

Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.  
Form 10-Q  
November 06, 2015  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

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

**For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015**

**OR**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

Commission File No.: 0-51952

**ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**03-0573898**  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

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

**(918) 295-1415**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer ☒ Accelerated Filer ☐ Non-Accelerated Filer ☐ Smaller Reporting Company ☐  
(Do not check if smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

☐ Yes ☒ No

As of November 6, 2015, 59,863,000 common units are outstanding.

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Table of Contents**PART I****FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands, except unit data)****(Unaudited)**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40,538	\$ 28,274
Trade receivables	171,402	184,187
Other receivables	628	1,025
Due from affiliates	30	7,107
Inventories	123,608	83,155
Advance royalties	7,663	9,416
Prepaid expenses and other assets	17,875	31,362
Total current assets	361,744	344,526
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:</b>		
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	3,215,566	2,815,620
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(1,336,176)	(1,150,414)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	1,879,390	1,665,206
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>		
Advance royalties	26,887	15,895
Due from affiliate	-	11,047
Equity investments in affiliates	48,034	224,611
Goodwill (Note 4)	161,985	-
Other long-term assets	32,009	27,470
Total other assets	268,915	279,023
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,510,049</b>	<b>\$ 2,288,755</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 100,881	\$ 86,277
Due to affiliates	170	370
Accrued taxes other than income taxes	21,073	19,461
Accrued payroll and related expenses	47,514	57,656
Accrued interest	3,330	318
Workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis benefits	8,893	8,868
Current capital lease obligations	1,333	1,305
Other current liabilities	27,003	17,109
Current maturities, long-term debt	142,159	230,000
Total current liabilities	352,356	421,364

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## LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:

Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	810,889	591,250
Pneumoconiosis benefits	58,858	55,278
Accrued pension benefit	38,566	40,105
Workers' compensation	49,084	49,797
Asset retirement obligations	107,820	91,085
Long-term capital lease obligations	14,602	15,624
Other liabilities	22,453	5,978
Total long-term liabilities	1,102,272	849,117
Total liabilities	1,454,628	1,270,481

## COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### PARTNERS' CAPITAL:

Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. ( AHGP ) Partners' Capital:		
Limited Partners' Common Unitholders 59,863,000 units outstanding	594,438	580,234
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(14,493)	(15,456)
Total AHGP Partners' Capital	579,945	564,778
Noncontrolling interests	475,476	453,496
Total Partners' Capital	1,055,421	1,018,274
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,510,049</b>	<b>\$ 2,288,755</b>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(In thousands, except unit and per unit data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>SALES AND OPERATING REVENUES:</b>				
Coal sales	\$ 547,466	\$ 548,357	\$ 1,632,493	\$ 1,649,093
Transportation revenues	9,395	6,001	24,323	17,816
Other sales and operating revenues	9,481	14,872	74,445	42,719
Total revenues	566,342	569,230	1,731,261	1,709,628
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	336,527	349,170	1,045,954	1,024,305
Transportation expenses	9,395	6,001	24,323	17,816
Outside coal purchases	2	3	326	7
General and administrative	18,356	19,185	53,659	57,352
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	84,661	69,646	242,730	203,539
Asset impairment charge	10,695	-	10,695	-
Total operating expenses	459,636	444,005	1,377,687	1,303,019
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	106,706	125,225	353,574	406,609
Interest expense (net of interest capitalized for the three months ended September 30, 2015 of \$152 and the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 of \$518 and \$833, respectively)	(7,352)	(8,584)	(23,626)	(25,395)
Interest income	286	432	1,422	1,238
Equity in (loss) income of affiliates, net	(17,221)	68	(49,049)	(13,546)
Other income	455	549	750	1,178
<b>INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>	82,874	117,690	283,071	370,084
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>	12	-	18	-
<b>NET INCOME</b>	82,862	117,690	283,053	370,084
<b>LESS: NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS</b>	(26,765)	(49,141)	(100,476)	(156,741)
<b>NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. ( NET INCOME OF AHGP )</b>	\$ 56,097	\$ 68,549	\$ 182,577	\$ 213,343
<b>BASIC AND DILUTED NET INCOME OF AHGP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT</b>	\$ 0.94	\$ 1.15	\$ 3.05	\$ 3.56
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS PAID PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT</b>	\$ 0.96	\$ 0.87	\$ 2.8125	\$ 2.545
<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNITS OUTSTANDING - BASIC AND DILUTED</b>	59,863,000	59,863,000	59,863,000	59,863,000

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.





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**ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ 82,862	\$ 117,690	\$ 283,053	\$ 370,084
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS):				
Defined benefit pension plan				
Amortization of net actuarial loss (1)	839	193	2,516	580
Total defined benefit pension plan adjustments	839	193	2,516	580
Pneumoconiosis benefits				
Amortization of net actuarial gain (1)	(113)	(263)	(338)	(789)
Total pneumoconiosis benefits adjustments	(113)	(263)	(338)	(789)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS)	726	(70)	2,178	(209)
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	83,588	117,620	285,231	369,875
Less: Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	(27,178)	(49,102)	(101,691)	(156,615)
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO AHGP</b>	\$ 56,410	\$ 68,518	\$ 183,540	\$ 213,260

(1) Amortization of net actuarial (gain)/loss is included in the computation of net periodic benefit cost (see Notes 11 and 13 for additional details).

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 527,210</b>	<b>\$ 582,900</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Capital expenditures	(159,182)	(233,659)
Changes in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(3,093)	145
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	1,519	272
Proceeds from insurance settlement for property, plant and equipment	-	4,512
Purchases of equity investments in affiliates	(47,624)	(85,250)
Payments for acquisitions of businesses, net of cash acquired (Note 4)	(74,953)	-
Payments to affiliate for acquisition and development of coal reserves	-	(1,401)
Advances/loans to affiliate	(7,300)	-
Other	1,807	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(288,826)	(315,381)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Borrowings under securitization facility	6,500	-
Payments under securitization facility	(6,500)	-
Payments on term loans	(20,319)	(12,500)
Borrowings under revolving credit facilities	463,000	221,800
Payments under revolving credit facilities	(200,000)	(301,800)
Payment on long-term debt	(205,000)	(18,000)
Payments on capital lease obligations	(994)	(1,113)
Contribution to consolidated company from affiliate noncontrolling interest	1,483	-
Net settlement of employee withholding taxes on vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	(2,719)	(2,991)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interests	(87,623)	(80,484)
Distributions paid to Partners	(168,365)	(152,352)
Other	(5,583)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(226,120)	(347,440)
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>12,264</b>	<b>(79,921)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>28,274</b>	<b>98,375</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 40,538</b>	<b>\$ 18,454</b>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:</b>		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 20,164	\$ 20,381
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 14	\$ -
<b>NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITY:</b>		
Accounts payable for purchase of property, plant and equipment	\$ 12,561	\$ 18,069
Market value of ARLP common units issued under ARLP's Long-Term Incentive and Directors Deferred Compensation Plans before minimum statutory tax withholding requirements	\$ 7,389	\$ 8,417
Acquisition of businesses:		
Fair value of assets assumed	\$ 273,196	\$ -
Cash paid	(74,953)	-

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Fair value of liabilities assumed	\$	198,243	\$	-
Disposition of property, plant and equipment:				
Net change in assets	\$	-	\$	846
Book value of liabilities transferred		-		(5,246)
Gain recognized	\$	-	\$	(4,400)

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

**1. ORGANIZATION AND PRESENTATION**

*Significant Relationships Referenced in Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements*

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

*Organization and Formation*

We are a Delaware limited partnership listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol AHGP. We own directly and indirectly 100% of the members' interest in MGP, ARLP's managing general partner. The ARLP Partnership is a diversified producer and marketer of coal to major United States ( U.S. ) utilities and industrial users. ARLP conducts substantially all of its business through its

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wholly-owned subsidiary, the Intermediate Partnership. ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership were formed in May 1999, to acquire upon completion of ARLP's initial public offering on August 19, 1999, certain coal production and marketing assets of Alliance Resource Holdings, Inc. ( ARH ), a Delaware corporation. We and ARH, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, SGP, maintain general partner interests in ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership. ARH is owned by Joseph W. Craft III, the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of AGP as well as the President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of MGP, and Kathleen S. Craft. SGP, a Delaware limited liability company, is owned by ARH and holds a 0.01% general partner interest in each of ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership.

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

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*Basis of Presentation*

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts and operations of the AHGP Partnership and present our financial position as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the results of our operations and comprehensive income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 and the cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. All of our intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. Net income attributable to Alliance Holdings GP, L.P. from within our accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements will be described as Net Income of AHGP.

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

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are unaudited. However, in the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the periods presented. Results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full year ending December 31, 2015.

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission for interim reporting and do not include all of the information normally included with financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) of the United States (U.S.). These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

On June 16, 2014, the ARLP Partnership completed a two-for-one split of its common units, whereby holders of record as of May 30, 2014 received a one unit distribution on each unit outstanding on that date. The unit split resulted in the issuance of 37,030,317 ARLP common units. Accordingly, AHGP received an additional 15,544,169 ARLP common units, which brought its total ownership to 31,088,338 ARLP common units. All references to the number of ARLP units and distribution amounts included in this report have been adjusted to give effect for this unit split for all periods presented. Provisions of ARLP's partnership agreement affecting ARLP's incentive distribution rights that we own have been amended to reflect the unit split.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of AHGP Partnership's condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in our condensed consolidated financial statements. Actual results

could differ from those estimates.

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*Goodwill*

Goodwill is not amortized, but is subject to an annual review on November 30, 2015, or at other dates if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of goodwill may be impaired. The reporting unit or units used to evaluate and measure goodwill for impairment are determined primarily from the manner in which the business is managed or operated. A reporting unit is an operating segment or a component that is one level below an operating segment. There were no impairments of goodwill during the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2015.

**2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

*New Accounting Standard Issued and Adopted*

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

In September 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-16, *Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments* ( ASU 2015-16 ). ASU 2015-16 requires that an acquirer within a business combination recognize adjustments to provisional amounts that are identified during the measurement period in the reporting period in which the adjustment amounts are determined. ASU 2015-16 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 with early adoption permitted and shall be applied prospectively after adoption. We elected to early adopt the standard in September 2015. The adoption of ASU 2015-16 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

*New Accounting Standards Issued and Not Yet Adopted*

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ( ASU 2014-09 ). ASU 2014-09 is a new revenue recognition standard that provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle of the new standard is an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The standard will be applied retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. ASU 2014-09 was originally effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2016. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Deferral of the Effective Date*, which defers the effective date by one year while providing the option to early adopt the standard on the original effective date. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2014-09.



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

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

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

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

### 3. CONTINGENCIES

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

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On July 31, 2015 (the Hamilton Acquisition Date) the ARLP Partnership's subsidiary, Alliance WOR Processing, LLC (now known as Hamilton County Coal, LLC, or Hamilton) acquired the remaining Series A and B Units, representing 60% of the voting interests of White Oak Resources LLC (White Oak), from White Oak Finance Inc. and other parties (the Sellers) for total fair value consideration of \$287.3 million (the Hamilton Acquisition), consisting of the following:

	(in thousands)
Cash on hand	\$ 50,000
Contingent consideration	14,300
Settlement of pre-existing relationships	119,663
Previously held equity-method investment	103,322
Total consideration	\$ 287,285

The ARLP Partnership now owns 100% of the interests in White Oak and has assumed operating control of the White Oak Mine No. 1 (now known as Hamilton Mine No. 1), an underground longwall mining operation located in Hamilton County, Illinois. The Hamilton Acquisition is consistent with the ARLP Partnership's general business strategy and a strategic complement to its current coal mining operations. The ARLP Partnership expects to achieve synergies and cost reductions by using its other owned facilities and reserves, as well as utilizing its centralized marketing, operations and administrative functions.

The contingent consideration is payable to the Sellers to the extent Hamilton's quarterly average coal sales price exceeds a specified amount on future sales. Amounts payable under the contingent consideration arrangement are subject to a defined maximum of \$110.0 million reduced for any payments that the ARLP Partnership makes under an overriding royalty agreement between White Oak and certain of the Sellers relating to undeveloped mineral interests controlled by White Oak. The fair value of the contingent consideration arrangement at the Hamilton Acquisition Date was \$14.3 million. The ARLP Partnership estimated the fair value of the contingent consideration using a probability-weighted discounted cash flow model. The assumptions used in the model included a risk-adjusted discount rate, forward coal sales price curves, and probabilities of meeting certain threshold prices. The fair value measurement is based on significant inputs not observable in the market and thus represents a Level 3 fair value measurement. As of September 30, 2015, there were no significant changes in the range of outcomes for the contingent consideration recognized as a result of the Hamilton Acquisition.

The ARLP Partnership is in the process of performing their valuation of its previously held equity method investment, the ARLP Partnership's pre-existing relationships, the contingent consideration, and the acquired assets and liabilities. Given the recent date of the acquisition and the number of valuations the ARLP Partnership needs to complete, the ARLP Partnership has not finalized the valuations and therefore has recorded the acquisition using its best estimates of the fair value of the various measurements based on preliminary information. As they finalize the various valuations and the ARLP Partnership completes its review of those valuations in subsequent periods, it is possible that certain amounts related to this transaction could result in measurement period adjustments which would be recorded in those subsequent periods. As a result, the ARLP Partnership considers its accounting of the Hamilton Acquisition to be preliminary pending completion of the valuations.

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Prior to the Hamilton Acquisition Date, the ARLP Partnership accounted for its 40% interest in White Oak as an equity-method investment. The acquisition date fair value of the previous equity interest was \$103.3 million and is included in the measurement of the consideration transferred. The ARLP Partnership re-measured its equity investment immediately prior to the Hamilton Acquisition using a discounted cash flow model. The assumptions used in the determination of the fair value include

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projected financial information, forward coal price curves, and a risk adjusted discount rate. The assumptions used in this fair value measurement are not observable in the market and therefore represent a Level 3 fair value measurement.

