

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP  
Form 10-Q  
May 07, 2010  
[Table of Contents](#)

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010

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.: 0-26823

**ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

**Delaware** **73-1564280**  
(State or other jurisdiction of **(IRS Employer**  
**incorporation or organization)** **Identification No.)**  
**1717 South Boulder Avenue, Suite 400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119**  
  
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)  
  
**(918) 295-7600**  
  
(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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).  Yes  No

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

Large Accelerated Filer  Accelerated Filer   
Non-Accelerated Filer  (Do not check if smaller reporting company) Smaller Reporting Company   
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).  Yes  No

As of May 7, 2010, 36,716,855 common units are outstanding.

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PART I**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

	<b>Page</b>
ITEM 1. <u>Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u>	1
ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009</u>	1
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009</u>	2
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009</u>	3
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	4
ITEM 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	14
ITEM 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	25
ITEM 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	26
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	27

**PART II**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

ITEM 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	29
ITEM 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	30
ITEM 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	31
ITEM 3. <u>Defaults upon Senior Securities</u>	31
ITEM 4. <u>Reserved</u>	31
ITEM 5. <u>Other Information</u>	31
ITEM 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	31

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

	<b>March 31, 2010</b>	<b>December 31, 2009</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 34,470	\$ 21,556
Trade receivables	123,731	91,223
Other receivables	2,906	3,159
Due from affiliates	1,906	83
Inventories	61,274	64,357
Advance royalties	3,629	3,629
Prepaid expenses and other assets	5,862	8,801
Total current assets	233,778	192,808
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:</b>		
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	1,445,367	1,378,914
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(585,455)	(556,370)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	859,912	822,544
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>		
Advance royalties	29,148	26,802
Other long-term assets	9,509	9,246
Total other assets	38,657	36,048
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,132,347</b>	<b>\$ 1,051,400</b>

**LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS CAPITAL****CURRENT LIABILITIES:**

Accounts payable	\$ 73,456	\$ 62,821
Due to affiliates	360	27
Accrued taxes other than income taxes	14,662	10,777
Accrued payroll and related expenses	26,104	22,101
Accrued interest	6,725	2,918
Workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis benefits	10,046	9,886
Current capital lease obligation	317	324

Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

Other current liabilities	12,382	11,062
Current maturities, long-term debt	18,000	18,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>162,052</b>	<b>137,916</b>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:</b>		
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	445,250	422,000
Pneumoconiosis benefits	35,261	34,344
Accrued pension benefit	19,688	19,696
Workers compensation	56,836	53,845
Asset retirement obligations	53,656	53,116
Due to affiliates	1,147	1,148
Long-term capital lease obligation	388	460
Other liabilities	7,968	7,895
<b>Total long-term liabilities</b>	<b>620,194</b>	<b>592,504</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>782,246</b>	<b>730,420</b>
<b>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</b>		
<b>PARTNERS CAPITAL:</b>		
Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. ( ARLP ) Partners Capital:		
Limited Partners - Common Unitholders 36,716,855 and 36,661,029 units outstanding, respectively	658,925	630,165
General Partners deficit	(291,944)	(293,153)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(16,880)	(17,149)
<b>Total ARLP Partners Capital</b>	<b>350,101</b>	<b>319,863</b>
Noncontrolling interest		1,117
<b>Total Partners Capital</b>	<b>350,101</b>	<b>320,980</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,132,347</b>	<b>\$ 1,051,400</b>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(In thousands, except unit and per unit data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
<b>SALES AND OPERATING REVENUES:</b>		
Coal sales	\$ 364,159	\$ 312,260
Transportation revenues	9,705	10,890
Other sales and operating revenues	6,797	6,150
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>380,661</b>	<b>329,300</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	239,267	196,376
Transportation expenses	9,705	10,890
Outside coal purchases	1,842	4,760
General and administrative	10,701	9,734
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	36,296	27,350
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>297,811</b>	<b>249,110</b>
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>82,850</b>	<b>80,190</b>
Interest expense (net of interest capitalized for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 of \$268 and \$215, respectively)	(7,595)	(7,981)
Interest income	51	631
Other income (expense)	(150)	226
<b>INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>	<b>75,156</b>	<b>73,066</b>
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>74,988</b>	<b>72,640</b>
<b>LESS: NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO NONCONTROLLING INTEREST</b>		<b>(129)</b>
<b>NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. ( NET INCOME OF ARLP )</b>	<b>\$ 74,988</b>	<b>\$ 72,511</b>
<b>GENERAL PARTNERS INTEREST IN NET INCOME OF ARLP</b>	<b>\$ 17,042</b>	<b>\$ 14,857</b>
<b>LIMITED PARTNERS INTEREST IN NET INCOME OF ARLP</b>	<b>\$ 57,946</b>	<b>\$ 57,654</b>
<b>BASIC NET INCOME OF ARLP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT (Note 6)</b>	<b>\$ 1.56</b>	<b>\$ 1.56</b>

Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

<b>DILUTED NET INCOME OF ARLP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT (Note 6)</b>	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.56
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS PAID PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT</b>	\$ 0.775	\$ 0.715
<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNITS OUTSTANDING - BASIC</b>	36,690,803	36,638,829
<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNITS OUTSTANDING - DILUTED</b>	36,690,803	36,638,829

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 106,646</b>	<b>\$ 75,278</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Capital expenditures	(77,457)	(85,597)
Changes in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,048	17,784
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	101	
Receipts of prior advances on Gibson rail project	562	535
Net cash used in investing activities	(70,746)	(67,278)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Borrowings under revolving credit facilities	33,250	
Payments under revolving credit facilities	(10,000)	
Payments on capital lease obligation	(79)	(86)
Net settlement of employee withholding taxes on vesting of Long-Term Incentive Plan	(1,265)	(791)
Cash contributions by General Partners	43	31
Distributions paid to Partners	(44,653)	(40,121)
Net cash used in financing activities	(22,704)	(40,967)
<b>EFFECT OF CURRENCY TRANSLATION ON CASH</b>	<b>(282)</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>12,914</b>	<b>(32,907)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>21,556</b>	<b>244,875</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 34,470</b>	<b>\$ 211,968</b>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:</b>		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 3,906	\$ 4,699
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 60	\$
<b>NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITY:</b>		
Accounts payable for purchase of property, plant and equipment	\$ 26,867	\$ 32,876



Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

Market value of common units vested in Long-Term Incentive Plan before minimum statutory tax withholding requirements	\$ 3,396	\$ 2,333
---	----------	----------

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, 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 *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., also referred to as our managing general partner.

References to *SGP* mean Alliance Resource GP, LLC, the special general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., also referred to as our special general partner.

References to *Intermediate Partnership* mean Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., the intermediate partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., also referred to as our intermediate partnership.

References to *Alliance Coal* mean Alliance Coal, LLC, the holding company for the operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., also referred to as our operating subsidiary.

References to *AHGP* mean Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.

References to *AGP* mean Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.

*Organization*

ARLP is a Delaware limited partnership listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol *ARLP*. ARLP was 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., a Delaware corporation (*ARH*), consisting of substantially all of ARH's operating subsidiaries, but excluding ARH. ARH was previously owned by our current and former management. In June 2006, our special general partner, SGP, and its parent, ARH, became wholly-owned, directly and indirectly, by Joseph W. Craft, III, a director and the President and Chief Executive Officer of our managing general partner. SGP, a Delaware limited liability company, holds a 0.01% general partner interest in each of ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership. We have a time sharing agreement for the use of aircraft and we lease certain assets, including coal reserves and certain surface facilities, owned by SGP.

We are managed by our managing general partner, MGP, a Delaware limited liability company, which holds a 0.99% and a 1.0001% managing general partner interest in ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership, respectively, and a 0.001% managing member interest in Alliance Coal.

## Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

AHGP is a Delaware limited partnership that was formed to become the owner and controlling member of MGP. AHGP completed its initial public offering on May 15, 2006. AHGP owns directly and indirectly 100% of the members' interest of MGP, the incentive distribution rights (IDR) in ARLP and 15,544,169 common units of ARLP.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Basis of Presentation*

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts and operations of the ARLP Partnership and present our financial position as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, and results of our operations and cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009. All of our intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. Net income attributable to Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. from our accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements will be described as Net Income of ARLP.

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

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) for interim reporting and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

### *Use of Estimates*

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

## **2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

### *New Accounting Standards Issued and Adopted*

In December 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2009-17, *Improvements to Financial Reporting by Enterprises Involved with Variable Interest Entities* (ASU 2009-17). ASU 2009-17 codified Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 167, *Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R)*, which changed the consolidation guidance applicable to a variable interest entity (VIE). ASU 2009-17 updated the guidance governing the determination of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a VIE, and is, therefore, required to consolidate such VIE, by requiring a qualitative analysis rather than a quantitative analysis. The qualitative analysis includes, among other things, consideration of whether the enterprise has the power to direct the activities of the entity that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance and has the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits of the VIE that could potentially be significant to the VIE. ASU 2009-17 also requires continuous reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a VIE. Previously, FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 810, *Consolidation*, required reconsideration of whether an enterprise was the primary beneficiary of a VIE only when specific events had occurred. Qualifying special purpose entities, which were previously exempt from the application of this standard, are now subject to the provisions of ASU 2009-17. In addition, ASU 2009-17 also requires enhanced disclosures about an enterprise's involvement with a VIE. The provisions of ASU 2009-17 were effective as of the beginning of interim and annual reporting periods that began after November 15, 2009. Based on our evaluation of ASU 2009-17, we deconsolidated Mid-America Carbonates, LLC (MAC) upon adoption, effective January 1, 2010 (Note 12). The deconsolidation of MAC did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

---

**Table of Contents**

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU 2010-06, *Improving Disclosures About Fair Value Measurements* ( ASU 2010-06 ). ASU 2010-06 amended guidance on certain aspects of FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, to add new requirements for disclosures of transfers into and out of Levels 1 and 2 and separate disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements, all on a gross basis. ASU 2010-06 also clarifies existing fair value disclosures regarding the level of disaggregation and the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The provisions of ASU 2010-06 were effective for the first reporting period beginning after December 15, 2009, except for the requirement to provide Level 3 activity of purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements on a gross basis, which will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010. The adoption of ASU 2010-06 did not have an impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

**3. CONTINGENCIES**

Various lawsuits, claims and regulatory proceedings incidental to our business are pending against the ARLP Partnership. We record an accrual for a potential loss related to these matters when, in management's opinion, such loss is probable and reasonably estimable. Based on known facts and circumstances, we believe the ultimate outcome of these outstanding lawsuits, claims and regulatory proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our 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 our accruals, then they could have a material adverse effect.

The matters referenced in the previous paragraph include, but are not limited to, the *George W. Rector v. White County Coal, LLC* lawsuit, which is a royalty dispute involving certain coal leases that had been previously terminated. Plaintiffs have alleged damages of \$33 million or more and have also asserted a claim for punitive damages. We believe plaintiffs' claims are without merit, have accrued no loss and are vigorously defending the litigation. This legal matter is also discussed in Part II, Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

**4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

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

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

Level 1 Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

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

Level 3 Instruments whose significant value drivers are unobservable.

The carrying amounts for accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments. At March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the estimated fair value of our fixed rate term debt, including current maturities, was approximately \$469.9 million and \$460.7 million, respectively, based on interest rates that we believe are currently available to us for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities (Note 5).

**Table of Contents****5. LONG-TERM DEBT**

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

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
Revolving credit facility	\$ 23,250	\$
Senior notes	90,000	90,000
Series A senior notes	205,000	205,000
Series B senior notes	145,000	145,000
	463,250	440,000
Less current maturities	(18,000)	(18,000)
<b>Total long-term debt</b>	<b>\$ 445,250</b>	<b>\$ 422,000</b>

The Intermediate Partnership has a \$150.0 million revolving credit facility ( ARLP Credit Facility ), \$90.0 million in senior notes and \$205.0 million in Series A and \$145.0 million in Series B senior notes (collectively, the ARLP Debt Arrangements ), which are guaranteed by all of the direct and indirect subsidiaries of our Intermediate Partnership. The ARLP Debt Arrangements contain various covenants affecting our Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries restricting, among other things, the amount of distributions by our Intermediate Partnership, the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, the sale of assets, the making of investments, the entry into mergers and consolidations and the entry into transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions. The ARLP Debt Arrangements also require the Intermediate Partnership to remain in control of a certain amount of mineable coal reserves relative to its annual production. In addition, the ARLP Debt Arrangements require our Intermediate Partnership to maintain the following: (i) debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 3.0 to 1.0, (ii) cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 4.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters and (iii) maximum annual capital expenditures, excluding acquisitions, of \$471.8 million for 2010. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 1.3 to 1.0 and 11.3 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended March 31, 2010. Actual capital expenditures were \$77.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010. We were in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of March 31, 2010.

Lehman Commercial Paper, Inc. ( Lehman ), a subsidiary of Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc., held a 5%, or \$7.5 million, commitment in our \$150 million ARLP Credit Facility. On February 11, 2010, we gave our lenders a notice of borrowing under the ARLP Credit Facility and, in response to that notice, Lehman notified us that it would not fund its proportionate share of the borrowing. As a result, as of February 11, 2010, Lehman became a defaulting lender and availability for borrowing under the ARLP Credit Facility was reduced by \$7.5 million, unless and until we replace Lehman as a lender.

At March 31, 2010, we had \$23.3 million of letters of credit and \$23.3 million of net borrowings outstanding with \$95.9 million available for borrowing under the ARLP Credit Facility. We incur an annual commitment fee of 0.375% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Credit Facility.

**Table of Contents****6. NET INCOME OF ARLP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT**

We apply the provisions of FASB ASC 260, *Earnings Per Share* ( FASB ASC 260 ). As required by FASB ASC 260, we apply the two-class method in calculating basic and diluted earnings per unit ( EPU ). Net Income of ARLP is allocated to the general partners and limited partners in accordance with their respective partnership percentages, after giving effect to any special income or expense allocations, including incentive distributions to our managing general partner, the holder of the IDR pursuant to our partnership agreement, which are declared and paid following the end of each quarter. Under the quarterly IDR provisions of our partnership agreement, our managing general partner is entitled to receive 15% of the amount we distribute in excess of \$0.275 per unit, 25% of the amount we distributed in excess of \$0.3125 per unit, and 50% of the amount we distribute in excess of \$0.375 per unit. Our partnership agreement contractually limits our distributions to available cash and therefore, undistributed earnings of the ARLP Partnership are not allocated to the IDR holder. In addition, our outstanding unvested awards under our Long-Term Incentive Plan ( LTIP ) contain rights to nonforfeitable distributions and are therefore considered participating securities. As such, we allocate undistributed and distributed earnings to the outstanding unvested awards in our calculation of EPU.

The following is a reconciliation of Net Income of ARLP and net income used for calculating basic earnings per unit and the weighted average units used in computing EPU for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively, (in thousands, except per unit data):

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 31,</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Net Income of ARLP	\$ 74,988	\$ 72,511
Adjustments:		
General partner s priority distributions	(15,859)	(13,681)
General partners 2% equity ownership	(1,183)	(1,176)
Limited partners interest in Net Income of ARLP	57,946	57,654
Less:		
Distributions on LTIP awards outstanding	(301)	(243)
Undistributed earnings attributable to LTIP awards	(290)	(298)
Net Income of ARLP available to limited partners	57,355	57,113
Weighted average limited partner units outstanding Basic and Diluted	36,691	36,639
Basic and Diluted Net Income of ARLP per limited partner unit (1)	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.56

- (1) Diluted EPU gives effect to all dilutive potential common units outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method. Diluted EPU excludes all dilutive potential units calculated under the treasury stock method if their effect is anti-dilutive. For the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, LTIP units of 209,645 and 126,719, respectively, were considered anti-dilutive under the treasury stock method.

