

AVENTINE RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDINGS INC

Form 10-Q

November 09, 2009

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**



**Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2009**

**OR**

**Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from            to            .**

**COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-32922**

## **AVENTINE RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDINGS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State of Incorporation)

**05-0569368**  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**120 North Parkway**  
**Pekin, Illinois**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**61554**  
(Zip Code)

**(309) 347-9200**

(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)

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

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

Indicate by checkmark 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

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

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). YES  NO

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each class of Common Stock, as of the latest practicable date

**Class**  
Common Stock, \$0.001 Par Value

**Outstanding as of November 9, 2009**  
42,963,158 Shares

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**FORM 10-Q**



**QUARTERLY REPORT**

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Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries****(Debtor-in-Possession)****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations**

(Unaudited)

(In thousands except per share amounts)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Net sales	\$ 118,116	\$ 599,520	\$ 472,773	\$ 1,711,059
Cost of goods sold	110,281	605,990	486,261	1,660,586
Gross profit (loss)	7,835	(6,470)	(13,488)	50,473
Selling, general and administrative expenses	5,152	8,763	21,843	27,771
Other income (loss)	(206)	405	(33)	2,799
Operating income (loss)	2,477	(14,828)	(35,364)	25,501
Other income (expense):				
Income from termination of marketing agreements			10,176	
Loss on sale of auction rate securities				(31,601)
Interest income		254	11	2,999
Interest expense (contractual interest expense was \$9.3 million and \$27.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009, respectively)	(1,838)	(235)	(12,840)	(3,751)
Other non-operating income	1	18,367	1,219	6,114
Income (loss) before reorganization items and income taxes	640	3,558	(36,798)	(738)
Reorganization items	12,640		(30,109)	
Income (loss) before income taxes	13,280	3,558	(66,907)	(738)
Income tax expense (benefit)	(606)	1,797	(7,291)	10,719
Net income (loss)	\$ 13,886	\$ 1,761	\$ (59,616)	\$ (11,457)
Net loss attributable to non-controlling interest		(725)		(1,230)
Net income (loss) attributable to controlling interest	\$ 13,886	\$ 2,486	\$ (59,616)	\$ (10,227)
<i>Per share data:</i>				
Income (loss) per common share basic:	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.06	\$ (1.39)	\$ (0.24)
Basic weighted average number of common shares	42,963	41,971	42,967	41,927
Income (loss) per common share diluted:	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.06	\$ (1.39)	\$ (0.24)
Diluted weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares	43,028	42,010	42,967	41,927

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

Table of Contents**Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries****(Debtor-in-Possession)****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

<b>(In thousands except share amounts)</b>	<b>September 30, 2009 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>December 31, 2008</b>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 35,772	\$ 23,339
Accounts receivable	11,037	55,888
Inventories	21,285	85,421
Income tax receivable	8,149	15,135
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	7,026	10,198
Total current assets	83,269	189,981
Property, plant and equipment, net	99,139	107,168
Construction in process	493,007	493,969
Available for sale securities	2,598	673
Other assets	19,377	7,668
Total assets	\$ 697,390	\$ 799,459
<b><u>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</u></b>		
Current liabilities		
Senior unsecured 10% fixed-rate notes	\$	\$ 300,000
Secured revolving credit facility	27,765	52,200
Debtor-in-possession debt facility	15,000	
Accounts payable	9,561	110,903
Accrued interest	240	7,500
Accrued liabilities	2,221	3,517
Other current liabilities	4,752	9,900
Total current liabilities	59,539	484,020
Pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise	366,121	
Net deferred tax liabilities	4,094	2,444
Other long-term liabilities	15,034	4,199
Total liabilities	444,788	490,663
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share; 185,000,000 shares authorized; 42,963,158 and 42,970,988 shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, net of 21,548,640 shares held in treasury as of September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008	43	43
Preferred stock, 50,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding		
Additional paid-in capital	294,397	292,984
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(41,777)	17,839
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(61)	(2,070)
Total stockholders' equity	252,602	308,796
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 697,390	\$ 799,459

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



Table of Contents**Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries****(Debtor-in-Possession)****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2009	2008
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Net loss	\$ (59,616)	\$ (11,457)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Provision for rejected executory contracts and leases	26,117	
Loss on sale of auction rate securities		31,601
Depreciation and amortization	12,299	10,726
Lower of cost or market adjustment related to inventory		4,538
Stock-based compensation expense	2,655	4,510
Deferred income tax	407	2,244
Gain on the sale of alliance investments	(1,000)	
Other		(376)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable, net	44,850	(4,433)
Inventories	64,136	(42,694)
Other assets	(18,512)	
Accounts payable	(53,408)	49,944
Other changes in operating assets and liabilities	5,250	12,009
Net cash provided by operating activities	23,178	56,612
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Additions to property, plant and equipment, net	(1,434)	(221,980)
Proceeds from the sale of marketing alliance investment	2,000	
Sale of short-term securities		179,899
Indemnification proceeds		3,039
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		14
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	566	(39,028)
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Net repayments on pre-petition secured revolving credit facilities	(24,435)	
Borrowing on debtor-in-possession facility	15,000	
Debt issuance costs	(1,876)	
Proceeds from the issuance of common stock		1,500
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities	(11,311)	1,500
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	12,433	19,084
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	23,339	17,171
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 35,772	\$ 36,255

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



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**Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**(Debtor-in-Possession)**

**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(1) Basis of Reporting for Interim Financial Statements**

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries, which are collectively referred to as Aventine, the Company, we, our or us, unless the context otherwise requires. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

We have prepared the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included herein pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although we believe that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2008.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements presented herewith reflect all adjustments (consisting of only normal and recurring adjustments unless otherwise disclosed) which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for an entire year.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

As of September 30, 2009, the Company's Summary of Critical Accounting Policies for the year ended December 31, 2008, which are detailed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, have not changed, except for the application of authoritative guidance on *Financial Reporting by Entities in Reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code*, in preparing the consolidated financial statements as a result of our bankruptcy filing (See Note 2).

In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC or collectively the Codification) effective July 1, 2009 as the official single source of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Codification reorganizes current U. S. GAAP into a topical format that eliminates the previous U. S. GAAP hierarchy and establishes two levels of U. S. GAAP - authoritative and non-authoritative. The Codification superseded all existing non-SEC accounting and reporting standards upon its effective date. Rules and interpretive releases of the SEC under the authority of federal securities laws continue to be sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants.. All other accounting guidance not included in the Codification will be considered non-authoritative.

Aventine adopted the Codification at the beginning of its 2009 third quarter. The adoption of the Codification did not have a significant effect on the Company's Condensed Consolidated Financial

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Statements. References to prior accounting standards have been modified to reflect their Codification references.

In May 2009, the FASB issued authoritative guidance on *Subsequent Events*, which establishes general standards of accounting for disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued or are available to be issued. It requires the disclosure of the date through which an entity has evaluated subsequent events and the basis for selecting that date, that is, whether that date represents the date the financial statements were issued or were available to be issued. Our adoption of this guidance in the second quarter of 2009 did not have a material impact on our financial statements.

In April 2009, the FASB issued authoritative guidance on *Interim Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, which requires disclosures about fair value of financial instruments for interim reporting periods. Our adoption of this guidance in the second quarter of 2009 did not have a material impact on our financial statements.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements for the prior period contain certain reclassifications to conform to the presentation used in the current period. The reclassifications had no impact on stockholders' equity, working capital, gross profit or net income (loss).

**(2) Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Proceedings**

On April 7, 2009 (the *Petition Date*), Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries (collectively, the *Debtors*) filed voluntary petitions for relief (collectively, the *Bankruptcy Filing*) under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the *Bankruptcy Code*) with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the *Bankruptcy Court*). The Chapter 11 cases are being jointly administered by the Bankruptcy Court as Case No. 09-11214 (KG) (collectively, the *Bankruptcy Cases*). The Debtors specifically are (i) Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc.; (ii) Aventine Renewable Energy, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; (iii) Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., a Delaware corporation; (iv) Aventine Renewable Energy - Mt. Vernon, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; (v) Aventine Renewable Energy - Aurora West, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; (vi) Aventine Power, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and (vii) Nebraska Energy, LLC, a Kansas limited liability company.

Subject to certain specific exceptions under the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Filing automatically enjoined, or stayed, the continuation of any judicial or administrative proceedings or other actions against the Debtors or their property to recover on, collect or secure a claim arising prior to the *Petition Date*. Thus, for example, most creditor actions to obtain possession of property from the Debtors, or to create, perfect or enforce any lien against the property of the Debtors, or to collect on or otherwise exercise rights or remedies with respect to a pre-petition claim are enjoined unless and until the Bankruptcy Court lifts the automatic stay.

The Bankruptcy Filing constituted an event of default under both the Company's secured revolving credit facility and its 10% senior unsecured notes due 2017 (the *Notes*) (see Note 7), and those debt obligations became automatically and immediately due and payable, subject to an automatic stay of any action to collect, assert, or recover a claim against the Company and the application of applicable bankruptcy law. As a result, the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2009 includes reclassifications of \$309.7 million to reflect as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise amounts owed to holders of the Notes, including pre-petition accrued interest, net of the unamortized debt issuance costs on the Notes. The Company classifies pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise as a long-term liability because management does not believe the Company will use existing current assets or create additional current liabilities to fund these

obligations. Amounts

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owed under the Company's pre-petition secured revolving credit facility and certain other collateralized obligations have not been included in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise as they are adequately collateralized.