In connection with the Hamilton Acquisition, the ARLP Partnership settled its pre-existing relationships with White Oak which included existing account balances of \$49.6 million and contractual agreements comprised of coal leases, a coal handling and preparation agreement, a coal supply agreement, a marketing and transportation agreement and certain debt agreements. As a result of settling the existing account balances between White Oak and the ARLP Partnership, as well as the recognition of net gains associated with the above-market components of its pre-existing contractual relationships, the ARLP Partnership included \$119.7 million in the measurement of consideration transferred. As part of the ARLP Partnership's settlement of these agreements, it considered the rates at which a market participant would enter into these agreements and recognized gains for the above-market rates and losses for the below-market rates contained in the various agreements. The ARLP Partnership developed a discounted cash flow model to determine the fair value of each of these agreements at market rates and compared the valuations to similar models using the contractual rates of the agreements to determine its gains or losses. The assumptions used in these valuation models include processing rates, royalty rates, transportation rates, marketing rates, forward coal price curves, current interest rates, projected financial information and risk-adjusted discount rates. These fair value measurements were based on the previously discussed assumptions which are not observable in the market and therefore represent Level 3 fair value measurements.

As a result of the ARLP Partnership's re-measurement of its equity investment, it recognized a loss which was completely offset by an overall gain related to the above-market rates associated with its pre-existing relationships.

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The following table summarizes the preliminary fair value allocation of assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the Hamilton Acquisition Date:

	Preliminary as of September 30, 2015 (in thousands)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,125
Trade receivables	3,122
Prepaid expenses	4,364
Inventories	7,240
Other current assets	9,415
Property, plant and equipment	258,798
Advance royalties	3,349
Deposits	6,981
Other assets	5,580
Total identifiable assets acquired	301,974
Accounts payable	(31,399)
Accrued expenses	(18,609)
Deferred revenue	(517)
Current maturities, long-term debt	(29,529)
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	(64,588)
Other long-term liabilities	(15,175)
Asset retirement obligations	(12,484)
Total liabilities assumed	(172,301)
Net identifiable assets acquired	\$ 129,673
Goodwill	157,612
Net assets acquired	\$ 287,285

The goodwill recognized is attributable to expected synergies primarily consisting of being able to utilize the ARLP Partnership's previously owned coal handling and preparation plant rather than incurring external fees, the reduction of royalties associated with reserves being leased from the ARLP Partnership by Hamilton, and the use of its centralized marketing, operations and administrative functions. Allocation of the goodwill to its reporting units has not been completed, however, it is expected to be allocated to applicable reporting units within the Illinois Basin segment. As of September 30, 2015, there were no changes in the recognized amounts of goodwill resulting from the Hamilton Acquisition.

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The amounts of revenue and earnings of Hamilton included in our condensed consolidated statements of income from the acquisition date to the period ending September 30, 2015 are as follows:

	(in thousands)
Revenue	\$ 29,302
Net income	(6,120)

The following represents the pro forma condensed consolidated income statement as if Hamilton had been included in our consolidated results since January 1, 2014. These amounts have been calculated after applying the ARLP Partnership's accounting. Additionally, our results have been adjusted to remove the effect of the ARLP Partnership's equity investment in White Oak and the preexisting relationships that it had in White Oak.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(in thousands)			
<b>Total revenues</b>				
As reported	\$ 566,342	\$ 569,230	\$ 1,731,261	\$ 1,709,628
Pro forma	575,057	578,771	1,794,908	1,733,104
<b>Net income</b>				
As reported	\$ 82,862	\$ 117,690	\$ 283,053	\$ 370,084
Pro forma	79,789	108,703	270,684	357,910

## *Patriot Coal Corporation*

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

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

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



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The mining and reserve assets acquired from Patriot described above are located in Union and Henderson Counties, Kentucky. The mining equipment, spare parts and underground infrastructure that the ARLP Partnership acquired from Patriot has been and is continuing to be dispersed to the ARLP Partnership's existing operations in the Illinois Basin region in accordance with their highest and best use. The ARLP Partnership's purchase price of \$19.2 million and \$20.5 million paid on the Initial Closing Date and the Acquisition Date, respectively, described above was financed using existing cash on hand. In addition, the ARLP Partnership's purchase price was increased by \$8.3 million, comprising \$2.1 million cash paid prior to the Acquisition Date related to the transaction and an agreement to pay approximately \$6.2 million additional consideration as discussed below. As the ARLP Partnership has no intentions of operating the former Dodge Hill mining complex as a business and only acquired certain assets of Highland, we believe unaudited pro forma information of revenue and earnings is not meaningful as it relates to the acquisition of Patriot assets described above and furthermore not materially different than revenue and earnings as presented in our condensed consolidated statements of income. The primary ongoing benefit derived from the transaction relates to the coal supply agreements acquired, which would have permitted the sale of 0.8 million tons and 2.4 million tons at average pricing of \$46.67 per ton sold during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively, based on the contract price and sales volumes, if the ARLP Partnership had owned the contracts during that period. Revenues generated by these contracts since the Initial Closing Date were \$29.4 million and \$108.7 million, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

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

The fair value of the acquired tangible and intangible assets and assumed liabilities are based on discounted cash flow projections and estimated replacement cost valuation techniques. The ARLP Partnership used an estimate of replacement cost based on comparable market prices to value the acquired equipment and utilized discounted cash flows to value intangible assets and reserves. Key assumptions used in the valuations included projections of future cash flows, and estimated weighted-average cost of capital, and internal rates of return. Due to the unobservable nature of these inputs, these estimates are considered Level 3 fair value measurements.

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The following table summarizes the consideration transferred from the ARLP Partnership to Patriot and the preliminary and final fair value allocation of assets acquired and liabilities assumed as valued at the Acquisition Date, incorporating fair value adjustments made subsequent to the Acquisition Date:

	Preliminary as of March 31, 2015	Adjustments (in thousands)	Final as of September 30, 2015
Consideration transferred	\$ 47,514		\$ 47,874
Recognized amounts of net tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed:			
Inventories	3,255	(1,261)	1,994
Property, plant and equipment, including mineral rights and leased equipment	26,995	5,034	32,029
Customer contracts, net	19,193	-	19,193
Other assets	326	(326)	-
Asset retirement obligation	(2,255)	-	(2,255)
Other liabilities	-	(3,087)	(3,087)
Net tangible and intangible assets acquired	\$ 47,514		\$ 47,874

Included in the above consideration transferred is an agreement to pay an additional \$6.2 million related to the acquisition, of which \$5.6 million was paid as of September 30, 2015. Additionally, a fair value adjustment of \$3.1 million to increase liabilities and property, plant and equipment was recorded to reflect the impact of operating leases assumed in the acquisition. Other adjustments to the preliminary fair values resulted from additional information obtained about facts in existence on February 3, 2015.

Intangible assets related to coal supply agreements, represented as *Customer contracts, net* in the table above are reflected in the *Prepaid expenses and other assets* and *Other long-term assets* line items in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, amortization expense for the acquired coal supply agreements of \$4.0 million and \$10.1 million, respectively, has been recognized based on the weighted-average term of the contracts on a per unit basis.

## MAC

In March 2006, White County Coal, and Alexander J. House entered into a limited liability company agreement to form Mid-America Carbonates, LLC ( *MAC* ). *MAC* was formed to engage in the development and operation of a rock dust mill and to manufacture and sell rock dust. White County Coal initially invested \$1.0 million in exchange for a 50% equity interest in *MAC*. The ARLP Partnership's equity investment in *MAC* was \$1.6 million at December 31, 2014. Effective on January 1, 2015, the ARLP Partnership purchased the remaining 50% equity interest in *MAC* from Mr. House for \$5.5 million cash paid at closing. In conjunction with the acquisition, we recorded \$4.2 million of goodwill which is reflected in Other and Corporate in our segment presentation (Note 14) and is included in *Goodwill* on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.



In September 2015, the ARLP Partnership surrendered a lease agreement for certain undeveloped coal reserves and related property in western Kentucky. The ARLP Partnership determined that coal reserves held under this lease agreement were no longer a core part of its foreseeable development plans. As such, the ARLP Partnership surrendered the lease in order to avoid the high holding costs of those reserves. The ARLP Partnership recorded an impairment charge of \$10.7 million to its Illinois Basin segment during the quarter ended September 30, 2015 to remove certain assets associated with the lease, including mineral rights, advanced royalties and mining permits.

We measure fair value in accordance with GAAP which defines fair value, requires disclosures about assets and liabilities carried at fair value, and establishes a hierarchal disclosure framework based upon the quality of inputs used to measure fair value.

Valuation techniques used in the ARLP Partnership's fair value measurements are based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our own market assumptions.

These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

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

The following table summarizes our recurring fair value measurements within the hierarchy:

	September 30, 2015			December 31, 2014		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	(in thousands)					
Long-term debt	\$ -	\$ 963,801	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 833,351	\$ -
Contingent consideration	-	-	14,300	-	-	-
Total	\$ -	\$ 963,801	\$ 14,300	\$ -	\$ 833,351	\$ -

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The carrying amounts for cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, due from affiliates and due to affiliates approximate fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments.

At September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the estimated fair value of the ARLP Partnership's long-term debt, including current maturities, was approximately \$963.8 million and \$833.4 million, respectively, based on interest rates that it believes are currently available to it in active markets for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities (Note 7). The fair value of debt, which is based upon these interest rates, is classified as a Level 2 measurement under the fair value hierarchy.

At September 30, 2015, the fair value of the ARLP Partnership's contingent consideration arrangement related to the Hamilton Acquisition was \$14.3 million (Note 4).

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Long-term debt consists of the following:

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014
		(in thousands)	
ARLP Revolving Credit facility	\$ 403,000		\$ 140,000
ARLP Series A senior notes	-		205,000
ARLP Series B senior notes	145,000		145,000
ARLP Term loan	212,500		231,250
ARLP Securitization facility	100,000		100,000
ARLP Hamilton revolving credit facility	10,000		-
ARLP Hamilton equipment financing agreement	82,548		-
	953,048		821,250
Less current maturities	(142,159)		(230,000)
Total long-term debt	\$ 810,889		\$ 591,250

The Intermediate Partnership has a \$700.0 million revolving credit facility (ARLP Revolving Credit Facility), \$145.0 million in ARLP Series B senior notes (ARLP Series B Senior Notes) and a \$212.5 million term loan (ARLP Term Loan) and collectively, with the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and the ARLP Series B Senior Notes, the ARLP Debt Arrangements, which are guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership. On October 16, 2015 the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility was amended to increase the baskets for capital lease obligations and sale-leaseback arrangements from \$10.0 million to \$100.0 million. The Intermediate Partnership also has a \$100.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility (ARLP Securitization Facility). In addition, as a result of the Hamilton Acquisition (Note 4), the ARLP Partnership assumed a \$10.0 million revolving credit facility (ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility) and an equipment financing agreement (ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement). At September 30, 2015, current maturities include the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility and a portion of the Term Loan. On June 26, 2015 the outstanding balance of the ARLP Series A senior notes totaling \$205.0 million was paid.

The ARLP Debt Arrangements contain various covenants affecting the Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries restricting, among other things, the amount of distributions by the Intermediate Partnership, incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, sale of assets, investments, mergers and consolidations and transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions. The ARLP Debt Arrangements also require the Intermediate Partnership to remain in control of a certain amount of mineable coal reserves relative to its annual production. In addition, the ARLP Debt Arrangements require the Intermediate Partnership to maintain (a) debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 3.0 to 1.0 and (b) cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 3.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 1.23 to 1.0 and 24.3 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended September 30, 2015. The ARLP Partnership was in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of September 30, 2015.

At September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had borrowings of \$403.0 million and \$5.4 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$291.6 million available for borrowing under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility. The ARLP Partnership utilizes the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, as appropriate, for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and investments in affiliates, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership incurs an annual commitment fee of 0.25% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.



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On December 5, 2014, certain direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership entered into the ARLP Securitization Facility providing additional liquidity and funding. Under the ARLP Securitization Facility, certain subsidiaries sell trade receivables on an ongoing basis to the Intermediate Partnership, which then sells the trade receivables to AROP Funding, LLC ( "AROP Funding"), a wholly-owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership, which in turn borrows on a revolving basis up to \$100.0 million secured by the trade receivables. After the sale, Alliance Coal, as servicer of the assets, collects the receivables on behalf of AROP Funding. The ARLP Securitization Facility bears interest based on a Eurodollar Rate. The ARLP Securitization Facility has an initial term of 364 days; however, the ARLP Partnership has the contractual ability and the intent to extend the term for an additional 364 days. At September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had \$100.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Securitization Facility.

As a result of the Hamilton Acquisition, the ARLP Partnership assumed the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility and the ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement. In November 2014, White Oak entered into the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility allowing for periodic borrowings up to \$10.0 million, collateralized by White Oak's accounts receivable. Borrowings under the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility carried interest at the prime rate plus 0.1%, which was 3.35% at September 30, 2015. On October 19, 2015, the outstanding balance of the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility totaling \$10.0 million was repaid.

In 2012, White Oak acquired vendor financing totaling \$100.0 million through the ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement, which was secured by continuous mining, long-wall mining, and underground belt system equipment purchased from the lender. The ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement required repayment of principal and interest in equal monthly installments of \$2.1 million from July 2014 until June 2019. As of September 30, 2015, \$82.5 million remained outstanding on the note and carried an annual interest rate of 8%. On October 16, 2015, the outstanding balance of the Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement totaling \$80.6 million was repaid without penalty with funds drawn on the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

On October 29, 2015, the ARLP Partnership entered into a sale-leaseback transaction whereby the ARLP Partnership sold certain mining equipment for \$100.0 million and concurrently entered into a lease agreement for the sold equipment with a four-year term. Under the lease agreement, the ARLP Partnership will pay an initial monthly rent of \$1.9 million. A balloon payment equal to 20% of the equipment cost is due at the end of the lease term. The ARLP Partnership has recognized this transaction as a capital lease.

