



Northern Natural Gas Company

**Financial Statements (Unaudited) as of and for the
Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2015**

Northern Natural Gas Company
Balance Sheets (Unaudited)
(Amounts in thousands, except share data)

	As of	
	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 76,575	\$ 46,901
Accounts receivable, net	34,220	73,151
Accounts receivable from affiliates	3,181	9,746
Notes receivable from BHE	155,000	175,000
Transportation and exchange gas receivables	3,975	14,666
Inventories	26,262	26,253
Income tax receivable	1,450	28,801
Other current assets	20,327	20,135
Total current assets	320,990	394,653
Property, plant and equipment, net	2,625,270	2,548,798
Regulatory assets	163,111	154,391
Other assets	47,231	46,747
Total assets	\$ 3,156,602	\$ 3,144,589
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 29,651	\$ 64,340
Accounts payable to affiliates	719	841
Accrued interest	6,772	13,114
Accrued property, income and other taxes	51,881	47,081
Transportation and exchange gas payables	2,244	13,669
Derivative contracts	12,883	9,807
Current portion of long-term debt	—	99,994
Other current liabilities	35,720	34,533
Total current liabilities	139,870	283,379
Regulatory liabilities	25,501	25,597
Derivative contracts	64,565	59,713
Asset retirement obligations	30,686	31,284
Long-term debt	799,456	799,441
Deferred income taxes	642,756	597,087
Other long-term liabilities	19,951	18,006
Total liabilities	1,722,785	1,814,507
Commitments and contingencies (Notes 4 and 6)		
Shareholder's equity:		
Series A preferred stock - 1,000 shares authorized, \$0.01 par value, no shares issued and outstanding	—	—
Common stock - 10,000 shares authorized, \$1.00 par value, 1,002 shares issued and outstanding	1	1
Additional paid-in capital	981,868	981,868
Retained earnings	451,641	347,717
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net	307	496
Total shareholder's equity	1,433,817	1,330,082
Total liabilities and shareholder's equity	\$ 3,156,602	\$ 3,144,589

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Natural Gas Company
Statements of Income (Unaudited)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014
Operating revenue:		
Transportation	\$ 388,879	\$ 387,678
Storage	45,963	45,509
Gas, liquids and other sales	32,369	102,471
Total operating revenue	<u>467,211</u>	<u>535,658</u>
Operating costs and expenses:		
Operating and maintenance	142,219	142,375
Cost of gas and liquids sales	35,126	104,674
Depreciation and amortization	51,913	52,830
Taxes, other than income taxes	42,257	41,049
Total operating costs and expenses	<u>271,515</u>	<u>340,928</u>
Operating income	<u>195,696</u>	<u>194,730</u>
Other income (expense):		
Interest expense, net	(30,632)	(32,591)
Interest income	932	1,005
Other, net	6,733	11,258
Total other income (expense)	<u>(22,967)</u>	<u>(20,328)</u>
Income before income tax expense	172,729	174,402
Income tax expense	68,805	69,480
Net income	<u>\$ 103,924</u>	<u>\$ 104,922</u>

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Northern Natural Gas Company
Statements of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014
Net income	\$ 103,924	\$ 104,922
Other comprehensive (loss) income -		
Unrealized (losses) gains on cash flow hedges, net of tax of \$(125) and \$134	(189)	204
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 103,735</u>	<u>\$ 105,126</u>

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Northern Natural Gas Company
Statements of Changes in Shareholder's Equity (Unaudited)
(Amounts in thousands)

	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Additional Paid-In Capital</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income, net</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance, December 31, 2013	\$ 1	\$ 981,868	\$ 378,518	\$ (248)	\$ 1,360,139
Net income	—	—	104,922	—	104,922
Other comprehensive income - cash flow hedges	—	—	—	204	204
Dividends on common stock	—	—	(181,076)	—	(181,076)
Balance, September 30, 2014	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 981,868</u>	<u>\$ 302,364</u>	<u>\$ (44)</u>	<u>\$ 1,284,189</u>
Balance, December 31, 2014	\$ 1	\$ 981,868	\$ 347,717	\$ 496	\$ 1,330,082
Net income	—	—	103,924	—	103,924
Other comprehensive loss - cash flow hedges	—	—	—	(189)	(189)
Balance, September 30, 2015	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 981,868</u>	<u>\$ 451,641</u>	<u>\$ 307</u>	<u>\$ 1,433,817</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Natural Gas Company
Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 103,924	\$ 104,922
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	51,913	52,830
Amortization of deferred financing costs	301	241
Deferred income taxes	43,427	40,422
Other, net	3,961	2,571
Changes in other operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable and other assets	36,537	37,253
Inventories	(7)	(359)
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	(11,481)	1,714
Gas balancing activities	(1,394)	(349)
Accrued property, income and other taxes	32,152	(3,783)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>259,333</u>	<u>235,462</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(140,986)	(149,198)
Plant removal costs	(6,431)	(1,880)
Purchases of marketable securities	(4,455)	—
Proceeds from sales of marketable securities	2,213	—
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>(149,659)</u>	<u>(151,078)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Dividends on common stock	—	(181,076)
Repayment of long-term debt	(100,000)	—
Proceeds from redemption of promissory notes from BHE	70,000	80,000
Issuance of promissory notes by BHE	(50,000)	—
Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>(101,076)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	29,674	(16,692)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	46,901	122,703
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 76,575</u>	<u>\$ 106,011</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Natural Gas Company
Notes to Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

