and a “make-whole premium.”

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Other terms and conditions of the 5.875% Notes, including guarantees and security, covenants, and repurchase requirements in the case of certain asset sales or a change of control, are substantially similar to those described above under 6.375% Notes.

3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes due 2014 (the "3.25% Notes")

In 2009, we issued \$460 million aggregate principal amount of the 3.25% Notes due in 2014 in a private transaction exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. We used the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures, permitted investments or permitted acquisitions. On June 1, 2014, we repaid the \$460 million 3.25% Notes utilizing net proceeds from the March 2014 5.875% Notes issuance.

During the period from March 1, 2014 to May 30, 2014, and under certain additional limited circumstances, the 3.25% Notes were cash convertible by holders thereof (the "Cash Conversion Option"). The conversion rate was 64.6669 shares of our common stock (which represented a conversion price of approximately \$15.46 per share) for the period from March 17, 2014 through March 21, 2014, and 65.3501 shares of our common stock (which represented a conversion price of approximately \$15.30 per share), as adjusted for the dividend paid on April 2, 2014, for the period from March 24, 2014 to May 30, 2014. We did not deliver common stock (or any other securities) upon conversion. Upon maturity, we were required to pay \$83 million to satisfy the obligation under the Cash Conversion Option in addition to the principal amount of the 3.25% Notes.

In connection with the issuance of 3.25% Notes offering, we entered into privately negotiated cash convertible note hedge transactions (the "Note Hedge") with affiliates of certain of the initial purchasers of the 3.25% Notes (the "Option Counterparties") which we cash-settled for \$83 million upon maturity of the 3.25% Notes and effectively offset our liability under the Cash Conversion Option.

In connection with the issuance of the 3.25% Notes, we also sold warrants, correlating to the number of shares underlying the 3.25% Notes. The warrants were exercisable only at expiration in equal tranches over a 60 day period which began on September 2, 2014 and ended on November 26, 2014. During the year ended December 31, 2014, 1,430,870 shares of our common stock were issued in connection with warrant exercises.

1.00% Senior Convertible Debentures due 2027 (the "Debentures")

In 2007, we completed an underwritten public offering of \$374 million aggregate principal amount of Debentures. In November 2010, we commenced a tender offer to purchase for cash any and all of our outstanding 1.00% Senior Convertible Debentures due 2027. In 2012, we subsequently redeemed the remaining outstanding Debentures. During the year ended December 31, 2012, \$25 million of the Debentures were purchased. We used a portion of the net proceeds of the 7.25% Note offering discussed above to fund the purchase price and accrued and unpaid interest of the Debentures.

Tax-Exempt Bonds

In November 2012, we issued tax-exempt corporate bonds totaling \$335 million. Proceeds from the offerings were utilized to refinance tax-exempt project debt at our Haverhill, Niagara and SEMASS facilities, as well as to fund certain capital expenditures in Massachusetts. Approximately \$7 million of financing costs were incurred, of which \$3 million was expensed and \$4 million will be recognized over the term of the debt. Details of the issues and the use of proceeds are as follows (dollars in millions):

Series	Amount	Maturity	Coupon	Use of Proceeds
Massachusetts Series 2012A	\$20	2027	4.875%	New proceeds for qualifying capital expenditures in Massachusetts
Massachusetts Series 2012B	67	2042	4.875%	Redeem SEMASS project debt
Massachusetts Series 2012C	83	2042	5.25%	Redeem Haverhill project debt
Niagara Series 2012A	130	2042	5.25%	Redeem Niagara project debt
Niagara Series 2012B	35	2024	4.00%	Redeem Niagara project debt
	\$335			

We entered into a loan agreement with the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency under which they issued the Resource Recovery Revenue Bonds (the “Massachusetts Series” bonds in the table above) and loaned the proceeds of the Massachusetts Series bonds to us for the purposes of (i) financing qualifying capital expenditures at certain solid waste disposal facilities in Massachusetts and (ii) redeeming the outstanding principal balance of the SEMASS and Haverhill project debt.

We entered into a loan agreement with the Niagara Area Development Corporation under which they issued the Solid Waste Disposal Facility Refunding Revenue Bonds (the “Niagara Series” bonds in the table above) and loaned the proceeds of the Niagara Series bonds to us for the purpose of redeeming the outstanding principal balance of the Niagara project debt.

The Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara Series bonds are obligations of Covanta Holding Corporation, are guaranteed by Covanta Energy; and are not secured by project assets. Principal and interest on the Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Series bonds are payable from the repayments we make to the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency and Niagara Area Development Corporation, respectively, pursuant to the respective loan agreements.

The Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara Series bonds bear interest at the interest rates per annum set forth in the table above, payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2013.

Each of the loan agreements contains customary events of default, including failure to make any payments when due, failure to perform its covenants under the respective loan agreement, and the bankruptcy or insolvency. Additionally, each of the loan agreements contains cross-default provisions that relate to our other indebtedness. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, the unpaid balance of the loan under the applicable loan agreement will become due and payable immediately.

The Massachusetts Series bonds and the Niagara Series bonds contain certain terms including mandatory redemption requirements in the event that (i) the respective loan agreement is determined to be invalid, or (ii) the respective bonds are determined to be taxable. In the event of a mandatory redemption of the bonds, we will have an obligation under each respective loan agreement to prepay the respective loan in order to fund the redemption.

Tax-Exempt Variable Rate Demand Bonds due 2043 ("Variable Rate Bonds")

In July 2013, we issued \$22 million of tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility and will mature on July 1, 2043. Proceeds from the offering were utilized to refinance \$22 million of the tax-exempt project debt at our Delaware Valley facility which matured on July 1, 2013. Financing costs were not material.

In July 2014, we issued an additional \$12 million of tax-exempt corporate variable-rate demand bonds, which are secured by a letter of credit issued under our Revolving Credit Facility and will mature on July 1, 2043. Proceeds from the offering were utilized to refinance \$12 million of project debt at our Delaware Valley facility due on July 1, 2014. Financing costs were not material.

The Variable Rate Bonds are unsecured obligations that are guaranteed by Covanta Energy, LLC, and are not secured by project assets. Except for amounts payable out of drawings under the letter of credit, principal and interest on the Variable Rate Bonds will be payable solely from, and secured solely by, a pledge of payments derived under a loan agreement between us and the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency as Issuer.

The Variable Rate Bonds bear interest either on a daily or weekly interest rate as determined by the remarketing agent on the basis of examination of comparable bonds known by the remarketing agent to have been priced or traded under then prevailing market conditions. As of December 31, 2014, the weekly interest rate was 0.06%. Interest on the Variable Rate Bonds is paid monthly on the first business day of each month.

The Variable Rate Bonds are subject to redemption at our option, in whole or in part, at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued interest. The Variable Rate Bonds also contain a mandatory tender for purchase feature, contingent upon a conversion of the interest rate period or failure to procure a renewal or alternate letter of credit, at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued interest.

Equipment Financing Capital Lease Arrangements

In 2014, we entered into equipment financing capital lease arrangements to finance the purchase of barges, railcars, containers and intermodal equipment related to our New York City contract. During the year ended December 31, 2014, we borrowed \$63 million under the equipment financing capital lease arrangements. The lease terms range from 10 years to 12 years and the fixed interest rates range from 3.48% to 4.52%, with payments commencing on October 1, 2014. The outstanding borrowings under the equipment financing capital lease arrangements were \$62 million as of December 31, 2014, and have mandatory amortization payments remaining as follows (in millions):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter
Annual Remaining Amortization	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$4	\$4	\$45

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

PROJECT DEBT

The maturities of long-term project debt as of December 31, 2014 are as follows (in millions):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total	Less: Current Portion	Total Noncurrent Project Debt
Debt	\$42	\$17	\$19	\$22	\$17	\$130	\$247	\$(42)	\$205
Premium	(2)	(2)	(1)	1	1	3	—	2	2
Total	\$40	\$15	\$18	\$23	\$18	\$133	\$247	\$(40)	\$207

Project debt associated with the financing of energy-from-waste facilities is arranged by municipal entities through the issuance of tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds or other borrowings. For those facilities we own, that project debt is recorded as a liability on our consolidated financial statements. Generally, debt service for project debt related to Service Fee structures is the primary responsibility of municipal entities, whereas debt service for project debt related to Tip Fee structures is paid by our project subsidiary from project revenue expected to be sufficient to cover such expense.

Payment obligations for our project debt associated with energy-from-waste facilities are generally limited recourse to the operating subsidiary and non-recourse to us, subject to operating performance guarantees and commitments. These obligations are secured by the revenues pledged under various indentures and are collateralized principally by a mortgage lien and a security interest in each of the respective energy-from-waste facilities and related assets. As of December 31, 2014, such revenue bonds were collateralized by property, plant and equipment with a net carrying value of \$646 million and restricted funds held in trust of approximately \$176 million.

In November 2012, we issued new tax-exempt corporate bonds totaling \$335 million. Proceeds from the offerings were utilized to refinance tax-exempt project debt at our Haverhill, Niagara and SEMASS facilities, as well as to fund certain capital expenditures in Massachusetts.

In December 2010, one of our client communities refinanced project debt (\$30 million outstanding) with the proceeds from new bonds and cash on hand. As a result of the refinancing, the client community issued \$28 million tax exempt bonds bearing interest from 2% to 4% due in 2015 in order to pay down the existing project debt. Consistent with other private, non-tip fee structures, the client community will pay us debt service revenue equivalent to the principal and interest on the bonds.

Other project debt includes \$22 million due to financial institutions denominated in Rmb, relating to the construction of a 350 TPD energy-from-waste line in Taixing Municipality, in Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China. As of December 31, 2014, the debt bears interest at a weighted average floating rate of approximately 6.8%. The construction related debt is payable in scheduled annual installments until 2019. The entire debt is secured by the project assets for the entire term of the loan and is backed by a guarantee from Covanta Energy Asia Pacific Holdings, Limited (China) effective until one year after maturity date of the loan.

Dublin Project Financing

During 2014, we executed agreements for project financing totaling €375 million to fund a majority of the construction costs of the Dublin Waste-to-Energy Facility. The project financing package includes: (i) €300 million of project debt under a credit facility agreement with various lenders (the "Dublin Credit Agreement"), which consists of a €250 million senior secured term loan (the "Dublin Senior Term Loan") and a €50 million second lien term loan (the "Dublin Junior Term Loan"), and (ii) a €75 million convertible preferred investment (the "Dublin Convertible Preferred"), which has been committed by a leading global energy infrastructure investor. For additional information related to this project, see Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

Dublin Senior Term Loan due 2021

The €250 million Dublin Senior Term Loan is expected to be drawn over the course of 2016 and 2017 to fund remaining construction costs after our equity investment into the project (estimated at approximately €125 million), the Dublin Convertible Preferred, and the Dublin Junior Term Loan have been fully utilized. Key commercial terms of the Dublin Senior Term Loan include:

Final maturity on September 30, 2021 (approximately four years after the anticipated operational commencement date of the facility).

Scheduled repayments will be made semi-annually according to a 15-year amortization profile, beginning in 2018.

The loan is pre-payable at our option following operational commencement.