On October 6, 2015, Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC ( "Cavalier Minerals") (Note 9) entered into a credit agreement (the "Cavalier Credit Agreement") with Mineral Lending, LLC ( "Mineral Lending") for a \$100.0 million line of credit (the "Cavalier Credit Facility"). Mineral Lending is an entity owned by Alliance Resource Holdings II, Inc. ( "ARH II", the parent of ARH), an entity owned by an officer of ARH who is also a director of ARH II ( "ARH Officer") and foundations established by our President and Chief Executive Officer and Kathleen S. Craft. There is no commitment fee under the facility. Borrowings under the Cavalier Credit Facility bear interest at a one month LIBOR rate plus 6% with interest payable quarterly. Repayment of the principal balance will begin following the first fiscal quarter after the earlier of the date on which the aggregate amount borrowed exceeds \$90.0 million or December 31, 2017 in quarterly payments of an amount equal to the greater of \$1.3 million initially, escalated to \$2.5 million after two years, or fifty percent of Cavalier Minerals' excess cash flow. The Cavalier Credit Facility matures September 30, 2024, at which time all amounts then outstanding are required to be repaid. Cavalier Minerals may prepay the Cavalier Credit Facility at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the Cavalier Credit Agreement.



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## 8. NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS

As required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, our noncontrolling ownership interest in consolidated subsidiaries is presented in the condensed consolidated balance sheet within partners' capital as a separate component from the limited partners' equity. In addition, consolidated net income includes earnings attributable to both the limited partners' and the noncontrolling interests.

The noncontrolling interests balance is comprised of non-affiliate and affiliate ownership interests in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership that we consolidate (Note 1) and an affiliate ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals (Note 9). The following table summarizes the components of noncontrolling interests recorded in Partners' Capital for the periods indicated:

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
	(in thousands)	
Noncontrolling interests reflected in Partners' Capital:		
Affiliate (SGP)	\$ (303,802)	\$ (303,788)
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners)	796,533	777,210
Affiliate (Cavalier Minerals)	1,921	465
Accumulated other comprehensive loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(19,176)	(20,391)
Total noncontrolling interests	\$ 475,476	\$ 453,496

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

The noncontrolling interest designated as Non-Affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 31,088,338 common units of ARLP held by us. The total obligation associated with ARLP's Long-Term Incentive Plan (ARLP LTIP), MGP Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors (MGP Deferred Compensation Plan) and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) are also included in the Non-Affiliates component of noncontrolling interest (Note 12).

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

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(in thousands)			
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest:				
Affiliate (SGP)	\$ 9	\$ 17	\$ 35	\$ 55
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners)	26,763	49,124	100,468	156,686

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Affiliates (Cavalier Minerals)	(7)	-	(27)	-
	\$ 26,765	\$ 49,141	\$ 100,476	\$ 156,741

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

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)		
Distributions paid to noncontrolling interests:			
Affiliate (SGP) (1)	\$	49	\$ 45
Non-Affiliates (ARLP's non-affiliate limited partners) (1)		87,574	80,439
	\$	87,623	\$ 80,484

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

The Affiliate (SGP) component of noncontrolling interests represents SGP's cumulative investment basis in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership. After the consummation of the various transactions associated with the ARLP Partnership's formation and initial public offering in 1999 (which included the contribution of net assets by SGP to the ARLP Partnership, the retention by SGP of debt borrowings assumed by ARLP and a distribution by ARLP to SGP), SGP's investment basis in ARLP totaled \$(303.9) million. SGP's investment basis as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 also reflects the cumulative amount of nominal ARLP income allocations and distributions to SGP and nominal contributions by SGP to ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership to maintain its general partner interests.

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The following tables present the change in Partners' Capital for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

### Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.

	Limited Partners Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (in thousands)	Noncontrolling Interest	Total Partners Capital
Balance at January 1, 2015	\$ 580,234	\$ (15,456)	\$ 453,496	\$ 1,018,274
Net income	182,577	-	100,476	283,053
Other comprehensive income	-	963	1,215	2,178
Settlement of directors deferred compensation	(177)	-	-	(177)
Vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	-	-	(2,719)	(2,719)
Common unit-based compensation	169	-	9,148	9,317
Distributions on ARLP common unit-based compensation	-	-	(1,995)	(1,995)
Contributions to consolidated company from affiliate noncontrolling interest	-	-	1,483	1,483
Distributions to AHGP Partners	(168,365)	-	-	(168,365)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interest	-	-	(85,628)	(85,628)
Balance at September 30, 2015	\$ 594,438	\$ (14,493)	\$ 475,476	\$ 1,055,421

### Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.

	Limited Partners Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (in thousands)	Noncontrolling Interest	Total Partners Capital
Balance at January 1, 2014	\$ 500,070	\$ (4,198)	\$ 359,721	\$ 855,593
Net income	213,343	-	156,741	370,084
Other comprehensive loss	-	(83)	(126)	(209)
Settlement of directors deferred compensation	(218)	-	-	(218)
Vesting of ARLP Long-Term Incentive Plan	-	-	(2,991)	(2,991)
Common unit-based compensation	233	-	8,157	8,390
Distributions on ARLP common unit-based compensation	-	-	(1,666)	(1,666)
Distributions to AHGP Partners	(152,352)	-	-	(152,352)
Distributions paid by consolidated partnership to noncontrolling interest	-	-	(78,818)	(78,818)
Balance at September 30, 2014	\$ 561,076	\$ (4,281)	\$ 441,018	\$ 997,813



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**9. VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES**

**Cavalier Minerals**

On November 10, 2014, the ARLP Partnership's wholly owned subsidiary, Alliance Minerals, LLC ( Alliance Minerals ), and Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC ( Bluegrass Minerals ) entered into a limited liability company agreement (the Cavalier Agreement ) to create Cavalier Minerals which was formed to indirectly acquire oil and gas mineral interests through its noncontrolling ownership interest initially in AllDale Minerals L.P. and subsequently also in AllDale Minerals II, L.P. (collectively AllDale Minerals ) (Note 10). Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals initially committed funding of \$48.0 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, to Cavalier Minerals, and Cavalier Minerals committed funding of \$49.0 million to AllDale Minerals. Alliance Minerals' contributions through December 31, 2014 to Cavalier Minerals totaled \$11.5 million. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, Alliance Minerals contributed \$16.4 million and \$35.6 million, respectively, bringing the ARLP Partnership's total investment in Cavalier Minerals to \$47.1 million at September 30, 2015. The ARLP Partnership's remaining commitment to Cavalier Minerals of \$0.9 million was made October 26, 2015. Bluegrass Minerals, which is owned and controlled by the ARH Officer and is Cavalier Minerals' managing member, contributed \$2.0 million as of September 30, 2015.

On October 6, 2015, Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals committed to fund an additional \$96.0 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, to Cavalier Minerals, and Cavalier Minerals committed to fund an additional \$100.0 million to AllDale Minerals. At Alliance Minerals' election, Cavalier Minerals will meet its remaining funding commitment to AllDale Minerals through contributions from Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals or from borrowings under the Cavalier Credit Facility (Note 7). The ARLP Partnership expects to fund its remaining commitments utilizing existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under credit and securitization facilities, and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity, or by requiring Cavalier Minerals to draw on the Cavalier Credit Facility. Cavalier Minerals also reimburses Bluegrass Minerals for certain insignificant general and administrative costs incurred on behalf of Cavalier Minerals.

In accordance with the Cavalier Agreement, Bluegrass Minerals is entitled to receive an incentive distribution from Cavalier Minerals equal to 25% of all distributions (including in liquidation) after return of members' capital reduced by certain distributions received by Bluegrass Minerals or its owner from AllDale Minerals Management, LLC, the managing member of AllDale Minerals. Alliance Minerals' ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals at September 30, 2015 was 96%. The remainder of the equity ownership is held by Bluegrass Minerals. As of September 30, 2015, Cavalier Minerals had not made any distributions to its owners. The ARLP Partnership has consolidated Cavalier Minerals financial results as it concluded that Cavalier Minerals is a variable interest entity ( VIE ) and the ARLP Partnership is the primary beneficiary because its consent is required for significant activities of Cavalier Minerals and due to Bluegrass Minerals' relationship to the ARLP Partnership as described above. Bluegrass Minerals equity ownership of Cavalier Minerals is accounted for as noncontrolling ownership interest in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, earnings attributable to Bluegrass Minerals are recognized as net loss attributable to noncontrolling interest in our condensed consolidated statements of income.

**WKY CoalPlay**

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



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In February 2015, WKY CoalPlay acquired approximately 39.1 million tons of proven and probable high-sulfur owned coal reserves located in Henderson and Union Counties, Kentucky from a wholly-owned subsidiary of Patriot for \$25.0 million and in turn leased those reserves to the ARLP Partnership ( CoalPlay 2015 Lease ). The CoalPlay 2015 Lease has an initial term of 20 years and provides for earned royalty payments to WKY CoalPlay of 4% of the coal sales price and annual minimum royalty payments of \$2.1 million. All annual minimum royalty payments are recoupable against earned royalty payments. An option was also granted to the ARLP Partnership to acquire the leased reserves at any time during a three-year period beginning in February 2018 for a purchase price that would provide WKY CoalPlay a 7% internal rate of return on its investment in these reserves taking into account payments previously made under the lease. The ARLP Partnership paid WKY CoalPlay \$2.1 million in February 2015 for the initial annual minimum royalty payment.

As of September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had paid \$10.8 million of advanced royalties to WKY CoalPlay, none of which have been recouped, and is reflected in the long-term *Advance royalties* line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets and includes previous annual minimum royalty payments made to WKY CoalPlay associated with leases entered into in 2014, in addition to the initial annual minimum royalty payment for the CoalPlay 2015 Lease.

The ARLP Partnership has concluded that WKY CoalPlay is a VIE because of its ability to exercise the option noted above as well as two other similar options granted to the ARLP Partnership by WKY CoalPlay in December 2014, which is not within the control of the equity holders and, if it occurs, could potentially limit the expected residual return to the owners of WKY CoalPlay. The ARLP Partnership does not have any economic or governance rights related to WKY CoalPlay and the ARLP Partnership's options that provide it with a variable interest in WKY CoalPlay's reserve assets do not give it any rights that constitute power to direct the primary activities that most significantly impact WKY CoalPlay's economic performance. SGP Land has the sole ability to replace the manager of WKY CoalPlay at its discretion and therefore has power to direct the activities of WKY CoalPlay. Consequently, the ARLP Partnership concluded that SGP Land is the primary beneficiary of WKY CoalPlay.

## **10. EQUITY INVESTMENT**

### **AllDale Minerals**

On November 10, 2014, Cavalier Minerals (Note 9) made an initial contribution of \$7.4 million in return for a limited partner interest in AllDale Minerals, which was created to purchase oil and gas mineral interests in various geographic locations within producing basins in the continental U.S. As of December 31, 2014, Cavalier Minerals had contributed \$11.6 million to AllDale Minerals. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, Cavalier Minerals contributed an additional \$16.9 million and \$37.4 million, respectively, bringing the total investment in AllDale Minerals to \$49.0 million as of September 30, 2015. The ARLP Partnership continually reviews all rights provided to Cavalier Minerals and the ARLP Partnership by various agreements and continues to conclude all such rights do not provide Cavalier Minerals or the ARLP Partnership the ability to unilaterally direct any of the activities of AllDale Minerals that most significantly impact its economic performance. As such, the ARLP Partnership accounts for Cavalier Minerals' ownership interest in the income or loss of AllDale Minerals as an equity investment in our condensed consolidated financial statements. The ARLP Partnership records equity income or loss based on AllDale Minerals' distribution structure. Cavalier Minerals' limited partner interest in AllDale Minerals was 71.7% at September 30, 2015. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership has been allocated losses of \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million, respectively, from AllDale Minerals.





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

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)			
Beginning balance	\$ 55,671	\$ 61,515	\$ 57,557	\$ 62,909
Accruals increase	2,959	1,291	9,126	8,755
Payments	(2,250)	(2,667)	(6,864)	(8,194)
Interest accretion	489	646	1,466	1,939
Valuation gain (1)	-	-	(4,416)	(4,624)
Ending balance	\$ 56,869	\$ 60,785	\$ 56,869	\$ 60,785

(1) The liability for the estimated present value of current workers' compensation benefits is based on the ARLP Partnership's actuarial estimates. The ARLP Partnership's actuarial calculations are based on a blend of actuarial projection methods and numerous assumptions including claim development patterns, mortality, medical costs and interest rates. The ARLP Partnership conducted a mid-year review of its actuarial assumptions in the second quarter of 2015 which resulted in a valuation gain primarily attributable to favorable changes in claims development and an increase in the discount rate used to calculate the estimated present value of future obligations from 3.41% at December 31, 2014 to 3.71% at June 30, 2015. The ARLP Partnership's mid-year review of its actuarial assumptions in the second quarter of 2014 also resulted in a valuation gain primarily attributable to favorable changes in claims development, offset partially by a decrease in the utilized discount rate from 4.11% at December 31, 2013 to 3.67% at June 30, 2014.

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

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)			
Service cost	\$ 773	\$ 857	\$ 2,237	\$ 2,571
Interest cost	524	566	1,571	1,697
Amortization of net actuarial gain (1)	(113)	(263)	(338)	(789)
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 1,184	\$ 1,160	\$ 3,470	\$ 3,479

(1) Amortization of net actuarial gain is included in the *Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)* line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income.