(1) General

Northern Natural Gas Company (the "Company") is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company ("BHE"), a holding company that owns subsidiaries principally engaged in the energy business. BHE is a consolidated subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. ("Berkshire Hathaway"). The Company owns the largest interstate natural gas pipeline system in the United States, as measured by pipeline miles, which reaches from southern Texas to Michigan's Upper Peninsula (the "System"). The System, which is interconnected with many interstate and intrastate pipelines in the national grid system, consists of two operationally integrated systems. Its traditional end-use and distribution market area in the northern part of its system, referred to as the Market Area, includes points in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Michigan and Illinois. Its natural gas supply and delivery service area in the southern part of its system, referred to as the Field Area, includes points in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The Company primarily transports and stores natural gas for utilities, municipalities, gas marketing companies, industrial and commercial users and other end-users. The System consists of 14,700 miles of natural gas pipelines, including 6,300 miles of mainline transmission pipelines and 8,400 miles of branch and lateral pipelines, with a Market Area design capacity of 5.7 billion cubic feet ("Bcf") per day and a Field Area delivery capacity of 1.7 Bcf per day to the Market Area. Additionally, the Company has three underground natural gas storage facilities and two liquefied natural gas storage peaking units that have a total firm service and operational storage cycle capacity of over 73 Bcf and 2.0 Bcf per day of peak delivery capability. The System is configured with approximately 2,300 active receipt and delivery points which are integrated with the facilities of local distribution companies ("LDC"). Many of the Company's LDC customers are part of combined utilities that also use natural gas as a fuel source for electric generation. The Company delivers over 0.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas to its customers annually.

The Company has no subsidiaries and does not hold a controlling financial interest in any other entity. The unaudited Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") for interim financial information. Accordingly, they do not include all of the disclosures required by GAAP for annual financial statements. Management believes the unaudited Financial Statements contain all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary for the fair presentation of the unaudited Financial Statements as of September 30, 2015 and for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. The results of operations for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year. The Company has evaluated subsequent events through November 23, 2015, which is the date the unaudited Financial Statements were available to be issued.

The preparation of the unaudited Financial Statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the unaudited Financial Statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results may differ from the estimates used in preparing the unaudited Financial Statements. Note 2 of Notes to Financial Statements included in the Company's audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2014 describes the most significant accounting policies used in the preparation of the unaudited Financial Statements. There have been no significant changes in the Company's assumptions regarding significant accounting estimates and policies during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015.

(2) New Accounting Pronouncements

In April 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2015-03, which amends FASB Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Subtopic 835-30, "Interest - Imputation of Interest." The amendments in this guidance require that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt liability instead of as an asset. This guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. This guidance must be adopted retrospectively, wherein the balance sheet of each period presented should be adjusted to reflect the new guidance. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting this guidance on its Financial Statements and disclosures included within Notes to Financial Statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, which creates FASB ASC Topic 606, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" and supersedes ASC Topic 605, "Revenue Recognition." The guidance replaces industry-specific guidance and establishes a single five-step model to identify and recognize revenue. The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue upon transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Additionally, the guidance requires the entity to disclose further quantitative and qualitative information regarding the nature and amount of revenues arising from contracts with customers, as well as other information about the significant judgments and estimates used in recognizing revenues from contracts with customers. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-14, which defers the effective date of ASU No. 2014-09 one year to interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. This guidance may be adopted retrospectively or under a modified retrospective method where the cumulative effect is recognized at the date of initial application. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting this guidance on its Financial Statements and disclosures included within Notes to Financial Statements.