**Table of Contents****7. WORKERS COMPENSATION AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS ( BLACK LUNG )**

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

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2010	2009
Beginning balance	\$ 63,220	\$ 56,671
Accruals increase	4,806	4,398
Payments	(2,525)	(3,328)
Interest accretion	833	864
Valuation changes (gain)/loss	37	(2,255)
Ending balance	\$ 66,371	\$ 56,350

*Pneumoconiosis*

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in March 2010, amended previous legislation related to coal workers' Black Lung providing automatic extension of awarded lifetime benefits to surviving spouses and providing changes to the legal criteria used to assess and award claims. We are presently unable to estimate the impact of this legislation on our obligations and our future service period charges related to future claims due to uncertainty around the number of claims that will be filed and how impactful the new award criteria will be to these claim populations. We expect to complete an evaluation of the obligation by the end of fiscal year 2010. For more information, please see Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Health Care Reform.

**8. COMPENSATION PLANS**

We maintain the LTIP for certain employees and officers of our managing general partner and its affiliates who perform services for us. The LTIP awards are grants of non-vested notional units, which upon satisfaction of vesting requirements entitle the LTIP participant to receive ARLP common units. On January 26, 2010, the Compensation Committee determined that the vesting requirements for the 2007 grants of 88,975 units (which are net of 4,500 forfeitures) had been satisfied as of January 1, 2010. As a result of this vesting, on February 12, 2010, we issued 55,826 unrestricted common units to LTIP participants. The remaining units were settled in cash to satisfy the individual tax withholding obligations for the LTIP participants. On February 1, 2010, the Compensation Committee authorized additional grants up to 143,145 restricted units, of which 137,830 were granted, all of which will vest on January 1, 2013 subject to satisfaction of certain financial tests. The fair value of these 2010 grants is equal to the intrinsic value at the date of grant, which was \$39.58 per unit on a weighted average basis. LTIP expense was \$0.9 million and \$0.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. On October 23, 2009, our unitholders approved the Third Amendment ( Third Amendment ) to the LTIP. The Third Amendment was previously authorized by the Board of Directors of our managing general partner, subject to unitholder approval. The Third Amendment increased the number of units available for issuance under the LTIP from 1.2 million to 3.6 million, providing 2.4 million units for satisfaction of future awards. After consideration of the January 1, 2010 vesting and subsequent issuance of 55,826 common units, approximately 2.3 million units remain available for issuance in the future, assuming all grants issued in 2008, 2009 and 2010 currently outstanding are settled with common units and no future forfeitures occur.



**Table of Contents**

As of March 31, 2010, there was \$7.9 million in total unrecognized compensation expense related to the non-vested LTIP grants that are expected to vest. That expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.9 years. As of March 31, 2010, the intrinsic value of the non-vested LTIP grants was \$15.9 million. As of March 31, 2010, the total obligation associated with the LTIP was \$4.4 million and is included in the partners' capital-limited partners line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

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

**9. COMPONENTS OF PENSION PLAN NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COSTS**

Eligible employees at certain of our mining operations participate in a defined benefit plan (the Pension Plan) that we sponsor. The benefit formula for the Pension Plan is a fixed dollar unit based on years of service. Components of the net periodic benefit cost for each of the periods presented are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Service cost	\$ 713	\$ 667
Interest cost	839	755
Expected return on plan assets	(922)	(608)
Amortization of net loss	269	355
<b>Net periodic benefit cost</b>	<b>\$ 899</b>	<b>\$ 1,169</b>

We previously disclosed in our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 that we expected to contribute \$9.8 million to the Pension Plan in 2010 for the 2009 plan year. During the three months ended March 31, 2010, we made a quarterly contribution payment of \$0.6 million for the 2009 plan year. Based upon our most recent valuation information, we do not expect to make any further contributions in 2010 for the 2009 plan year. However, we do expect to make quarterly contributions of \$0.7 million for the remainder of 2010 for the 2010 plan year.

**10. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

Total comprehensive income for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively, is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Net income	\$ 74,988	\$ 72,640
Other comprehensive income:		
Pension (Note 9)	269	355
Total other comprehensive income	269	355
Total comprehensive income	75,257	72,995
Less comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest		(129)
<b>Comprehensive income attributable to ARLP</b>	<b>\$ 75,257</b>	<b>\$ 72,866</b>



**Table of Contents**

Comprehensive income differs from net income by the amount of amortization of actuarial loss associated with adoption of amendments to FASB ASC 715, *Compensation - Retirement Benefits*.

**11. SEGMENT INFORMATION**

We operate in the eastern U.S. as a producer and marketer of coal to major utilities and industrial users. We have four reportable segments: Illinois Basin, Central Appalachia, Northern Appalachia and Other and Corporate. The first three segments correspond to the three major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Coal quality, coal seam height, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues are similar within each of these three segments.

The Illinois Basin segment is comprised of Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex, Gibson County Coal, LLC's Gibson North mining complex, Hopkins County Coal, LLC's Elk Creek mining complex, White County Coal, LLC's (White County Coal) Pattiki mining complex, Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex, River View Coal, LLC's mining complex, which initiated operations in 2009, the Gibson County Coal (South), LLC (Gibson South) property and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties, LLC (Alliance Resource Properties). We are in the process of permitting the Gibson South property for future mine development.

The Central Appalachian segment is comprised of Pontiki Coal, LLC's and MC Mining, LLC's mining complexes.

The Northern Appalachian segment is comprised of Mettiki Coal, LLC's mining complex, Mettiki Coal (WV) LLC's Mountain View mining complex, two small third-party mining operations (one of which was idled in May 2009 and restarted in February 2010), a mining complex currently under construction at Tunnel Ridge, LLC and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC (Penn Ridge) property. We are in the process of permitting the Penn Ridge property for future mine development.

Other and Corporate includes marketing and administrative expenses, Matrix Design Group, LLC (Matrix Design), Alliance Design Group, LLC (Alliance Design), the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC (Mt. Vernon) dock activities, coal brokerage activity, our equity investment in MAC and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties. Segment results for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 are presented below.

	Illinois Basin	Central Appalachia	Northern Appalachia	Other and Corporate	Elimination (1)	Consolidated
	(in thousands)					
Operating segment results for the three months ended March 31, 2010:						
Total revenues (2)	\$ 294,637	\$ 39,762	\$ 41,002	\$ 10,511	\$ (5,251)	\$ 380,661
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	172,853	32,825	31,971	8,861	(5,251)	241,259
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)	114,129	6,923	6,990	1,655		129,697
Total assets	749,639	83,341	246,905	55,463	(3,001)	1,132,347
Capital expenditures	32,198	1,359	43,307	593		77,457
Operating segment results for the three months ended March 31, 2009:						
Total revenues (2)	\$ 230,548	\$ 54,003	\$ 39,686	\$ 9,812	\$ (4,749)	\$ 329,300
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (3)	131,409	37,096	30,555	6,599	(4,749)	200,910
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)	90,758	16,818	6,712	3,212		117,500
Total assets	608,191	95,934	162,984	228,068	(117)	1,095,060
Capital expenditures	57,484	5,023	22,292	798		85,597

(1) The elimination column represents the elimination of intercompany transactions and is primarily comprised of sales from Matrix Design, Alliance Design and MAC (for 2009 only; see Note 12) to our mining operations.



**Table of Contents**

- (2) Revenues included in the Other and Corporate column are primarily attributable to Matrix Design revenues, Alliance Design revenues, Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, administrative service revenues from affiliates, MAC rock dust revenues (for 2009 only; see Note 12) and brokerage sales.
- (3) Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense includes operating expenses, outside coal purchases and other income. Transportation expenses are excluded as these expenses are passed through to our customers and consequently we do not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues. We review segment adjusted EBITDA expense per ton for cost trends.