Borrowings will bear interest at the Euro Interbank Offered Rate ("EURIBOR") plus an applicable margin, which will range from 4.00% to 4.50% according to a pre-determined schedule. Interest on outstanding borrowings will be payable in cash

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

monthly prior to the operational commencement date of the facility, and payable in cash semi-annually after the operational commencement date, based on the prevailing one and six month EURIBOR rates, respectively. Undrawn commitments will accrue commitment fees at a rate of 2.25% per annum. We entered into interest rate swap agreements in order to hedge our exposure to adverse variable interest rate fluctuations under the Dublin Senior Term Loan. For additional information, see Note 13. Derivative Instruments.

The Dublin Senior Term Loan is a senior obligation of the project company and certain other related subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned by us, and is secured by a first priority lien on substantially all of the project-related assets. The Dublin Senior Term Loan is non-recourse to us and our subsidiary Covanta Energy. See Note 19. Commitments and Contingencies for a description of the commitments of Covanta Energy related to the Dublin project financing.

The Dublin Credit Agreement contains positive, negative and financial maintenance covenants that are customary for a project financing of this type. Our ability to service the Dublin Junior Term Loan and the Dublin Convertible Preferred and to make cash distributions to common equity following the operational commencement date is subject to ongoing compliance with these covenants, including maintaining a minimum debt service coverage ratio and loan life coverage ratio on the Dublin Senior Term Loan.

Dublin Junior Term Loan due 2022

The €50 million Dublin Junior Term Loan was funded into an escrow account in September 2014 and we expect to draw proceeds from the account to fund construction costs in 2015 and 2016 after our initial equity investment into the project and the Dublin Convertible Preferred have been fully utilized. As of December 31, 2014, \$61 million (€50 million) is included in both project debt and noncurrent restricted funds held in trust on our consolidated balance sheet. Key commercial terms of the Dublin Junior Term Loan include:

- Final maturity on March 31, 2022 (six months after the maturity of the Dublin Senior Term Loan).

- Scheduled repayments will be made semi-annually according to a 15-year amortization profile, beginning in 2018.

- The loan is pre-payable at our option following operational commencement.

Borrowings will bear interest at a fixed rate of 5.23% during the first six months of the loan, and thereafter at fixed rates from 9.23% to 9.73% according to a pre-determined schedule. Interest on outstanding borrowings is payable semi-annually and will be payable 50% in cash and 50% accrued to the balance of the loan prior to the operational commencement date of the facility, and payable 100% in cash after the operational commencement date.

- The Dublin Junior Term Loan is a junior obligation of the project company and certain other related subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned by us, and is secured by a second priority lien on substantially all of the project-related assets and a first priority lien on the assets of the top tier project holding company. The Dublin Junior Term Loan is non-recourse to us and our subsidiary Covanta Energy.

Under the Dublin Credit Agreement, our ability to service the Dublin Convertible Preferred and to make cash distributions to common equity is subject to ongoing compliance with the covenants under the agreement, including maintaining a minimum debt service coverage ratio and loan life coverage ratio on the Dublin Junior Term Loan.

Dublin Convertible Preferred

The €75 million Dublin Convertible Preferred is expected to be drawn to fund construction costs in 2015 after our initial equity investment into the project has been fully utilized. The instrument has: (i) a liquidation preference equal to par value of the investment, (ii) a preferred claim on project cash flows during operations (after debt service) to pay a fixed dividend rate and repay principal according to an amortization schedule, and (iii) an option to convert loan principal into a common equity interest in the project.

The Dublin Convertible Preferred is structured as a shareholder loan (the “Stakeholder Loan”) with the concurrent issuance of warrants (the “Stakeholder Warrants”). Key commercial terms of the Dublin Convertible Preferred include: The Stakeholder Loan will accrue dividends at a fixed rate of 13.50% per annum. The dividends are payable 50% in cash and 50% accrued to the principal balance on a monthly basis prior to the operational commencement date, and payable 100% in cash semi-annually thereafter, subject to available project cash flows after debt service.

Scheduled repayments of principal of the Stakeholder Loan will be made semi-annually according to a 13-year amortization profile beginning in 2020 (two years after the operational commencement date), with a final repayment date of September 30, 2032, all subject to available project cash flows after debt service.

Voluntary prepayments are not permitted during the first five years of the Stakeholder Loan, after which the principal is pre-payable at our option in increments of 33% of the aggregate outstanding principal balance per year.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

The Stakeholder Loan is mandatorily pre-payable at the option of the Stakeholder Loan holder(s) under certain circumstances in the event of a refinancing of the Dublin Senior Term Loan and/or the Dublin Junior Term Loan. The Stakeholder Warrants are exercisable into ordinary shares of our subsidiary holding company that owns 100% of the project company on five conversion dates, scheduled at six month intervals, beginning on the operational commencement date, or upon a refinancing of the Dublin Credit Agreement. The warrants contain customary anti-dilution protection and are exercisable on a cashless basis at a specified conversion price on each conversion date, representing a set premium to the original subscription price for common shares (i.e., Covanta's subscription price) that increases over time. The number of shares that can potentially be issued upon exercise is limited to a maximum of 24.99% of the outstanding shares.

- The Dublin Convertible Preferred holder(s) is entitled to nominate two out of five voting board members of the project subsidiary holding company. The right to nominate board members will be reduced with future reductions in the outstanding principal amount of the Stakeholder Loan and/or number of common shares held following conversion of the Stakeholder Warrants.

Financing Costs and Capitalized Interest

Financing costs related to the Dublin project financing totaled approximately \$24 million. Interest expense paid on the Dublin project financing and costs amortized to interest expense will be capitalized during the construction phase of the project.

Loss on Extinguishment of Debt

The components of loss on extinguishment of debt are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Credit Facility refinancing ⁽¹⁾	\$2	\$1	\$2
Project Debt refinancing ⁽²⁾	—	—	1
Total loss on extinguishment of debt	\$2	\$1	\$3

(1) Comprised of the write-off of discount and deferred financing costs in connection with previously existing financing arrangements.

(2) Comprised of the write-off of unamortized premium on refinanced project debt, net of expensed financing costs on new tax-exempt bonds and additional interest payments for refinanced project debt. See Tax-Exempt Bonds discussion above.

Financing Costs

All deferred financing costs are amortized to interest expense over the life of the related debt using the effective interest method. Amortization of deferred financing costs is included as a component of interest expense and was \$8 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Capitalized Interest

Interest expense paid and cost amortized to interest expense related to project financing are capitalized during the construction and start-up phase of the project. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, \$4 million and \$2 million of capitalized interest expense was included in other noncurrent assets on our consolidated balance sheets, respectively.

NOTE 12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**Fair Value Measurements**

Authoritative guidance associated with fair value measurements provides a framework for measuring fair value and establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value, giving the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 inputs), then significant other observable inputs (Level 2 inputs) and the lowest priority to significant unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs). The

following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments:
For cash and cash equivalents, restricted funds, and marketable securities, the carrying value of these amounts is a reasonable estimate of their fair value. The fair value of restricted funds held in trust is based on quoted market prices of the investments held by the trustee.

Fair values for long-term debt and project debt are determined using quoted market prices.

110

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

The fair value of the note hedge and the cash conversion option were determined using an option pricing model based on observable inputs such as implied volatility, risk free interest rate, and other factors. The fair value of the note hedge was adjusted to reflect counterparty risk of non-performance, and was based on the counterparty's credit spread in the credit derivatives market.

The contingent interest features were valued quarterly using the present value of expected cash flow models incorporating the probabilities of the contingent events occurring.

The fair value for interest rate swaps were determined by obtaining quotes from two counterparties (one is a holder of the long position and the other is in the short) and extrapolating those across the long and short notional amounts. The fair value of the interest rate swaps was adjusted to reflect counterparty risk of non-performance, and was based on the counterparty's credit spread in the credit derivatives market.

The estimated fair value amounts have been determined using available market information and appropriate valuation methodologies. However, considerable judgment is necessarily required in interpreting market data to develop estimates of fair value. Accordingly, the estimates presented herein are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that we would realize in a current market exchange. The fair-value estimates presented herein are based on pertinent information available to us as of December 31, 2014. Such amounts have not been comprehensively revalued for purposes of these financial statements since December 31, 2014, and current estimates of fair value may differ significantly from the amounts presented herein.

The following financial instruments are recorded at their estimated fair value. The following table presents information about the fair value measurement of our assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

Financial Instruments Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis:	Fair Value Measurement Level	As of December 31,	
		2014	2013
		(In millions)	
Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents:			
Bank deposits and certificates of deposit	1	\$86	\$194
Money market funds	1	5	1
Total cash and cash equivalents:		91	195
Restricted funds held in trust:			
Bank deposits and certificates of deposit	1	67	4
Money market funds	1	36	52
U.S. Treasury/Agency obligations ⁽¹⁾	1	2	2
State and municipal obligations	1	87	97
Commercial paper/Guaranteed investment contracts/Repurchase agreements	1	4	12
Total restricted funds held in trust:		196	167
Restricted funds — other:			
Bank deposits and certificates of deposit ⁽²⁾	1	1	1
Investments:			
Mutual and bond funds ^{(2) (3)}	1	2	13
Derivative Asset — Note Hedge	2	—	78
Derivative Asset — Energy Hedges	2	5	—
Total assets:		\$295	\$454
Liabilities:			
Derivative Liability — Cash Conversion Option	2	\$—	\$78
	2	—	0

Derivative Liabilities — Contingent interest features of the 3.25% Notes			
Derivative Liability — Energy Hedges	2	—	8
Derivative Liability — Interest rate swaps	2	15	—
Liability — Contingent consideration related to acquisition	3	2	—
Total liabilities:		\$17	\$86

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

The following financial instruments are recorded at their carrying amount (in millions):

Financial Instruments Recorded at Carrying Amount:	As of December 31, 2014		As of December 31, 2013	
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value
Assets:				
Accounts receivables ⁽⁴⁾	\$326	\$326	\$288	\$288
Liabilities:				
Long-term debt	\$1,973	\$2,039	\$2,085	\$2,092
Project debt	\$247	\$256	\$236	\$248

(1) The U.S. Treasury/Agency obligations in restricted funds held in trust are primarily comprised of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation securities at fair value.

(2) Included in other noncurrent assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

(3) Included in prepaid expenses and other current assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

(4) Includes \$24 million of noncurrent receivables in other noncurrent assets in the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

NOTE 13. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

The following disclosures summarize the fair value of derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments in the consolidated balance sheets and the effect of changes in fair value related to those derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments on the consolidated statements of operations (in millions):

Derivative Instruments Not Designated		Fair Value as of December 31,		
As Hedging Instruments	Balance Sheet Location	2014	2013	
Asset Derivatives:				
Note Hedge	Note Hedge	\$—	\$78	
Liability Derivatives:				
Cash Conversion Option	Current portion of long-term debt	\$—	\$78	
Contingent interest features of the 3.25% Notes		\$—	\$0	
		Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized In Income on Derivatives		
Effect on Income of Derivative Instruments Not Designated As Hedging Instruments	Location of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivatives	For the Years Ended December 31,		
		2014	2013	2012
Note Hedge	Non-cash convertible debt related expense	\$5	\$(26)	\$57
Cash Conversion Option	Non-cash convertible debt related expense	(5)	27	(56)
Contingent interest features of the 3.25% Notes and Debentures	Non-cash convertible debt related expense	—	—	—
Effect on income of derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments		\$—	\$1	\$1

Cash Conversion Option, Note Hedge and Contingent Interest features related to the 3.25% Cash Convertible Senior Notes

The Cash Conversion Option was a derivative instrument which was recorded at fair value quarterly with any change in fair value being recognized in our consolidated statements of operations as non-cash convertible debt related expense. The Note Hedge was accounted for as a derivative instrument and, as such, was recorded at fair value quarterly with any change in fair value being recognized in our consolidated statements of operations as non-cash convertible debt related expense.