**Chapter 11 Process**

The Debtors are currently operating as debtors-in-possession under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court, and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and orders of the Bankruptcy Court. In general, as debtors-in-possession, the Debtors are authorized under the Bankruptcy Code to continue to operate as an ongoing business, but may not engage in transactions outside of the ordinary course of business without the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

On April 7, 2009, certain of the Company's bondholders (the DIP Lenders) entered into a term sheet (the DIP Term Sheet) for a \$30 million Debtor-in-Possession Credit Facility with the Debtors. The DIP Term Sheet provides, subject to certain conditions as described in the Debtor-in-Possession Credit Facility Term Sheet filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 8-K filed on April 13, 2009 for a first priority debtor-in-possession financing (the DIP Facility) comprised of a term loan facility made available to certain of Aventine's subsidiaries in a maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$30 million. Proceeds of the DIP Facility are available to, among other things, (i) fund the working capital and general corporate needs of the Debtors and the costs of the Bankruptcy Cases in accordance with an approved budget, and (ii) provide adequate protection, in accordance with the terms of the DIP Facility, to the pre-petition agent and pre-petition lenders under the Company's existing credit facilities. The DIP Facility bears interest at 16.5% per annum. The maturity date of the DIP Facility is April 6, 2010, or upon the occurrence of certain pre-defined events. The DIP Facility is secured by a super-priority administrative claim on our assets. On May 5, 2009, the Bankruptcy Court overruled objections from the Debtors' pre-petition secured lenders and approved the DIP Facility on a final basis.

At a hearing held on April 9, 2009, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Debtors' First Day Motions. The relief granted by the Bankruptcy Court through the First Day Motions was designed to stabilize the Company's operations and business relationships with vendors, lenders, employees and others, minimize the effects of the commencement of the Bankruptcy Cases and preserve the value of the Debtors' assets. The First Day Motions allowed, among other things, the payment of vendors and other providers in the ordinary course for goods and services ordered pre-petition but received on or after the Petition Date and other business-related payments necessary to maintain the operation of our businesses. The First Day Motions also included the payment of pre-petition employee wages, salaries and benefits. The Debtors have retained, with Bankruptcy Court approval, legal and financial professionals to advise the Debtors on the bankruptcy proceedings and certain other ordinary course professionals. From time to time, the Debtors may seek Bankruptcy Court approval for the retention of additional professionals.

On or about April 29, 2009, the Debtors caused notice of the commencement of the Bankruptcy Cases to be served on all known or potential creditors and other parties in interest. Vendors are being paid for goods furnished and services provided after the Petition Date in the ordinary course of business.

As required by the Bankruptcy Code, the United States Trustee for Delaware (the US Trustee) appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors (the Creditors Committee). The Creditors Committee and its legal representatives have a right to be heard on all matters that come before the Bankruptcy Court with respect to the Debtors. There can be no assurance that the Creditors Committee will support the Debtors' positions on matters to be presented to the Bankruptcy Court in the future or on any plan of reorganization. Disagreements between the Debtors and the Creditors Committee could protract the Bankruptcy Cases, negatively impact the Debtors' ability to operate, and delay the Debtors' emergence from the Chapter 11 proceedings.



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Under Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors may assume, assume and assign, or reject executory contracts and unexpired leases, including real property, railcars and equipment leases, subject to the approval of the Bankruptcy Court and certain other conditions. Rejection constitutes a court-authorized breach of the lease or contract in question and, subject to certain exceptions, relieves the Debtors of future obligations under such lease or contract, but creates a pre-petition claim for damages caused by such breach or rejection, subject to the Debtors right to review and contest such claim. Parties whose contracts or leases are rejected may file claims against the Debtors for damages. Generally, the assumption of an executory contract or unexpired lease requires the Debtors to cure all prior defaults under such executory contract or unexpired lease, including all pre-petition arrearages, and to provide adequate assurance of future performance. In this regard, the Debtors financial statements include amounts classified as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise that the Debtors believe that the Bankruptcy Court will allow as claim amounts as a result of the Debtors rejection of various executory contracts and unexpired leases. Additional amounts may be included in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise in future periods if additional executory contracts and unexpired leases are rejected. Conversely, the Debtors would expect that the assumption of certain executory contracts and unexpired leases may convert certain liabilities shown in future financial statements as subject to compromise to post-petition liabilities. Due to the uncertain nature of many of the potential claims, the Debtors are unable to project the magnitude of such claims with any degree of certainty.

The Bankruptcy Court established September 8, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. eastern time as the deadline for the filing of proofs of claim, thereby requiring the Debtors creditors to submit claims for alleged liabilities not paid and/or damages incurred arising from or related to periods prior to the Petition Date. In certain cases, differences exist between the amounts at which the Company has recorded liabilities for rejected contracts and other pre-petition liabilities in the Company s financial statements and the amount claimed by Aventine s creditors based on the Company s estimate of the magnitude of claim to be allowed by the Bankruptcy Court. Significant litigation may be required to resolve any such disputes or discrepancies. The Company recorded a reduction in its estimate of liabilities subject to compromise in the three months ended September 30, 2009, for claims previously expected to be filed by creditors but which were not filed prior to September 8, 2009.

In order to successfully exit Chapter 11, the Debtors will need to propose, and obtain confirmation by the Bankruptcy Court of, a plan of reorganization that satisfies the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code. A plan of reorganization could, among other things, resolve the Debtors pre-petition obligations, set forth the revised capital structure of the newly reorganized entity and provide for corporate governance subsequent to exit from bankruptcy. As provided in the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors have the exclusive right for 120 days after the Petition Date to file a plan of reorganization and 60 additional days to solicit and obtain necessary acceptances. Such periods may be extended by the Bankruptcy Court for cause to up to 18 months and 20 months, respectively, after the Petition Date. If the Debtors exclusivity period lapses, any party in interest may file a plan of reorganization for Aventine. The Debtors have filed two motions with the Bankruptcy Court requesting extension of the exclusive filing and solicitation deadlines under section 1121 of the Bankruptcy Code. The first motion, approved by the Bankruptcy Court by order dated August 18, 2009, extended the exclusive deadline to file a plan of reorganization to October 5, 2009 and the solicitation of the necessary acceptances to December 3, 2009. Aventine filed a second motion on October 2, 2009. The second motion, approved by the Bankruptcy Court by order dated October 27, 2009 further extended the exclusive deadline to file a plan of reorganization through and including December 4, 2009 and the exclusive solicitation period through and including February 1, 2010.

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that unless the terms of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code are satisfied, for a bankruptcy court to confirm a Chapter 11 plan as a consensual plan,

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the holders of impaired claims against a debtor in each class of impaired claims must accept such plan by the requisite majorities set forth in the Bankruptcy Code. An impaired class of claims shall have accepted a chapter 11 plan if (a) the holders of at least two-thirds in amount of the claims in such class actually voting on a plan have voted to accept it, and (b) more than one-half in number of the holders in such class actually voting on the plan have voted to accept it. Pursuant to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, only holders of allowed claims or equity interests in classes of claims or equity interests that are impaired and that are not deemed to have rejected a Chapter 11 plan are entitled to vote to accept or reject such proposed plan. Generally, a claim or interest is impaired under a plan if the holder's legal, equitable or contractual rights are altered under such plan. Classes of claims or equity interests under a chapter 11 plan in which the holders of claims or equity interests are unimpaired are deemed to have accepted such plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the proposed plan. In addition, classes of claims or equity interests in which the holders of claims or equity interests will not receive or retain any property on account of their claims or equity interests are deemed to have rejected the plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the plan. Under circumstances specified in the so-called "cramdown" provisions of Section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Court may confirm a plan even if such plan has not been accepted by all impaired classes. The precise requirements and evidentiary showing for confirming a Chapter 11 plan notwithstanding its rejection by one or more impaired classes of claims or equity interests depends upon a number of factors, including the status and seniority of the claims or equity interests, in the rejecting class—i.e., secured claims or unsecured claims, subordinated or senior claims, or common stock.

Under the priority scheme established by the Bankruptcy Code, unless creditors agree otherwise, post-petition liabilities and pre-petition liabilities must be satisfied in full before stockholders of the Debtors are entitled to receive any distribution or retain any property under a plan of reorganization. The ultimate recovery, if any, to creditors and stockholders of the Debtors will not be determined until confirmation and consummation of a plan of reorganization. No assurance can be given as to what values, if any, will be ascribed in the Bankruptcy Cases to each of these constituencies or what types or amounts of distributions, if any, they would receive. Accordingly, the Debtors urge that appropriate caution be exercised with respect to existing and future investments in any of the Company's common stock or any of the Company's liabilities.

Although the Debtors expect to file a Chapter 11 plan that provides for emergence from Chapter 11 some time in the future, there can be no assurance that a Chapter 11 plan will be proposed by the Debtors or confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court, or that any such plan will be consummated. In order to successfully emerge from bankruptcy, the Debtors will need to, among other things, obtain alternative financing to replace the DIP Facility.

The Debtors have incurred and will continue to incur significant costs associated with the reorganization. The amount of these costs, which are being expensed as incurred, are expected to significantly affect the Debtors' results of operations.

*Notice and Sell-Down Procedures for Trading Equity Securities*

The Bankruptcy Court entered a final order (the "Final Trading Restriction Order") on May 4, 2009 granting a motion of the Debtors to require beneficial owners of substantial amounts of the Company's common stock to provide notice of their holdings and restrict, in specified circumstances and subject to specified terms and conditions, acquisitions or dispositions of the Company's common stock by Substantial Equityholders (as defined below) (the "Common Stock Notice and Transfer Requirements").