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

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 241,259	\$ 200,910
Outside coal purchases	(1,842)	(4,760)
Other income (expense)	(150)	226
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	\$ 239,267	\$ 196,376

- (4) Segment Adjusted EBITDA is defined as Net Income of ARLP before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, net income attributable to noncontrolling interest and general and administrative expenses. Management therefore is able 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. Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA is reconciled to net income and Net Income of ARLP below (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 129,697	\$ 117,500
General and administrative	(10,701)	(9,734)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(36,296)	(27,350)
Interest expense, net	(7,544)	(7,350)
Income tax expense	(168)	(426)
Net income	74,988	72,640
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest		(129)
Net Income of ARLP	\$ 74,988	\$ 72,511

**12. NONCONTROLLING INTEREST**

We apply the provisions of FASB ASC 810, *Consolidation*, which were amended on January 1, 2010. Based on our evaluation of these amendments, we deconsolidated MAC effective January 1, 2010 (Note 2).

**Table of Contents**

White County Coal and Alexander J. House ( House ) entered into a limited liability company agreement in 2006 to form MAC, which manufactures and sells rock dust. Consistent with prior years, we have a 50% ownership interest in MAC. Previously, we consolidated MAC's financial results in accordance with FASB ASC 810. However, based on the provisions of ASU 2009-17, we concluded that we are no longer the primary beneficiary of MAC and thus deconsolidated MAC as House has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance.

We adopted the amendments to FASB ASC 810 on January 1, 2010. As a result, we reclassified \$1.1 million from noncontrolling interest in partners' capital to other long-term assets in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. We did not retrospectively apply the provisions of ASU 2009-17 as allowed by the amendments. Our equity investment in MAC is \$1.2 million at March 31, 2010.

MAC has a \$1.75 million Revolving Credit Agreement ( Revolver ) with ARLP. On November 17, 2009, MAC entered into Amendment No. 2, effective June 30, 2009, which increased the Revolver to \$1.75 million from \$1.5 million. The Revolver is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2010. At March 31, 2010, MAC owed ARLP \$1.7 million under the Revolver, which is classified as Due From Affiliates on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

**13. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

On April 26, 2010, we declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, of \$0.79 per unit, on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$45.5 million (which includes our managing general partner's incentive distributions), payable on May 14, 2010 to all unitholders of record as of May 7, 2010.

---

**Table of Contents**

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

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

References to we, us, our or 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., also referred to as our managing general partner.

References to SGP mean Alliance Resource GP, LLC, the special general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., also referred to as our special general partner.

References to Intermediate Partnership mean Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., the intermediate partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., also referred to as our intermediate partnership.

References to Alliance Coal mean Alliance Coal, LLC, the holding company for the operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., also referred to as our operating subsidiary.

References to AHGP mean Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.

References to AGP mean Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.

**Summary**

We are a diversified producer and marketer of coal primarily to major United States ( U.S. ) utilities and industrial users. We began mining operations in 1971 and, since then, have grown through acquisitions and internal development to become what we believe to be the fifth largest coal producer in the eastern U.S. We operate nine mining complexes in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia. We are constructing a new mining complex in West Virginia. We also operate a coal loading terminal on the Ohio River at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. As is customary in the coal industry, we have entered into long-term coal supply agreements with many of our customers.

We have four reportable segments: Illinois Basin, Central Appalachia, Northern Appalachia, and Other and Corporate. The first three segments correspond to the three major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Coal quality, coal seam height, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues are similar within each of these three segments.

*Illinois Basin* segment is comprised of Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex, Gibson County Coal, LLC's Gibson North mining complex, Hopkins County Coal, LLC's Elk Creek mining complex, White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mine and Warrior Coal, LLC's ( Warrior ) mining complex, River View Coal, LLC's ( River View ) mining complex which initiated operations in 2009, the Gibson County Coal (South), LLC ( Gibson South ) property and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties, LLC ( Alliance Resource Properties ). We are in the process of permitting the Gibson South property for future mine development.

Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

*Central Appalachian* segment is comprised of Pontiki Coal, LLC s ( Pontiki ) and MC Mining, LLC s mining complexes.



**Table of Contents**

*Northern Appalachian* segment is comprised of Mettiki Coal, LLC's mining complex, Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mining complex, two small third-party mining operations (one of which was idled in May 2009 and restarted in February 2010), a mining complex currently under construction at Tunnel Ridge, LLC (Tunnel Ridge) and the Penn Ridge Coal, LLC (Penn Ridge) property. We are in the process of permitting the Penn Ridge property for future mine development.

*Other and Corporate* segment includes marketing and administrative expenses, Matrix Design Group, LLC (Matrix Design), Alliance Design Group, LLC, the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC (Mt. Vernon) dock activities, coal brokerage activity, our equity investment in Mid-America Carbonates, LLC (MAC) and certain properties of Alliance Resource Properties.

**Health Care Reform**

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Additionally, on March 30, 2010, President Obama signed into law a reconciliation measure, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (collectively, the Health Care Act) will result in comprehensive changes to health care in the U.S. The Health Care Act also amended previous legislation related to coal workers pneumoconiosis (Black Lung) benefits by providing automatic extension of awarded lifetime benefits to surviving spouses and providing changes to the legal criteria used to assess and award claims, effective for claims filed or pending after January 1, 2005. While we believe it is likely that our costs will increase as a result of these provisions, we are continuing to evaluate the potential impact of the legislation on our self-insured health care plan, Black Lung liabilities, results of operations and internal controls as governmental agencies issue interpretations regarding the meaning and scope of the Health Care Act.

*Three Months Ended March 31, 2010 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2009*

We reported record Net Income of ARLP of \$75.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 (2010 Quarter) compared to \$72.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009 (2009 Quarter). This increase of \$2.5 million was principally due to improved contract pricing and commitments resulting in a record quarterly average coal sales price of \$49.34 per ton sold, as compared to \$48.59 per ton sold for the 2009 Quarter. We had record tons sold of 7.4 million tons and record tons produced of 7.5 million tons in the 2010 Quarter, compared to 6.4 million tons sold and 6.9 million tons produced in the 2009 Quarter. This increase in produced tons primarily reflects increased production resulting from our new River View mine and resulted in higher operating expenses during the 2010 Quarter. Increased operating expenses also primarily reflect the increase in labor and labor-related expenses, material and supplies expenses, as well as higher costs associated with beginning coal inventories and sales-related expenses.

	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2010 (in thousands)	2009	2010 (per ton sold)	2009
Tons sold	7,381	6,427	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	7,543	6,871	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$ 364,159	\$ 312,260	\$ 49.34	\$ 48.59
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$ 241,109	\$ 201,136	\$ 32.67	\$ 31.30

**Table of Contents**

*Coal sales.* Coal sales for the 2010 Quarter increased 16.6% to \$364.2 million from \$312.3 million for the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$51.9 million in coal sales reflected record tons sold (contributing \$46.4 million in coal sales) and record average coal sales prices (contributing \$5.5 million in additional coal sales). Average coal sales prices in the 2010 Quarter increased \$0.75 per ton sold, compared to the 2009 Quarter, to \$49.34 per ton in the 2010 Quarter, primarily as a result of improved contract pricing and commitments in the Illinois Basin and Northern Appalachian regions.