The 3.25% Notes matured on June 1, 2014. Upon maturity, we were required to pay \$83 million to satisfy the obligation under the cash conversion option in addition to the principal amount of the 3.25% Notes. The note hedge settled for \$83 million and effectively offset our exposure to the cash payments in excess of the principal amount made under the cash conversion option. The income recognized as a result of changes in the credit valuation adjustment related to the note hedge was not material.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Energy Price Risk

Following the expiration of certain long-term energy sales contracts, we may have exposure to market risk, and therefore revenue fluctuations, in energy markets. We have entered into contractual arrangements that will mitigate our exposure to short-term volatility through a variety of hedging techniques, and will continue to do so in the future. Our efforts in this regard will involve only mitigation of price volatility for the energy we produce, and will not involve speculative energy trading. We have entered into agreements with various financial institutions to hedge approximately 1.2 million MWh and 0.5 million MWh of energy production from exposure to market risk for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, respectively.

As of December 31, 2014, the fair value of the energy derivatives of \$5 million, pre-tax, was recorded as a current asset and as a component of AOCI. As of December 31, 2014, the amount of hedge ineffectiveness was not material.

Interest Rate Swaps

In order to hedge the risk of adverse variable interest rate fluctuations associated with the Dublin Senior Term Loan, we have entered into floating to fixed rate swap agreements, denominated in Euros for the full €250 million loan amount with various financial institutions that terminate between 2016 and 2021. This interest rate swap is designated as a cash flow hedge which is recorded at fair value as a current liability with changes in fair value recorded as a component of AOCI. As of December 31, 2014, the fair value of the interest rate swap derivative of \$15 million, pre-tax, was recorded as a noncurrent liability.

NOTE 14. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Operating Revenues

The components of waste and service revenues are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(in millions)		
Waste and service revenues unrelated to project debt	\$1,010	\$973	\$963
Revenue earned explicitly to service project debt - principal	19	30	39
Revenue earned explicitly to service project debt - interest	3	5	8
Total waste and service revenues	\$1,032	\$1,008	\$1,010

Under some of our service agreements, we bill municipalities fees to service project debt (principal and interest). The amounts billed are based on the actual principal amortization schedule for the project bonds. Regardless of the amounts billed to client communities relating to project debt principal, we recognize revenue earned explicitly to service project debt principal on a levelized basis over the term of the applicable agreement. In the beginning of the agreement, principal billed is less than the amount of levelized revenue recognized related to principal and we record an unbilled service receivable asset. At some point during the agreement, the amount we bill will exceed the levelized revenue and the unbilled service receivable begins to reduce, and ultimately becomes nil at the end of the contract.

In the final year(s) of a contract, cash may be utilized from available debt service reserve accounts to pay remaining principal amounts due to project bondholders and such amounts are no longer billed to or paid by municipalities. Generally, therefore, in the last year of the applicable agreement, little or no cash is received from municipalities relating to project debt, while our levelized service revenue continues to be recognized until the expiration date of the term of the agreement.

Operating Costs

The components of other operating expenses are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Construction costs	\$98	\$112	\$141
Insurance subsidiaries operating expenses ⁽¹⁾	4	6	16

Edgar Filing: COVANTA HOLDING CORP - Form 10-K

Defined benefit pension plan settlement (gain) expense ⁽²⁾	—	(6	) 11	
Insurance recoveries ⁽³⁾	(3	) (4	) (7)
Other ⁽⁴⁾	2	(11	) (4)
Total other operating expenses	\$101	\$97	\$157	

113

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Insurance subsidiaries operating expenses are primarily comprised of incurred but not reported loss reserves, loss adjustment expenses and policy acquisition costs. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we transitioned our (1) remaining insurance businesses to run-off and recorded additional losses of \$7 million primarily relating to adverse loss development and reserve increases. In 2014, we sold all of our interests in subsidiaries engaged in the insurance business.

(2) In 2012, we terminated our pension plan which was settled in 2013. For additional information, see Note 16. Employee Benefit Plans.

(3) See Stanislaus Energy-from-Waste Facility discussion below.

(4) In 2013, we recognized gains of \$5 million related to two contract amendments and a gain of \$8 million related to early termination of a power purchase agreement.

Stanislaus Energy-from-Waste Facility

In January 2012, our Stanislaus, California energy-from-waste facility experienced a turbine generator failure. Damage to the turbine generator was extensive and operations at the facility were suspended promptly to assess the cause and extent of damage. The facility is capable of processing waste without utilizing the turbine generator to generate electricity, and we resumed waste processing operations during the first quarter of 2012. The facility began to generate electricity during the fourth quarter of 2012 and became fully operational. During 2012, total capital expenditures related to the repair of the turbine generator was \$12 million. The cost of repair or replacement, and business interruption losses, were insured under the terms of applicable insurance policies, subject to deductibles. We recorded insurance recoveries in our consolidated statements of operations as follows (in millions):

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2013	2012
Insurance Recoveries for Repair and reconstruction costs (net of write-down of assets, recorded to Other operating expenses)	\$4	\$7
Insurance Recoveries for Business Interruption and Clean-up costs, net of costs incurred (reduction to Plant operating expenses)	\$3	\$—

Net Write-offs (Gains)

The components of net write-offs (gains) are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
North America segment:			
Write-off of intangible assets (liability) ⁽¹⁾	\$16	\$—	\$(29)
Net gain related to lease termination - intangible related ⁽²⁾	—	—	(44)
Write-down of California biomass facilities and biomass equity investment ⁽³⁾	34	2	—
Write-down of EfW facility assets ⁽⁴⁾	—	9	—
Write-off of loan issued to fund certain facility improvements ⁽⁵⁾	—	4	—
Write-off of renewable fuels project ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	16
North America segment sub-total:	50	15	(57)
Other:			
Write-down of insurance business ⁽⁷⁾	14	—	—
Total net write-offs (gains)	\$64	\$15	\$(57)

(1) Write-offs related to intangible assets (liability) are related to the following:

•

On June 30, 2014, our service agreement with the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency under which we operated the Hudson Valley EfW facility expired. In 2014, we recorded a \$9 million non-cash impairment write-off of the intangible asset that was recorded upon acquisition in 2009 based on the expected cash flows over the remaining life of the contract.

On April 3, 2014, the Montgomery County (PA) Commissioners (the “County”) unanimously voted to dissolve the Waste System Authority of Eastern Montgomery County (the “WSA”). The Abington transfer station was constructed by the County and subsequently deeded to the WSA, which was responsible for its operation. We operated the transfer station through the end of the current contract, which expired on December 31, 2014. However, due to the dissolution of the WSA, it is not able to renew our current contract to operate the Abington transfer station. During the year ended December 31, 2014, we recorded a non-cash impairment write-off of \$7 million of the service contract intangible with the WSA that was recorded upon acquisition in 2009 based on the expected cash flows over the remaining life of the contract.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

During 2012, our service contract for the Essex County EfW facility was amended and we recorded a non-cash write-off of an intangible liability of \$29 million related to the below-market service contract which was recorded at fair value upon acquisition of the facility. For additional information, see Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

During 2012, we recorded a net gain of \$44 million related to the termination of the pre-existing lease in connection with the Delaware Valley EfW acquisition. For additional information, see Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

(3) Write-downs related to our biomass assets are as follows:

During year ended December 31, 2014, we identified indicators of impairment associated with our California Biomass facilities, primarily that we have been unsuccessful to date to secure new long-term power purchase agreements to replace the current power purchase agreements which are approaching the end of their terms. Based on expected cash flows, we have recorded a non-cash write-down of \$34 million to reduce the carrying value of the California Biomass assets to their estimated fair value.

During 2013, we recorded a non-cash write-down of \$2 million related to our 55% equity investment in the Pacific Ultrapower Chinese Station biomass facility in California, which we subsequently sold in the fourth quarter of 2013.

During 2013, we recorded a non-cash write-down of \$9 million resulting from an impairment charge related to our Wallingford EfW facility assets in Connecticut, reducing the carrying value of the net assets to the present value of the expected cash flows to be recovered (Level 3 measure of fair value).

In 2008, we agreed to loan The Harrisburg Authority up to \$26 million for certain facility improvements in connection with our engagement as project operator. By 2010, we had advanced \$22 million of the loan, of which \$20 million was outstanding, The Harrisburg Authority had defaulted in its repayment, and the City of Harrisburg's financial crisis had deepened. In 2010, we recorded a non-cash impairment charge of \$7 million, pre-tax, to write-down the receivable to \$13 million. In 2013, in connection with an anticipated settlement of the matter for a \$9 million partial payment of the loan, we recorded an additional non-cash write-off of \$4 million, pre-tax, to write-down the receivable to \$9 million. This settlement, which included the transfer of the facility to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority and our continuation as operator, closed during the quarter ended December 31, 2013.

During 2012, we suspended construction of a facility that transformed waste materials into renewable liquid fuels. We recorded a non-cash write-off of \$16 million representing the capitalized costs related to this project.

During 2014, we entered into an agreement to sell our insurance subsidiaries, subject to regulatory approval. We recorded a non-cash write-down of \$14 million comprised of the write-down of the carrying amount in excess of the realizable fair value of \$12 million, plus \$2 million in disposal costs. During the fourth quarter of 2014, we concluded on the sale of our insurance business.

Non-Cash Convertible Debt Related Expense

The components of non-cash convertible debt related expense are as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Debt discount accretion related to the 3.25% Notes	\$13	\$29	\$26
Fair value changes related to the cash convertible note hedge	(5	) 26	(57
Fair value changes related to the cash conversion option derivative	5	(27	) 56
Total non-cash convertible debt related expense	\$13	\$28	\$25

Other Income (Expense), Net

For the year ended December 31, 2014, other income (expense), net, included \$1 million of foreign currency loss. For the year ended December 31, 2013, other income (expense), net included a \$4 million gain related to a distribution received from an insurance subsidiary grantor trust. See Note 15. Income Taxes for additional information related to the liability to pre-petition claimants. For the year ended December 31, 2012, other income (expense), net included a foreign currency gain related to intercompany loans of \$3 million.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Selected Supplementary Balance Sheet Information

Selected supplementary balance sheet information is as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Prepaid expenses	\$45	\$43
Deferred financing costs ⁽¹⁾	47	25
Other noncurrent receivables	24	24
Other	54	41
Total other noncurrent assets	\$170	\$133
Operating expenses, payroll and related expenses	\$174	\$106
Deferred revenues	15	34
Accrued liabilities to client communities	29	27
Interest payable	22	16
Dividends payable	34	22
Other	36	45
Total accrued expenses and other current liabilities	\$310	\$250

(1) See Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies for additional information.