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Under the Common Stock Notice and Transfer Requirements, all Substantial Equityholders must provide the Debtors, the Debtors' counsel and the Bankruptcy Court advance notice of their intent to buy or sell the Company's common stock (including options to acquire common stock, as further specified in the Final Trading Restriction Order) prior to effectuating any such purchase or sale. A Substantial Equityholder under the Final Trading Restriction Order is a person or entity that beneficially owns or, as a result of a transaction, would beneficially own, at least 2.04 million shares (including options to acquire shares, as further specified in the Final Trading Restriction Order) of the Company's common stock, representing approximately 4.75% of all issued and outstanding shares of the Company's common stock. The Common Stock Notice and Transfer Requirements were requested by the Debtors to identify and, where necessary, restrict potential trades of the Company's common stock that could negatively impact the Debtors' ability to preserve maximum availability of their accrued net operating losses and other tax attributes under Section 382 of the Code. Pursuant to the Final Trading Restriction Order, the Debtors have 15 calendar days after notification of a transfer by a Substantial Equityholder to file any objections with the Bankruptcy Court and serve notice on such Substantial Equityholder. If the Debtors file any objections, the transfer would not become effective unless approved by a final and non-appealable order of the Bankruptcy Court. In addition, a person or entity that is or becomes a Substantial Equityholder must file with the Bankruptcy Court, and provide the Debtors and their counsel with, notification of such status on or before the later of (a) 15 days after the effective date of the notice of entry of the Final Trading Restriction Order or (b) ten days after becoming a Substantial Equityholder.

**Going Concern Matters**

The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent upon, among other things, (i) the Company's ability to comply with the terms and conditions of the DIP facility; (ii) the ability of the Company to maintain adequate cash on hand; (iii) the ability of the Company to generate cash from operations; (iv) the ability of the Company to obtain confirmation of and to consummate a plan of reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code; (v) the cost and outcome of the reorganization process; (vi) the Company's ability to obtain alternative financing; and (vii) the Company's ability to achieve profitability. Uncertainty as to the outcome of these factors raises substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The Company is currently evaluating various courses of action to address the issues the Company is facing. There can be no assurance that any of these efforts will be successful.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements do not purport to reflect or provide for the consequences of our Chapter 11 proceedings. In particular, the financial statements do not purport to show (i) as to assets, their realizable value on a liquidation basis or their availability to satisfy liabilities; (ii) as to pre-petition liabilities, the amounts that may be allowed for claims or contingencies, or the status and priority thereof; (iii) as to shareowners' equity accounts, the effect of any changes that may be made in our capitalization; or (iv) as to operations, the effect of any changes that may be made to our business.

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP), we have applied authoritative guidance on *Financial Reporting by Entities in Reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code*, in preparing the consolidated financial statements. This guidance requires that the financial statements, for periods subsequent to the Chapter 11 filing, distinguish transactions and events that are directly associated with the reorganization from the ongoing operations of the business. Accordingly, certain expenses (including professional fees), realized gains and losses and provisions for losses that are realized or incurred in the bankruptcy proceedings are recorded in reorganization items on the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. In addition, pre-petition obligations that may be impacted by the bankruptcy reorganization process have been classified on the

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Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 30, 2009 in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise. These liabilities are reported at the amounts expected to be allowed by the Bankruptcy Court, even if they may be settled for lesser amounts. For information on the bankruptcy reorganization process, see *Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Proceedings* above.

As a result of the Bankruptcy Filing, realization of assets and liquidation of liabilities are subject to uncertainty. While operating as a debtor-in-possession under the protection of Chapter 11, and subject to Bankruptcy Court approval or otherwise as permitted in the normal course of business, the Debtors may sell or otherwise dispose of assets and liquidate or settle liabilities for amounts other than those reflected in the condensed consolidated financial statements. Further, a plan of reorganization could materially change the amounts and classifications reported in our consolidated financial statements. Our historical consolidated financial statements do not give effect to any adjustments to the carrying value of assets or amounts of liabilities that might be necessary as a consequence of confirmation of a plan of reorganization.

The potential adverse publicity associated with the Bankruptcy Filing and the resulting uncertainty regarding the Company's future prospects may hinder the Company's ongoing business activities and its ability to operate, fund and execute its business plan by impairing relations with existing and potential customers; negatively impact the ability of the Company to attract, retain and compensate key executives and employees and to retain employees generally; limit the Company's ability to obtain trade credit; and impair present and future relationships with vendors and service providers.

**(3) Pending Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2008, the FASB issued authoritative guidance on an *Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets*. This guidance requires additional disclosures about assets held in an employer's defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan, primarily related to categories and fair value measurements of plan assets. This guidance is effective for us as of December 31, 2009. Because this guidance applies only to financial statement disclosures, the adoption is not expected to have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2009, the FASB updated authoritative guidance on *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*. This update provides amendments to reduce potential ambiguity in financial reporting when measuring the fair value of liabilities. Among other provisions, this update provides clarification that in circumstances in which a quoted price in an active market for the identical liability is not available, a reporting entity is required to measure fair value using one or more of the valuation techniques described in ASC Update 2009-05. ASC Update 2009-05 will become effective for our annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009. We have not yet determined the impact that this update may have on our financial statements.

Table of Contents**(4) Inventories**

Inventories are as follows:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Finished products	\$ 14,645	\$ 76,968
Work-in-process	2,040	2,568
Raw materials	3,150	3,600
Supplies	1,450	2,285
Totals	\$ 21,285	\$ 85,421

**(5) Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets**

Prepaid expenses and other current assets are as follows:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Prepaid motor fuel taxes	\$	\$ 3,667
Prepaid insurance	4,355	1,435
Prepaid supplies and materials	729	
Fair value of derivative instruments		1,521
Prepaid ethanol	124	512
Current portion of deferred income taxes		1,593
Prepaid benefits		364
Other prepaid expenses	1,818	1,106
Totals	\$ 7,026	\$ 10,198

**(6) Other Assets**

Other assets are as follows:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Deferred debt issuance costs	\$ 865	\$ 6,668
Prepaid utility costs and deposits	11,064	
Restricted cash	7,448	
Investment in marketing alliance partners, at cost		1,000
Totals	\$ 19,377	\$ 7,668

Deferred debt issuance costs are subject to amortization. In connection with amending our secured revolving credit facility in March 2009, we paid debt issuance costs totaling \$0.9 million, which will be amortized utilizing a method which approximates the effective interest method through February 28, 2010 which is the remaining life of the amended secured revolving credit facility. In connection with our debtor-in-possession debt facility, we paid debt issuance costs totaling \$1.0 million in April 2009, which will be amortized utilizing a method which approximates the effective interest method through March 2010 which is the estimated remaining life of the debtor-in-possession credit facility.

In conjunction with the construction of our new ethanol plant at Mt. Vernon, Indiana, the Company negotiated with certain utility providers to extend an existing natural gas pipeline to supply power for and construct electrical infrastructure for the new Mt. Vernon facility. In order to provide

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adequate assurance for the construction costs of the pipeline and electrical infrastructure, the Company, under its secured revolving credit facility, issued letters of credit to the utility providers in the aggregate amount of \$15.3 million. As a result of our suspending construction and our Bankruptcy Filing, one of the utility providers noted above has drawn \$9.0 million on its respective letter of credit. A second utility provider has filed a claim under the Company's bankruptcy proceedings and also filed a mechanic's lien on the Company's Mt. Vernon facility, which is partially collateralized by a letter of credit. The Company expects this \$8.2 million claim and related mechanic's lien will be allowed to stand unabated through its bankruptcy confirmation proceedings. Accordingly, the Company has reflected prepaid utility costs and deposits equal to its obligations to utility providers under drawn letters of credit and secured liens, excluding cash funded letters of credit described below. We expect the prepaid utility costs and deposits to reduce cash outlays for future utility demand charges to the Company or a potential buyer once the Mt. Vernon facility has been completed and is operational. Should the Mt. Vernon facility not be completed, we may be unable to recover any amounts and would be required to reduce the value of this asset to zero.

Restricted cash of \$7.4 million represents cash held in segregated bank accounts of the Company, which is set aside as collateral to fund certain letters of credit and utility deposits.

**(7) Debt**

The following table summarizes the Company's outstanding debt:

<b>(In thousands)</b>	<b>September 30, 2009</b>	<b>December 31, 2008</b>
Senior unsecured 10% notes due April 2017	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Secured revolving credit facility	27,765	52,200
Debtor-in-possession debt facility	15,000	
	<b>342,765</b>	352,200
Less: reclassification to pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise	<b>(300,000)</b>	
Less: short-term borrowings	<b>(42,765)</b>	(352,200)
Total long-term debt	\$	\$

*Senior Unsecured Notes*

As of September 30, 2009, the Company had outstanding \$300 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Unsecured Notes. The Notes were issued pursuant to an indenture between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as trustee and were subsequently exchanged for registered notes with the same terms. The Notes are general unsecured obligations of the Company and certain of its guarantor subsidiaries. In April 2009, Deutsche Bank National Trust Company replaced Wells Fargo Bank as Successor Indenture Trustee. As a result of the Bankruptcy Filing, the outstanding principal amount of the Notes and accrued interest thereon became immediately due and payable, and the Notes have been reclassified to pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise (see Note 12). The Company discontinued the accrual of interest on these Notes beyond the petition date of April 7, 2009. Contractual interest expense not recorded from April 8, 2009 through September 30, 2009 would have totaled \$14.4 million.