*Operating expenses.* Operating expenses increased 21.8% to \$239.3 million for the 2010 Quarter from \$196.4 million for the 2009 Quarter primarily due to record coal sales and production volumes. 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 0.9% to \$10.18 per ton in the 2010 Quarter from \$10.27 per ton in the 2009 Quarter. This decrease of \$0.09 per ton was primarily due to increased production volumes at a lower cost per ton at our new River View mine, decreased Illinois Basin trainee costs and the impact of weather disruptions in western Kentucky during the 2009 Quarter, partially offset by decreased coal recoveries during the 2010 Quarter impacting Central and Northern Appalachia's productivity and increased mine development labor at our Tunnel Ridge mine;

Workers' compensation expenses per ton produced increased to \$0.94 per ton in the 2010 Quarter from \$0.62 per ton in the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$0.32 per ton produced resulted primarily from a non-cash benefit during the 2009 Quarter due to a discount rate change, which decreased the accrued liabilities for the present value of estimated future claim payments;

Material and supplies per ton produced increased 3.0% to \$9.55 per ton in the 2010 Quarter from \$9.27 per ton in the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$0.28 per ton produced resulted from increased costs for certain products and services, primarily roof support (increase of \$0.14 per ton), power and electrical (increase of \$0.11 per ton) and fuel used in the mining process (increase of \$0.07 per ton) offset partially by decreased costs per ton in various other categories;

Maintenance expenses per ton produced decreased 5.4% to \$3.32 per ton in the 2010 Quarter from \$3.51 per ton in the 2009 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.19 per ton produced resulted primarily from the benefit of newer equipment and increased production at our new River View mining complex and decreased per ton costs at Dotiki and Warrior offset partially by higher maintenance costs for our mine development project at Tunnel Ridge;

Mine administration expenses increased \$1.2 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to the 2009 Quarter, primarily due to higher costs resulting from increased Matrix Design product sales;

Contract mining expenses decreased \$2.2 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to the 2009 Quarter. The decrease primarily reflects a curtailment of a third-party mining operation in our Northern Appalachian segment in May 2009 in response to weak demand in export and spot coal markets offset partially by a restart of this third-party operation in February 2010;

**Table of Contents**

Production taxes and royalties expenses (which were incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes) increased \$0.08 per produced ton sold in the 2010 Quarter compared to the 2009 Quarter primarily as a result of increased average coal sales prices, predominantly in our Illinois Basin segment;

Operating expenses per ton also increased in the 2010 Quarter due to significantly more tons sold (1.3 million) from seasonally higher cost per ton beginning coal inventory compared to 260,000 tons sold from beginning coal inventory in the 2009 Quarter; and

Operating expenses incurred during the 2010 Quarter related to our River View and Tunnel Ridge mine development projects increased \$22.9 million over the 2009 Quarter. These expenses are generally included in the variances discussed above.

*General and administrative.* General and administrative expenses for the 2010 Quarter increased to \$10.7 million compared to \$9.7 million in the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$1.0 million was primarily due to increases in salary expenses, incentive accruals and outside services expenses.

*Other sales and operating revenues.* Other sales and operating revenues are principally comprised of Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, products and services provided by MAC (in the 2009 Quarter only), Matrix Design and other outside services and administrative services revenue from affiliates. Other sales and operating revenues increased to \$6.8 million for the 2010 Quarter from \$6.1 million for the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$0.7 million was primarily attributable to increased Matrix Design product sales partially offset by decreased rock dust revenues reflecting the deconsolidation of MAC. For more information about MAC, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 12. Noncontrolling Interest of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

*Outside coal purchases.* Outside coal purchases decreased to \$1.8 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$4.8 million in the 2009 Quarter. The decrease of \$3.0 million was primarily attributable to reduced outside coal purchases at all our reporting segments, predominantly in our Central Appalachian region due to weak demand in the spot coal markets.

*Depreciation, depletion and amortization.* Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$36.3 million for the 2010 Quarter from \$27.4 million for the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$8.9 million was attributable to additional depreciation expense associated with continuing capital expenditures related to infrastructure improvements, efficiency projects and expansion of production capacity, particularly at our River View mine.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased to \$7.6 million for the 2010 Quarter from \$8.0 million for the 2009 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.4 million was principally attributable to reduced interest expense resulting from our August 2009 principal repayment of \$18.0 million on our original senior notes issued in 1999 partially offset by increased interest expense on our \$150.0 million revolving credit facility (ARLP Credit Facility), each of which are discussed in more detail below under Debt Obligations.

*Interest income.* Interest income decreased to \$0.1 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$0.6 million for the 2009 Quarter. The decrease of \$0.5 million resulted from reduced interest income earned on short-term investments purchased with funds received from the 2008 financing activities, which were substantially liquidated principally to fund increased capital expenditures throughout 2009.

**Table of Contents**

*Transportation revenues and expenses.* Transportation revenues and expenses were \$9.7 million and \$10.9 million for the 2010 and 2009 Quarters, respectively. The decrease of \$1.2 million was attributable to reduced tonnage transported from our Illinois Basin and Northern Appalachian regions primarily due to a decrease in certain spot coal shipments requiring transportation services. The cost of transportation services are passed through to our customers. Consequently, we do not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues.

*Income tax expense.* Income tax expense decreased to \$0.2 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$0.4 million for the 2009 Quarter, primarily due to differences in the forecasted annual operating income for 2010 as compared to 2009 for Matrix Design, which is owned by our subsidiary, Alliance Services, Inc.

*Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest.* The noncontrolling interest for the 2009 Quarter represents a 50% third-party interest in MAC. The third-party's portion of MAC's net income was \$0.1 million for the 2009 Quarter. Effective January 1, 2010, we deconsolidated MAC based on amendments to the provisions of FASB ASC 810, *Consolidation*. For more information about MAC, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 12. Noncontrolling Interest of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

**Table of Contents**

*Segment Adjusted EBITDA.* Our 2010 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased \$12.2 million, or 10.4%, to \$129.7 million from the 2009 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$117.5 million. Segment Adjusted EBITDA, tons sold, coal sales, other sales and operating revenues and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense by segment are (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2010	March 31, 2009		
<b>Segment Adjusted EBITDA</b>				
Illinois Basin	\$ 114,129	\$ 90,758	\$ 23,371	25.8%
Central Appalachia	6,923	16,818	(9,895)	(58.8)%
Northern Appalachia	6,990	6,712	278	4.1%
Other and Corporate	1,655	3,212	(1,557)	(48.5)%
Elimination				
<b>Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (1)</b>	<b>\$ 129,697</b>	<b>\$ 117,500</b>	<b>\$ 12,197</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
<b>Tons sold</b>				
Illinois Basin	6,076	4,963	1,113	22.4%
Central Appalachia	607	764	(157)	(20.5)%
Northern Appalachia	698	700	(2)	(0.3)%
Other and Corporate				
Elimination				
<b>Total tons sold</b>	<b>7,381</b>	<b>6,427</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>14.8%</b>
<b>Coal sales</b>				
Illinois Basin	\$ 286,440	\$ 221,530	\$ 64,910	29.3%
Central Appalachia	39,629	53,787	(14,158)	(26.3)%
Northern Appalachia	38,081	36,493	1,588	4.4%
Other and Corporate	9	450	(441)	(98.0)%
Elimination				
<b>Total coal sales</b>	<b>\$ 364,159</b>	<b>\$ 312,260</b>	<b>\$ 51,899</b>	<b>16.6%</b>
<b>Other sales and operating revenues</b>				
Illinois Basin	\$ 543	\$ 637	\$ (94)	(14.8)%
Central Appalachia	119	128	(9)	(7.0)%
Northern Appalachia	880	774	106	13.7%
Other and Corporate	10,506	9,360	1,146	12.2%
Elimination	(5,251)	(4,749)	(502)	(10.6)%
<b>Total other sales and operating revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,797</b>	<b>\$ 6,150</b>	<b>\$ 647</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense</b>				
Illinois Basin	\$ 172,853	\$ 131,409	\$ 41,444	31.5%
Central Appalachia	32,825	37,096	(4,271)	(11.5)%
Northern Appalachia	31,971	30,555	1,416	4.6%
Other and Corporate	8,861	6,599	2,262	34.3%
Elimination	(5,251)	(4,749)	(502)	(10.6)%
<b>Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (2)</b>	<b>\$ 241,259</b>	<b>\$ 200,910</b>	<b>\$ 40,349</b>	<b>20.1%</b>