NOTE 15. INCOME TAXES

We file a federal consolidated income tax return with our eligible subsidiaries. Our federal consolidated income tax return also includes the taxable results of certain grantor trusts described below. The components of income tax expense were as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Current:			
Federal	\$(1	) \$3	\$4
State	4	12	9
Foreign	3	—	3
Total current	6	15	16
Deferred:			
Federal	(4	) 20	15
State	16	7	—
Foreign	(3	) 1	—
Total deferred	9	28	15
Total income tax expense	\$15	\$43	\$31

Domestic and foreign pre-tax income was as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Domestic	\$14	\$91	\$166
Foreign	(10	) (12	) (7
Total	\$4	\$79	\$159

The effective income tax rate was 388%, 55%, and 19% for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The increase in the effective tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 was primarily due to the combined effects of (i) the recognition of certain tax liabilities for previous years, and (ii) relatively low pre-tax income for the year ended December 31, 2014. The increase in the effective tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2013, compared to the year ended December 31, 2012, was primarily due to the absence of the tax benefit in 2013 from the Delaware Valley EfW acquisition that gave rise to a net gain on the settlement of a pre-existing lease in 2012 and the income tax impact of our unrecognized tax position

for the year ended December 31, 2013.

116

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

A reconciliation of our income tax expense at the federal statutory income tax rate of 35% to income tax expense at the effective tax rate is as follows (in millions):

	For the Years Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
Income tax expense at the federal statutory rate	\$1	\$27	\$55	
State and other tax expense	6	14	11	
Change in valuation allowance	3	—	—	
Grantor trust	1	(1	) 1
Subpart F income and foreign dividends	—	1	1	
Worthless stock deduction	—	(4) —	
Tax rate differential on foreign earnings	5	6	2	
Production tax credits/R&E tax credits	(4) (4) (5)
Liability for uncertain tax positions	5	4	(1)
Foreign dividend distribution previously taxed	(4) —	—	
Income from unconsolidated subsidiaries	1	—	—	
Lobbying expenses	1	—	—	
Below market lease write-off	—	—	(33)
Total income tax expense	\$15	\$43	\$31	

We had consolidated federal NOLs estimated to be approximately \$486 million for federal income tax purposes as of the end of 2014. These consolidated federal NOLs will expire, if not used, in the following amounts in the following years (in millions):

	Amount of Carryforward Expiring
2028	\$244
2029	—
2030	32
2031	1
2032	1
2033	208
	\$486

In addition to the consolidated federal NOLs, as of December 31, 2014, we had state NOL carryforwards of approximately \$561 million, which expire between 2014 and 2033, net foreign NOL carryforwards of approximately \$58 million expiring between 2015 and 2033, and federal tax credit carryforwards, including production tax credits of \$56 million expiring between 2024 and 2034, and minimum tax credits of \$7 million with no expiration. These deferred tax assets are offset by a valuation allowance of approximately \$63 million.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to the deferred tax assets and liabilities are presented as follows (in millions):

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Deferred Tax Assets:		
Loss reserve discounting	\$—	\$1
Capital loss carryforward	2	2
Net operating loss carryforwards	142	34
Accrued expenses	2	10
Prepays and other costs	35	33
Deferred tax assets attributable to pass-through entities	10	10
Retirement benefits	2	2
Other	7	19
AMT and other credit carryforwards	64	60
Total gross deferred tax asset	264	171
Less: valuation allowance	(96	) (42
Total deferred tax asset	168	129
Deferred Tax Liabilities:		
Unbilled accounts receivable	6	10
Property, plant and equipment	737	605
Intangible assets	9	82
Deferred tax liabilities attributable to pass-through entities	77	76
Deferred gain on convertible debt	27	32
Prepaid expenses	19	23
Other, net	4	5
Total gross deferred tax liability	879	833
Net deferred tax liability	\$(711	) \$(704

We employ the indefinite reinvestment exception whereby we do not provide deferred taxes on the undistributed earnings of our international subsidiaries. We intend to reinvest our international earnings outside of the United States in our existing international operations and in any new international business which may be developed or acquired. Cumulative undistributed foreign earnings for which United States taxes were not provided were included in consolidated retained earnings in the amount of approximately \$271 million and \$298 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Determining the unrecognized deferred tax liability for these undistributed foreign earnings is not practicable.

Deferred tax assets relating to employee stock based compensation deductions were reduced to reflect exercises of non-qualified stock option grants and vesting of restricted stock. Some exercises of non-qualified stock option grants and vesting of restricted stock resulted in tax deductions in excess of previously recorded benefits resulting in a "windfall". Although these additional deductions were reported on the corporate tax returns and increased NOLs, these related tax benefits were not recognized for financial reporting purposes. These windfalls will not be recognized until the related deductions result in a reduction of taxes payable and cash tax payments. Accordingly, since the tax benefit does not reduce our current taxes payable, these tax benefits were not reflected in deferred tax assets for financial reporting purposes as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. Such benefits included in NOLs but not reflected in deferred tax assets were approximately \$23 million as of both December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in millions):

Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 123	
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	2	
Additions for tax positions of prior years	2	
Reductions for lapse in applicable statute of limitations	(3)
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	—	
Balance at December 31, 2012	\$ 124	
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	3	
Additions for tax positions of prior years	4	
Reductions for lapse in applicable statute of limitations	(2)
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	(1)
Balance at December 31, 2013	\$ 128	
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	8	
Additions for tax positions of prior years	—	
Reductions for lapse in applicable statute of limitations	(3)
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	—	
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ 133	

The uncertain tax positions, exclusive of interest and penalties, were \$133 million and \$128 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, which also represent potential tax benefits that if recognized, would impact the effective tax rate.

We record interest accrued on liabilities for uncertain tax positions and penalties as part of the tax provision. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, we had accrued interest and penalties associated with liabilities for uncertain tax positions of \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively. We continue to reflect interest accrued and penalties on uncertain tax positions as part of the tax provision.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, the income tax provision included a \$24 million benefit due to the reversal of uncertain tax positions, following the expiration of applicable statutes of limitations related to pre-emergence tax matters in the Covanta Energy bankruptcy. Since March 2004, we had held \$20 million in restricted funds intended to cover those uncertain tax positions. The restricted funds were included in other assets on our consolidated balance sheet. The expiration of the statutes of limitations triggered a liability to pre-petition claimants of approximately 73% of the restricted fund balance. Therefore, we recorded approximately \$15 million as other expense during the year ended December 31, 2011. As of December 31, 2012, \$12 million of the noncurrent funds were paid to claimants in 2011 and \$3 million of these funds were paid to claimants in 2013. The remaining \$5 million was reclassified to cash and cash equivalents on our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2011.

In the ordinary course of our business, the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) and state tax authorities will periodically audit our federal and state tax returns. As issues are examined by the IRS and state auditors, we may decide to adjust the existing liability for uncertain tax positions for issues that were not previously deemed an exposure. Federal income tax returns for Covanta Energy are closed for the years through 2003. However, to the extent NOLs are utilized from earlier years, federal income tax returns for Covanta Holding Corporation, formerly known as Danielson Holding Corporation, are still open.

Reserves in the liability for uncertain tax positions may decrease by approximately \$107 million in the next twelve months, primarily as a result of the final resolution of the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) audit of our federal income tax returns for the years 2004 through 2009, including proposed adjustments to our 2008 tax return, which we challenged through the IRS’s administrative appeals process, as described below.

The IRS audited our tax returns for the years 2004 through 2009, a period which included both years in which NOLs generated in prior years were utilized and years in which losses giving rise to additional NOLs were reported. In connection with this audit, the IRS has proposed certain adjustments to our 2008 tax return, which we do not believe were consistent with applicable rules, and we have challenged these adjustments through the IRS’s administrative

appeals procedures. As a result of this process, we have reached an agreement with the IRS that would result in substantially all of the NOLs remaining available to offset consolidated taxable income. The proposed agreement is subject to documentation and approval, which is expected within the next twelve months.

State income tax returns are generally subject to examination for a period of three to six years after the filing of the respective return. The state impact of any federal changes remains subject to examination by various states for a period of up to one year after formal notification to the states. We have various state income tax returns in the process of examination, administrative appeals or litigation.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Our NOLs predominantly arose from our predecessor insurance entities, formerly named Mission Insurance Group, Inc., (“Mission”). These Mission insurance entities have been in state insolvency proceedings in California and Missouri since the late 1980’s. The amount of NOLs available to us will be reduced by any taxable income or increased by any taxable losses generated by current members of our consolidated tax group, which include grantor trusts associated with the Mission insurance entities.

In January 2006, we executed agreements with the California Commissioner of Insurance (the “California Commissioner”), who administers the majority of the grantor trusts, regarding the final administration and conclusion of such trusts. The agreements, which were approved by the California state court overseeing the Mission insolvency proceedings (the “Mission Court”), settled matters that had been in dispute regarding the historic rights and obligations relating to the conclusion of the grantor trusts. These included the treatment of certain claims against the grantor trusts which were entitled to distributions of an aggregate of 1.6 million shares of our common stock issued to the California Commissioner in 1990 under existing agreements entered into at the inception of the Mission insurance entities’ reorganization.

Pursuant to a claims evaluation process overseen by the Conservation and Liquidation Office, all claim holders entitled to receive distributions of shares of our common stock from the California Commissioner were identified. As a result of this process, approximately \$1 billion in claims were approved pursuant to orders of the Mission Court. As part of the wind down process and final claims evaluation by the Conservation and Liquidation Office, and in accordance with the parties’ contractual obligations and the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code governing such exchanges of stock for debt, the California Commissioner distributed shares of our common stock in settlement of these claims. This distribution, which is among the final steps necessary to conclude the insolvency cases relating to the trusts being administered by the California Commissioner, was conducted in December 2008 pursuant to orders of the Mission Court. These events resulted in our recognition of \$515 million of additional NOLs in 2008, or a deferred tax asset of \$180 million. Of this \$180 million deferred tax asset, \$111 million was previously recognized on the balance sheet.

The Director of the Division of Insurance of the State of Missouri (the “Missouri Director”) administers the balance of the grantor trusts relating to the Mission Insurance entities. In the fourth quarter of 2012, the Missouri Director distributed 0.2 million shares of our common stock to claimants of the Missouri grantor trusts.

While we cannot predict what amounts, if any, may be includable in taxable income as a result of the final administration of these grantor trusts, substantial actions toward such final administration have been taken and we believe that neither arrangements with the California Commissioner of Insurance nor the final administration by the Missouri Director will result in a material reduction in available NOLs.

NOTE 16. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

We sponsor various retirement plans covering the majority of our employees and retirees in the United States, as well as other postretirement benefit plans for a small number of retirees in the United States that include healthcare benefits and life insurance coverage. Employees in the United States not participating in our retirement plans generally participate in retirement plans offered by collective bargaining units of which these employees are members. The majority of our international employees participate in defined benefit or defined contribution retirement plans as required or available in accordance with local laws.

Defined Contribution Plans

Substantially all of our employees in the United States are eligible to participate in the defined contribution plans we sponsor. The defined contribution plans allow employees to contribute a portion of their compensation on a pre-tax basis in accordance with specified guidelines. We match a percentage of employee contributions up to certain limits. We also provide a company contribution to the defined contribution plans for eligible employees. Our costs related to defined contribution plans were \$16 million, \$16 million, and \$15 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Pension and Postretirement Benefit Obligations

Effective December 31, 2005, we froze service accruals in the qualified defined benefit pension plan for employees in the United States who did not participate in retirement plans offered by collective bargaining units. All active employees who were eligible participants in the defined benefit pension plan, as of December 31, 2005, became 100% vested and have a non-forfeitable right to these benefits as of such date. Effective January 1, 2010, the defined benefit pension plan was further amended to exclude future compensation increases received by eligible participants after December 31, 2009.