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**12. COMPENSATION PLANS**

*ARLP Partnership*

The ARLP Partnership has established the ARLP LTIP for certain employees and officers of MGP and its affiliates who perform services for the ARLP Partnership. The ARLP LTIP awards are grants of non-vested phantom or notional units, which upon satisfaction of vesting requirements, entitle the ARLP LTIP participant to receive ARLP common units. Annual grant levels and vesting provisions for designated participants are recommended by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the MGP, subject to review and approval of the compensation committee of the MGP board of directors (the MGP Compensation Committee). On January 26, 2015, the MGP Compensation Committee determined that the vesting requirements for the 2012 grants of 202,778 restricted units (which is net of 11,450 forfeitures) had been satisfied as of January 1, 2015. As a result of this vesting, on February 11, 2015, the ARLP Partnership issued 128,150 unrestricted common units to the ARLP LTIP participants. The remaining units were settled in cash to satisfy the tax withholding obligations for the ARLP LTIP participants. On January 26, 2015, the MGP Compensation Committee authorized additional grants of up to 314,019 restricted units, of which 303,165 were granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and will vest on January 1, 2018, subject to satisfaction of certain financial tests. The fair value of these 2015 grants is equal to the intrinsic value at the date of grant, which was \$37.18 per unit. ARLP LTIP expense was \$2.8 million and \$2.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$8.3 million and \$7.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. After consideration of the January 1, 2015 vesting and subsequent issuance of 128,150 common units, approximately 3.7 million units remain available under the ARLP LTIP for issuance in the future, assuming all grants issued in 2013, 2014 and 2015 currently outstanding are settled with ARLP common units, without reduction for tax withholding, and no future forfeitures occur.

As of September 30, 2015, there was \$15.0 million in total unrecognized compensation expense related to the non-vested ARLP LTIP grants that are expected to vest. That expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.3 years. As of September 30, 2015, the intrinsic value of the non-vested ARLP LTIP grants was \$20.9 million. As of September 30, 2015, the total obligation associated with the ARLP LTIP was \$18.4 million and is included in the noncontrolling interests line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

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

*AHGP Partnership*

We have also adopted a Long-Term Incentive Plan (the AHGP LTIP) for employees, directors and consultants of our general partner and its affiliates, including the ARLP Partnership. Grants under the AHGP LTIP are to be made in AHGP restricted units, which are phantom units that entitle the grantee to receive either a common unit or equivalent amount of cash upon the vesting of the phantom units. The aggregate number of common units reserved for issuance under the AHGP LTIP is 5,215,000. There have been no grants under the AHGP LTIP as of September 30, 2015.

*SERP and Directors Deferred Compensation Plans*

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

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

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

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, SERP and MGP Deferred Compensation Plan participant notional account balances were credited with a total of 24,741 and 15,860 phantom units, respectively, and the fair value of these phantom units was \$30.23 per unit and \$44.47 per unit, respectively, on a weighted-average basis. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, AGP Deferred Compensation Plan participant notional account balances were credited with a total of 3,540 and 3,745 phantom units, respectively, and the fair value of these phantom units was \$47.64 per unit and \$62.20 per unit, respectively, on a weighted-average basis. Total SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans expense was approximately \$0.4 million for each of the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, and \$1.1 million for each of the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

As of September 30, 2015, there were 413,471 total phantom units outstanding under the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans and the total intrinsic value of the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plans phantom units was \$9.4 million. As of September 30, 2015, the total obligation associated with the SERP and MGP Deferred Compensation Plan was \$13.3 million, which was included in the noncontrolling interests line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. The total obligation associated with the AGP Deferred Compensation Plan was \$1.0 million, which was included in the partners' capital-limited partners line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. On February 23, 2015, we provided 3,167 AHGP common units to an AGP director under the AGP Deferred Compensation Plan.

### 13. COMPONENTS OF PENSION PLAN NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COSTS

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

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(in thousands)			
Service cost	\$ 618	\$ 543	\$ 1,855	\$ 1,630
Interest cost	1,074	1,019	3,222	3,056
Expected return on plan assets	(1,398)	(1,368)	(4,193)	(4,106)
Amortization of net loss (1)	839	193	2,516	580
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 1,133	\$ 387	\$ 3,400	\$ 1,160

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(1) Amortization of net actuarial loss is included in the *Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)* line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership made contribution payments of \$1.0 million to the Pension Plan for the 2014 plan year and \$1.4 million for the 2015 plan year. On October 14, 2015, the ARLP Partnership made a contribution payment of \$0.7 million for the 2015 plan year.

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**14. SEGMENT INFORMATION**

The ARLP Partnership operates in the eastern U.S. as a producer and marketer of coal to major utilities and industrial users. We aggregate multiple operating segments into two reportable segments: Illinois Basin and Appalachia and an all other category referred to as Other and Corporate. Our reportable segments correspond to major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Similar economic characteristics for our operating segments within each of these two reportable segments generally include coal quality, geology, coal marketing opportunities, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues.

As a result of acquiring the remaining equity interests in Hamilton, formerly known as White Oak (Note 4), we restructured our reportable segments to include Hamilton as part of our Illinois Basin segment due to the similarities in product, management, location, and operation with other mines included in the segment. This new organization reflects how our chief operating decision maker manages and allocates resources to our various operations. Prior periods have been recast to include Hamilton in our Illinois Basin segment.

The Illinois Basin reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex, Gibson County Coal, LLC's mining complex (Gibson), which includes the Gibson North mine and Gibson South mine, Hopkins County Coal, LLC's Elk Creek mine and the Fies property, White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex, Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex, Sebree Mining, LLC's mining complex (Sebree), which includes the Onton mine, River View Coal, LLC's mining complex and the Hamilton mining complex. In April 2014, production began at the Gibson South mine. The Elk Creek mine is currently expected to cease production in early 2016. On November 6, 2015, Gibson and Sebree issued Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act notices. See Note 15.

The Appalachia reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including the Mettiki mining complex, the Tunnel Ridge, LLC mining complex, the MC Mining, LLC mining complex and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC (Penn Ridge) property. The Mettiki mining complex includes Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mine and Mettiki Coal, LLC's preparation plant. The Penn Ridge property is held for future mine development.

Other and Corporate includes the ARLP Partnership and AHGP's marketing and administrative expenses, Alliance Service, Inc. (ASI) and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC and its subsidiaries Matrix Design International, LLC and Matrix Design Africa (PTY) LTD (Matrix Design), Alliance Design Group, LLC (Alliance Design) (collectively, Matrix Design and Alliance Design are referred to as the Matrix Group), ASI's ownership of aircraft, the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC (Mt. Vernon) dock activities, coal brokerage activity, MAC (Note 4), certain activities of Alliance Resource Properties, the Pontiki Coal, LLC mining complex, which sold most of its assets in May 2014, Wildcat Insurance, LLC (Wildcat Insurance), Alliance Minerals, and its affiliate, Cavalier Minerals (Note 9), which holds an equity investment in AllDale Minerals (Note 10), and AROP Funding (Note 7).



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Reportable segment results as of and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 are presented below.

	<b>Illinois Basin</b>	<b>Appalachia</b>	<b>Other and Corporate (in thousands)</b>	<b>Elimination (1)</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
<b><i>Three months ended September 30, 2015</i></b>					
Total revenues (2)	\$ 420,517	\$ 136,741	\$ 40,161	\$ (31,077)	\$ 566,342
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	249,615	80,421	33,701	(27,663)	336,074
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	147,522	53,380	6,163	(3,413)	203,652
Capital expenditures (7)	37,350	11,616	2,458	-	51,424
<b><i>Three months ended September 30, 2014 (recast)</i></b>					
Total revenues (2)	\$ 395,984	\$ 167,391	\$ 7,632	\$ (1,777)	\$ 569,230
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	247,625	95,956	6,820	(1,777)	348,624
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	145,255	68,501	917	-	214,673
Capital expenditures (7)	62,830	13,371	2,880	-	79,081
<b><i>Nine months ended September 30, 2015</i></b>					
Total revenues (2)	\$1,237,819	\$ 460,154	\$ 146,759	\$ (113,471)	\$ 1,731,261
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	728,048	296,980	124,321	(103,819)	1,045,530
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	445,819	154,760	21,432	(9,652)	612,359
Total assets (6)	1,799,170	565,213	282,724	(137,058)	2,510,049
Capital expenditures (7)	105,536	49,055	4,591	-	159,182
<b><i>Nine months ended September 30, 2014 (recast)</i></b>					
Total revenues (2)	\$1,224,877	\$ 468,671	\$ 23,360	\$ (7,280)	\$ 1,709,628
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	736,174	275,446	18,794	(7,280)	1,023,134
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)(5)	465,851	184,460	4,821	-	655,132
Total assets (6)	1,526,744	591,516	60,436	(1,400)	2,177,296
Capital expenditures (7)	182,884	42,040	10,136	-	235,060

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

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

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)			
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 336,074	\$ 348,624	\$ 1,045,530	\$ 1,023,134
Outside coal purchases	(2)	(3)	(326)	(7)
Other income	455	549	750	1,178
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	\$ 336,527	\$ 349,170	\$ 1,045,954	\$ 1,024,305

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

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)			
Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 203,652	\$ 214,673	\$ 612,359	\$ 655,132
General and administrative	(18,356)	(19,185)	(53,659)	(57,352)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(84,661)	(69,646)	(242,730)	(203,539)
Asset impairment charge	(10,695)	-	(10,695)	-
Interest expense, net	(7,066)	(8,152)	(22,204)	(24,157)
Income tax expense	(12)	-	(18)	-
Net income	\$ 82,862	\$ 117,690	\$ 283,053	\$ 370,084

(5) Includes equity in loss of affiliates for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 of \$(17.1) million and \$(48.5) million, respectively, included in the Illinois Basin segment and \$(0.1) million and \$(0.6) million, respectively, included in Other and Corporate. Includes equity in income (loss) of affiliates for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 of \$39,000 and \$(13.8) million, respectively, included in the Illinois Basin segment and \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, included in Other and Corporate.

(6) Total assets for Other and Corporate include investments in affiliate of \$48.0 million at September 30, 2015. Total assets for the Illinois Basin segment and Other and Corporate include investments in affiliates of \$200.1 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, at September 30, 2014.

(7) Capital expenditures shown above exclude the Hamilton Acquisition on July 31, 2015, the Patriot acquisition on February 3, 2015 and the MAC acquisition on January 1, 2015 (Note 4).



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**15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

On October 27, 2015, we declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended September 30, 2015, of \$0.96 per unit on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$57.5 million, payable on November 19, 2015 to all unitholders of record as of November 12, 2015.

On October 27, 2015, the ARLP Partnership declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended September 30, 2015, of \$0.675 per unit, on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$87.5 million, including MGP's incentive distributions, payable on November 13, 2015 to all unitholders of record as of November 6, 2015.

On November 6, 2015 Gibson issued WARN Act notices to approximately 120 of its employees in anticipation of eliminating one and a half production units at its Gibson North and Gibson South mines. By December 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership currently expects Gibson to be operating four production units at the Gibson South mine with the Gibson North mine idled. Resumption of production at the Gibson North mine will be market dependent.

On November 6, 2015 Sebree issued WARN Act notices to all of its employees at the Onton mine, and stopped coal production at the mine. As a result of employment opportunities at other ARLP Partnership operations, the ARLP Partnership currently expects this reduction in force to affect approximately 140 employees.

The ARLP Partnership is currently evaluating the impact to its financial statements as a result of these production reductions.

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

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

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

**Summary**

Our cash flows currently consist primarily of distributions from ARLP for our ARLP partnership interests, including the incentive distribution rights that we own. We reflect our ownership interest in the ARLP Partnership on a consolidated basis, which means that our financial results are combined with the ARLP Partnership's financial results and the results of our other subsidiaries. The earnings of the ARLP Partnership allocated to its limited partners' interest not owned by us and allocated to SGP's general partner interest in ARLP are reflected as a noncontrolling interest in our condensed consolidated statement of income and balance sheet. In addition to the ARLP Partnership, our results of operations include the results of operations of MGP, our wholly-owned subsidiary.

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

The ARLP Partnership is a diversified producer and marketer of coal primarily to major United States ( U.S. ) utilities and industrial users. The ARLP Partnership began mining operations in 1971 and, since then, have grown through acquisitions and internal development to become the third largest coal producer in the eastern U.S. As is customary in the coal industry, the ARLP Partnership has entered into long-term coal supply agreements with many of its customers. The ARLP Partnership operates eleven underground mining complexes in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia, and operates a coal loading terminal on the Ohio River at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. The ARLP Partnership's mining complexes include the Hamilton County Coal, LLC longwall mining complex ( Hamilton ), formerly referred to as the White Oak Mine No. 1, in southern Illinois which was acquired on July 31, 2015 (the

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Acquisition ) by purchasing the remaining equity ownership in White Oak Resources LLC ( White Oak ). Please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Prior to July 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership owned a non-controlling, preferred equity interest in White Oak, leased coal reserves to White Oak and owned and operated certain surface facilities at White Oak's mining complex, which commenced initial longwall operation in late October 2014.

We have two reportable segments: Illinois Basin and Appalachia and an all other category referred to as Other and Corporate. Our reportable segments correspond to major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Factors similarly affecting financial performance of our operating segments within each of these two reportable segments generally include coal quality, geology, coal marketing opportunities, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues.

As a result of acquiring the remaining equity interests in White Oak, we restructured our reportable segments to include Hamilton as part of our Illinois Basin segment due to the similarities in product, management, location, and operation with other mines included in the segment. This new organization reflects how our chief operating decision maker manages and allocates resources to our various operations. Prior periods have been recast to include White Oak in our Illinois Basin segment.