*Secured Revolving Credit Facility*

As of September 30, 2009, \$9.6 million in letters of credit and \$27.8 million in revolving loans were outstanding under our pre-petition amended secured revolving credit facility with J P Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent and a lender. As a result of our Bankruptcy Filing, all the

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commitments under the Company's pre-petition secured revolving credit facility automatically terminated, and the principal of the loans and the reimbursement obligations then outstanding, together with accrued interest thereon and any unpaid fees and all other obligations of the borrowers accrued under the applicable loans documents, became immediately due and payable, subject to the automatic stay provisions of Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code. As a result, there is no longer any liquidity available to us under this facility. Amounts owed under the Company's pre-petition secured revolving credit facility have not been included in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise as the secured debt is adequately collateralized. The Company continues to accrue and pay interest on this credit facility in accordance with the Bankruptcy Court's final debtor-in-possession financing order. As of September 30, 2009, the Company holds a restricted cash account totaling \$7.0 million providing collateral protection to the pre-petition lenders for certain outstanding letters of credit issued under this facility as provided for in a stipulation agreement among the Company, its pre-petition secured lenders, and the DIP lenders.

*Debtor-in-possession Debt Facility*

As of September 30, 2009, the Company has drawn \$15 million of its \$30 million DIP Facility. The DIP Facility provides for a first priority term loan in a maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$30 million. Proceeds of the DIP Facility can be used, among other things, to (i) fund the working capital and general corporate needs of the Debtors and the costs of the Bankruptcy Cases in accordance with an approved budget, and (ii) provide adequate protection, in accordance with the terms of the DIP Facility, to the pre-petition agent and pre-petition lenders under the Company's existing credit facilities. The DIP Facility bears interest at 16.5%. The maturity date of the DIP Facility is April 6, 2010, or upon the occurrence of certain pre-defined events. The DIP Facility is secured by a super-priority administrative expense claim on our assets. As of September 30, 2009, the Debtors are in compliance with the terms of its DIP Facility. The Company accrues and pays interest expense on this DIP Facility in accordance with the Bankruptcy Court's final order approving the DIP Facility.

Table of Contents**(8) Other Current Liabilities**

Other current liabilities are as follows:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Deferred revenue	\$ 3,579	\$ 8,425
Accrued property taxes	501	575
Accrued sales tax	10	339
Current portion of deferred income taxes		507
Reserve for uncertain tax positions (see Note 18)	576	
Accrued interest on uncertain tax positions (see Note 18)	42	
Other accrued operating expenses	44	54
Totals	\$ 4,752	\$ 9,900

**(9) Other Long-Term Liabilities**

Other long-term liabilities are as follows:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Unfunded postretirement benefit obligations	\$ 1,974	\$ 1,834
Unfunded pension liability	1,541	1,491
Pre-petition liabilities not compromised	11,519	
Reserve for uncertain tax positions (see Note 18)		848
Accrued interest on uncertain tax positions (see Note 18)		26
Totals	\$ 15,034	\$ 4,199

**(10) Fair Value Measurements**

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosure about fair value measurements. The statement requires that fair value measurements be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

- Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities;

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- Level 2: Quoted prices in markets that are not active, or inputs which are observable, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability;
- Level 3: Prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by little or no market activity).

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The following table summarizes the valuation of our financial instruments which are carried at fair value by the ASC 820 pricing levels as of September 30, 2009:

(in thousands)	Fair Value at September 30, 2009	Fair Value Measurements at the Reporting Date Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets Using Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 35,772	\$ 35,772		
Available for sale securities	2,598	2,598		

The Company did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of Level 2 or Level 3 inputs at September 30, 2009.

The Company held no outstanding derivative positions as of September 30, 2009. The Company recorded net gains of \$1.2 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2009 and net gains of \$18.4 million and \$6.1 million, respectively, for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2008 in the fair value of its derivative financial instrument positions. These gains are reflected in other non-operating income in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The Company recorded gains of \$0.2 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 under accumulated other comprehensive loss in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet for the changes in the fair value of its available for sale securities. The total cumulative gains recorded on available for sale securities as of September 30, 2009 was \$1.9 million. The Company did not hold any available for sale securities in the third quarter of 2008.

The carrying value of other financial instruments, including cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate fair value due to their short maturities or variable-rate nature of the respective balances. The following table presents the other financial instruments that are not carried at fair value but which require fair value disclosure as of September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008.

	As of September 30, 2009		As of December 31, 2008	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Investment in other ethanol producers, at cost			1,000	n/a
Commodity margin deposits			1,521	1,521
10% senior unsecured notes due 2017	(300,000)	(153,000)	(300,000)	(49,500)
Secured revolving credit facility	(27,765)	(27,765)	(52,200)	(52,200)
Debtor-in-possession debt facility	(15,000)	(15,000)		

The Company's investments at December 31, 2008 accounted for under the cost method consisted of minority positions in equity securities of other ethanol operating companies. These equity investments were recorded at cost, and it was not practical to estimate a fair value for these non-publicly traded companies. The Company redeemed all of its cost investments during the first quarter of 2009.



Table of Contents**(11) Reorganization Items**

Authoritative guidance on *Financial Reporting by Entities in Reorganizations under the Bankruptcy Code* requires separate disclosure of reorganization items such as realized gains and losses from the settlement of pre-petition liabilities, provisions for losses resulting from the reorganization and restructuring of the business, as well as professional fees directly related to the process of reorganizing the Debtors under Chapter 11. The Debtors' reorganization items for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009 consist of the following:

(in thousands)	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
Provision for rejected executory contracts and leases (a)	\$ (13,567)	\$ 26,117
Professional fees directly related to reorganization (b)	2,185	5,304
Other (c)	(1,258)	(1,312)
Total reorganization items	\$ (12,640)	\$ 30,109

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- (a) The Company has re-evaluated its estimates of allowable claims included in liabilities subject to compromise resulting in a favorable change in estimate of \$13.6 million recorded as a reorganization item in the third quarter of 2009.
- (b) Professional fees directly related to the reorganization include post-petition fees associated with advisors to the Debtors, the statutory committee of unsecured creditors and certain secured creditors. Professional fees are estimated by the Debtors and will be reconciled to actual invoices when received.
- (c) Other includes gains on the settlement of pre-petition critical vendor claims for less than amounts owed and other adjustments.

**(12) Pre-Petition Liabilities Subject to Compromise**

Pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise refers to unsecured obligations that will be accounted for under a plan of reorganization. Generally, actions to enforce or otherwise effect payment of pre-Chapter 11 liabilities are stayed. Authoritative guidance on *Financial Reporting by Entities in Reorganizations under the Bankruptcy Code* requires pre-petition liabilities that are subject to compromise to be reported at the amounts expected to be allowed, even if they may be settled for lesser amounts. These liabilities represent the estimated amount expected to be allowed on known or potential claims to be resolved through the Chapter 11 process, and remain subject to future adjustments arising from negotiated settlements, actions of the Bankruptcy Court, rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases, the determination as to the value of any potential collateral securing the claims, proofs of claim, or other events. Pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise also include certain items that may be assumed under the plan of reorganization, and as such, may be subsequently reclassified to liabilities not subject to compromise. At hearings held in April 2009, the Court granted final approval of many of the Debtors' First Day Motions covering, among other things, human capital obligations, supplier relations, insurance, customer relations, business operations, certain tax matters, cash management, utilities, case management and retention of professionals. Obligations associated with these matters are not classified as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise.

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In accordance with the authoritative guidance, debt issuance costs associated with borrowing classified as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise should be viewed as valuation adjustments to the related debt. When the debt has become an allowed claim and the allowed claim differs from the net carrying amount of the debt, the recorded amount should be adjusted to the amount of the allowed claim (thereby adjusting existing debt issuance costs to the extent necessary to report the debt at this allowed amount). Through September 30, 2009, the Bankruptcy Court had not classified any of the Debtors' outstanding debt as allowed claims. The Company has classified the Debtors' Notes as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. The Company has not adjusted debt issuance costs, totaling \$5.8 million at September 30, 2009, related to the Debtors' Notes, but has classified these costs as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise. The Company may be required to expense these amounts or a portion thereof upon determination of the allowed claim by the Bankruptcy Court.

The Debtors have rejected certain pre-petition executory contracts and unexpired leases with respect to the Debtors' operations with the approval of the Bankruptcy Court and may reject additional agreements in the future. Damages resulting from rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases are generally treated as general unsecured claims and will be classified as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise. Holders of pre-petition claims (excluding governmental entities holding governmental claims) were required to file proofs of claims by the general bar date, which was September 8, 2009. A bar date is the date by which certain claims against the Debtors must be filed if the claimants wish to receive any distribution in the Chapter 11 cases on account of such claims. Creditors were notified of the general bar date and the requirement to file a proof of claim with the Bankruptcy Court. Differences between liability amounts estimated by the Debtors and claims filed by creditors are being investigated and, if necessary, the Bankruptcy Court will make a final determination of the allowable claim. The determination of how liabilities will ultimately be treated cannot be made until the Bankruptcy Court approves a Chapter 11 plan of reorganization. Accordingly, the ultimate amount or treatment of such liabilities is not determinable at this time. Following the bar date, the Company re-evaluated its estimate of allowable claims included in liabilities subject to compromise resulting in a favorable change in estimate of \$13.6 million recorded as a reorganization item in the third quarter of 2009.

Pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise consist of the following:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009	
10% senior unsecured notes due 2017	\$	<b>300,000</b>
Provision for rejected executory contracts and other accruals		<b>26,117</b>
Pre-petition accounts payable		<b>30,309</b>
Accrued interest on Notes		<b>15,500</b>
Unamortized issuance costs of 10% senior unsecured notes		<b>(5,805)</b>
Total pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise	\$	<b>366,121</b>

Pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise include trade accounts payable related to pre-petition purchases. As a result, the Company's cash flows from operations were favorably affected by the stay of payment related to these accounts payable. Accrued interest represents amounts due on the Notes as of the Petition Date. No interest has been accrued on the Notes subsequent to the Petition Date because such amounts are not expected to become part of an allowed claim.

Table of Contents**(13) Stock-Based Compensation Plans**

The Company values its share-based payment awards using a form of the Black-Scholes option-pricing model (the option pricing model). The determination of fair value of share-based payment awards on the date of grant using the option pricing model is affected by our stock price as well as the input of other subjective assumptions. The option-pricing model requires a number of assumptions, of which the most significant are expected stock price volatility, the expected pre-vesting forfeiture rate and the expected option term (the amount of time from the grant date until the options are exercised or expire). Expected volatility is normally calculated based upon actual historical stock price movements over the expected option term. Since we have a very short-term history of stock price volatility as a public company, we calculate volatility by considering, among other things, the expected volatilities of public companies engaged in similar industries. Pre-vesting forfeitures are currently estimated using an approximate 15% forfeiture rate. The expected option term is calculated using the simplified method permitted by authoritative guidance. Our options have characteristics significantly different from those of traded options, and changes in the assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimates.

Pre-tax stock-based compensation expense for the three month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 was approximately \$1.1 million and \$0.6 million, respectively. For the three month period ended September 30, 2009, \$1.0 million was charged to selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expense and \$0.1 million was charged to cost of goods sold. For the three month period ended September 30, 2008, \$0.6 million was charged to SG&A expense. Stock-based compensation expense reduced earnings per share by less than \$0.02 per basic and fully diluted share for the three month period ended September 30, 2009 and reduced earnings per share by \$0.01 per basic and fully diluted share for the three month period ended September 30, 2008. Pre-tax stock-based compensation expense for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 was approximately \$2.7 million and \$4.5 million, respectively. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2009, \$2.4 million was charged to SG&A expense and \$0.3 million was charged to cost of goods sold. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, \$4.3 million was charged to SG&A expense and \$0.2 million was charged to cost of goods sold. Stock-based compensation expense reduced earnings per share by \$.04 per basic and fully diluted share for the nine month period ended September 30, 2009 and by \$0.07 per basic and fully diluted share for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008. The Company recognized a tax benefit on its condensed consolidated statement of income from stock-based compensation expense in the amount of \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million for the three month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively, all of which was offset by establishing valuation allowances equaling the amount of the tax benefit recognized. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, the Company recognized a tax benefit on its condensed consolidated statement of income from stock-based compensation expense in the amount of \$0.6 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. The Company recorded pre-tax stock-based compensation expense for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 as follows:

(in millions)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Stock-based compensation expense:				
Non-qualified stock options	\$ 1.0	\$ 0.8	\$ 2.4	\$ 4.1
Restricted stock		0.1	0.2	0.3
Restricted stock units	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Long-term incentive stock plan		(0.4)		
Totals	\$ 1.1	\$ 0.6	\$ 2.7	\$ 4.5

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As of September 30, 2009 and 2008, the Company had not yet recognized compensation expense on the following non-vested awards:

(in millions)	2009		2008	
	Non-recognized Compensation	Weighted Average Remaining Recognition Period (years)	Non-recognized Compensation	Weighted Average Remaining Recognition Period (years)
Non-qualified options	\$ 4.4	1.3	\$ 13.1	2.5
Restricted stock	0.4	0.3	0.8	3.3
Restricted stock units	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.6
Long-term incentive stock plan		0.0	0.4	1.3
Total	\$ 4.9	1.2	\$ 14.6	2.5

The Company did not grant any stock options during the quarters ended September 30, 2009 and 2008.

The following table summarizes stock options outstanding and changes during the nine month period ended September 30, 2009:

	Shares (in thousands)	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Life (years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
Options outstanding January 1, 2009	3,894	\$ 7.62	6.7	\$ 422
Granted	50	0.18	10.0	
Exercised				
Cancelled or expired	(855)	12.19		
Options outstanding September 30, 2009	3,089	\$ 6.23	5.3	
Options exercisable September 30, 2009	2,102	\$ 5.25	4.6	

The range of exercise prices of the exercisable options and outstanding options at September 30, 2009 are as follows:

Weighted Average Exercise Price	Number of Exercisable Options (in thousands)	Number of Outstanding Options (in thousands)	Weighted Average Remaining Life (years)
\$0.18 - \$0.23	964	1,014	3.6
\$2.36 - \$4.80	689	1,085	5.9
\$7.05	75	342	8.2
\$15.26 - \$17.29	112	290	7.3
\$22.15 - \$22.50	238	334	4.4
\$43.00	24	24	0.2

Totals	2,102	3,089	5.3
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Restricted stock award activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 is summarized below:

		Shares (in thousands)	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value per Award
Unvested restricted stock awards	January 1, 2009	59	\$ 15.97
Granted			
Vested		(17)	17.41
Cancelled or expired		(3)	17.29
Unvested restricted stock awards	September 30, 2009	39	15.26

Restricted stock unit award activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 is summarized below:

		Shares (in thousands)	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value per Award
Unvested Restricted stock unit awards	January 1, 2009	49	\$ 7.50
Granted			
Vested		(17)	10.10
Cancelled or expired			
Unvested restricted stock unit awards	September 30, 2009	32	\$ 6.80

**(14) Interest Expense**

The following table summarizes interest expense:

(in thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Interest expense	\$ 1,369	\$ 7,502	\$ 10,966	\$ 22,534
Amortization of deferred debt issuance costs	469	233	1,874	710
Capitalized interest		(7,500)		(19,493)
Interest expense, net	\$ 1,838	\$ 235	\$ 12,840	\$ 3,751

Interest expense in 2009 includes interest on our secured revolving credit facility for both pre-petition and post-petition periods, interest incurred on our DIP Facility, and interest on our Notes up to the date of our Bankruptcy Filing. Because we do not believe that interest on our Notes will be allowed as a claim past the Petition Date, we discontinued recognizing interest expense on our Notes as of that date. Contractual interest

amounts disclosed in our Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations reflect the cost of borrowings without regard to what the Bankruptcy Court may allow as a claim.

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**(15) Pension Expense**

*Defined Contribution Plans*

We have 401(k) plans covering substantially all of our employees. We recorded expense with respect to these plans for the three month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 of \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, and expense of \$0.6 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. Contributions made under our defined contribution plans include a match, at the Company's discretion, of employee salaries contributed to the plans.

*Qualified Retirement Plan*



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The Company provides a non-contributory qualified defined benefit pension plan for its unionized employees at our Pekin, IL production facilities. The following table summarizes the components of net periodic pension cost for the qualified pension plan:

(In thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Service cost	\$ 84	\$ 67	\$ 254	\$ 221
Interest cost	127	124	381	372
Expected return on plan assets	(140)	(179)	(421)	(538)
Amortization of prior service costs	11	10	32	32
Amortization of net actuarial loss	45		134	
Net periodic pension cost	\$ 127	\$ 22	\$ 380	\$ 87

*Postretirement Benefit Obligation*



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We sponsor a healthcare plan that provides postretirement medical benefits to certain grandfathered unionized employees. The plan is contributory, with contributions required at the same rate as active employees. Benefit eligibility under the plan terminates at age 65.

The following table summarizes the components of the net periodic costs for postretirement benefits:

(In thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Service cost	\$ 19	\$ 38	\$ 57	\$ 114
Interest cost	28	34	83	102
Amortization of net actuarial gain	(9)		(27)	
Net periodic postretirement cost	\$ 38	\$ 72	\$ 113	\$ 216

### (16) Noncontrolling Interest

We adopted the authoritative guidance on *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements* on January 1, 2009. Prior to October 2008, we owned 78.42% of Nebraska Energy, LLC ( NELLC ), a 50 million gallon dry mill ethanol plant. In October 2008, we purchased the remaining

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21.58% of NELLC we did not previously own. As a result of purchasing the remaining interest in NELLC, we did not have any noncontrolling interest on our consolidated balance sheets as of September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008. In accordance with this guidance, we classified noncontrolling interests separately on our condensed consolidated statements of operations for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2008. Prior year amounts were previously included in our consolidated balance sheets as a separate line item called "minority interest" under long-term liabilities and in our consolidated statement of operations as a separate line item called "Minority interest" under other income (expense).

Net Income (Loss) attributable to Aventine during the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2008 was as follows:

(in thousands)	Three months ended September 30, 2008	Nine months ended September 30, 2008
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 1,761	\$ (11,457)
Net loss attributable to noncontrolling interest	(725)	(1,230)
Net Income (Loss) attributable to Aventine	\$ 2,486	\$ (10,227)

**(17) Derivative Instruments and Hedging**

On January 1, 2009, we adopted the provisions of ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*, which requires entities to provide greater transparency in interim and annual financial statements about how and why the entity uses derivative instruments, how the instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under authoritative guidance, and how the instruments and related hedged items affect the financial position, results of operations, and cash flows of the entity.

We are exposed to certain risks related to our ongoing business operations. The primary risks related to our business are price risk on anticipated purchases of corn, natural gas and the sale of ethanol. We have historically used forward or derivative instruments to manage these risks. We are not currently using forward or derivative instruments, and are primarily in the spot markets for commodity pricing.