(3) Employee Benefit Plans

The Company is a participant in benefit plans sponsored by MidAmerican Energy Company ("MEC"), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE. The MidAmerican Energy Company Retirement Plan provides pension benefits for eligible employees ("pension plan") and the MidAmerican Energy Company Welfare Benefit Plan provides certain postretirement health care and life insurance benefits for eligible retirees ("other postretirement plan") on behalf of the Company. The Company's contributions to the pension plan and other postretirement plan totaled \$0.6 million and \$0.8 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. As of September 30, 2015, the Company recorded in other long-term liabilities its portion of the under funded status of the pension plan and in other assets its portion of the over funded status of the other postretirement plan of \$2.3 million and \$24.3 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, the Company recorded in other long-term liabilities its portion of the under funded status of the pension plan and in other assets its portion of the over funded status of the other postretirement plan of \$2.3 million and \$23.2 million, respectively. Amounts attributable to the Company were allocated from MEC to the Company in accordance with the intercompany administrative service agreement. Offsetting regulatory assets and liabilities have been recorded related to the amounts not yet recognized as a component of net periodic benefit costs that will be included in regulated rates.

(4) Risk Management and Hedging Activities

The Company is exposed to the impact of market fluctuations in natural gas prices as supply and demand are impacted by, among many other unpredictable items, weather, market liquidity, customer usage, storage and transportation constraints. The Company does not engage in a material amount of proprietary trading activities.

The Company has established a risk management process that is designed to identify, assess, monitor, report, manage and mitigate each of the various types of risk involved in its business. To mitigate a portion of its natural gas price risk, the Company uses commodity derivative contracts generally at fixed prices to hedge natural gas for operational and preferred deferred delivery ("PDD") storage, fuel requirements and other transactions. The Company uses natural gas commodity swaps to hedge the margin on forecasted gas sales and purchases required for operational storage balancing purposes and to hedge the margin on anticipated future PDD storage contracts. The Company uses crude oil and natural gas commodity swaps to hedge the margin on forecasted sales of condensate.

For certain designated markets, certain customers pay a fixed price of \$0.09 per decatherm ("dth") of volumes delivered to purchase compressor fuel and system use gas from the Company. The Company estimates it will be required to purchase an annual average of 1.2 Bcf of natural gas through October 2022 to meet these requirements based on a projected average system requirements factor of 1.3% of volumes delivered. The Company's contracts with these customers provide service through October 2019, with annual renewal options for one customer to continue service through October 2022. As of September 30, 2015, the Company had entered into swap agreements covering the expected contractual requirements through October 2022.

Interest rate risk exists on future debt issuances. The Company manages its interest rate risk by limiting its exposure to variable interest rates primarily through the issuance of fixed-rate long-term debt and by monitoring market changes in interest rates. Additionally, the Company may from time to time enter into interest rate derivative contracts, such as interest rate swaps or locks, to mitigate the Company's exposure to interest rate risk. The Company does not hedge all of its commodity price and interest rate risks, thereby exposing the unhedged portion to changes in market prices.

There have been no significant changes in the Company's accounting policies related to derivatives. Refer to Note 5 for additional information on derivative contracts.

The following table, which reflects master netting arrangements and excludes contracts that have been designated as normal under the normal purchases or normal sales exception afforded by GAAP, summarizes the fair value of the Company's derivative contracts, on a gross basis, and reconciles those amounts to the amounts presented on a net basis on the Balance Sheets (in thousands):

	Derivative Assets		Derivative Liabilities		Total
	Current ⁽¹⁾	Noncurrent	Current	Noncurrent	
As of September 30, 2015					
Not designated as hedging contracts⁽²⁾:					
Commodity assets	\$ 867	\$ —	\$ 342	\$ —	\$ 1,209
Commodity liabilities	—	—	(13,467)	(64,564)	(78,031)
Total	<u>867</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(13,125)</u>	<u>(64,564)</u>	<u>(76,822)</u>
Designated as cash flow hedging contracts:					
Commodity assets	609	—	291	—	900
Commodity liabilities	(53)	—	(50)	—	(103)
Total	<u>556</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>797</u>
Total derivatives - net basis⁽³⁾	<u>\$ 1,423</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (12,884)</u>	<u>\$ (64,564)</u>	<u>\$ (76,025)</u>
As of December 31, 2014					
Not designated as hedging contracts⁽²⁾:					
Commodity assets	\$ 3,134	\$ —	\$ 801	\$ —	\$ 3,935
Commodity liabilities	(1,350)	—	(11,625)	(59,713)	(72,688)
Total	<u>1,784</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(10,824)</u>	<u>(59,713)</u>	<u>(68,753)</u>
Designated as cash flow hedging contracts:					
Commodity assets	—	—	1,017	—	1,017
Commodity liabilities	(195)	—	—	—	(195)
Total	<u>(195)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,017</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>822</u>
Total derivatives - net basis⁽³⁾	<u>\$ 1,589</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (9,807)</u>	<u>\$ (59,713)</u>	<u>\$ (67,931)</u>