- (1) Segment Adjusted EBITDA is defined as Net Income of ARLP before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, net income attributable to noncontrolling interest and general and administrative expenses. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is a key component of consolidated EBITDA, which is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and by external users of our financial statements such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others, to assess:

the financial performance of our assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;

**Table of Contents**

the ability of our assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs and support our indebtedness;

our operating performance and return on investment as compared to those of other companies in the coal energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structures; and

the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is also used as a supplemental financial measure by our management for reasons similar to those stated in the above explanation of EBITDA. In addition, the exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from Segment Adjusted EBITDA allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating profitability as it relates to our revenues and operating expenses, which are primarily controlled by our segments.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA to net income and Net Income of ARLP (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 31,</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 129,697	\$ 117,500
General and administrative	(10,701)	(9,734)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(36,296)	(27,350)
Interest expense, net	(7,544)	(7,350)
Income tax expense	(168)	(426)
Net income	\$ 74,988	\$ 72,640
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest		(129)
Net Income of ARLP	\$ 74,988	\$ 72,511

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

**Table of Contents**

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense to operating expense (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 241,259	\$ 200,910
Outside coal purchases	(1,842)	(4,760)
Other income (expense)	(150)	226
 Operating expense (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	 \$ 239,267	 \$ 196,376

**Illinois Basin** Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased 25.8% to \$114.1 million in the 2010 Quarter from \$90.8 million in the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$23.3 million was primarily attributable to strong contract pricing reflecting a higher average coal sales price of \$47.14 per ton sold during the 2010 Quarter compared to \$44.64 per ton sold for the 2009 Quarter. Coal sales increased 29.3% to \$286.4 million in the 2010 Quarter compared to \$221.5 million in the 2009 Quarter. The increase of \$64.9 million primarily reflects increased sales from our new River View mine (which commenced operations in August of 2009) as we continued to expand production capacity during the 2010 Quarter and the negative impact of weather disruptions in the 2009 Quarter at our Dotiki, Warrior and Elk Creek mines. Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2010 Quarter increased 31.5% to \$172.9 million from \$131.4 million in the 2009 Quarter and increased \$1.97 on a per ton sold basis to \$28.45 from \$26.48 per ton sold, primarily as a result of certain cost increases described above under consolidated operating expenses.

**Central Appalachia** Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 58.8% to \$6.9 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$16.8 million in the 2009 Quarter. The decrease of \$9.9 million was primarily the result of lower sales volumes due to continued weak coal demand in the spot market and transportation disruptions, which also impacted pricing as the average coal sales price decreased \$5.09 per ton sold to \$65.32 per ton sold in the 2010 Quarter, compared to \$70.41 per ton sold in the 2009 Quarter. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense for the 2010 Quarter decreased 11.5% to \$32.8 million from \$37.1 million in the 2009 Quarter primarily as a result of lower coal sales volumes that led to decreases in certain operating expenses such as labor-related expenses, materials and supplies expenses and sales-related expenses. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton sold during the 2010 Quarter increased to \$54.11 compared to \$48.56 per ton sold in the 2009 Quarter, an increase of \$5.55 per ton sold reflecting certain cost increases described above under consolidated operating expenses. In addition, Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton sold increased during the 2010 Quarter as a result of lower coal recoveries and the continued impact of idling one mining unit at Pontiki in the second quarter of 2009.

**Northern Appalachia** Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased 4.1% to \$7.0 million for the 2010 Quarter as compared to \$6.7 million in the 2009 Quarter. This increase of \$0.3 million was primarily attributable to a higher average sales price of \$54.59 per ton sold for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$52.13 per ton sold for the 2009 Quarter resulting from improved pricing in the export markets, partially offset by lower coal sales volumes for the 2010 Quarter compared to the 2009 Quarter due to the timing of contract shipments. Segment Adjusted EBITDA expense per ton sold in the 2010 Quarter was \$45.83 per ton, an increase of \$2.18 per ton sold compared to \$43.65 per ton sold in the 2009 Quarter. Increased Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton sold for the 2010 Quarter primarily reflects decreased production during the 2010 Quarter due to lower coal recoveries, as well as the other cost increases described above under consolidated operating expenses, including expenses incurred related to our Tunnel Ridge mine development project, partially offset resumption in February 2010 of a third-party mining operation that had been idled in May 2009 due to weak demand in the export and spot coal markets during the 2009 Quarter.



---

**Table of Contents**

Other and Corporate Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased to \$1.7 million in the 2010 Quarter from \$3.2 million in the 2009 Quarter, primarily attributable to higher costs associated with Matrix Design product sales, decreased MAC rock dust revenues and the impact of the deconsolidation of MAC effective January 1, 2010, a loss associated with United Kingdom ( UK ) currency held for future equipment purchases from an UK supplier and lower coal brokerage sales. For more information about MAC, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 12. Noncontrolling Interest of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The increase in Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense primarily reflects increased expenses associated with higher outside services revenue and product sales.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

*Liquidity*

We have historically satisfied our working capital requirements and funded our capital expenditures and debt service obligations from cash generated from operations, cash provided by the issuance of debt or equity and borrowings under revolving credit facilities. We believe that the current cash on hand, cash generated from operations, cash from borrowings under the ARLP Credit Facility, and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity will be sufficient to meet our working capital requirements, anticipated capital expenditures, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments. Our ability to satisfy our obligations and planned expenditures will depend upon our 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 our control. Based on our recent operating results, current cash position, anticipated future cash flows and sources of financing that we expect to have available, we do 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 see Item 1A. Risk Factors in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

*Cash Flows*

Cash provided by operating activities was \$106.6 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$75.3 million for the 2009 Quarter. The increase in cash provided by operating activities was principally attributable to higher net income, increases in certain operating liabilities, such as accrued taxes other than income taxes and accrued payroll and related expenses, and a reduction in coal inventory costs during the 2010 Quarter as compared to a significant increase during the 2009 Quarter. This increase in cash provided by operating activities was partially offset by increases in certain operating assets, such as accounts receivable.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$70.7 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$67.3 million for the 2009 Quarter. The increase in cash used for investing activities was primarily attributable to increased Tunnel Ridge capital expenditures and timing differences in accounts payable and accrued liabilities compared to the 2009 Quarter, partially offset by a decrease in capital expenditures due to the completion of River View mine development during the third quarter of 2009 and Warrior s infrastructure additions during the second quarter of 2009.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$22.7 million for the 2010 Quarter compared to \$41.0 million for the 2009 Quarter. The decrease in cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to net borrowings of \$23.3 million under our \$150 million revolving credit facility in the 2010 Quarter for capital expenditures primarily related to our continuing growth initiatives (see Debt Obligations below) partially offset by increased distributions paid to partners in the 2010 Quarter.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Capital Expenditures*

Capital expenditures decreased to \$77.5 million in the 2010 Quarter from \$85.6 million in the 2009 Quarter. See [Cash Flows](#) above concerning this decrease in capital expenditures.

Our anticipated total capital expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2010 are estimated in a range of \$275 to \$315 million. Management anticipates funding remaining 2010 capital requirements with cash and cash equivalents (\$34.5 million as of March 31, 2010), cash flows provided by operations, borrowing available under the ARLP Credit Facility and, as necessary, accessing the debt or equity capital markets. The availability and cost of additional capital will depend upon prevailing market conditions, the market price of our common units and several other factors over which we have limited control, as well as our financial condition and results of operations.

### **Debt Obligations**

*ARLP Credit Facility.* Our Intermediate Partnership maintains the ARLP Credit Facility, a \$150.0 million revolving credit facility that matures in 2012. On September 30, 2009, our Intermediate Partnership entered into Amendment No. 2 (the [Credit Amendment](#)) to the ARLP Credit Facility. The Credit Amendment increased the annual capital expenditure limits under the ARLP Credit Facility. The new limits are \$471.8 million for 2010, \$350.0 million for 2011 and \$250.0 million for 2012. The amount of any annual limit in excess of actual capital expenditures for that year carries forward and is added to the annual limit for the subsequent year.