In 2012, the IRS approved our plan to terminate the pension plan. Employees who were eligible participants in the qualified defined benefit pension plan were given two disbursement elections, either a lump sum payment or an annuity option. During the fourth quarter of 2012, a lump sum payment of \$62 million was made to participants, which represented 72% of plan participants and 68% of the total potential lump sum amounts available. During the fourth quarter of 2012, we incurred a pre-tax pension plan settlement expense of \$11 million (\$7 million, net of tax) which was recorded as other operating expenses in our consolidated results of operations. During the first quarter of 2013, \$35 million of annuity contracts were purchased on behalf of participants

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

choosing the annuity option and we recorded a pre-tax defined benefit pension plan settlement gain of \$6 million which was recorded as other operating income in our consolidated statements of operations. The defined benefit pension plan termination concluded with the purchase of the annuities during the first quarter of 2013. Accordingly, we have no future obligations related to the terminated qualified defined benefit pension plan, including future funding requirements. As of both December 31, 2014 and 2013, all remaining pension benefit obligations were attributable to the non-qualified pension plan.

Assumptions

Costs and the related obligations and assets arising from the pension and other postretirement benefit plans are accounted for based on actuarially-determined estimates. On an annual basis, we evaluate the assumed discount rate and expected return on assets used to determine pension benefit and other postretirement benefit obligations. The discount rate was determined based on the timing of future benefit payments and expected rates of return currently available on high quality fixed income securities whose cash flows match the timing and amount of future benefit payments of the plan. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the discount rate of 3.05% for the pension plan was based on reference to year-end annuity rates being charged by third-party insurance companies in anticipation of the annuity purchase in early 2013. We recorded a pension plan liability equal to the amount by which the present value of the projected benefit obligations (using the discount rate) exceeded the fair value of pension assets.

See Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies for additional information regarding pre-tax pension plan settlement expense amounts reclassified from AOCI to the consolidated financial statements related to the terminated qualified defined benefit pension plan.

The discount rate for the non-qualified pension plans was 4.05%, 4.95% and 4.10% for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

For the other post-retirement benefit plan, an annual rate of increase of 7.0% in the per capita cost of health care benefits was assumed for 2014 for covered employees. An average increase of 6.5% was assumed for 2015. The average increase was then projected to gradually decline to 5.0% in 2018 and remain at that level. In general, assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plan. A one-percentage point change (either increase or decrease) in the assumed health care trend rate would have an immaterial (less than \$0.2 million) effect on either total service and interest cost components or postretirement benefit obligations.

For the pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets, the projected benefit obligation, accumulated benefit obligation, and fair value of plan assets were \$4 million, \$4 million and \$0, respectively as of December 31, 2014 and \$5 million, \$5 million, and \$0, respectively as of December 31, 2013.

As of December 31, 2014, we estimate that the future benefits payable over the next ten years for the retirement and postretirement plans in place are \$4 million for Pension Benefits, \$3 million for Other Benefits (Net of Medicare Part D Subsidy) and \$0 for Attributable to Medicare Part D Subsidy.

Pension costs for our defined benefit plans and other post-retirement benefit plans were not material.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Obligation and Funded Status

The following table is a reconciliation of the changes in the benefit obligations and fair value of assets for our qualified defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plan and our non-qualified defined benefit pension plans, the funded status (using a December 31 measurement date) of the plans and the related amounts recognized in our consolidated balance sheets (in millions, except percentages as noted):

	Pension Benefits ⁽¹⁾		Other Benefits		
	For the Year Ended December 31,		For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2014	2013	
Change in benefit obligation:					
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$5	\$46	\$5	\$7	
Service cost	—	—	—	—	
Interest cost	—	—	—	—	
Amendments	—	—	—	—	
Actuarial gain	—	(5	)	—	(2
Benefits paid	(1	)	(1)	—
Settlement	—	(35)	—	—
Benefit obligation at end of year	\$4	\$5	\$5	\$5	
Change in plan assets:					
Plan assets at fair value at beginning of year	\$—	\$41	\$—	\$—	
Actual return on plan assets	—	(1)	—	—
Contributions	1	(4)	—	—
Benefits paid	(1	)	(1)	—
Settlement	—	(35)	—	—
Plan assets at fair value at end of year	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	
Reconciliation of accrued benefit liability and net amount recognized:					
Funded status of the plan	\$(4	)	\$(5	)	\$(5
Unrecognized net gain	—	—	—	—	—
Net amount recognized	\$(4	)	\$(5	)	\$(5
Accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss recognized:					
Net actuarial gain	\$—	\$—	\$(4	)	\$(3
Net prior service credit	(1	)	(1)	—
Total as of December 31, 2014	\$(1	)	\$(1	)	\$(3
Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit expense for years ending December 31:					
Discount rate (qualified pension plan)	N/A	3.05	% N/A	N/A	
Discount rate (non-qualified pension plan)	4.95	% 4.10	% N/A	N/A	
Discount rate (other benefits)	N/A	N/A	4.10	% 3.20	%
Expected return on plan assets	N/A	3.00	% N/A	N/A	
Weighted average assumptions used to determine projected benefit obligations as of December 31:					
Discount rate (qualified pension plan)	N/A	N/A	3.50	% 4.10	%
Discount rate (non-qualified pension plan)	4.05	% 4.95	% N/A	N/A	

(1) For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, Benefit obligation at end of year represents obligations related to our non-qualified pension plan.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 17. STOCK-BASED AWARD PLANS

Stock-Based Award Plans

In May 2014, the stockholders of the Company approved the Covanta Holding Corporation 2014 Equity Award Plan (the “Plan”), to provide incentive compensation to non-employee directors, officers and employees, and to consolidate the two previously existing equity compensation plans into a single plan: the Company’s Equity Award Plan for Employees and Officers (the “Former Employee Plan”) and the Company’s Equity Award Plan for Directors (the “Former Director Plan,” and together with the Former Employee Plan, the “Former Plans”). Shares that were available for issuance under the Former Plans will be available for issuance under the Plan. The stockholders of the Company also approved the authorization of 6 million new shares of our common stock for issuance under the Plan.

The purpose of the Award Plans is to promote our interests (including our subsidiaries and affiliates) and our stockholders’ interests by using equity interests to attract, retain and motivate our management, non-employee directors and other eligible persons and to encourage and reward their contributions to our performance and profitability. The Award Plans provide for awards to be made in the form of (a) shares of restricted stock, (b) restricted stock units, (c) incentive stock options, (d) non-qualified stock options, (e) stock appreciation rights, (f) performance awards, or (g) other stock-based awards which relate to or serve a similar function to the awards described above. Awards may be made on a standalone, combination or tandem basis.

Stock-Based Compensation

We recognize stock-based compensation expense in accordance with the accounting standards for stock-based compensation in effect at the date of grant. We recognize compensation costs using the graded vesting attribution method over the requisite service period of the award, which is generally three to five years. We recognize compensation expense based on the number of stock options and restricted stock awards expected to vest by using an estimate of expected forfeitures. We review the forfeiture rates at least annually and revise compensation expense, if necessary. During 2014, the average forfeiture rates were 12% for restricted stock awards and 15% for stock options and restricted stock units. Stock-based compensation expense is as follows (in millions, except for weighted average years):

	Total Compensation Expense for the Years Ended December 31,			As of December 31, 2014	
	2014	2013	2012	Unrecognized stock-based compensation expense	Weighted-average years to be recognized
Restricted Stock Awards	\$11	\$11	\$13	\$7	1
Restricted Stock Units	\$6	\$4	\$4	\$5	2

Restricted Stock Awards

Restricted stock awards that have been issued to employees typically vest over a three year period. Restricted stock awards are stock-based awards for which the employee or director does not have a vested right to the stock (“nonvested”) until the requisite service period has been rendered or the required financial performance factor has been reached for each pre-determined vesting date. Stock-based compensation expense for each financial performance factor is recognized beginning in the period when management has determined it is probable the financial performance factor will be achieved for the respective vesting period. The fair value of shares vested during the year was \$11 million.

Restricted stock awards to employees are subject to forfeiture if the employee is not employed on the vesting date. Restricted stock awards issued to directors are not subject to forfeiture in the event a director ceases to be a member of the Board of Directors, except in limited circumstances. Restricted stock awards will be expensed over the requisite service period, subject to an assumed forfeiture rate. Prior to vesting, restricted stock awards have all of the rights of common stock (other than the right to sell or otherwise transfer or to receive unrestricted dividends, when issued). We calculate the fair value of share-based stock awards based on the closing price on the date the award was granted.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we awarded certain employees 666,106 restricted stock awards. The restricted stock awards will be expensed over the requisite service period, subject to an assumed 12% average forfeiture rate. The terms of the restricted stock awards include vesting provisions based solely on continued service. If the service criteria are satisfied, the restricted stock awards vest during March of 2015, 2016, and 2017. On May 8, 2014, in accordance with our existing program for annual director compensation, we awarded 55,373 shares of restricted stock for annual director compensation. We determined that the service vesting condition of these restricted stock awards to be non-substantive and, in accordance with accounting principles for stock compensation, recorded the entire fair value of the award as compensation expense on the grant date.

123

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Changes in nonvested restricted stock awards were as follows (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	As of December 31, 2014		2013		2012	
	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value
Nonvested at the beginning of the year	1,166	\$17.85	1,418	\$16.38	1,435	\$16.54
Granted	721	\$17.20	634	\$19.51	779	\$16.22
Vested	(608)	) \$17.27	(718)	) \$16.52	(727)	) \$16.52
Forfeited	(39)	) \$17.80	(168)	) \$17.40	(69)	) \$16.38
Nonvested at the end of the year	1,240	\$17.67	1,166	\$17.85	1,418	\$16.38

Restricted Stock Units

In 2010, we adopted a Growth Equity Plan, which was to be used for awards pursuant to our Equity Award Plan for Employees and Officers. The Growth Equity Plan provided for the award of restricted stock units (“RSUs”) to certain employees in connection with specified growth-based acquisitions that have been completed or development projects that have commenced.

The Growth Equity Plan provided that as of the award date of the RSUs, the Compensation Committee would determine the net present value of cash flows for the applicable acquisitions or development projects (“Projected NPV”). Vesting of RSUs will not occur until at least three years have passed following an acquisition or upon the later of three years from the grant date or one year following the commencement of commercial operations for development projects. Upon the vesting date, the Compensation Committee will re-calculate the net present values of the cash flows (“Bring Down NPV”). If the ratio of the Bring Down NPV to the Projected NPV is greater than 95% all of the RSUs related to the particular project will vest. If the ratio is less than 95%, the number of RSUs originally issued will be proportionately reduced.

In 2014, we granted 207,233 RSUs to our senior management team, including all of our named executive officers. These total stockholder return (“TSR”) based equity awards will vest based upon our TSR performance over a three year period relative to indices of companies in the waste and disposal industry, the conventional electricity utilities industry and other similarly sized “mid-cap” companies.

Changes in nonvested restricted stock units were as follows (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	As of December 31, 2014		2013		2012	
	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value
Nonvested at the beginning of the year	691	\$16.66	1,016	\$16.59	1,004	\$16.64
Granted	247	\$14.60	219	\$16.91	108	\$16.24
Vested	(44)	) \$16.51	(544)	) \$16.64	(96)	) \$16.64
Forfeited	—	\$—	—	\$—	—	\$—
Nonvested at the end of the year	894	\$15.93	691	\$16.66	1,016	\$16.59

Stock Options

We have also awarded stock options to certain employees and directors. Stock options awarded to directors vested immediately. Stock options awarded to employees have typically vested annually over three to five years and expire over ten years. We calculate the fair value of our share-based option awards using the Black-Scholes option pricing model which requires estimates of the expected life of the award and stock price volatility.