- (1) Current derivative assets are included in other current assets on the Balance Sheets.
- (2) The Company's commodity derivatives not designated as hedging contracts are generally included in regulated rates, and as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, a regulatory asset of \$76.8 million and \$68.8 million, respectively, was recorded related to the net derivative liability of \$76.8 million and \$68.8 million, respectively.
- (3) The net notional amounts of outstanding commodity derivative contracts with fixed price terms that comprise the mark-to-market values included above are 10 million and 15 million dth of natural gas purchases as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, and 1 million gallons of crude oil sales as of December 31, 2014. As of September 30, 2015, the Company had no derivative contracts of crude oil sales.

Not Designated as Hedging Contracts

The following table reconciles the beginning and ending balances of the Company's regulatory assets and summarizes the pre-tax gains and losses on commodity derivative contracts recognized in regulatory assets, as well as amounts reclassified to earnings for the nine-month periods ended September 30 (in thousands):

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Beginning balance	\$ 68,753	\$ 69,338
Changes in fair value recognized in regulatory assets	15,120	(766)
Net gains reclassified to operating revenue	1,380	83
Net losses reclassified to cost of gas and liquids sales	(8,431)	(4,880)
Ending balance	<u>\$ 76,822</u>	<u>\$ 63,775</u>

Designated as Hedging Contracts

The following table reconciles the beginning and ending balances of the Company's accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss (pre-tax) and summarizes pre-tax gains and losses on commodity derivative contracts designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges recognized in other comprehensive income ("OCI"), as well as amounts reclassified to earnings for the nine-month periods ended September 30 (in thousands):

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Beginning balance	\$ (822)	\$ 411
Changes in fair value recognized in OCI	(1,117)	(36)
Net gains (losses) reclassified to operating revenue	1,142	(302)
Ending balance	<u>\$ (797)</u>	<u>\$ 73</u>

Realized gains and losses on hedges and hedge ineffectiveness are recognized on the Statements of Income as operating revenue or cost of gas and liquids sales depending upon the nature of the item being hedged. For each of the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, hedge ineffectiveness was insignificant.

Credit Risk

The Company is exposed to counterparty credit risk associated with wholesale energy supply and marketing activities with other utilities, energy marketing companies, financial institutions and other market participants. Credit risk may be concentrated to the extent the Company's counterparties have similar economic, industry or other characteristics and due to direct or indirect relationships among the counterparties. Before entering into a transaction, the Company analyzes the financial condition of each significant wholesale counterparty, establishes limits on the amount of unsecured credit to be extended to each counterparty and evaluates the appropriateness of unsecured credit limits on an ongoing basis. To further mitigate wholesale counterparty credit risk, the Company enters into netting and collateral arrangements that may include margining and cross-product netting agreements and obtain third-party guarantees, letters of credit and cash deposits. If required, the Company exercises rights under these arrangements, including calling on the counterparty's credit support arrangement.

Collateral and Contingent Features

In accordance with industry practice, certain derivative contracts contain credit support provisions that in part base certain collateral requirements on credit ratings for senior unsecured debt as reported by one or more of the three recognized credit rating agencies. These derivative contracts may either specifically provide bilateral rights to demand cash or other security if credit exposures on a net basis exceed specified rating-dependent threshold levels ("credit-risk-related contingent features") or provide the right for counterparties to demand "adequate assurance," or in some cases terminate the contract, in the event of a material adverse change in creditworthiness. These rights can vary by contract and by counterparty. As of September 30, 2015, the Company's credit ratings from the three recognized credit rating agencies were investment grade.

The aggregate fair value of the Company's derivative contracts in liability positions with specific credit-risk-related contingent features totaled \$78.1 million and \$72.9 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, for which the Company had posted collateral of \$0.6 million and \$- million, respectively, in the form of cash deposits. If all credit-risk-related contingent features for derivative contracts in liability positions had been triggered as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the Company would have been required to post an additional \$76.9 million and \$67.9 million, respectively, of collateral. The Company's collateral requirements could fluctuate considerably due to market price volatility, changes in credit ratings, changes in legislation or regulation, or other factors.