At March 31, 2010, we had \$23.3 million of letters of credit and \$23.3 million of net borrowings outstanding with \$95.9 million available for borrowing under the ARLP Credit Facility. We incur an annual commitment fee of 0.375% on the undrawn portion of the ARLP Credit Facility.

Lehman Commercial Paper, Inc. ([Lehman](#)), a subsidiary of Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc., holds a 5%, or \$7.5 million, commitment in our \$150 million ARLP Credit Facility. The ARLP Credit Facility is underwritten by a syndicate of twelve financial institutions, including Lehman, with no individual institution representing more than 11.3% of the \$150 million revolving credit facility. Lehman filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code in early October 2008. The obligations of the lenders under our credit facility are individual obligations and the failure of one or more lenders does not relieve the remaining lenders of their funding obligations. On February 11, 2010, we gave our lenders a notice of borrowing under the ARLP Credit Facility and, in response to that notice, Lehman notified us that it would not fund its proportionate share of the borrowing. As a result, as of February 11, 2010, Lehman became a defaulting lender and availability for borrowing under the ARLP Credit Facility was reduced by \$7.5 million, unless and until we replace Lehman as a lender.

*Senior Notes.* Our Intermediate Partnership has \$90.0 million principal amount of 8.31% senior notes due August 20, 2014, payable in five remaining equal annual installments of \$18.0 million with interest payable semi-annually ([Senior Notes](#)).

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

---

**Table of Contents**

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

We incurred debt issuance costs of approximately \$0.3 million in 2009 associated with the ARLP Credit Facility, which have been deferred and are being amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the respective notes.

The ARLP Credit Facility, Senior Notes and Series A and Series B Senior Notes (collectively, ARLP Debt Arrangements ) are guaranteed by all of the direct and indirect subsidiaries of our Intermediate Partnership. The ARLP Debt Arrangements contain various covenants affecting our Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries restricting, among other things, the amount of distributions by our Intermediate Partnership, the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, the sale of assets, the making of investments, the entry into mergers and consolidations and the entry into transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions. The ARLP Debt Arrangements also require the Intermediate Partnership to remain in control of a certain amount of mineable coal reserves relative to its annual production. In addition, the ARLP Debt Arrangements require our Intermediate Partnership to maintain the following: (i) debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 3.0 to 1.0, (ii) cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 4.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters and (iii) maximum annual capital expenditures, excluding acquisitions, of \$471.8 million for the year ending December 31, 2010. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 1.3 to 1.0 and 11.3 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended March 31, 2010. Actual capital expenditures were \$77.5 million for the 2010 Quarter. We were in compliance with the covenants of the ARLP Debt Arrangements as of March 31, 2010.

*Other.* In addition to the letters of credit available under the ARLP Credit Facility discussed above, we also have 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 our obligations for workers compensation benefits. At March 31, 2010, we had \$31.1 million in letters of credit outstanding under agreements with these two banks. Our special general partner guarantees \$5.0 million of these outstanding letters of credit.

**Related-Party Transactions**

We have continuing related-party transactions with our managing general partner, AHGP and our special general partner and its affiliates. These related-party transactions relate principally to the provision of administrative services to AHGP and Alliance Resource Holdings II, Inc. and their respective affiliates, a time sharing agreement concerning use of aircraft and mineral and equipment leases with our special general partner and its affiliates, and guarantees from our special general partner for letters of credit.

MAC has a \$1.75 million Revolving Credit Agreement ( Revolver ) with ARLP. On November 17, 2009, MAC entered into Amendment No. 2, effective June 30, 2009, which increased the Revolver to \$1.75 million from \$1.5 million. The Revolver is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2010. At March 31, 2010, MAC owed ARLP \$1.7 million under the Revolver, which is classified as Due From Affiliates on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Please read our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, Item 7. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Related-Party Transactions for additional information concerning the related-party transactions described above.

**Table of Contents****New Accounting Standards***New Accounting Standards Issued and Adopted*

In December 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Accounting Standards Update ( ASU ) 2009-17, *Improvements to Financial Reporting by Enterprises Involved with Variable Interest Entities* ( ASU 2009-17 ). ASU 2009-17 codified Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 167, *Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R)*, which changed the consolidation guidance applicable to a variable interest entity ( VIE ). ASU 2009-17 updated the guidance governing the determination of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a VIE, and is, therefore, required to consolidate such VIE, by requiring a qualitative analysis rather than a quantitative analysis. The qualitative analysis includes, among other things, consideration of whether the enterprise has the power to direct the activities of the entity that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance and has the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits of the VIE that could potentially be significant to the VIE. ASU 2009-17 also requires continuous reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a VIE. Previously, FASB Accounting Standards Codification ( ASC ) 810, *Consolidation*, required reconsideration of whether an enterprise was the primary beneficiary of a VIE only when specific events had occurred. Qualifying special purpose entities, which were previously exempt from the application of this standard, are now subject to the provisions of ASU 2009-17. In addition, ASU 2009-17 also requires enhanced disclosures about an enterprise's involvement with a VIE. The provisions of ASU 2009-17 were effective as of the beginning of interim and annual reporting periods that began after November 15, 2009. Based on our evaluation of ASU 2009-17, we deconsolidated Mid-America Carbonates, LLC ( MAC ) upon adoption, effective January 1, 2010. For more information about MAC, please read Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) Note 12. Noncontrolling Interest of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The deconsolidation of MAC did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU 2010-06, *Improving Disclosures About Fair Value Measurements* ( ASU 2010-06 ). ASU 2010-06 amended guidance on certain aspects of FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, to add new requirements for disclosures of transfers into and out of Levels 1 and 2 and separate disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements, all on a gross basis. ASU 2010-06 also clarifies existing fair value disclosures regarding the level of disaggregation and the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The provisions of ASU 2010-06 were effective for the first reporting period beginning after December 15, 2009, except for the requirement to provide Level 3 activity of purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements on a gross basis, which will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010. The adoption of ASU 2010-06 did not have an impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

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

Almost all of our transactions are denominated in U.S. dollars and, as a result, we do not have material exposure to currency exchange-rate risks. During 2009, we entered into a contract to purchase longwall shields for our Tunnel Ridge mine from a foreign supplier for approximately £10.2 million. We paid £7.7 million to this foreign supplier through March 31, 2010 with the remaining balance, which is maintained in British Pounds, to be paid out through 2011. We do not have any interest rate or commodity price-hedging transactions outstanding.

**Table of Contents**

Borrowings under the ARLP Credit Facility are at variable rates and, as a result, we have interest rate exposure. Historically, our earnings have not been materially affected by changes in interest rates. We had net borrowings of \$23.3 million outstanding under the ARLP Credit Facility as of March 31, 2010.