- *Illinois Basin* reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex; Gibson County Coal, LLC ( Gibson ), which includes the Gibson North mine and Gibson South mine, collectively referred to as the Gibson Complex; Hopkins County Coal, LLC mining complex ( Hopkins ), which includes the Elk Creek mine and the Fies property; White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex; Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex ( Warrior ); Seabee Mining, LLC's mining complex ( Seabee ), which includes the Onton mine and Steamport, LLC; River View Coal, LLC's mining complex ( River View ); Hamilton, CR Services, LLC; and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties, LLC ( Alliance Resource Properties ), ARP Seabee, LLC and ARP Seabee South, LLC. In April 2014, initial production began at the Gibson South mine. The Elk Creek mine is currently expected to cease production in early 2016. The Fies property is held for future mine development. On November 6, 2015, Gibson and Seabee issued Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act notices. See Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 15. Subsequent Events of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.
- *Appalachia* reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including the Mettiki mining complex ( Mettiki ), the Tunnel Ridge, LLC mining complex ( Tunnel Ridge ), the MC Mining, LLC mining complex ( MC Mining ) and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC ( Penn Ridge ) property. The Mettiki mining complex includes Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mine and Mettiki Coal, LLC's preparation plant. The Penn Ridge property is held for future mine development.
- *Other and Corporate* includes marketing and administrative expenses; Alliance Service, Inc. ( ASI ) and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC ( Matrix Design ) and its subsidiaries Matrix Design International, LLC and Matrix Design Africa (PTY) LTD; Alliance Design Group, LLC; ASI's ownership of aircraft; the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC ( Mt. Vernon ) dock activities; coal brokerage activity; Mid-America Carbonates, LLC ( MAC ); certain activities of Alliance Resource Properties; the Pontiki Coal, LLC mining complex, which sold most of its assets in May 2014; Wildcat Insurance, LLC ( Wildcat Insurance ), which was established in September 2014 to assist the ARLP Partnership with its insurance requirements; Alliance Minerals, LLC and its affiliate, Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC, which holds an equity investment in AllDale Minerals, L.P. ( AllDale Minerals ) and AROP Funding, LLC ( AROP Funding ). Please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 7. Long-term Debt and Note 9. Variable Interest Entities of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.





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### *Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2014*

We reported net income of \$82.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 ( 2015 Quarter ) compared to \$117.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014 ( 2014 Quarter ). The decrease of \$34.8 million was principally due to lower average coal sales prices, lower other sales and operating revenues, increased depreciation, depletion and amortization expense, a non-cash asset impairment and higher equity in loss of affiliates from White Oak prior to the Acquisition offset by lower operating expenses due to an inventory build at various operations in the 2015 Quarter and a favorable production mix as compared to the 2014 Quarter. Sales and production volumes increased to 10.3 million tons sold and a record 11.5 million tons produced in the 2015 Quarter compared to 9.8 million tons sold and 10.2 million tons produced in the 2014 Quarter.

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>			
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)		(per ton sold)	
Tons sold	10,294	9,825	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	11,450	10,219	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$547,466	\$548,357	\$53.18	\$55.81
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$336,529	\$349,173	\$32.69	\$35.54

*Coal sales.* Coal sales for the 2015 Quarter decreased 0.2% to \$547.5 million from \$548.4 million for the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.9 million in coal sales is due to a \$27.0 million decrease as a result of lower average coal sales prices offset by \$26.1 million additional coal sales as a result of increased tons sold. Average coal sales prices decreased by \$2.63 per ton sold to \$53.18 in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$55.81 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily as a result of current market conditions and lower-priced legacy contracts inherited at the Hamilton mine. Higher coal sales volumes are attributable to increased production at the Gibson South mine and additional volumes from the assumption of operations at the Hamilton mine, offset in part by reduced unit shifts at the Pattiki, Warrior, Onton and Gibson North mines in response to current market conditions.

*Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.* Operating expenses and outside coal purchases combined decreased to \$336.5 million for the 2015 Quarter from \$349.2 million for the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to an inventory build at various operations in the 2015 Quarter and a favorable production mix resulting from increased production and improved recoveries at the Gibson South mine, the addition of lower-cost longwall production from the Hamilton mine and increased recoveries and fewer longwall move days at the Tunnel Ridge mine, partially offset by higher workers' compensation expenses. On a per ton basis, operating expenses and outside coal purchases decreased 8.0% to \$32.69 per ton sold also due to the increased mix of lower-cost production discussed above and reduced unit shifts at certain higher-cost per ton Illinois Basin operations. Operating expenses were impacted by various other factors, the most significant of which are discussed below:

- Labor and benefit expenses per ton produced, excluding workers' compensation, decreased 9.8% to \$10.55 per ton in the 2015 Quarter from \$11.70 per ton in the 2014 Quarter. This decrease of \$1.15 per ton was primarily attributable to lower labor and benefit costs per ton resulting from the increased mix of lower-cost production discussed above, reduced overtime in response to market conditions and lower medical expenses at various mines in both reportable segments;
- Material and supplies expenses per ton produced decreased 10.0% to \$10.76 per ton in the 2015 Period from \$11.96 per ton in the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$1.20 per ton produced resulted primarily from the increased mix of lower-cost production discussed above and related decreases of \$0.51 per ton for material and supplies for roof support, \$0.20 per ton for contract labor used in the mining process, \$0.18 per ton for certain ventilation related materials and supplies expenses and \$0.17 per ton for various preparation plant expenses;



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- Maintenance expenses per ton produced decreased 7.5% to \$3.70 per ton in the 2015 Quarter from \$4.00 per ton in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.30 per ton produced was primarily due to production variances at certain mines discussed above; and

- Production taxes and royalties expenses incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes decreased \$0.48 per produced ton sold in the 2015 Quarter compared to the 2014 Quarter primarily as a result of lower average coal sales prices as discussed above and increased brokerage coal sales which have minimal production taxes and royalty expenses if any.

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

- Workers compensation expenses per ton produced increased to \$0.52 per ton in the 2015 Quarter from \$0.36 per ton in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$0.16 per ton produced resulted from increased accruals at various operations.

*Other sales and operating revenues.* Other sales and operating revenues are principally comprised of Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, Matrix Design sales, surface facility services and coal royalty revenues received from White Oak prior to the Acquisition and other outside services. Other sales and operating revenues decreased to \$9.5 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$14.9 million in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$5.4 million was primarily due to the absence of certain payments in lieu of shipments received from a customer in the 2014 Quarter related to an Appalachian coal sales contract. Lower other sales and operating revenues in the 2015 Quarter also reflect the termination upon closing of the Acquisition of the previously existing coal leases and surface facilities services agreement with White Oak.

*Depreciation, depletion and amortization.* Depreciation, depletion and amortization increased \$15.0 million to \$84.7 million in the 2015 Quarter compared to the 2014 Quarter, due to the reduction of the economic mine life at the Elk Creek mine, which is expected to close by the end of the first quarter of 2016, increased production at the Gibson South mine, which commenced initial production in April 2014, amortization of coal supply agreements acquired in December 2014 and the addition of the Hamilton mine in the 2015 Quarter.

*Asset impairment charge.* In the 2015 Quarter, an asset impairment charge of \$10.7 million was recognized to write down assets associated with the recent surrender of a lease agreement for certain undeveloped coal reserves and related property in western Kentucky. The ARLP Partnership determined that coal reserves held under this lease were not a core part of its foreseeable development plans and, after unsuccessful negotiations with the lessor, surrendered the lease in September 2015 in order to avoid the high holding costs of those reserves.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased to \$7.4 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$8.6 million in the 2014 Quarter primarily due to the repayment of the ARLP Series A senior notes in June 2015 offset in part by interest incurred on debt assumed in the Acquisition.

*Equity in income (loss) of affiliates, net.* Equity in loss of affiliates, net for the 2015 Quarter includes the ARLP Partnership's equity investments in White Oak prior to the Acquisition and AllDale Minerals. The 2014 Quarter includes White Oak and MAC. Regarding MAC's exclusion from the 2015 Quarter, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. For

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the 2015 Quarter, the ARLP Partnership recognized equity in loss of affiliates of \$17.2 million compared to equity in income of affiliates of \$0.1 million for the 2014 Quarter. The change in net equity in earnings of affiliates is primarily related to the ARLP Partnership's previous equity investment in White Oak and the impact of changes in allocations of equity income or losses

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resulting from equity contributions during the 2014 Quarter from another White Oak partner as well as the impact of White Oak's first longwall move in July 2015 that increased expenses prior to the Acquisition.

*Transportation revenues and expenses.* Transportation revenues and expenses were \$9.4 million and \$6.0 million for the 2015 and 2014 Quarters, respectively. The increase of \$3.4 million was primarily attributable to increased tonnage for which the ARLP Partnership arranges transportation at certain mines. The cost of transportation services are passed through to the ARLP Partnership's customers. Consequently, the ARLP Partnership does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues.

*Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests.* The noncontrolling interests balance is comprised of non-affiliate and affiliate ownership interests in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership that we consolidate as well as the noncontrolling interest of Cavalier Minerals. The noncontrolling interest designated as affiliate represents SGP's 0.01% general partner interest in ARLP and 0.01% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership as well as Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC's ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals which began in 2014. The noncontrolling interest designated as non-affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 31,088,338 common units of ARLP held by us. The net income attributable to noncontrolling interest was \$26.8 million and \$49.1 million for the 2015 and 2014 Quarters, respectively. The decrease in net income attributable to noncontrolling interest is due to a decrease in the consolidated net income of the ARLP Partnership due to the changes in revenues and expenses described above and by an increase in the ARLP Partnership's managing general partner's priority distribution to us, which is deducted from the ARLP Partnership's net income in the allocation of net income attributable to noncontrolling interest.

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*Segment Adjusted EBITDA.* Our 2015 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$11.0 million, or 5.1%, to \$203.7 million from the 2014 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$214.8 million. Segment Adjusted EBITDA, tons sold, coal sales, other sales and operating revenues and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense by segment are:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>			
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014 (recast)</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	
		(in thousands)		
Segment Adjusted EBITDA				
Illinois Basin	\$ 147,522	\$ 145,255	\$ 2,267	1.6%
Appalachia	53,380	68,501	(15,121)	(22.1)%
Other and Corporate	6,163	917	5,246	(1)
Elimination	(3,413)	-	(3,413)	-
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$ 203,652	\$ 214,673	\$ (11,021)	(5.1)%
Tons sold				
Illinois Basin	8,134	7,361	773	10.5%
Appalachia	2,160	2,464	(304)	(12.3)%
Other and Corporate	600	-	600	-
Elimination	(600)	-	(600)	-
Total tons sold	10,294	9,825	469	4.8%
Coal sales				
Illinois Basin	\$ 410,796	\$ 388,802	\$ 21,994	5.7%
Appalachia	133,082	159,555	(26,473)	(16.6)%
Other and Corporate	29,398	-	29,398	-
Elimination	(25,810)	-	(25,810)	-
Total coal sales	\$ 547,466	\$ 548,357	\$ (891)	(0.2)%
Other sales and operating revenues				
Illinois Basin	\$ 3,416	\$ 4,117	\$ (701)	(17.0)%
Appalachia	718	4,902	(4,184)	(85.4)%
Other and Corporate	10,614	7,630	2,984	39.1%
Elimination	(5,267)	(1,777)	(3,490)	(1)
Total other sales and operating revenues	\$ 9,481	\$ 14,872	\$ (5,391)	(36.2)%
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense				
Illinois Basin	\$ 249,615	\$ 247,625	\$ 1,990	0.8%
Appalachia	80,421	95,956	(15,535)	(16.2)%
Other and Corporate	33,701	6,820	26,881	(1)
Elimination	(27,663)	(1,777)	(25,886)	(1)
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	\$ 336,074	\$ 348,624	\$ (12,550)	(3.6)%

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

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(2) Segment Adjusted EBITDA, which is not a financial measure calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ), is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, general and administrative expenses and asset impairment charge. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is a key component of consolidated EBITDA, which is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and by external users of our financial statements such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others, to assess:

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- the financial performance of the ARLP Partnership's assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;
- the ability of the ARLP Partnership's assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs and support its indebtedness;
- the ARLP Partnership's operating performance and return on investment compared to those of other companies in the coal energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structures; and
- the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

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

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

	<b>2015</b>	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>	<b>2014</b>
		(in thousands)	
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 203,652	\$ 214,673	
General and administrative	(18,356)	(19,185)	
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(84,661)	(69,646)	
Asset impairment charge	(10,695)	-	
Interest expense, net	(7,066)	(8,152)	
Income tax expense	(12)	-	
Net income	\$ 82,862	\$ 117,690	

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



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

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)	
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 336,074	\$ 348,624
Outside coal purchases	(2)	(3)
Other income	455	549
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	\$ 336,527	\$ 349,170

**Illinois Basin** Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased 1.6% to \$147.5 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$145.3 million in the 2014 Quarter. The increase of \$2.2 million was primarily attributable to higher coal sales, which increased 5.7% to \$410.8 million compared to \$388.8 million in the 2014 Quarter, partially offset by an increase of \$17.0 million in equity in loss of affiliates from White Oak prior to the Acquisition primarily due to a July 2015 longwall move and the impact of changes in allocations of equity income or losses resulting from equity contributions during the 2014 Quarter from another White Oak partner. The increase of \$22.0 million in coal sales reflects higher tons sold, which increased 10.5% to 8.1 million tons in the 2015 Quarter, as a result of higher coal sales volumes from the Gibson South mine and additional volumes from the assumption of operations at the Hamilton mine, offset in part by reduced unit shifts at the Pattiki, Warrior, Onton and Gibson North mines and lower average coal sales prices of \$50.50 in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$52.82 in the 2014 Quarter due to the assumption of lower-priced legacy contracts as a result of the Acquisition and the impact of current market conditions. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased slightly to \$249.6 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$247.6 million in the 2014 Quarter reflecting production variances discussed above. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton sold decreased 8.8% to \$30.69 from \$33.64 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to the addition of lower-cost longwall production from the Hamilton mine, increased production and recoveries from the Gibson South mine, improved recoveries from the Dotiki and Hopkins mines and lower coal inventory charges, as well as certain cost decreases described above under Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.