On July 8, 2014, we awarded 25,000 stock options to a director as compensation for responsibilities as Vice Chairman of the

Board. We determined the service vesting condition of these stock options to be non-substantive and, in accordance with accounting principles for stock compensation, recorded the entire fair value of the award as compensation expense on the grant date.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

There are no remaining outstanding options for shares under the 1995 Plan since 2010. The following table summarizes activity and balance information of the options under the 2004 Stock Option Plan:

	As of December 31, 2014		2013		2012	
	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
2004 Stock Option Plan	(in thousands, except per share amounts)					
Outstanding at the beginning of the year	1,686	\$20.42	1,789	\$20.01	2,052	\$18.24
Granted	25	\$20.58	—	\$—	—	\$—
Exercised	(532)	) \$18.53	(84)	) \$11.75	(263)	) \$6.21
Expired	(66)	) \$20.52	(19)	) \$20.52	—	\$—
Forfeited	—	\$—	—	\$—	—	\$—
Outstanding at the end of the year	1,113	\$21.25	1,686	\$20.42	1,789	\$20.01
Options exercisable at year end	1,100	\$21.26	1,686	\$20.42	1,750	\$19.90
Options available for future grant	6,548		1,541		2,395	

As of December 31, 2014, options for shares were in the following price ranges (in thousands, except years and per share amounts):

Exercise Price Range	Options Outstanding		Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years)	Options Exercisable	
	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price		Number of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
\$11.40	13	\$ 11.40	0.7	13	\$ 11.40
\$20.52 — \$20.58	870	\$ 20.52	2.4	857	\$ 20.52
\$23.30 — \$26.84	230	\$ 24.57	3.4	230	\$ 24.57
	1,113			1,100	

The total cash received from the exercise of stock options was approximately \$10 million, \$1 million and less than \$2 million, for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The tax benefits related to the exercise of the non-qualified stock options and the vesting of the restricted stock award were not recognized during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 due to our NOLs. When the NOLs have been fully utilized by us, we will recognize a tax benefit and an increase in additional paid-in capital for the excess tax deductions received on the exercised non-qualified stock options and vested restricted stock. Future realization of the tax benefit will be presented in cash flows from financing activities in the consolidated statements of cash flows in the period the tax benefit is recognized. Previously recorded tax benefits that are in excess of the realized tax benefit on a particular non-qualified stock option or restricted stock are recorded as an increase to income tax expense since there is no additional paid-in capital pool available to offset these reduced tax benefits.

The aggregate intrinsic value as of December 31, 2014 for options exercisable was \$1 million for options outstanding and options vested and \$0 for options expected to vest. The aggregate intrinsic value represents the total pre-tax intrinsic value (the difference between the closing stock price on the last trading day of 2014 and the exercise price, multiplied by the number of in-the-money options) that would have been received by the option holders had all option

holders exercised their options on the last trading day of 2014 (December 31, 2014). The intrinsic value changes based on the fair market value of our common stock. The total intrinsic value of options exercised for the years ended as of December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$1 million, \$1 million, and \$3 million, respectively.

As of December 31, 2014, there were options to purchase 1 million shares of common stock that had vested at a weighted average exercise price of \$21.25. The fair value of options vested during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$0, \$1 million, and \$9 million, respectively.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

NOTE 18. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

One member of our Board of Directors is Senior Counsel to a major international law firm which provides Covanta Energy with certain legal services. The amounts we paid this law firm were approximately \$0.07 million, \$0.03 million, and \$0.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Such member of the Board of Directors has had no direct or indirect involvement in the procurement, provision, or oversight of billings of such legal services and does not directly or indirectly benefit from amounts paid to such law firm.

NOTE 19. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We and/or our subsidiaries are party to a number of claims, lawsuits and pending actions, most of which are routine and all of which are incidental to our business. We assess the likelihood of potential losses on an ongoing basis and when losses are considered probable and reasonably estimable, record as a loss an estimate of the outcome. If we can only estimate the range of a possible loss, an amount representing the low end of the range of possible outcomes is recorded. The final consequences of these proceedings are not presently determinable with certainty.

Environmental Matters

Our operations are subject to environmental regulatory laws and environmental remediation laws. Although our operations are occasionally subject to proceedings and orders pertaining to emissions into the environment and other environmental violations, which may result in fines, penalties, damages or other sanctions, we believe that we are in substantial compliance with existing environmental laws and regulations.

We may be identified, along with other entities, as being among parties potentially responsible for contribution to costs associated with the correction and remediation of environmental conditions at disposal sites subject to federal and/or analogous state laws. In certain instances, we may be exposed to joint and several liabilities for remedial action or damages. Our liability in connection with such environmental claims will depend on many factors, including our volumetric share of waste, the total cost of remediation, and the financial viability of other companies that also sent waste to a given site and, in the case of acquired or divested operations, the contractual arrangement with the seller or purchaser of such operations.

The potential costs related to the matters described below and the possible impact on future operations are uncertain due in part to the complexity of governmental laws and regulations and their interpretations, the varying costs and effectiveness of cleanup technologies, the uncertain level of insurance or other types of recovery and the questionable level of our responsibility. Although the ultimate outcome and expense of any litigation, including environmental remediation, is uncertain, we believe that the following proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Lower Passaic River Matter. In August 2004, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) notified Covanta Essex Company (“Essex”) that it was a potentially responsible party (“PRP”) for Superfund response actions in the Lower Passaic River Study Area, referred to as “LPRSA,” a 17 mile stretch of river in northern New Jersey. Essex is one of the PRPs undertaking a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (“Study”) of the LPRSA under EPA oversight. Essex’s share of the Study costs to date are not material to its financial position and results of operations; however, the Study costs are exclusive of any LPRSA remedial costs or natural resource damages that may ultimately be assessed against PRPs. On April 11, 2014, EPA released for public comment a Focused Feasibility Study (“FFS”) proposing a capping/dredging plan for the lower 8 miles of the 17 mile LPRSA. EPA has indicated it expects the FFS public comment and response period to take approximately one year. The Essex facility started operating in 1990 and Essex does not believe there have been any releases to the LPRSA, but in any event believes any releases would have been de minimis considering the history of the LPRSA; however, it is not possible at this time to predict that outcome or to estimate the range of possible loss relating to Essex’s liability in the matter, including for LPRSA remedial costs and/or natural resource damages.

California Matter. In March 2012, we received a letter from the Department of Toxic Substances Control of the State of California (the “Department”) notifying us that the Department and several District Attorneys’ offices in the State of California are investigating the operation of our biomass facilities in California. The investigation focused on issues relating to (i) the feedstock at our biomass facilities and the impact of that fuel on the quality and character of the ash

residue generated at these facilities and (ii) our compliance with California's environmental laws at our biomass facilities. We believe that our biomass operations in California were and are in compliance with existing environmental laws and regulations in all material respects. On December 4, 2014, we entered into a final settlement with the Department and all District Attorneys' offices, pursuant to which we agreed to (i) pay approximately \$260,000 in civil penalties, \$40,000 in contributions to special environmental projects, and reimbursement of investigation expenses, and (ii) certain modifications to our ash residue testing and disposal protocols.

North Carolina Transformer Site Matter. In December 2012, our subsidiary, Covanta Dade Power Corp. ("Dade") received a letter from the EPA indicating Dade was named as a PRP, along with numerous other unidentified PRPs, relating to the cleanup of the Ward Transformer Superfund Site in Raleigh, North Carolina ("Ward Site"). Dade's alleged liability as a PRP stems from the 1994 servicing at the Ward Site of a transformer alleged to have contained PCB-contaminated oil. EPA is seeking reimbursement from

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

PRPs for its oversight costs in connection with ongoing cleanup activities at the Ward Site. While our investigation in this matter is continuing, based on information obtained to date, we believe Dade's responsibility, if any, in connection with this matter to be de minimis; and subject to indemnity by Veolia Environmental Services North America, LLC, from which we acquired Dade in 2010; however, it is not possible at this time to estimate the range of possible loss relating to Dade's ultimate liability, if any, in this matter.

Other Matters

Other commitments as of December 31, 2014 were as follows (in millions):

	Commitments Expiring by Period		
	Total	Less Than One Year	More Than One Year
Letters of credit issued under the Revolving Credit Facility	\$162	\$13	\$149
Letters of credit - other	76	5	71
Surety bonds	336	—	336
Total other commitments — net	\$574	\$18	\$556

The letters of credit were issued to secure our performance under various contractual undertakings related to our domestic and international projects or to secure obligations under our insurance program. Each letter of credit relating to a project is required to be maintained in effect for the period specified in related project contracts, and generally may be drawn if it is not renewed prior to expiration of that period.

We believe that we will be able to fully perform under our contracts to which these existing letters of credit relate, and that it is unlikely that letters of credit would be drawn because of a default of our performance obligations. If any of these letters of credit were to be drawn by the beneficiary, the amount drawn would be immediately repayable by us to the issuing bank. If we do not immediately repay such amounts drawn under letters of credit issued under the Revolving Credit Facility, unreimbursed amounts would be treated under the Credit Facilities as either additional term loans or as revolving loans.

The surety bonds listed on the table above relate primarily to performance obligations (\$320 million) and support for closure obligations of various energy projects when such projects cease operating (\$16 million). Were these bonds to be drawn upon, we would have a contractual obligation to indemnify the surety company.

We have certain contingent obligations related to the 7.25% Notes, 6.375% Notes, 5.875% Notes, and Tax-Exempt Bonds. Holders may require us to repurchase their 7.25% Notes, 6.375% Notes, 5.875% Notes and Tax-Exempt Bonds if a fundamental change occurs.

We have either issued or are party to guarantees and related contractual support obligations undertaken pursuant to agreements to construct and operate waste and energy facilities. For some projects, such performance guarantees include obligations to repay certain financial obligations if the project revenues are insufficient to do so, or to obtain or guarantee financing for a project. With respect to our businesses, we have issued guarantees to municipal clients and other parties that our subsidiaries will perform in accordance with contractual terms, including, where required, the payment of damages or other obligations. Additionally, damages payable under such guarantees for our energy-from-waste facilities could expose us to recourse liability on project debt. If we must perform under one or more of such guarantees, our liability for damages upon contract termination would be reduced by funds held in trust and proceeds from sales of the facilities securing the project debt and is presently not estimable. Depending upon the circumstances giving rise to such damages, the contractual terms of the applicable contracts, and the contract counterparty's choice of remedy at the time a claim against a guarantee is made, the amounts owed pursuant to one or more of such guarantees could be greater than our then-available sources of funds. To date, we have not incurred material liabilities under such guarantees.

Dublin Energy-from-Waste Facility

In connection with the financing of the Dublin Energy-from-Waste facility, Covanta Energy has made commitments for funding and contingent support as follows: (1) initial equity contribution commitments to fund approximately €155 million of project and financing costs during construction (approximately €30 million of which was contributed prior to

financial close); (2) lending commitments up to €25 million to fund working capital shortfalls in the project company under certain circumstances during operations; and (3) up to €75 million commitment in the aggregate to provide support payments to the project company, under certain circumstances, in the event waste revenue falls below minimum levels (set far below anticipated levels). For additional information, see Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions and Note 11. Consolidated Debt.