(5) Fair Value Measurements

The carrying value of the Company's cash, certain cash equivalents, receivables, payables and accrued liabilities approximates fair value because of the short-term maturity of these instruments. The Company has various financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on the Financial Statements using inputs from the three levels of the fair value hierarchy. A financial asset or liability classification within the hierarchy is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels are as follows:

- Level 1 - Inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 - Inputs include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means (market corroborated inputs).
- Level 3 - Unobservable inputs reflect the Company's judgments about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability since limited market data exists. The Company develops these inputs based on the best information available, including its own data.

The following table presents the Company's assets and liabilities recognized on the Balance Sheets and measured at fair value on a recurring basis (in thousands):

	Input Levels for Fair Value Measurements			Other⁽¹⁾	Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		
<u>As of September 30, 2015</u>					
Assets:					
Commodity derivatives	\$ —	\$ 2,109	\$ —	\$ (686)	\$ 1,423
Money market mutual funds ⁽²⁾	91,882	—	—	—	91,882
Investment funds	1,963	—	—	—	1,963
	<u>\$ 93,845</u>	<u>\$ 2,109</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (686)</u>	<u>\$ 95,268</u>
Liabilities - commodity derivatives	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (78,134)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 686</u>	<u>\$ (77,448)</u>
<u>As of December 31, 2014</u>					
Assets:					
Commodity derivatives	\$ —	\$ 4,952	\$ —	\$ (3,363)	\$ 1,589
Money market mutual funds ⁽²⁾	69,846	—	—	—	69,846
	<u>\$ 69,846</u>	<u>\$ 4,952</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (3,363)</u>	<u>\$ 71,435</u>
Liabilities - commodity derivatives	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (72,883)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 3,363</u>	<u>\$ (69,520)</u>

(1) Represents netting under master netting arrangements.

(2) Amounts are included in cash and cash equivalents, other current assets and other assets on the Balance Sheets. The fair value of money market mutual funds approximates cost.

Derivative contracts are recorded on the Balance Sheets as either assets or liabilities and are stated at estimated fair value unless they are designated as normal purchases or normal sales and qualify for the exception afforded by GAAP. When available, the fair value of derivative contracts is estimated using unadjusted quoted prices for identical contracts in the market in which the Company transacts. When quoted prices for identical contracts are not available, the Company uses forward price curves. Forward price curves represent the Company's estimates of the prices at which a buyer or seller could contract today for delivery or settlement at future dates. The Company bases its forward price curves upon market price quotations, when available, or internally developed and commercial models, with internal and external fundamental data inputs. Market price quotations are obtained from independent energy brokers, exchanges, direct communication with market participants and actual transactions executed by the Company. Market price quotations for certain major natural gas and crude oil trading hubs are generally readily obtainable for the applicable term of the Company's outstanding derivative contracts; therefore, the Company's forward price curves for those locations and periods reflect observable market quotes. The estimated fair value of these derivative contracts is a function of underlying forward commodity prices, related volatility, counterparty creditworthiness and duration of contracts. Refer to Note 4 for further discussion regarding the Company's risk management and hedging activities.

The Company's investments in money market mutual funds are accounted for as available-for-sale securities and are stated at fair value. Investment funds are accounted for as trading securities and are stated at fair value. A readily observable quoted market price or net asset value of an identical security in an active market is used to record the fair value.

(6) Commitments and Contingencies

Legal Matters

The Company is party to a variety of legal actions arising out of the normal course of business. Plaintiffs occasionally seek punitive or exemplary damages. The Company does not believe that such normal and routine litigation will have a material impact on its financial results. The Company is also involved in other kinds of legal actions, some of which assert or may assert claims or seek to impose fines, penalties and other costs in substantial amounts and are described below.