**Appalachia** Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased to \$53.4 million for the 2015 Quarter from \$68.5 million in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$15.1 million was primarily attributable to lower tons sold, which decreased 12.3% to 2.2 million tons sold in the 2015 Quarter, lower average coal sales prices of \$61.61 per ton sold during the 2015 Quarter compared to \$64.76 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter and the absence of certain payments in lieu of shipments received from a customer in the 2014 Quarter related to a Tunnel Ridge coal sales contract. Coal sales decreased 16.6% to \$133.1 million compared to \$159.6 million in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease of \$26.5 million was primarily due to reduced sales volumes from the Tunnel Ridge mine and lower average coal sales prices at the MC Mining and Tunnel Ridge mines due to current market conditions. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased 16.2% to \$80.4 million in the 2015 Quarter from \$96.0 million in the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to an inventory build at the Tunnel Ridge and MC Mining mines. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton decreased \$1.71 per ton sold to \$37.23 compared to \$38.94 per ton sold in the 2014 Quarter, primarily due to increased recoveries and fewer longwall move days at the Tunnel Ridge mine, lower coal inventory charges in the 2015 Quarter and certain cost decreases described above under Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.

**Other and Corporate** Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased \$5.2 million in the 2015 Quarter from the 2014 Quarter and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased to \$33.7 million for the 2015 Quarter compared to \$6.8 million for the 2014 Quarter. These increases were primarily as a result of



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increased Mt. Vernon transloading services and other intercompany related activity such as increased coal brokerage activity and revenues and expenses of AROP Funding and Wildcat Insurance, which are eliminated upon consolidation.

**Elimination** Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense and coal sales eliminations significantly increased in the 2015 Quarter to \$27.7 million and \$25.8 million, respectively, reflecting additional intercompany coal sales to Alliance Coal, the ARLP Partnership's operating subsidiary, to support increased coal brokerage activity resulting from new coal supply agreements acquired from Patriot on December 31, 2014. For more information on the Patriot acquisition, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

### *Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014*

We reported net income of \$283.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 ( 2015 Period ) compared to \$370.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 ( 2014 Period ). The decrease of \$87.0 million was principally due to lower average coal sales prices, increased operating expenses, increased depreciation, depletion and amortization, a non cash asset impairment, and higher equity in loss of affiliates. Average coal sales prices decreased by \$1.64 to \$53.92 per ton sold in the 2015 Period compared to \$55.56 per ton sold in the 2014 Period. Higher operating expenses during the 2015 Period primarily resulted from increased sales and production volumes from the Gibson South, Mettiki and Tunnel Ridge mines and additional volumes from the assumption of operations at the Hamilton mine as well as non-recurring expense reductions in the 2014 Period related to Onton insurance proceeds and a gain on the sale of Pontiki assets both discussed below. The increases in operating expenses were partially offset by the impact of lower sales at the Warrior, Gibson North, Pattiki, and Onton mines due to shift reductions in response to market conditions as well as an inventory build at several locations. In addition to shift reductions, reduced production from Warrior also resulted from its continuing transition to a new mining area. Decreases to net income were also offset partially by increased other sales and operating revenues primarily reflecting higher surface facility services and coal royalties from White Oak prior to the Acquisition.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(in thousands)		(per ton sold)	
Tons sold	30,276	29,682	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	31,471	30,233	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$1,632,493	\$1,649,093	\$53.92	\$55.56
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$1,046,280	\$1,024,312	\$34.56	\$34.51

**Coal sales.** Coal sales decreased 1.0% to \$1.63 billion for the 2015 Period from \$1.65 billion for the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$16.6 million in coal sales reflected lower average coal sales prices which reduced coal sales by \$49.6 million, partially offset by the benefit of record tons sold which contributed \$33.0 million in additional coal sales. Average coal sales prices decreased by \$1.64 to \$53.92 per ton sold in the 2015 Period compared to \$55.56 per ton sold in the 2014 Period, primarily as a result of current market conditions and lower-priced legacy contracts inherited at the Hamilton mine. Sales and production volumes rose to 30.3 million tons sold and 31.5 million tons produced in the 2015 Period compared to 29.7 million tons sold and 30.2 million tons produced in the 2014 Period, primarily due to increased production at the Tunnel Ridge mine, the ramp up of coal production at the Gibson South mine following the commencement of operations in April 2014 and the addition of Hamilton production beginning August 1, 2015, offset in part by reduced unit shifts at various mines discussed above in response to market conditions.

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*Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.* Operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 2.1% to \$1.05 billion for the 2015 Period from \$1.02 billion for the 2014 Period primarily reflecting higher sales and production volumes in the 2015 period discussed above. On a per ton basis,

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operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased slightly by 0.1% to \$34.56 per ton sold in the 2015 Period from \$34.51 per ton sold in the 2014 Period, primarily due to lower recoveries at the Warrior, Gibson North and Appalachian mines, increased material and supplies expenses at the Tunnel Ridge mine and shift reductions at the Pattiki, Warrior, Gibson North and Onton mines, partially offset by increased production and improved recoveries at the Gibson South mine and the addition of lower-cost longwall production from the Hamilton mine. Operating expenses were impacted by various other factors, the most significant of which are discussed below:

- Operating expenses for the 2015 Period increased as a result of the benefit of \$7.0 million of insurance proceeds in the 2014 Period related to claims from the adverse geological event at the Onton mine in 2013 which were absent in the 2015 Period; and
- Operating expenses for the 2015 Period also increased as a result of the benefit of a gain of \$4.4 million recognized in the 2014 Period on the sale of Pontiki's assets which was absent in the 2015 Period. In May 2014, Pontiki completed the sale of most of its assets, including certain coal reserves, mining equipment and infrastructure and surface facilities.

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

- Labor and benefit expenses per ton produced, excluding workers' compensation, decreased 1% to \$11.40 per ton in the 2015 Period from \$11.51 per ton in the 2014 Period. This decrease of \$0.11 per ton was primarily attributable to lower labor and benefit costs per ton resulting from increased production and a favorable production mix in the 2015 Period discussed above and reduced overtime hours as a result of reduced unit shifts at certain mines offset partially by higher medical expenses in the 2015 period;
- Material and supplies expenses per ton produced decreased 1.3% to \$11.39 per ton in the 2015 Period from \$11.54 per ton in the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$0.15 per ton produced resulted primarily from the benefits of increased production and a favorable production mix in the 2015 Period discussed above and related decreases of \$0.19 per ton for material and supplies for roof support, \$0.12 per ton for certain ventilation related materials and supplies expenses, partially offset by an increase of \$0.12 per ton in longwall subsidence expense; and
- Production taxes and royalties expenses incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes decreased \$0.41 per produced ton sold in the 2015 Period compared to the 2014 Period primarily as a result of lower average coal sales prices as discussed above and increased brokerage coal sales which have minimal production taxes and royalty expenses if any.

*Other sales and operating revenues.* Other sales and operating revenues are principally comprised of Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, Matrix Design sales, surface facility services and coal royalty revenues received from White Oak prior to the Acquisition and other outside services. Other sales and operating revenues increased to \$74.5 million for the 2015 Period from \$42.7 million for the 2014 Period. The increase of \$31.8 million was primarily attributable to increased surface facility services and coal royalty revenues received from White Oak prior to the Acquisition as a result of the ramp-up of longwall production and increased revenues at our Mt. Vernon operations primarily due to increased transloading for Hamilton mine volumes.

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*General and administrative.* General and administrative expenses for the 2015 Period decreased to \$53.7 million compared to \$57.4 million in the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$3.7 million was primarily due to lower incentive compensation expenses and other professional services.

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*Depreciation, depletion and amortization.* Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$242.7 million for the 2015 Period from \$203.5 million for the 2014 Period. The increase of \$39.2 million was attributable to the reduction of the economic mine life at the Elk Creek mine, which is expected to close by the end of the first quarter of 2016, increased production at the Gibson South mine, which commenced initial production in April 2014, amortization of coal supply agreements acquired in December 2014 and the addition of the Hamilton mine in late July 2015.

*Asset impairment charge.* In the 2015 Period, an asset impairment charge of \$10.7 million was recognized to write down assets associated with the recent surrender of a lease agreement for certain undeveloped coal reserves and related property in western Kentucky. The ARLP Partnership determined that coal reserves held under this lease were not a core part of its foreseeable development plans and surrendered the lease in order to avoid the high holding costs for those reserves.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased to \$23.6 million for the 2015 Period from \$25.4 million for the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$1.8 million was principally attributable to the repayment of the ARLP Series A senior notes in June 2015 offset in part by interest incurred on debt assumed in the Acquisition.

*Equity in loss of affiliates, net.* Equity in loss of affiliates, net for the 2015 Period includes the ARLP Partnership's equity investments in White Oak prior to the Acquisition and AllDale Minerals. The 2014 Period includes White Oak and MAC. Please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions and Note 9. Equity Investment of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. For the 2015 Period, the ARLP Partnership recognized equity in loss of affiliates of \$49.0 million compared to \$13.5 million for the 2014 Period. The increase in equity in loss of affiliates, net is primarily due to low coal sales price realizations and higher expenses related to White Oak's ramp up of longwall operations in the 2015 Period prior to the Acquisition and the impact of changes in allocations of equity income or losses resulting from reduced equity contributions during the 2015 Period from another White Oak partner.

*Transportation revenues and expenses.* Transportation revenues and expenses were \$24.3 million and \$17.8 million for the 2015 and 2014 Periods, respectively. The increase of \$6.5 million was primarily attributable to increased tonnage for which the ARLP Partnership arranges transportation at certain mines, partially offset by a decrease in average transportation rates in the 2015 Period. The cost of transportation services are passed through to the ARLP Partnership's customers. Consequently, the ARLP Partnership does not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues.

*Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests.* The noncontrolling interests balance is comprised of non-affiliate and affiliate ownership interests in the net assets of the ARLP Partnership that we consolidate as well as the noncontrolling interest of Cavalier Minerals. The noncontrolling interest designated as affiliate represents SGP's 0.01% general partner interest in ARLP and 0.01% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership as well as Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC's ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals which began in 2014. The noncontrolling interest designated as non-affiliates represents the limited partners' interest in ARLP controlled through the common unit ownership, excluding the 31,088,338 common units of ARLP held by us. The net income attributable to noncontrolling interest was \$100.5 million and \$156.7 million for the 2015 and 2014 Periods, respectively. The decrease in net income attributable to noncontrolling interest is due to a decrease in the consolidated net income of the ARLP Partnership resulting from the changes in revenues and expenses described above and by an increase in the ARLP Partnership's managing general partner's priority distribution to us, which is deducted from the ARLP Partnership's net income in the allocation of net income attributable to noncontrolling interest.





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*Segment Adjusted EBITDA.* Our 2015 Period Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$42.8 million, or 6.5%, to \$612.4 million from the 2014 Period Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$655.1 million. Segment Adjusted EBITDA, tons sold, coal sales, other sales and operating revenues and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense by segment are:

	Nine Months Ended				
	September 30,				
	2015	2014 (recast)		Increase/(Decrease)	
	(in thousands)				
Segment Adjusted EBITDA					
Illinois Basin	\$	445,819	\$	465,851	\$ (20,032) (4.3)%
Appalachia		154,760		184,460	(29,700) (16.1)%
Other and Corporate		21,432		4,821	16,611 (1)
Elimination		(9,652)		-	(9,652) -
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$	612,359	\$	655,132	\$ (42,773) (6.5)%
Tons sold					
Illinois Basin		22,992		22,857	135 0.6%
Appalachia		7,276		6,825	451 6.6%
Other and Corporate		2,298		-	2,298 -
Elimination		(2,290)		-	(2,290) -
Total tons sold		30,276		29,682	594 2.0%
Coal sales					
Illinois Basin	\$	1,180,862	\$	1,201,980	\$ (21,118) (1.8)%
Appalachia		441,350		446,953	(5,603) (1.3)%
Other and Corporate		108,748		160	108,588 (1)
Elimination		(98,467)		-	(98,467) -
Total coal sales	\$	1,632,493	\$	1,649,093	\$ (16,600) (1.0)%
Other sales and operating revenues					
Illinois Basin	\$	41,458	\$	13,847	\$ 27,611 (1)
Appalachia		10,389		12,953	(2,564) (19.8)%
Other and Corporate		37,602		23,199	14,403 62.1%
Elimination		(15,004)		(7,280)	(7,724) (1)
Total other sales and operating revenues	\$	74,445	\$	42,719	\$ 31,726 74.3%
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense					
Illinois Basin	\$	728,048	\$	736,174	\$ (8,126) (1.1)%
Appalachia		296,980		275,446	21,534 7.8%
Other and Corporate		124,321		18,794	105,527 (1)
Elimination		(103,819)		(7,280)	(96,539) (1)
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	\$	1,045,530	\$	1,023,134	\$ 22,396 2.2%

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

(2) Segment Adjusted EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure) is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, general and administrative expenses and asset impairment charge. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is a key component of consolidated EBITDA, which is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and by external users of our financial statements, such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others, to assess:



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- the financial performance of the ARLP Partnership's assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;
- the ability of the ARLP Partnership's assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs and support its indebtedness;
- the ARLP Partnership's operating performance and return on investment compared to those of other companies in the coal energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structures; and
- the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

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

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

		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>		
		<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>
			(in thousands)	
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$	612,359	\$	655,132
General and administrative		(53,659)		(57,352)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		(242,730)		(203,539)
Asset impairment charge		(10,695)		-
Interest expense, net		(22,204)		(24,157)
Income tax benefit		(18)		-
Net income	\$	283,053	\$	370,084

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

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

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	(in thousands)	
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 1,045,530	\$ 1,023,134
Outside coal purchases	(326)	(7)
Other income	750	1,178
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	\$ 1,045,954	\$ 1,024,305

**Illinois Basin** Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 4.3% to \$445.8 million in the 2015 Period from \$465.9 million in the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$20.1 million was primarily attributable to lower coal sales, which decreased 1.8% to \$1.18 billion in the 2015 Period from \$1.20 billion in the 2014 Period, and higher equity in loss of affiliates from White Oak prior to the Acquisition as discussed above, partially offset by increased surface facility services and coal royalty revenues received from White Oak prior to the Acquisition. The decrease of \$21.1 million in coal sales primarily reflects lower average coal sales prices of \$51.36 in the 2015 Period compared to \$52.59 in the 2014 Period resulting from current market conditions and the assumption of lower-priced legacy contracts inherited from the Hamilton mine, lower recoveries and shift reductions at the Warrior and Gibson North mines and shift reductions at the Pattiki and Onton mines, offset in part by higher coal sales volumes from the Gibson South mine and additional volumes from the assumption of operations at the Hamilton mine. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased 1.1% to \$728.0 million in the 2015 Period from \$736.2 million in the 2014 Period and decreased \$0.54 per ton sold to \$31.67 from \$32.21 per ton sold in the 2014 Period, primarily due to production variances discussed above which created a favorable production mix in the 2015 Period offset partially by insurance proceeds received in the 2014 Period related to the Onton mine, as well as the impact of certain other cost increases and decreases described above under Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.