Table of Contents

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)

Essex County Energy-from-Waste Facility

We are implementing significant operational improvements at our Essex County EfW facility, including a state-of-the-art particulate emissions control system at a total estimated cost of \$90 million. Construction on the system commenced in 2014 and is expected to be completed by 2016. As of December 31, 2014, we have approximately \$75 million of capital expenditures remaining to be incurred related to these improvements. The facility's environmental performance is currently compliant with all environmental permits and will be further improved with the installation of these improvements. For additional information, see Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

New York City Contract Investments

In August 2013, New York City awarded us a contract to handle waste transport and disposal from two marine transfer stations located in Queens and Manhattan. We expect to invest approximately \$140 million in new equipment and enhancements to existing facilities that support service under this contract. These investments commenced in 2013 and will be made over several years. As of December 31, 2014, we have approximately \$60 million of capital expenditures remaining to be incurred relating to this contract. For additional information, see Note 3. Growth and Contract Transactions.

NOTE 20. QUARTERLY DATA (UNAUDITED)

We have restated our quarterly unaudited financial data for the first three quarters of 2014 and for all four quarters of 2013 to correct for the errors discussed in Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. The following table presents quarterly unaudited financial data for the periods presented on the consolidated statements of operations (in millions, except per share amounts):

	Calendar Quarter Ended							
	March 31,		June 30,		September 30,		December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Operating revenue	\$401	\$372	\$432	\$411	\$414	\$425	\$435	\$422
Operating income (loss)	\$15	\$(2)	\$47	\$55	\$19	\$81	\$63	\$88
(Loss) income from continuing operations	\$(9)	\$(24)	\$5	\$13	\$7	\$28	\$(4)	\$25
(Loss) income from discontinued operations	\$—	\$(2)	\$—	\$(51)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$1
Net (loss) income	\$(9)	\$(26)	\$5	\$(38)	\$7	\$28	\$(4)	\$26
Net (loss) income attributable to Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(9)	\$(25)	\$5	\$(38)	\$7	\$28	\$(5)	\$26
(Loss) Earnings per share:								
Basic:								
Continuing operations	\$(0.07)	\$(0.17)	\$0.04	\$0.09	\$0.05	\$0.22	\$(0.04)	\$0.19
Discontinued operations	—	(0.02)	—	(0.39)	—	—	—	0.01
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(0.07)	\$(0.19)	\$0.04	\$(0.30)	\$0.05	\$0.22	\$(0.04)	\$0.20
Diluted:								
Continuing operations	\$(0.07)	\$(0.17)	\$0.04	\$0.09	\$0.05	\$0.22	\$(0.04)	\$0.19
Discontinued operations	—	(0.02)	—	(0.39)	—	—	—	0.01
Covanta Holding Corporation	\$(0.07)	\$(0.19)	\$0.04	\$(0.30)	\$0.05	\$0.22	\$(0.04)	\$0.20
Cash dividend declared per share:	\$0.18	\$0.165	\$0.18	\$0.165	\$0.25	\$0.165	\$0.25	\$0.165

Table of Contents

Schedule II — Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

Receivables Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

	Balance Beginning of Year (In millions)	Additions Charged to Costs and Expense	Charged to Other Accounts	Deductions	Balance at End of Period
2014 – Reserves for doubtful accounts ⁽¹⁾	\$4	\$4	\$—	\$2	\$6
2013 – Reserves for doubtful accounts ⁽¹⁾	\$6	\$3	\$—	\$5	\$4
2012 – Reserves for doubtful accounts ⁽¹⁾	\$5	\$3	\$—	\$2	\$6

(1) Reserves for doubtful accounts are primarily current assets.

Table of Contents

Item 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

There were no disagreements with accountants on accounting and financial disclosure.

Item 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of Covanta's disclosure controls and procedures, as required by Rule 13a-15(b) and 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") as of December 31, 2014. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to reasonably assure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure and is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, based on their reviews, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to provide such reasonable assurance.

Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, believes that any disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls and procedures, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must consider the benefits of controls relative to their costs. Inherent limitations within a control system include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by unauthorized override of the control. While the design of any system of controls is to provide reasonable assurance of the effectiveness of disclosure controls, such design is also based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and such assumptions, while reasonable, may not take into account all potential future conditions. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in a cost effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and may not be prevented or detected.

Our management has conducted an assessment of its internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Management's report on our internal control over financial reporting is included on page 131. The Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm's report with respect to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting is included on page 132. Management has concluded that internal control over financial reporting is effective as of December 31, 2014.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014, we commenced the implementation of several initiatives to improve organizational, procedural and operational efficiencies across our business, which are important to our success and which we believe when fully implemented will, among other impacts, enhance the effectiveness of our system of internal controls over financial reporting. These initiatives include the implementation of new systems, the centralization of certain financial and administrative processes and adjustments to staff levels and assignments to align with these procedural changes, which together may have a material effect on the control environment. As we proceed with the implementation of these changes, we will routinely assess their impact on our system of internal control over financial reporting in order to assure its effectiveness.

Table of Contents

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The management of Covanta Holding Corporation ("Covanta") is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f).

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls. Further, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of internal controls may vary over time. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Accordingly, even those systems determined to be effective can provide us only with reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Covanta's management has assessed the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, following the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013 Framework). Based on our assessment under the framework in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013 Framework), Covanta's management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2014.

Our independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, have issued an attestation report on our internal control over financial reporting. This report appears on page 132 of this report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

/s/ Anthony J. Orlando
Anthony J. Orlando
President and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Bradford J. Helgeson
Bradford J. Helgeson
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

March 2, 2015

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Covanta Holding Corporation

We have audited Covanta Holding Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework) (the COSO criteria). Covanta Holding Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Covanta Holding Corporation maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Covanta Holding Corporation as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014 and our report dated March 2, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP
MetroPark, New Jersey

March 2, 2015

Table of Contents

Item 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

Item 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information regarding our executive officers is incorporated by reference herein from the discussion under Item 1. Business — Executive Officers of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We have a Code of Conduct and Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and a Policy of Business Conduct. The Code of Conduct and Ethics applies to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer, Controller or persons performing similar functions. The Policy of Business Conduct applies to all of our directors, officers and employees and those of our subsidiaries. Both the Code of Conduct and Ethics and the Policy of Business Conduct are posted on our website at www.covanta.com on the Corporate Governance page. We will post on our website any amendments to or waivers of the Code of Conduct and Ethics or Policy of Business Conduct for executive officers or directors, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The remaining information called for by this Item 10 is incorporated by reference herein from the discussions under the headings “Election of Directors,” “Board Structure and Composition — Committees of the Board,” and “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management — Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in our definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Item 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 11 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein from the discussions under the headings “Compensation Committee Report,” “Board Structure and Composition — Compensation of the Board,” and “Executive Compensation” in our definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Item 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by Item 12 of Form 10-K with respect to directors, executive officers and certain beneficial owners is incorporated by reference herein from the discussion under the heading “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” in our definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Equity Compensation Plans

In May 2014, the stockholders of the Company approved the Covanta Holding Corporation 2014 Equity Award Plan (the “Plan”), to provide incentive compensation to non-employee directors, officers and employees, and to consolidate the two previously existing equity compensation plans into a single plan: the Company’s Equity Award Plan for Employees and Officers (the “Former Employee Plan”) and the Company’s Equity Award Plan for Directors (the “Former Director Plan,” and together with the Former Employee Plan, the “Former Plans”). Shares that were available for issuance under the Former Plans will be available for issuance under the Plan. The stockholders of the Company also approved the authorization of 6 million new shares of our common stock for issuance under the Plan.

The following table sets forth information regarding the number of our securities which could be issued upon the exercise of outstanding options, the weighted average exercise price of those options in the Plan and the number of securities remaining for future issuance under the Plan as of December 31, 2014.

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (A)	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (B)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column A) (C)
	1,112,613	\$21.25	6,914,345

Equity Compensation Plans Approved By
Security Holders

Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved By
Security Holders

N/A

N/A

N/A

Total

1,112,613

\$21.25

6,914,345

(1) Of the 6,914,345 shares that remain available for future issuance, 6,547,894 shares are currently reserved for issuance under the equity compensation plans.

133

Table of Contents

Item 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by Item 13 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein from the discussions under the headings “Board Structure and Composition” and “Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions” in the definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Item 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by Item 14 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein from the discussion under the heading “Independent Registered Public Accountant Fees” in the definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

PART IV

Item 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Documents filed as part of this report:

(1) Consolidated Financial Statements of Covanta Holding Corporation:

Included in Part II of this Report:

Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive (Loss) Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

Consolidated Statements of Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

Report of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Auditors, on the consolidated financial statements of Covanta Holding Corporation for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012

(2) Financial Statement Schedules of Covanta Holding Corporation:

Included in Part II of this report: Schedule II — Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

All other schedules are omitted because they are not applicable, not significant or not required, or because the required information is included in the financial statement notes thereto.

(3) Exhibits:

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Description

Underwriting Agreement.

1.1† Underwriting Agreement, dated March 8, 2012 between the Registrant and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters.

1.2† Underwriting Agreement, dated November 2, 2012, by and among Covanta Holding Corporation, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated as representative and on behalf of the several underwriters named therein, the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency and Covanta Energy Corporation.

1.3† Underwriting Agreement, dated November 2, 2012, by and among Covanta Holding Corporation, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated as representative and on behalf of the several underwriters named therein, the Niagara Area Development Corporation and Covanta Energy Corporation.

Plan of Acquisition, Reorganization, Arrangement, Liquidation or Succession.

2.1† Sale and Purchase Agreement, dated December 13, 2010, by and between Covanta Energy International Investments Ltd. and New Growth V.B.

Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

3.1† Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Covanta Holding Corporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 19, 2007 and filed with the SEC on January 19, 2007).

3.2† Amended and Restated Bylaws of Covanta Holding Corporation, effective December 8, 2011 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(ii) of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 19, 2013 filed with the SEC on September 20, 2013).

Table of Contents

Instruments Defining Rights of Security Holders, Including Indentures.

- 4.1† Specimen certificate representing shares of Covanta Holding Corporation's common stock (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Amendment No. 3 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on December 19, 2005).
- 4.2† Registration Rights Agreement dated November 8, 2002 among Covanta Holding Corporation and SZ Investments, L.L.C. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 27, 2002 and filed with the SEC on March 27, 2003).
- 4.3† Registration Rights Agreement between Covanta Holding Corporation, D.E. Shaw Laminar Portfolios, L.L.C., SZ Investments, L.L.C., and Third Avenue Trust, on behalf of The Third Avenue Value Fund Series, dated December 2, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 2, 2003 and filed with the SEC on December 5, 2003).
- 4.4† Indenture dated as of January 18, 2007 between Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Reg. No. 333-140082) filed with the SEC on January 19, 2007).
- 4.5† First Supplemental Indenture dated as of January 31, 2007 between Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (including the Form of Global Debenture) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 31, 2007 and filed with the SEC on February 6, 2007).
- 4.6† Second Supplemental Indenture dated as of December 1, 2010 between Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (including the Form of Note) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 1, 2010 and filed with the SEC on December 1, 2010).
- 4.7† Indenture dated May 22, 2009 by and among Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 22, 2009 and filed with the SEC on May 22, 2009).
- 4.8† First Supplemental Indenture dated as of June 10, 2009 between Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 15, 2009 and filed with the SEC on June 15, 2009).
- 4.9† Third Supplemental Indenture dated as of March 19, 2012 between Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 19, 2012 and filed with the SEC on March 19, 2012).
- 4.10† Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated as of March 6, 2014 between Covanta Holding Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of

Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 6, 2014 and filed with the SEC on March 6, 2014).