As of March 31, 2010, the estimated fair value of the Senior Notes and Series A and Series B Senior Notes was approximately \$469.9 million. The fair values of long-term debt are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based upon our current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements as of March 31, 2010. There were no other significant 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, 2009.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

We maintain controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file with the U.S. 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. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) or Rule 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act) was performed as of March 31, 2010. This evaluation was performed by our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these controls and procedures are effective to ensure that the ARLP Partnership is able to collect, process and disclose the information it is required to disclose in the reports it files with the SEC within the required time periods, and during the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010, there have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) identified in connection with this evaluation that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents**

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are intended to come within the safe harbor protection provided by those sections. 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 statements. Without limiting the foregoing, all statements relating to our future outlook, anticipated capital expenditures, future cash flows and borrowings and sources of funding are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to numerous assumptions that we believe are reasonable, but are open to a wide range of uncertainties and business risks, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in these statements. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ from those in the forward-looking statements are:

increased competition in coal markets and our ability to respond to the competition;

decreases in coal prices, which could adversely affect our operating results and cash flows;

risks associated with the expansion of our operations and properties;

the impact of recent federal health care legislation;

deregulation of the electric utility industry or the effects of any adverse change in the coal industry, electric utility industry, or general economic conditions;

dependence on significant customer contracts, including renewing customer contracts upon expiration of existing contracts;

weakness in global economic conditions or in industries in which our customers operate;

liquidity constraints, including those resulting from the cost or unavailability of financing due to current capital market conditions;

customer bankruptcies, cancellations or breaches to existing contracts, or other failures to perform;

customer delays, failure to take coal under contracts or defaults in making payments;

adjustments made in price, volume or terms to existing coal supply agreements;

fluctuations in coal demand, prices and availability due to labor and transportation costs and disruptions, equipment availability, governmental regulations, including those related to carbon dioxide emissions, and other factors;

## Edgar Filing: ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

legislation, regulatory and court decisions and interpretations thereof, including issues related to climate change and miner health and safety;

our productivity levels and margins earned on our coal sales;

greater than expected increases in raw material costs;

greater than expected shortage of skilled labor;

our ability to maintain satisfactory relations with our employees;

any unanticipated increases in labor costs, adverse changes in work rules, or unexpected cash payments associated with post-mine reclamation and workers' compensation claims;

any unanticipated increases in transportation costs and risk of transportation delays or interruptions;

greater than expected environmental regulation, costs and liabilities;

a variety of operational, geologic, permitting, labor and weather-related factors;

risks associated with major mine-related accidents, such as mine fires, or interruptions;

results of litigation, including claims not yet asserted;

difficulty maintaining our surety bonds for mine reclamation as well as workers' compensation and black lung benefits;

difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding pension and other post-retirement benefit liabilities;

**Table of Contents**

coal market's share of electricity generation, including as a result of environmental concerns related to coal mining and combustion and the cost and perceived benefits of alternative sources of energy, such as natural gas, nuclear energy and renewable fuels;

replacement of coal reserves;

a loss or reduction of benefits from certain tax credits;

difficulty obtaining commercial property insurance, and risks associated with our participation (excluding any applicable deductible) in the commercial insurance property program; and

other factors, including those discussed in Part II. Item 1A. Risk Factors and Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

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; and

written or oral statements made by us or any of our officers or other authorized persons acting on our behalf.



---

**Table of Contents**

**PART II**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The information in Note 3. Contingencies to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in 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 in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

On November 2, 2006 George W. Rector et al. (the Plaintiffs) filed a complaint in the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois, in White County, Illinois, against our subsidiaries White County Coal, LLC, Alliance Properties, LLC and Alliance Coal, LLC (collectively the Alliance Defendants) asserting claims for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and unjust enrichment. The Plaintiffs' claims are based on their assertion that, as a result of assignments in 1977, 1978 and 1979 from the Plaintiffs or their predecessors to the Alliance Defendants predecessors, MAPCO Coal, Inc. and MAPCO Land & Development Corporation (collectively MAPCO), of certain coal leases, they are entitled to receive royalty payments on all coal mined previously or in the future from the property once affected by those leases as well as from other property in the area. Plaintiffs have alleged damages of \$33.0 million or more, and have also asserted a claim for punitive damages. The subject assignments were made in accordance with an agreement between Plaintiffs and MAPCO pursuant to which Plaintiffs reserved the right to receive an overriding royalty on coal mined under the assigned leases. Several years after MAPCO terminated a number of the assigned leases, the Alliance Defendants entered into new leases of some of the property previously covered by the assigned leases, and subsequently began mining in the area. We believe that Plaintiffs' overriding royalty interest did not extend to any new lease covering the same property, and that Plaintiffs' claims are without merit. A bench trial of the case was concluded in November 2009 and closing arguments were heard on February 10, 2010, but the court has not yet issued a decision. We believe that an adverse decision in this litigation, if any, would not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position or results of operations.

On April 24, 2006, we were served with a complaint from Mr. Ned Comer, et al. (the Plaintiffs) alleging that approximately 40 oil and coal companies, including us, (the Defendants) are liable to the Plaintiffs for tortiously causing damage to Plaintiffs' property in Mississippi. The Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants' greenhouse gas emissions caused global warming and resulted in the increase in the destructive capacity of Hurricane Katrina. On August 30, 2007, the trial court dismissed the Plaintiffs' complaint. On September 17, 2007, Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal of that dismissal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. On October 16, 2009, the Fifth Circuit overturned the trial court's dismissal of the Plaintiffs' private nuisance, trespass and negligence claims, finding Article III constitutional standing and no political question. The Fifth Circuit remanded these claims to the trial court for further proceedings. By order filed February 26, 2010, the Fifth Circuit granted the Defendants' petition for rehearing en banc, with oral argument scheduled for May 24, 2010. We believe this complaint is without merit and we do not believe that an adverse decision in this litigation matter, if any, based on our status as a defendant, will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position or results of operations. If, however, tort claims brought in this and other cases against corporate defendants for liability arising from greenhouse gas emissions are successful, demand for our coal could be adversely impacted.

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

We are subject to a variety of risks, including, but not limited to those referenced under the heading "Health Care Reform" of Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and those referenced herein to other Items contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, including Item 1. Business, Item 1A. Risk Factors, Item 3. Legal Proceedings and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. Except as set forth under "Health Care Reform" and elsewhere under Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, 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, 2009, except as follows.

***Recent legislation regarding healthcare may adversely impact our results of operations.***

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Additionally, on March 30, 2010, President Obama signed into law a reconciliation measure, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (collectively, the "Health Care Act") will result in comprehensive changes to health care in the U.S. The Health Care Act also amended previous legislation related to coal workers pneumoconiosis ("Black Lung") benefits by providing automatic extension of awarded lifetime benefits to surviving spouses and providing changes to the legal criteria used to assess and award claims, effective for claims filed or pending after January 1, 2005. We are continuing to evaluate the potential impact of the legislation on our self-insured health care plan, Black Lung liabilities, results of operations and internal controls as governmental agencies issue interpretations regarding the meaning and scope of the Health Care Act. However, we believe it is likely that our costs will increase as a result of these provisions, which may have an adverse impact on our results of operations and cash flows. Please see Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations "Health Care Reform."

***Recent health care legislation has generally made it easier for claimants to assert and prosecute Black Lung claims, which could increase our exposure to Black Lung benefit liabilities.***

The recently enacted Health Care Act includes a Black Lung provision that creates a rebuttable presumption that a miner with at least 15 years of service, with totally disabling pulmonary or respiratory lung impairment and negative radiographic chest x-ray evidence would be disabled due to pneumoconiosis and be eligible for black lung benefits. The new Health Care Act also makes it easier for widows of miners to become eligible for benefits. As a result of this new legislation, the number of claimants who are awarded benefits and the ARLP Partnership's future payments of Black Lung benefits could increase, which may have an adverse impact on our results of operations and cash flows.

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

None.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4. RESERVED****ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference				
		Form	SEC File No. and Film No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
10.1 <sup>(1)</sup>	Amendment No. 5 effective January 1, 2010, between Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Webster County Coal, LLC (successor-in-interest to Webster County Coal Corporation), White County Coal, LLC (successor-in-interest to White County Coal Corporation), and Alliance Coal, LLC, as successor-in-interest to Mapco Coal, Inc. and agent for Webster County Coal, LLC and White County Coal, LLC, to the Coal Supply Agreement.					þ
31.1	Certification of Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2010, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					þ
31.2	Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2010, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					þ
32.1	Certification of Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2010, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					þ

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Incorporated by Reference</b>			<b>Filed Herewith</b>
			<b>SEC File No.</b>	<b>and Film No.</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	
32.2	Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2010, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.					b

(1) Application has been made to the Commission for confidential treatment of certain provisions of this exhibit. Omitted material for which confidential treatment has been requested has been filed separately with the Commission.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 7, 2010.

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC

its managing 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*