**Appalachia** Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased to \$154.8 million for the 2015 Period as compared to \$184.5 million for the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$29.7 million was primarily attributable to lower average coal sales prices as a result of current market conditions, lower production recoveries across the region and decreased payments in lieu of shipments received from a customer related to a Tunnel Ridge coal supply agreement. Coal sales decreased 1.3% to \$441.4 million in the 2015 Period compared to \$447.0 million in the 2014 Period. The decrease of \$5.6 million was primarily attributable to lower average coal sales prices of \$60.66 per ton sold during the 2015 Period compared to \$65.49 per ton sold in the 2014 Period reflecting the impact of market conditions at the Tunnel Ridge and MC Mining mines, offset in part by increased tons sold, which increased 6.6% to 7.3 million tons in the 2015 Period compared to 6.8 million tons sold in the 2014 Period resulting from increased production and sales volumes at the Tunnel Ridge and Mettiki mines. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased 7.8% to \$297.0 million in the 2015 Period from \$275.4 million in the 2014 Period and increased \$0.46 per ton sold to \$40.82 from \$40.36 per ton sold in the 2014 Period, primarily due to lower recoveries discussed above and increased materials and supplies and maintenance costs at the Tunnel Ridge mine partially offset by the benefit of fewer longwall move days in the 2015 Period, as well as the impact of certain other cost increases and decreases discussed above under Operating expenses and outside coal purchases.

**Other and Corporate** Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased \$16.6 million to \$21.4 million in the 2015 Period from \$4.8 million in the 2014 Period and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased to \$124.3 million for the 2015 Period from \$18.8 million in the 2014 Period. These increases were



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primarily as a result of increased Mt. Vernon transloading services and intercompany related activity such as increased coal brokerage activity, MAC sales and revenues and expenses of AROP Funding and Wildcat Insurance, which are eliminated upon consolidation. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense also increased in the 2015 Period due to the benefit of a gain of \$4.4 million recognized in the 2014 Period on the sale of Pontiki's assets.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

*Liquidity*

Our only cash generating assets are limited partnership and general partnership interests in the ARLP Partnership, including incentive distribution rights, from which we receive quarterly distributions. We rely on distributions from the ARLP Partnership to fund our cash requirements.

The ARLP Partnership has historically satisfied its working capital requirements and funded its capital expenditures, equity investments and debt service obligations with cash generated from operations, cash provided by the issuance of debt or equity and borrowings under credit and securitization facilities. The ARLP Partnership believes that existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations, borrowings under credit facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity will be sufficient to meet the ARLP Partnership's working capital requirements, capital expenditures and additional equity investments, debt payments, commitments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership's ability to satisfy its obligations and planned expenditures will depend upon its future operating performance and access to and cost of financing sources, which will be affected by prevailing economic conditions generally and in the coal industry specifically, which are beyond the ARLP Partnership's control. Based on the ARLP Partnership's recent operating results, current cash position, anticipated future cash flows and sources of financing that the ARLP Partnership expects to have available, the ARLP Partnership does not anticipate any significant liquidity constraints in the foreseeable future. However, to the extent operating cash flow or access to and cost of financing sources are materially different than expected, future liquidity may be adversely affected. Please read Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

*Cash Flows*

Cash provided by operating activities was \$527.2 million for the 2015 Period compared to \$582.9 million for the 2014 Period. The decrease in cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to a nominal decrease in net income adjusted for increased non-cash items, a decrease in accounts payable during the 2015 Period compared to an increase during the 2014 Period, a decrease in payroll and related benefits accruals during the 2015 Period compared to an increase during the 2014 Period reflecting higher annual incentive compensation payments in the 2015 Period, an increase in inventories during the 2015 Period as compared to the 2014 Period, an increase in advance royalties in the 2015 Period compared to a decrease in the 2014 Period, and a decrease in amounts due to affiliates compared to an increase in the 2014 Period, offset by an increase in trade receivables during the 2015 Period compared to a decrease during the 2014 Period.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$288.8 million for the 2015 Period compared to \$315.4 million for the 2014 Period. The decrease in cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to the lower capital expenditures for mine infrastructure and equipment at various mines, particularly at the Gibson South mine, and a decrease in funding of the White Oak equity investment in the 2015 Period, partially offset

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by cash and loans extended in connection with acquisitions in the 2015 Period. For more information regarding acquisitions, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

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Net cash used in financing activities was \$226.1 million for the 2015 Period compared to \$347.4 million for the 2014 Period. The decrease in cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to a decrease in payments and an increase in borrowings under the ARLP revolving credit facilities during the 2015 Period, partially offset by increased distributions paid to partners in the 2015 Period and repayment of the ARLP Series A Senior Notes in the 2015 Period, which is discussed in more detail below under Debt Obligations.

*Capital Expenditures*

Capital expenditures decreased to \$159.2 million in the 2015 Period from \$233.7 million in the 2014 Period.

The ARLP Partnership's anticipated total capital expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2015 are estimated in a range of \$265.0 million to \$285.0 million, which includes expenditures for infrastructure projects and maintenance capital at various mines. In addition to these capital expenditures, the ARLP Partnership now anticipates funding in 2015 investments of approximately \$105.0 million to \$115.0 million. Included in this estimate is approximately \$40.0 million completing the ARLP Partnership's initial commitment to acquire oil and gas mineral interests, \$10.3 million of preferred equity contribution funded to White Oak in the 2015 Period and the \$50.0 million payment to acquire the remaining equity interests in White Oak. For more information on White Oak, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The ARLP Partnership also recently elected to increase its commitment to the acquisition of oil and gas mineral interests by an additional \$96.0 million and the ARLP Partnership's 2015 estimated investments include funding approximately \$10.0 million of this increased commitment. The ARLP Partnership's management anticipates funding remaining 2015 capital requirements with cash and cash equivalents, cash flows from operations, borrowings under the ARLP Partnership's revolving credit and securitization facilities as discussed below and, if necessary, accessing the debt or equity capital markets. The ARLP Partnership will continue to have significant capital requirements over the long-term, which may require it to obtain additional debt or equity capital. The availability and cost of additional capital will depend upon prevailing market conditions, the market price of ARLP common units and several other factors over which the ARLP Partnership has limited control, as well as its financial condition and results of operations.

**Debt Obligations**

*ARLP Credit Facility.* On May 23, 2012, the Intermediate Partnership entered into a credit agreement (the Credit Agreement) with various financial institutions for a revolving credit facility (the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility) of \$700.0 million and a term loan (the ARLP Term Loan) in the aggregate principal amount of \$250.0 million (collectively, the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility and ARLP Term Loan are referred to as the ARLP Credit Facility). Borrowings under the Credit Agreement bear interest at a Base Rate or Eurodollar Rate, at the ARLP Partnership's election, plus an applicable margin that fluctuates depending upon the ratio of Consolidated Debt to Consolidated Cash Flow (each as defined in the Credit Agreement). The ARLP Partnership has elected a Eurodollar Rate which, with applicable margin, was 1.85% on borrowings outstanding as of September 30, 2015. The ARLP Credit Facility matures May 23, 2017, at which time all amounts then outstanding are required to be repaid. Interest is payable quarterly, with principal of the ARLP Term Loan due as follows: for each quarter commencing June 30, 2014 and ending March 31, 2016, quarterly principal payments in an amount per quarter equal to 2.50% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding; for each quarter beginning June 30, 2016 through December 31, 2016, 20% of the aggregate amount of the ARLP Term Loan advances outstanding; and the remaining balance of the ARLP Term Loan advances at maturity. In June 2014, the ARLP Partnership began making quarterly principal payments on the ARLP Term Loan, leaving a balance of \$212.5 million at September 30, 2015. The ARLP Partnership has the option to prepay the ARLP Term Loan at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the Credit Agreement. Upon a change of control (as defined in the Credit Agreement), the unpaid principal amount of the ARLP Credit Facility, all interest thereon and all other amounts payable under the Credit Agreement would become due and payable. On October 16, 2015 the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility was amended to increase the baskets for capital lease obligations and sales-leaseback arrangements from \$10.0 million to \$100.0 million.





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At September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had borrowings of \$403.0 million and \$5.4 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$291.6 million available for borrowing under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility. The ARLP Partnership utilizes the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, as appropriate, for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and investments in affiliates, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments. The ARLP Partnership incurs an annual commitment fee of 0.25% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

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

The ARLP Series B Notes and the ARLP Credit Facility described above (collectively, ARLP Debt Arrangements) are guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership. The ARLP Debt Arrangements contain various covenants affecting the Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries restricting, among other things, the amount of distributions by the Intermediate Partnership, incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, sale of assets, investments, mergers and consolidations and transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions. The ARLP Debt Arrangements also require the Intermediate Partnership to remain in control of a certain amount of mineable coal reserves relative to its annual production. In addition, the ARLP Debt Arrangements require the Intermediate Partnership to maintain (a) debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 3.0 to 1.0 and (b) cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 3.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 1.23 to 1.0 and 24.3 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended September 30, 2015. The ARLP Partnership was in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of September 30, 2015.

*ARLP Accounts Receivable Securitization.* On December 5, 2014, certain direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership entered into a \$100.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility (ARLP Securitization Facility) providing additional liquidity and funding. Under the ARLP Securitization Facility, certain subsidiaries sell trade receivables on an ongoing basis to the Intermediate Partnership, which then sells the trade receivables to AROP Funding, a wholly owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership, which in turn borrows on a revolving basis up to \$100.0 million secured by the trade receivables. After the sale, Alliance Coal, as servicer of the assets, collects the receivables on behalf of AROP Funding. The ARLP Securitization Facility bears interest based on a Eurodollar Rate. The ARLP Securitization Facility has an initial term of 364 days; however, the ARLP Partnership has the contractual ability and the intent to extend the term for an additional 364 days. At September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had \$100.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Securitization Facility. Debt issuance costs were immaterial for this transaction.

*ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility.* As a result of the Hamilton Acquisition, the ARLP Partnership assumed the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility and the ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Note. Please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. In November 2014, White Oak entered into the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility with Farmers State Bank allowing for periodic borrowings up to \$10.0 million, collateralized by White Oak's accounts receivable. Borrowings under the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility carried interest at the prime rate plus 0.1%, which was 3.35% at September 30, 2015. On October 19, 2015, the outstanding balance of the Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility totaling \$10.0 million was repaid.

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*ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement.* In 2012, White Oak acquired vendor financing totaling \$100.0 million through the ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement, which was secured by continuous mining, long-wall mining, and underground belt system equipment purchased from the vendor. The ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement required repayment of principal and interest in equal monthly installments of \$2.1 million from July 2014 until June 2019. As of September 30, 2015, \$82.5 million remained outstanding on the note and carried an annual interest rate of 8.0%. On October 16, 2015, the outstanding balance of the ARLP Hamilton Equipment Financing Agreement totaling \$80.6 million was repaid without penalty with funds drawn on the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility.

*ARLP Equipment Financing Agreement.* On October 29, 2015, the ARLP Partnership entered into a sale-leaseback transaction whereby it sold certain mining equipment for \$100.0 million and concurrently entered into a lease agreement for the sold equipment with a four-year term. Under the lease agreement, the ARLP Partnership will pay an initial monthly rent of \$1.9 million. A balloon payment equal to 20% of the equipment cost is due at the end of the lease term.

*ARLP Cavalier Credit Agreement.* On October 6, 2015, Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC (Cavalier Minerals) entered into a credit agreement (the Cavalier Credit Agreement) with Mineral Lending, LLC (Mineral Lending) for a \$100.0 million line of credit (the ARLP Cavalier Credit Facility). Please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 9. Variable Interest Entities of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. There is no commitment fee under the facility. Borrowings under the ARLP Cavalier Credit Facility bear interest at a one month LIBOR rate plus 6% with interest payable quarterly. Repayment of the principal balance will begin following the first fiscal quarter after the earlier of the date on which the aggregate amount borrowed exceeds \$90.0 million or December 31, 2017, in quarterly payments of an amount equal to the greater of \$1.3 million initially, escalated to \$2.5 million after two years, or fifty percent of Cavalier Minerals' excess cash flow. The ARLP Cavalier Credit Facility matures September 30, 2024, at which time all amounts then outstanding are required to be repaid. Cavalier Minerals may prepay the ARLP Cavalier Credit Facility at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the ARLP Cavalier Credit Agreement.

*Other.* In addition to the letters of credit available under the ARLP Credit Facility discussed above, the ARLP Partnership also has agreements with two banks to provide additional letters of credit in an aggregate amount of \$31.1 million to maintain surety bonds to secure certain asset retirement obligations and its obligations for workers' compensation benefits. At September 30, 2015, the ARLP Partnership had \$30.7 million in letters of credit outstanding under agreements with these two banks.