Material Contracts.

- 10.1† Tax Sharing Agreement, dated as of March 10, 2004, by and between Covanta Holding Corporation, Covanta Energy Corporation, and Covanta Power International Holdings, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and filed with the SEC on March 15, 2004).
- 10.2†* Covanta Energy Savings Plan, as amended by December 2003 amendment (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 and filed with the SEC on March 16, 2005).
- 10.3†* Covanta Holding Corporation 2014 Equity Award Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A to Covanta Holding Corporation's 2014 Definitive Proxy Statement on Form DEF 14A filed with the SEC on March 24, 2014 and amended by filing with the SEC on April 25, 2014).
- 10.4†* Form of Covanta Holding Corporation Stock Option Agreement for Employees and Officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the SEC on May 7, 2008).
- 10.5†* Form of Covanta Holding Corporation Restricted Stock Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the SEC on May 7, 2008).

Table of Contents

- 10.6†* Form of Growth Equity Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 24, 2010 and filed with the SEC on March 2, 2010).
- 10.7†* Covanta Energy Corporation Senior Officers Severance Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 24, 2010 and filed with the SEC on March 2, 2010).
- 10.8†* Form of Covanta Holding Corporation Amendment to Stock Option Agreement for Employees and Officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 18, 2005 and filed with the SEC on March 24, 2005).
- 10.9†* Summary Description of Covanta Holding Corporation Cash Bonus Program, dated February 2008 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007).
- 10.10† Amendment No. 1 to Tax Sharing Agreement, dated as of June 24, 2005, by and between Covanta Holding Corporation, Covanta Energy Corporation and Covanta Power International Holdings, Inc., amending Tax Sharing Agreement between Covanta Holding Corporation, Covanta Energy Corporation and Covanta Power International Holdings, Inc. dated as of March 10, 2004 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 24, 2005 and filed with the SEC on June 30, 2005).
- 10.11† Rehabilitation Plan Implementation Agreement, dated January 11, 2006, by and between John Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner of the State of California, in his capacity as Trustee of the Mission Insurance Company Trust, the Mission National Insurance Company Trust and the Enterprise Insurance Company Trust, on the one hand, and Covanta Holding Corporation, on the other hand (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 2, 2006 and filed with the SEC on March 6, 2006).
- 10.12† Amendment to Rehabilitation Plan Implementation Agreement, accepted and agreed to on March 17, 2006 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 17, 2006 and filed with the SEC on March 20, 2006).
- 10.13† Amendment to Agreement Regarding Closing (Exhibit A to the Rehabilitation Plan Implementation Agreement), dated January 10, 2006, by and between John Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner of the State of California, in his capacity as Trustee of the Mission Insurance Company Trust, the Mission National Insurance Company Trust, and the Enterprise Insurance Company Trust, on the one hand, and Covanta Holding Corporation, on the other hand (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 2, 2006 and filed with the SEC on March 6, 2006).
- 10.14† Latent Deficiency Claims Administration Procedures Agreement (Exhibit B to the Rehabilitation Plan Implementation Agreement), dated January 11, 2006, by and between John Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner of the State of California, in his capacity as Trustee of the Mission Insurance Company Trust, the Mission National Insurance Company Trust and the Enterprise Insurance Company Trust, on the one hand, and Covanta Holding Corporation on the other hand (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 2, 2006 and filed with the SEC on March 6, 2006).

10.15†* Form of Covanta Holding Corporation Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Directors (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 31, 2006 and filed with the SEC on June 2, 2006).

10.16† Credit and Guaranty Agreement, dated as of March 28, 2012, among Covanta Energy Corporation, Covanta Holding Corporation, certain subsidiaries of Covanta Energy Corporation, as guarantors, the lenders party thereto, Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and Issuing Bank, Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as Syndication Agent, Barclays Bank plc, Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank and JPM Chase Bank, N.A., as Co-Documentation Agents Agency (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 28, 2012 and filed with the SEC on March 30, 2012).

10.17† Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of March 28, 2012, between each of Covanta Energy Corporation and the other grantors party thereto, and Bank of America, N.A., as Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 28, 2012 and filed with the SEC on March 30, 2012).

10.18† Pledge Agreement, dated as of March 28, 2012, between Covanta Holding Corporation and Bank of America, N.A., as Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 28, 2012 and filed with the SEC on March 30, 2012).

Table of Contents

- 10.19† Intercompany Subordination Agreement, dated as of March 28, 2012, among Covanta Energy Corporation, Covanta Holding Corporation, certain subsidiaries of Covanta Energy Corporation, as Guarantor Subsidiaries, certain other subsidiaries of Covanta Energy Company, as non-guarantor subsidiaries, and Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 28, 2012 and filed with the SEC on March 30, 2012).
- 10.20† Form of Covanta Holding Corporation Indemnification Agreement, entered into with each Director and Officer (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 6, 2007 and filed with the SEC on December 12, 2007).
- 10.21† Equity Commitment for Rights Offering between Covanta Holding Corporation and SZ Investments L.L.C. dated February 1, 2005 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 31, 2005 and filed with the SEC on February 2, 2005).
- 10.22† Equity Commitment for Rights Offering between Covanta Holding Corporation and EGI-Fund (05-07) Investors, L.L.C. dated February 1, 2005 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 31, 2005 and filed with the SEC on February 2, 2005).
- 10.23† Equity Commitment for Rights Offering between Covanta Holding Corporation and Third Avenue Trust, on behalf of The Third Avenue Value Fund Series dated February 1, 2005 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 31, 2005 and filed with the SEC on February 2, 2005).
- 10.24† Purchase Agreement dated May 18, 2009 by and among Covanta Holding Corporation and Barclays Capital Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., as representatives of the several initial purchasers named therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 22, 2009 and filed with the SEC on May 22, 2009).
- 10.25† Form of Confirmation of Cash Convertible Note Hedge Transaction (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 22, 2009 and filed with the SEC on May 22, 2009).
- 10.26† Form of Confirmation of Warrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 22, 2009 and filed with the SEC on May 22, 2009).
- 10.27† Loan Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2012, by and between Covanta Holding Corporation and the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 15, 2012 and filed with the SEC on November 19, 2012).
- 10.28† Loan Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2012, by and between Covanta Holding Corporation and the Niagara Area Development Corporation Agency (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 15, 2012 and filed with the SEC on November 19, 2012).

10.29† Guaranty Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2012, by and between Covanta Energy Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association Agency (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 15, 2012 and filed with the SEC on November 19, 2012).

10.30† Guaranty Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2012, by and between Covanta Energy Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association Agency (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 15, 2012 and filed with the SEC on November 19, 2012).

10.31† First Amendment, dated as of March 12, 2013, to the Credit and Guaranty Agreement, dated as of March 28, 2012, among Covanta Energy Corporation, Covanta Holding Corporation, certain subsidiaries of Covanta Energy Corporation, as guarantors, the lenders party thereto, Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and Issuing Bank, Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as Syndication Agent, Barclays Bank plc, Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank and JPM Chase Bank, N.A., as Co-Documentation Agents Agency (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 29, 2013 and filed with the SEC on April 3, 2013).

10.32† Agreement, dated as of August 22, 2013, by and among Covanta Holding Corporation and John M. Huff, as Director of the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (the "Trustee") solely in his capacity as trustee and statutory receiver of the Mission Reinsurance Corporation Trust and the Holland-America Insurance Company Trust (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q dated October 24, 2013 and filed with the SEC on October 24, 2013).

10.33†* Form Covanta Holding Corporation TSR Award Agreement for Employees and Officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q dated July 18, 2013 and filed with the SEC on July 18, 2013).

Table of Contents

10.34†*	Form Covanta Holding Corporation Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Employees and Officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QA dated August 11, 2014 and filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014).
10.35†*	Form Covanta Holding Corporation Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Employees and Officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QA dated August 11, 2014 and filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014).
10.36†*	Form Covanta Holding Corporation TSR Award Agreement for Employees and Officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QA dated August 11, 2014 and filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014).
10.37†*	Form Covanta Holding Corporation Stock Option Award Agreement for Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QA dated August 11, 2014 and filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014).
10.38†	Second Amendment, dated as of March 21, 2014 (this "Amendment"), to the Credit and Guaranty Agreement, dated as of March 28, 2012 (as amended by the First Amendment, dated as of March 12, 2013 and as further amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time heretofore, the "Existing Credit Agreement", and as amended by this Amendment, the "Amended Credit Agreement") by and among Covanta Energy Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), Covanta Holding Corporation, a Delaware corporation ("Holding"), certain Subsidiaries of Company, as guarantors, the Lenders party thereto from time to time, Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and Issuing Bank (the "Administrative Agent"), Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as Syndication Agent and Barclays Bank plc, Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Co-Documentation Agents. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 21, 2014 and filed with the SEC on March 24, 2014).
10.39†*	Offer Letter from Covanta Holding Corporation to Stephen J. Jones dated January 5, 2015 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 5, 2015 and filed with the SEC on January 5, 2015).
10.40†*	Succession Agreement by and among Covanta Holding Corporation, Covanta Energy LLC, Covanta Projects LLC and Anthony J. Orlando dated January 5, 2015 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Covanta Holding Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 5, 2015 and filed with the SEC on January 5, 2015).
Other.	
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
31.1	Certification pursuant to Section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 by the Chief Executive Officer.

- 31.2 Certification pursuant to Section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 32 Certification of periodic financial report pursuant to Section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Calculation Linkbase
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Document

† Not filed herewith, but incorporated herein by reference.

* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

Table of Contents

Pursuant to paragraph 601(b)(4)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K, the registrant has omitted from the foregoing list of exhibits, and hereby agrees to furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon its request, copies of certain instruments, each relating to long-term debt not exceeding 10% of the total assets of the registrant and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

(b) Exhibits: See list of Exhibits in this Part IV, Item 15(a)(3) above.

(c) Financial Statement Schedules: See Part IV, Item 15(a)(2) above.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

COVANTA HOLDING CORPORATION
(Registrant)

By: /S/ ANTHONY J. ORLANDO
Anthony J. Orlando
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 2, 2015

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Name	Title	Date
/S/ ANTHONY J. ORLANDO Anthony J. Orlando	President and Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 2, 2015
/S/ BRADFORD J. HELGESON Bradford J. Helgeson	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 2, 2015
/S/ NEIL C. ZIESELMAN Neil C. Zieselman	Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	March 2, 2015
/S/ SAMUEL ZELL Samuel Zell	Chairman of the Board	March 2, 2015
/S/ DAVID M. BARSE David M. Barse	Director	March 2, 2015
/S/ RONALD J. BROGLIO Ronald J. Broglio	Director	March 2, 2015
/S/ PETER C. B. BYNOE Peter C. B. Bynoe	Director	March 2, 2015
/S/ LINDA J. FISHER Linda J. Fisher	Director	March 2, 2015
/S/ JOSEPH M. HOLSTEN Joseph M. Holsten	Director	March 2, 2015
/S/ WILLIAM C. PATE William C. Pate	Director	March 2, 2015
/S/ ROBERT S. SILBERMAN Robert S. Silberman	Director	March 2, 2015

/S/ JEAN SMITH
Jean Smith

Director

March 2, 2015

140