The Company's storage gas migrated from its former certificated storage field boundaries near Cunningham, Kansas and was produced on leaseholds held by Nash Oil & Gas, Inc. ("Nash"), L.D. Drilling Company ("LD Drilling"), Val Energy, Inc. ("Val Energy") and Iuka-Carmi Development, LLC. In order to mitigate its losses, the Company initiated the following actions:

- In September 2009, the Company filed an application with the FERC to extend the boundaries of the Cunningham natural gas storage facility. In June 2010, FERC issued an order granting the Company certificate authority to extend the boundaries of the Cunningham natural gas storage facility by 12,320 acres. The Company either acquired leases or purchased the property on 3,696 acres, or 30% of the extension area. In July 2010, the Company filed a complaint in federal district court to acquire the remaining necessary interests by eminent domain. The federal district court established a three-person compensation commission in September 2012, to determine the value of the interests to be taken. In March 2014, the federal district court found that the Company must compensate the defendants for all gas in the extension area, including storage gas. The condemnation panel issued a report in August 2014, recommending a total award of \$7.3 million. The federal district court issued a decision in February 2015, adopting the condemnation panel's recommendations. Final judgment was entered in September 2015. The Company's motion to stay execution of the judgment and bond was approved in October 2015. The Company filed its appeal of the final condemnation order to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in November 2015. All of the defendants have cross-appealed.
- The Company filed a lawsuit in December 2008 against Nash, LD Drilling and Val Energy in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas ("District Court") for nuisance, conversion and unjust enrichment related to the storage gas losses from the June 2010 FERC order through February 2011 after which the third-party wells in the extension area were shut-in. The conversion and unjust enrichment claims have been dismissed, but the nuisance claim remains. Discovery has been stayed pending the conclusion of the condemnation action discussed above and the Company anticipates the case resuming in the fourth quarter of 2015.
- In December 2009, the Company filed a lawsuit in the 13th Judicial District, District Court, Pratt County, Kansas ("Pratt County State District Court") against ONEOK Field Services Company ("ONEOK") and Lumen Energy Corporation ("Lumen") alleging conversion based on their purchase of the storage gas from the producers. In April 2010, the Pratt County State District Court granted the defendants' motion for summary judgment, finding that the Company does not have title to storage gas that has migrated beyond adjoining property. The Company appealed the decision and in March 2013, the Kansas Supreme Court determined that the Company lost title to storage gas when it migrated and was produced beyond one mile of the storage field certificated boundaries. The case has been remanded for a determination of the Company's recovery of conversion damages from ONEOK and Lumen for storage gas produced after the June 2010 FERC order. In August 2014, the Pratt County State District Court granted the producers' motion for summary judgment, finding the Company did not have a viable conversion claim related to the gas produced after June 2, 2010. The

Company filed a motion to modify the summary judgment ruling which was heard in October 2014. In June 2015, the court indicated an order would be entered denying the Company's motion. The order is expected in the fourth quarter of 2015. The proceeds from June 2010 through February 2011 when the wells were shut-in will continue to be held in suspense pending appeal with the Kansas Supreme Court. The Company has valued these amounts at approximately \$4.7 million.

In December 2011, state court petitions were filed against the Company in three counties in Kansas, alleging trespass, nuisance and unjust enrichment, arising out of the migration of the Company's storage gas. The cases were moved to federal district court in Wichita, Kansas in December 2011, at the request of the Company. The case will likely remain stayed pending the outcome of the District Court action against the producers.

While it is not possible to predict with certainty the outcome of the aforementioned litigation and other contingencies, the Company believes that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial results.

(7) Other Related Party Transactions

The Company provided gas transportation, storage and other services to MEC totaling \$41.6 million and \$41.5 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. MEC provides certain administrative and management services, including executive, financial, legal, human resources, payroll and tax, to the Company. Expenses incurred by MEC and billed to the Company are based on the individual services and expense items provided and were \$3.9 million and \$4.4 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. MEC also provided electricity and other services to the Company of \$0.6 million and \$0.5 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The Company reimbursed MEC \$41.7 million and \$40.1 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, for payroll, healthcare benefits and other benefit payments that MEC processed on behalf of the Company.

BHE provides certain administrative and management services, including executive, financial, legal and tax, to the Company. Expenses incurred by BHE and billed to the Company are based on the individual services and expense items provided and were \$1.7 million and \$3.0 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Income tax transactions with BHE resulted in net receipts of \$5.0 million and net payments of \$33.3 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

As of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the Company had accounts payable to affiliates of \$0.7 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. The Company also had accounts receivable from affiliates of \$3.2 million and \$9.7 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

The Company provides certain administrative and management services, including executive, financial, commercial, regulatory and legal, to Kern River Gas Transmission Company ("Kern River"), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE. The Company billed Kern River \$0.9 million for each of the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, for these services.

The Company possesses demand promissory notes from BHE. The balance of the demand promissory notes as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 was \$155.0 million and \$175.0 million, respectively. The notes contain variable interest rates based on 30-day LIBOR plus a fixed spread per annum. Interest income of \$0.8 million was recorded for each of the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.