### **Related-Party Transactions**

The ARLP Partnership has continuing related-party transactions with us, SGP and our respective affiliates. These related-party transactions relate principally to the provision of administrative services to us and Alliance Resource Holdings II, Inc. and our respective affiliates, mineral and equipment leases with SGP and its affiliates and agreements relating to the use of aircraft. Recently, the ARLP Partnership entered into three mineral leases with WKY CoalPlay, LLC (WKY CoalPlay), an affiliate of SGP. The ARLP Partnership also had transactions with AllDale Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals to support the acquisition of oil and gas mineral interests. For more information regarding WKY CoalPlay, AllDale Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 9. Variable Interest Entities and Note 10. Equity Investment of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Please read our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Related-Party Transactions for additional information concerning related-party transactions.

On July 31, 2015, the ARLP Partnership acquired the remaining equity interests in White Oak which the ARLP Partnership had previously considered to be a related party as a result of its 40% ownership. As a result of this acquisition, White Oak's activities are included in our consolidated results.



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For more information regarding the White Oak acquisition, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

**New Accounting Standards**

*New Accounting Standard Issued and Adopted*

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

In September 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-16, *Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments* ( ASU 2015-16 ). ASU 2015-16 requires that an acquirer within a business combination recognize adjustments to provisional amounts that are identified during the measurement period in the reporting period in which the adjustment amounts are determined. ASU 2015-16 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 with early adoption permitted and shall be applied prospectively after adoption. We elected to early adopt the standard in September 2015. The adoption of ASU 2015-16 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

*New Accounting Standards Issued and Not Yet Adopted*

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ( ASU 2014-09 ). ASU 2014-09 is a new revenue recognition standard that provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle of the new standard is an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The standard will be applied retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. ASU 2014-09 was originally effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2016. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Deferral of the Effective Date*, which defers the effective date by one year while providing the option to early adopt the standard on the original effective date. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2014-09.

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

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ASU 2014-15 will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, *Consolidation* ( ASU 2015-02 ). ASU 2015-02 changes the requirements and analysis required when determining the reporting entity's need to consolidate an entity, including modifying the evaluation of limited partnership variable interest status, presumption that a general partner should consolidate a limited partnership and the consolidation criterion applied by a reporting entity involved with variable interest entities. ASU 2015-02 is effective for fiscal

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years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and shall be applied retrospectively to each period presented. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2015-02.

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

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

**Other Information**

***White Oak IRS Notice***

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

***Regulation and Laws***

Reference is made to Item 1. Business Regulation and Laws Air Emissions in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

In August 2015, the EPA issued its final Clean Power Plan rules that establish carbon pollution standards for power plants, called CO2 emission performance rates. The EPA expects each state to develop implementation plans for power plants in its state to meet the individual state targets established in the Clean Power Plan. The EPA has given states the option to develop compliance plans for annual rate-based reductions (pounds per megawatt hour) or mass-based tonnage limits for CO2. The state plans are due in September 2016, subject to potential extensions of up to two years for final plan submission. The compliance period begins in 2022, and emission reductions will be phased in up to 2030. The EPA also proposed a federal compliance plan to implement the Clean Power Plan in the event that an approvable state plan is not submitted to the EPA.

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We expect that judicial challenges will be filed, which may result in a stay of the implementation of the rules. Nevertheless, if the rules are implemented in their current form, the market for coal may be decreased, potentially significantly. We are continuing to evaluate the rules and are not in position to make any meaningful determination about the extent of the impacts to our operations.

In October 2015, the EPA issued final regulations that lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard, or NAAQS, for ozone from 75 parts per billion, or ppb, for both the 8-hour primary and secondary standards, to 70 ppb. The EPA intends to designate attainment and nonattainment areas by October 1, 2017, and states with moderate or higher nonattainment areas must submit state



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implementation plans, or SIPs, by October 1, 2021. The adoption of the revised ozone NAAQS may require states to enact additional regulations to control emissions of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides from certain sources, which could apply to our operations and result in increased compliance costs.

In May 2015, the EPA released a final rule that sets forth changes to its definition of “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act (CWA). In August 2015, a federal district judge in North Dakota enjoined implementation of the rule in 13 states. Federal district judges in West Virginia and Georgia denied similar motions for injunctions for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, while district judges in several other jurisdictions have stayed their cases until the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ruled on whether to consolidate all of the district court cases in a single court. In October 2015, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation declined to consolidate the various district court cases in a single court. In addition, in October 2015, the Sixth Circuit issued a nationwide stay of the rule until it determines whether it has jurisdiction over the petitions for review brought in the federal appellate courts. Although the EPA has stated that the rule does not create any new permitting requirements and maintains all previous exemptions and exclusions to CWA jurisdiction, we are currently evaluating the effects, if any, the finalized rule may have on our operations or permitting obligations. Any expansion to CWA jurisdiction could impose additional permitting obligations on our operations, which may adversely impact our coal production or results of operations.

***Insurance***

Effective October 1, 2015, the ARLP Partnership renewed its annual property and casualty insurance program. The ARLP Partnership’s property insurance was procured from its wholly owned captive insurance company, Wildcat Insurance. Wildcat Insurance charged certain of the ARLP Partnership’s subsidiaries for the premiums on this program and in return purchased reinsurance for the program in the standard market. The maximum limit in the commercial property program is \$100.0 million per occurrence, excluding a \$1.5 million deductible for property damage, a 75, 90 or 120 day waiting period for underground business interruption depending on the mining complex and an additional \$10.0 million overall aggregate deductible. The ARLP Partnership can make no assurances that it will not experience significant insurance claims in the future that could have a material adverse effect on the ARLP Partnership’s business, financial condition, results of operations and ability to purchase property insurance in the future.

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**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Our ownership interests, results of operations and cash flows principally reflect those of the ARLP Partnership. As such, our discussions of market risk reflect those risks as they apply to the ARLP Partnership.

**Commodity Price Risk**

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

The ARLP Partnership has exposure to price risk for items that are used directly or indirectly in the normal course of coal production such as steel, electricity and other supplies. The ARLP Partnership manages its risk for these items through strategic sourcing contracts for normal quantities required by its operations. The ARLP Partnership does not utilize any commodity price-hedges or other derivatives related to these risks.

**Credit Risk**

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

**Exchange Rate Risk**

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

**Interest Rate Risk**

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Borrowings under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, ARLP Securitization Facility, ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility and ARLP Cavalier Credit Agreement are at variable rates and, as a result, the ARLP Partnership has interest rate exposure. Historically, the ARLP Partnership's earnings have not been materially affected by changes in interest rates. The ARLP Partnership does not utilize any interest rate derivative instruments related to its outstanding debt. The ARLP Partnership had \$403.0 million in borrowings under the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, \$212.5 million outstanding under the ARLP Term Loan, \$10.0 million outstanding under the ARLP Hamilton Revolving Credit Facility and \$100.0 million in borrowings under the ARLP Securitization Facility at September 30, 2015. A one percentage point increase in the interest rates related to the ARLP Revolving Credit Facility, ARLP Term Loan and ARLP Securitization Facility would result in an annualized increase in 2015 interest expense of \$7.3 million, based on interest rate and borrowing levels at September 30, 2015. With respect to the ARLP Partnership's fixed-rate borrowings, a one percentage point increase in interest rates would result in a decrease of approximately \$3.9 million in the estimated fair value of these borrowings.

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As of September 30, 2015, the estimated fair value of the ARLP Debt Arrangements was approximately \$963.8 million. The fair values of long-term debt are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based upon the ARLP Partnership's current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements as of September 30, 2015. There were no other changes in our quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk as set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

We maintain controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure. As required by Rule 13a-15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), we have evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) or Rule 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act) as of September 30, 2015. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these controls and procedures are effective as of September 30, 2015.

During the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015, other than changes that have resulted or may result from the ARLP Partnership's purchase of the remaining equity of White Oak Resources LLC ( White Oak ) which included the operations of the Hamilton mine ( Hamilton ) as described below, there have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) identified in connection with this evaluation that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

On July 31, 2015 (the Hamilton Acquisition Date ), the ARLP Partnership acquired the remaining Series A and B Units, representing 60% of the voting interests in White Oak as described in Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 4. Acquisitions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. As of the Hamilton Acquisition Date, the ARLP Partnership owned 100% of the equity interests in White Oak and assumed operating control of the Hamilton mine and began accounting for White Oak on a consolidated basis. At this time, the ARLP Partnership continues to evaluate the business and internal controls and processes of Hamilton and are making various changes to their operating and organizational structures based on the ARLP Partnership's business plan. The ARLP Partnership is in the process of implementing its internal control structure over the acquired business. The ARLP Partnership expects to complete the evaluation and integration of the internal controls and processes of Hamilton in fiscal year 2016.

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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements and information in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may constitute forward-looking statements. These statements are based on our beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, us. When used in this document, the words anticipate, believe, continue, estimate, expect, forecast, may, project, will, and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Limiting the foregoing, all statements relating to our future outlook, anticipated capital expenditures, future cash flows and borrowings and sources of funding are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to numerous assumptions that we believe are reasonable, but are open to a wide range of uncertainties and business risks, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in these statements. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ from those in the forward-looking statements are:

- changes in competition in coal markets and the ARLP Partnership's ability to respond to such changes;
- changes in coal prices, which could affect the ARLP Partnership's operating results and cash flows;
- risks associated with the ARLP Partnership's expansion of its operations and properties;
- legislation, regulations, and court decisions and interpretations thereof, including those relating to the environment, mining, miner health and safety and health care;
- deregulation of the electric utility industry or the effects of any adverse change in the coal industry, electric utility industry, or general economic conditions;
- dependence on significant customer contracts, including renewing customer contracts upon expiration of existing contracts;
- changing global economic conditions or in industries in which the ARLP Partnership's customers operate;
- liquidity constraints, including those resulting from any future unavailability of financing;
- customer bankruptcies, cancellations or breaches to existing contracts, or other failures to perform;
- customer delays, failure to take coal under contracts or defaults in making payments;
- adjustments made in price, volume or terms to existing coal supply agreements;
- fluctuations in coal demand, prices and availability;
- the ARLP Partnership's productivity levels and margins earned on its coal sales;
- changes in raw material costs;
- changes in the availability of skilled labor;
- the ARLP Partnership's ability to maintain satisfactory relations with its employees;

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- increases in labor costs, adverse changes in work rules, or cash payments or projections associated with post-mine reclamation and workers compensation claims;
- increases in transportation costs and risk of transportation delays or interruptions;
- operational interruptions due to geologic, permitting, labor, weather-related or other factors;
- risks associated with major mine-related accidents, such as mine fires, or interruptions;
- results of litigation, including claims not yet asserted;
- difficulty maintaining the ARLP Partnership's surety bonds for mine reclamation as well as workers compensation and black lung benefits;
- difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding pension, black lung benefits and other post-retirement benefit liabilities;
- the coal industry's share of electricity generation, including as a result of environmental concerns related to coal mining and combustion and the cost and perceived benefits of other sources of electricity, such as natural gas, nuclear energy and renewable fuels;
- uncertainties in estimating and replacing the ARLP Partnership's coal reserves;
- a loss or reduction of benefits from certain tax deductions and credits;

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- difficulty obtaining commercial property insurance, and risks associated with the ARLP Partnership's participation (excluding any applicable deductible) in the commercial insurance property program;
- difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding future revenues and costs associated with equity investments in companies we do not control; and
- other factors, including those discussed in Part II. Item 1A. Risk Factors and Part II. Item 1. Legal Proceedings of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

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

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

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

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**PART II**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The information in Note 3. Contingencies to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I. Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q herein is hereby incorporated by reference. See also Item 3. Legal Proceedings of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

In addition to the other information set forth in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are not our only risks. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial based on current knowledge and factual circumstances, if such knowledge or facts change, also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results in the future. We do not believe there have been any material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, except as follows.

*The tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships or an investment in our units could be subject to potential legislative, judicial or administrative changes or differing interpretations, possibly applied on a retroactive basis.*

The present U.S. federal income tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships, including us and ARLP, or an investment in our common units may be modified by administrative, legislative or judicial changes or differing interpretations at any time. For example, the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget proposed by the President recommends that certain publicly traded partnerships earning income from activities related to fossil fuels be taxed as corporations beginning in 2021. From time to time, members of Congress propose and consider such substantive changes to the existing U.S. federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. If successful, the Obama administration's proposal or other similar proposals could eliminate the qualifying income exception to the treatment of all publicly-traded partnerships as corporations upon which we rely for our treatment as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

In addition, the IRS, on May 5, 2015, issued proposed regulations concerning which activities give rise to qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code. We do not believe the proposed regulations affect our ability, or the ability of ARLP, to qualify as a publicly traded partnership. However, finalized regulations could modify the amount of gross income that we and ARLP are able to treat as qualifying income for the purposes of the qualifying income requirement.



Any modification to the U.S. federal income tax laws may be applied retroactively and could make it more difficult or impossible for us or ARLP to meet the exception for certain publicly traded partnerships to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We are unable to predict whether any of these changes or other proposals will ultimately be enacted. Any such changes could negatively impact the value of an investment in our common units.

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

None.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

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

**ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

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**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Form	Incorporated by Reference			Filed Herewith*
			SEC File No. and Film No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	
10.1	Amendment No. 1 to the Third Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of October 16, 2015.	8-K	000-51952 151170927	10.1	10/22/2015	
10.2	Master Lease Agreement, dated as of October 29, 2015, between Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., Hamilton County Coal, LLC and White Oak Resources LLC, as lessees, and PNC Equipment Finance, LLC and the other lessors named therein.	8-K	000-51952 151198029	10.1	11/04/2015	
31.1	Certification of Joseph W. Craft, III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 6, 2015, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					
31.2	Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 6, 2015, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					
32.1	Certification of Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 6, 2015, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					
32.2	Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., dated November 6, 2015, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					
95.1	Federal Mine Safety and Health Act Information					
101	Interactive Data File (Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 filed in XBRL).					

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

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on November 6, 2015.

ALLIANCE HOLDINGS GP, L.P.

By: Alliance GP, LLC  
its general partner

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

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