We are subject to market risk with respect to the price and availability of corn, the principal raw material we use to produce ethanol and ethanol by-products. In general, rising corn prices result in lower profit margins and, therefore, represent unfavorable market conditions. This is especially true when market conditions do not allow us to pass along increased corn costs to our customers. The availability and price of corn is subject to wide fluctuations due to unpredictable factors such as weather conditions, farmer planting decisions, governmental policies with respect to agriculture and international trade and global demand and supply.

We have firm-price purchase commitments with some of our corn suppliers under which we agree to buy corn at a price set in advance of the actual delivery of that corn to us. Under these arrangements, we assume the risk of a price decrease in the market price of corn between the time this price is fixed and the time the corn is delivered. At September 30, 2009, we had commitments to purchase 1.3 million bushels of corn through December 2009 at an average fixed price of \$3.35 per bushel. We have elected to account for these transactions as normal purchases under authoritative guidance, and accordingly, have not marked these transactions to market.

We sometimes enter into firm-price purchase commitments with some of our natural gas suppliers under which we agree to buy natural gas at a price set in advance of the actual delivery of that natural gas to us. Under these arrangements, we assume the risk of a price decrease in the market price

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of natural gas between the time this price is fixed and the time the natural gas is delivered. At September 30, 2009, we did not have any commitments to purchase natural gas in advance at prices other than at market. We account for these transactions as normal purchases under authoritative guidance, and accordingly, do not mark these transactions to market.

In order to reduce our market exposure to price decreases in corn, we have in the past, at the time we enter into a firm-price purchase commitment, often entered into commodity forward contracts to sell a like amount of corn at the then-current price for delivery to the counterparty at a later date. Such forward contracts were not designated as hedges and, therefore, were marked to market each period.

We have also, in the past, entered into commodity futures contracts in connection with the purchase of corn to reduce our risk of future price increases. These futures contracts were not designated as hedges and, therefore, were marked to market each period.

We are also subject to market risk with respect to ethanol pricing. Our ethanol sales are priced using contracts that can either be fixed; based upon the price of wholesale gasoline plus or minus a fixed amount; or based upon a market price at the time of shipment. We sometimes fix the price at which we sell ethanol using fixed price physical delivery contracts. We have elected to account for these transactions as normal sales transactions under authoritative guidance, and accordingly, have not marked these transactions to market.

We also sell forward ethanol using contracts where the price is determined at a point in the future based upon an index to gasoline price plus or minus a fixed amount. Under these arrangements, we assume the risk of a price decrease in the market price of gasoline. In order to reduce our market exposure to price decreases, at the time we enter into a firm sales commitment, we may also enter into commodity forward contracts to sell a like amount of gasoline at the then-current price for delivery to the counterparty at a later date. These forward contracts are not designated as hedges and, therefore, are marked to market each period.

We did not have any derivative instruments outstanding at September 30, 2009. Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments under authoritative guidance at December 31, 2008 were as follows:

Type	Balance Sheet Classification	Fair Value (in thousands)	
		September 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Short corn positions	Other current assets	\$	\$ 5,988

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The realized and unrealized effect on our condensed consolidated statement of operations for derivatives not designated as hedging instruments under authoritative guidance at September 30, 2009 and 2008 are as follows:

Position Type	Statement of Operations Classification	Three months ended		Fair Value (in thousands)		
		2009	2008	September 30, 2009	September 30, 2008	
Short corn	Other non-operating income/(expense)	\$	\$	14,986	\$ 1,188	\$ 3,775
Long corn	Other non-operating income/(expense)		1	(2,425)	31	7,994
Short gasoline	Other non-operating income/(expense)			5,806		(5,655)
Totals		\$	1	\$ 18,367	\$ 1,219	\$ 6,114

Any outstanding derivative position requires cash settlement on a daily basis. Without such cash settlement on derivative contracts, cash flows from operations would have been lower.

**(18) Income Taxes**

The Company recorded an income tax benefit of \$0.6 million and \$7.3 million for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2009, respectively. The difference between the tax benefit rate accrued and the statutory benefit rate is principally due to the establishment of valuation allowances totaling \$31.9 million as of September 30, 2009, as we expect to be unable to realize the tax benefit of our net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets.

As of September 30, 2009, we had \$0.6 million of uncertain tax benefits. None of our unrecognized tax benefits, if recognized in future periods, would impact the Company's effective tax rate. During the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009, our liability for unrecognized tax benefits decreased by \$2.3 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, as a result of the examination of our federal income tax returns for the tax years 2006 and 2007. At September 30, 2009, our liability for unrecognized tax benefits is included in other current liabilities on the condensed consolidated balance sheet.

We include interest expense, as well as potential penalties on unrecognized tax benefits, as a component of income tax expense in the condensed consolidated statement of operations. The total amount of accrued interest related to uncertain tax positions at September 30, 2009 was \$0.04 million, net of the deferred tax benefit, and is included in other current liabilities. We did not increase our accrual for interest related to uncertain tax positions for the three month period ended September 30, 2009. We increased our accrual for interest related to uncertain tax positions for the nine month period ended September 30, 2009 by \$0.02 million, net of the deferred tax benefit.

Our federal income tax return for 2008 is available for examination under the federal statute of limitations. We file in numerous state and foreign jurisdictions with varying statutes of limitations open from 2005 to 2008.

**(19) Earnings (Loss) Per Share**

Basic earnings (loss) per share is computed by dividing net loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each period. Diluted loss per share is calculated using the treasury

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stock method in accordance with authoritative guidance, and includes the effect of all dilutive securities, including non-qualified stock options and restricted stock units awards ( RSU s ).

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted loss per share:

(In thousands, except per share data)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Net income (loss) attributable to controlling interest	\$ 13,886	\$ 2,486	\$ (59,616)	\$ (10,227)
Weighted average shares and share equivalents outstanding:				
Basic shares	42,963	41,971	42,967	41,927
Dilutive non-qualified stock options and RSU s	65	39		
Diluted weighted average shares and share equivalents	43,028	42,010	42,967	41,927
Income (loss) per common share - basic:	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.06	\$ (1.39)	\$ (0.24)
Income (loss) per common share - diluted:	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.06	\$ (1.39)	\$ (0.24)

*We had potentially dilutive securities outstanding representing options on 3.9 million common shares at September 30, 2008 that were not included in the computation of potentially dilutive securities because the options exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares or because the options were anti-dilutive, and were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share in accordance with authoritative guidance.*



**(20) Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

The following table summarizes comprehensive income (loss):

(In thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Net Income (Loss) attributable to controlling interest	\$ 13,886	\$ 2,486	\$ (59,616)	\$ (10,227)
Unrealized gain on available for sale securities	201		1,925	
Unrecognized pension and postretirement liabilities, net of tax	(28)	14	(84)	5
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 14,059	\$ 2,500	\$ (57,775)	\$ (10,222)

**(21) Industry Segment**

The Company operates in one reportable business segment, the manufacture and marketing of fuel-grade ethanol.

**(22) Litigation**

On April 7, 2009, the Company and all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code with the Bankruptcy Court. The Bankruptcy Cases are being jointly administered under Case Number 09-11214 (KG). Aventine intends to continue to operate its business as debtor-in-possession under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court

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and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and orders of the Bankruptcy Court. As a result of the commencement of the Bankruptcy Cases, attempts to collect, secure, or enforce remedies with respect to pre-petition claims against Aventine are subject to the automatic stay provisions of Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Bankruptcy Cases are discussed in greater detail in Note 2.

On November 6, 2008, the Company commenced an action against JP Morgan Securities, Inc. and JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. (hereinafter collectively referred to as "JP Morgan") in the Tenth Judicial Circuit in Tazewell County, Illinois. The Company's complaint relates to losses incurred in excess of \$31 million as a result of investments in Student Loan Auction Rate Securities purchased through JP Morgan. At this time, we cannot be certain as to the outcome of this litigation.

We are from time to time involved in various legal proceedings, including legal proceedings relating to the extensive environmental laws and regulations that apply to our facilities and operations. We are not involved in any legal proceedings, other than those described herein, that we believe could have a material adverse effect upon our business, operating results or financial condition.

**(23) Subsequent Events**

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through the date of filing the financial statements which is November 9, 2009, and no events have occurred from the balance sheet date through that date that would impact the consolidated financial statements.

On October 9, 2009, Ron Miller submitted his resignation as Chief Executive Officer of Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. His resignation was effective October 23, 2009. Aventine's Board of Directors appointed George T. Henning, Jr. as Interim Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company effective October 24, 2009. Mr. Henning has served as our Interim Chief Financial Officer since March 16, 2009 and continues to serve the Company in that capacity.

The United Steelworkers International Union, Local 7-662 (the "Union") represents certain of the Company's production employees at the Pekin, Illinois facilities. During recent negotiations, the Company and the Union agreed to extend the term of the current collective bargaining agreement by one year through and including October 31, 2010 on the same terms and conditions, subject to an option to reopen negotiations upon mutual consent after the effective date of a confirmed Chapter 11 plan of reorganization.

On November 6, 2009, the President of the United States signed The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. Under the legislation, qualifying businesses may elect for tax purposes to carry back Net Operating Losses (NOLs) incurred in either 2008 or 2009 (but not for both years) for up to five years preceding the generation of the NOLs. These businesses are able to offset 100% of their taxable income with their available NOLs in the four years preceding NOLs generation, and 50% of their taxable income in the fifth year preceding the generation of the NOLs. The Company has generated NOLs in 2008 and 2009 for which utilization had been limited to two carry-back years under prior legislation. We are currently evaluating the impact of the new law but expect to be able to recover certain taxes paid in prior years through this expanded opportunity to carry-back NOLs.



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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

*This report contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to current or historical fact, but address events or developments that we anticipate will occur in the future. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding our goals, beliefs, plans or current expectations, taking into account the information currently available to our management. When we use words such as anticipate, intend, expect, believe, plan, may, should or would or other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcome, we are making forward-looking statements. Statements relating to future sales, earnings, operating performance, restructuring strategies, plant expansions, capital expenditures and sources and uses of cash, for example, are forward-looking statements.*

*These forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated or implied by such forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly release any revision of any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect events and circumstances occurring after the date hereof, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Information concerning risk factors is contained under Item 1A - Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 and under Part II, Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three month period ended March 31, 2009. You should carefully consider all of the risks and all other information contained in or incorporated by reference in this report and in our filings with the SEC. These risks are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us, or which we currently consider immaterial, also may adversely affect us. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.*

**Company Overview**

Aventine is a producer of ethanol. Through our production facilities, we market and distribute ethanol to many of the leading energy companies in the U.S. In addition to producing ethanol, our facilities also produce several co-products including: corn gluten feed and meal, corn germ, condensed corn distillers solubles, dried distillers grain with solubles ( DDGS ), wet distillers grain with solubles ( WDGS ), carbon dioxide and brewers' yeast.

**Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Proceedings**

On April 7, 2009 (the Petition Date ), Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries (collectively, the Debtors ) filed voluntary petitions for relief (collectively, the Bankruptcy Filing ) under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the Bankruptcy Code ) with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the Bankruptcy Court ). The Chapter 11 cases are being jointly administered by the Bankruptcy Court as Case No. 09-11214 (KG) (collectively, the Bankruptcy Cases ). The Debtors specifically are (i) Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc.; (ii) Aventine Renewable Energy, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; (iii) Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., a Delaware corporation; (iv) Aventine Renewable Energy Mt. Vernon, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; (v) Aventine Renewable Energy Aurora West, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; (vi) Aventine Power, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and (vii) Nebraska Energy, LLC, a Kansas limited liability company.

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Subject to certain specific exceptions under the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Filing automatically enjoined, or stayed, the continuation of any judicial or administrative proceedings or other actions against the Debtors or their property to recover on, collect or secure a claim arising prior to the

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Petition Date. Thus, for example, most creditor actions to obtain possession of property from the Debtors, or to create, perfect or enforce any lien against the property of the Debtors, or to collect on or otherwise exercise rights or remedies with respect to a pre-petition claim are enjoined unless and until the Bankruptcy Court lifts the automatic stay.

The Bankruptcy Filing constituted an event of default under both the Company's secured revolving credit facility and its 10% senior unsecured notes due 2017 (the Notes) (see Note 7), and those debt obligations became automatically and immediately due and payable, subject to an automatic stay of any action to collect, assert, or recover a claim against the Company and the application of applicable bankruptcy law. As a result, the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2009 includes reclassifications of \$309.7 million to reflect as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise amounts owed to holders of the Notes, including pre-petition accrued interest, net of the unamortized debt issuance costs on the Notes. The Company classifies pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise as a long-term liability because management does not believe the Company will use existing current assets or create additional current liabilities to fund these obligations. Amounts owed under the Company's pre-petition secured revolving credit facility and certain other collateralized obligations have not been included in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise as they are adequately collateralized.

**Chapter 11 Process**

The Debtors are currently operating as debtors-in-possession under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court, and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and orders of the Bankruptcy Court. In general, as debtors-in-possession, the Debtors are authorized under the Bankruptcy Code to continue to operate as an ongoing business, but may not engage in transactions outside of the ordinary course of business without the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

On April 7, 2009, certain of the Company's bondholders (the DIP Lenders) entered into a term sheet (the DIP Term Sheet) for a \$30 million Debtor-in-Possession Credit Facility with the Debtors. The DIP Term Sheet provides, subject to certain conditions as described in the Debtor-in-Possession Credit Facility Term Sheet filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 8-K filed on April 13, 2009 for a first priority debtor-in-possession financing (the DIP Facility) comprised of a term loan facility made available to certain of Aventine's subsidiaries in a maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$30 million. Proceeds of the DIP Facility are available to, among other things, (i) fund the working capital and general corporate needs of the Debtors and the costs of the Bankruptcy Cases in accordance with an approved budget, and (ii) provide adequate protection, in accordance with the terms of the DIP Facility, to the pre-petition agent and pre-petition lenders under the Company's existing credit facilities. The DIP Facility bears interest at 16.5% per annum. The maturity date of the DIP Facility is April 6, 2010, or upon the occurrence of certain pre-defined events. The DIP Facility is secured by a super-priority administrative claim on our assets. On May 5, 2009, the Bankruptcy Court overruled objections from the Debtors' pre-petition secured lenders and approved the DIP Facility on a final basis.

At a hearing held on April 9, 2009, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Debtors' First Day Motions. The relief granted by the Bankruptcy Court through the First Day Motions was designed to stabilize the Company's operations and business relationships with vendors, lenders, employees and others, minimize the effects of the commencement of the Bankruptcy Cases and preserve the value of the Debtors' assets. The First Day Motions allowed, among other things, the payment of vendors and other providers in the ordinary course for goods and services ordered pre-petition but received on or after the Petition Date and other business-related payments necessary to maintain the operation of our businesses. The First Day Motions also included the payment of pre-petition employee wages, salaries and benefits. The Debtors have retained, with Bankruptcy Court approval, legal and financial professionals to advise



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the Debtors on the bankruptcy proceedings and certain other ordinary course professionals. From time to time, the Debtors may seek Bankruptcy Court approval for the retention of additional professionals.

On or about April 29, 2009, the Debtors caused notice of the commencement of the Bankruptcy Cases to be served on all known or potential creditors and other parties in interest. Vendors are being paid for goods furnished and services provided after the Petition Date in the ordinary course of business.

As required by the Bankruptcy Code, the United States Trustee for Delaware (the US Trustee) appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors (the Creditors Committee). The Creditors Committee and its legal representatives have a right to be heard on all matters that come before the Bankruptcy Court with respect to the Debtors. There can be no assurance that the Creditors Committee will support the Debtors positions on matters to be presented to the Bankruptcy Court in the future or on any plan of reorganization. Disagreements between the Debtors and the Creditors Committee could protract the Bankruptcy Cases, negatively impact the Debtors ability to operate, and delay the Debtors emergence from the Chapter 11 proceedings.

Under Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors may assume, assume and assign, or reject executory contracts and unexpired leases, including real property, railcars and equipment leases, subject to the approval of the Bankruptcy Court and certain other conditions. Rejection constitutes a court-authorized breach of the lease or contract in question and, subject to certain exceptions, relieves the Debtors of future obligations under such lease or contract, but creates a pre-petition claim for damages caused by such breach or rejection, subject to the Debtors right to review and contest such claim. Parties whose contracts or leases are rejected may file claims against the Debtors for damages. Generally, the assumption of an executory contract or unexpired lease requires the Debtors to cure all prior defaults under such executory contract or unexpired lease, including all pre-petition arrearages, and to provide adequate assurance of future performance. In this regard, the Debtors financial statements include amounts classified as pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise that the Debtors believe that the Bankruptcy Court will allow as claim amounts as a result of the Debtors rejection of various executory contracts and unexpired leases. Additional amounts may be included in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise in future periods if additional executory contracts and unexpired leases are rejected. Conversely, the Debtors would expect that the assumption of certain executory contracts and unexpired leases may convert certain liabilities shown in future financial statements as subject to compromise to post-petition liabilities. Due to the uncertain nature of many of the potential claims, the Debtors are unable to project the magnitude of such claims with any degree of certainty.

The Bankruptcy Court established September 8, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. eastern time as the deadline for the filing of proofs of claim, thereby requiring the Debtors creditors to submit claims for alleged liabilities not paid and/or damages incurred arising from or related to periods prior to the Petition Date. In certain cases, differences exist between the amounts at which the Company has recorded liabilities for rejected contracts and other pre-petition liabilities in the Company's financial statements and the amount claimed by Aventine's creditors based on the Company's estimate of the magnitude of claim to be allowed by the Bankruptcy Court. Significant litigation may be required to resolve any such disputes or discrepancies. The Company recorded a reduction in its estimate of liabilities subject to compromise in the three months ended September 30, 2009, for claims previously expected to be filed by creditors but which were not filed prior to September 8, 2009.

In order to successfully exit Chapter 11, the Debtors will need to propose, and obtain confirmation by the Bankruptcy Court of, a plan of reorganization that satisfies the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code. A plan of reorganization could, among other things, resolve the Debtors pre-petition obligations, set forth the revised capital structure of the newly reorganized entity and provide for corporate governance subsequent to exit from bankruptcy. As provided in the Bankruptcy Code, the



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Debtors have the exclusive right for 120 days after the Petition Date to file a plan of reorganization and 60 additional days to solicit and obtain necessary acceptances. Such periods may be extended by the Bankruptcy Court for cause to up to 18 months and 20 months, respectively, after the Petition Date. If the Debtors' exclusivity period lapses, any party in interest may file a plan of reorganization for Aventine. The Debtors have filed two motions with the Bankruptcy Court requesting extension of the exclusive filing and solicitation deadlines under section 1121 of the Bankruptcy Code. The first motion, approved by the Bankruptcy Court by order dated August 18, 2009, extended the exclusive deadline to file a plan of reorganization to October 5, 2009 and the solicitation of the necessary acceptances to December 3, 2009. Aventine filed a second motion on October 2, 2009. The second motion, approved by the Bankruptcy Court by order dated October 27, 2009 further extended the exclusive deadline to file a plan of reorganization through and including December 4, 2009 and the exclusive solicitation period through and including February 1, 2010.

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that unless the terms of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code are satisfied, for a bankruptcy court to confirm a Chapter 11 plan as a consensual plan, the holders of impaired claims against a debtor in each class of impaired claims must accept such plan by the requisite majorities set forth in the Bankruptcy Code. An impaired class of claims shall have accepted a chapter 11 plan if (a) the holders of at least two-thirds in amount of the claims in such class actually voting on a plan have voted to accept it, and (b) more than one-half in number of the holders in such class actually voting on the plan have voted to accept it. Pursuant to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, only holders of allowed claims or equity interests in classes of claims or equity interests that are impaired and that are not deemed to have rejected a Chapter 11 plan are entitled to vote to accept or reject such proposed plan. Generally, a claim or interest is impaired under a plan if the holder's legal, equitable or contractual rights are altered under such plan. Classes of claims or equity interests under a chapter 11 plan in which the holders of claims or equity interests are unimpaired are deemed to have accepted such plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the proposed plan. In addition, classes of claims or equity interests in which the holders of claims or equity interests will not receive or retain any property on account of their claims or equity interests are deemed to have rejected the plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the plan. Under circumstances specified in the so-called "cramdown" provisions of Section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Court may confirm a plan even if such plan has not been accepted by all impaired classes. The precise requirements and evidentiary showing for confirming a Chapter 11 plan notwithstanding its rejection by one or more impaired classes of claims or equity interests depends upon a number of factors, including the status and seniority of the claims or equity interests, in the rejecting class—i.e., secured claims or unsecured claims, subordinated or senior claims, or common stock.

Under the priority scheme established by the Bankruptcy Code, unless creditors agree otherwise, post-petition liabilities and pre-petition liabilities must be satisfied in full before stockholders of the Debtors are entitled to receive any distribution or retain any property under a plan of reorganization. The ultimate recovery, if any, to creditors and stockholders of the Debtors will not be determined until confirmation and consummation of a plan of reorganization. No assurance can be given as to what values, if any, will be ascribed in the Bankruptcy Cases to each of these constituencies or what types or amounts of distributions, if any, they would receive. Accordingly, the Debtors urge that appropriate caution be exercised with respect to existing and future investments in any of the Company's common stock or any of the Company's liabilities.

Although the Debtors expect to file a Chapter 11 plan that provides for emergence from Chapter 11 some time in the future, there can be no assurance that a Chapter 11 plan will be proposed by the Debtors or confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court, or that any such plan will be consummated. In order to successfully emerge from bankruptcy, the Debtors will need to, among other things, obtain alternative financing to replace the DIP Facility.

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The Debtors have incurred and will continue to incur significant costs associated with the reorganization. The amount of these costs, which are being expensed as incurred, are expected to significantly affect the Debtors' results of operations.

*Notice and Sell-Down Procedures for Trading Equity Securities*

The Bankruptcy Court entered a final order (the "Final Trading Restriction Order") on May 4, 2009 granting a motion of the Debtors to require beneficial owners of substantial amounts of the Company's common stock to provide notice of their holdings and restrict, in specified circumstances and subject to specified terms and conditions, acquisitions or dispositions of the Company's common stock by Substantial Equityholders (as defined below) (the "Common Stock Notice and Transfer Requirements").

Under the Common Stock Notice and Transfer Requirements, all Substantial Equityholders must provide the Debtors, the Debtors' counsel and the Bankruptcy Court advance notice of their intent to buy or sell the Company's common stock (including options to acquire common stock, as further specified in the Final Trading Restriction Order) prior to effectuating any such purchase or sale. A Substantial Equityholder under the Final Trading Restriction Order is a person or entity that beneficially owns or, as a result of a transaction, would beneficially own, at least 2.04 million shares (including options to acquire shares, as further specified in the Final Trading Restriction Order) of the Company's common stock, representing approximately 4.75% of all issued and outstanding shares of the Company's common stock. The Common Stock Notice and Transfer Requirements were requested by the Debtors to identify and, where necessary, restrict potential trades of the Company's common stock that could negatively impact the Debtors' ability to preserve maximum availability of their accrued net operating losses and other tax attributes under Section 382 of the Code. Pursuant to the Final Trading Restriction Order, the Debtors have 15 calendar days after notification of a transfer by a Substantial Equityholder to file any objections with the Bankruptcy Court and serve notice on such Substantial Equityholder. If the Debtors file any objections, the transfer would not become effective unless approved by a final and non-appealable order of the Bankruptcy Court. In addition, a person or entity that is or becomes a Substantial Equityholder must file with the Bankruptcy Court, and provide the Debtors and their counsel with, notification of such status on or before the later of (a) 15 days after the effective date of the notice of entry of the Final Trading Restriction Order or (b) ten days after becoming a Substantial Equityholder.

**Going Concern Matters**

The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent upon, among other things, (i) the Company's ability to comply with the terms and conditions of the DIP Facility; (ii) the ability of the Company to maintain adequate cash on hand; (iii) the ability of the Company to generate cash from operations; (iv) the ability of the Company to obtain confirmation of and to consummate a plan of reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code; (v) the cost and outcome of the reorganization process; (vi) the Company's ability to obtain alternative financing; and (vii) the Company's ability to achieve profitability. Uncertainty as to the outcome of these factors raises substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The Company is currently evaluating various courses of action to address the issues the Company is facing. There can be no assurance that any of these efforts will be successful.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements do not purport to reflect or provide for the consequences of our Chapter 11 proceedings. In particular, the financial statements do not purport to show (i) as to assets, their realizable value on a liquidation basis or their availability to satisfy liabilities;



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(ii) as to pre-petition liabilities, the amounts that may be allowed for claims or contingencies, or the status and priority thereof; (iii) as to shareowners' equity accounts, the effect of any changes that may be made in our capitalization; or (iv) as to operations, the effect of any changes that may be made to our business.

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ( GAAP ), we have applied authoritative guidance on *Financial Reporting by Entities in Reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code*, in preparing the consolidated financial statements. This guidance requires that the financial statements, for periods subsequent to the Chapter 11 filing, distinguish transactions and events that are directly associated with the reorganization from the ongoing operations of the business. Accordingly, certain expenses (including professional fees), realized gains and losses and provisions for losses that are realized or incurred in the bankruptcy proceedings are recorded in reorganization items on the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. In addition, pre-petition obligations that may be impacted by the bankruptcy reorganization process have been classified on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 30, 2009 in pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise . These liabilities are reported at the amounts expected to be allowed by the Bankruptcy Court, even if they may be settled for lesser amounts. For information on the bankruptcy reorganization process, see Note 2 - *Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Proceedings*.

As a result of the Bankruptcy Filing, realization of assets and liquidation of liabilities are subject to uncertainty. While operating as a debtor-in-possession under the protection of Chapter 11, and subject to Bankruptcy Court approval or otherwise as permitted in the normal course of business, the Debtors may sell or otherwise dispose of assets and liquidate or settle liabilities for amounts other than those reflected in the condensed consolidated financial statements. Further, a plan of reorganization could materially change the amounts and classifications reported in our consolidated financial statements. Our historical consolidated financial statements do not give effect to any adjustments to the carrying value of assets or amounts of liabilities that might be necessary as a consequence of confirmation of a plan of reorganization.

The potential adverse publicity associated with the Bankruptcy Filing and the resulting uncertainty regarding the Company's future prospects may hinder the Company's ongoing business activities and its ability to operate, fund and execute its business plan by impairing relations with existing and potential customers; negatively impact the ability of the Company to attract, retain and compensate key executives and employees and to retain employees generally; limit the Company's ability to obtain trade credit; and impair present and future relationships with vendors and service providers.

**Results of Operations**

The following discussion summarizes the significant factors affecting the consolidated operating results of the Company for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contained in Item 1 above, and the consolidated financial statements and related notes for the year ended December 31, 2008 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Our revenues are principally derived from the sale of ethanol and from the sale of co-products (corn gluten feed and meal, corn germ, condensed corn distillers solubles, DDGS, WDGS, carbon dioxide, and brewers' yeast) that we produce as by-products during the production of ethanol at our plants, which we refer to as co-product revenues.



Table of Contents*Executive Summary of Financial Results*

The net income attributable to controlling interest for the third quarter of 2009 was \$13.9 million, or \$0.32 per diluted share, as compared to a net income of \$2.5 million, or \$0.06 per diluted share, in the third quarter of 2008. The increase in net income in the third quarter of 2009 was primarily the result of the net reorganization items. Commodity spread, defined as gross ethanol selling price per gallon less net corn cost per gallon, declined from \$0.98 per gallon in the third quarter of 2008 to \$0.86 per gallon in the third quarter of 2009. The average sales price per gallon of ethanol decreased in the third quarter of 2009 to \$1.70 per gallon from the \$2.47 average received in the third quarter of 2008. Corn costs during the third quarter of 2009 averaged \$3.47 per bushel, as compared to \$5.79 per bushel in the third quarter of 2008. Conversion cost in the third quarter of 2009 was \$0.47 per gallon as compared to \$0.77 per gallon in the third quarter of 2008.

Gallons of ethanol sold in the third quarter of 2009 decreased to 55.5 million gallons, as compared to 226.6 million gallons in the third quarter of 2008. The decrease resulted from the termination of our marketing alliance program in early 2009 and significantly scaling back our purchase resale operations. Gallons produced during the third quarter of 2009 increased to 49.5 million gallons from 47.4 million gallons in the third quarter of 2008.

Third quarter 2009 results include a \$12.6 million net reorganization gain related to changes in estimates of allowed claims associated with the bankruptcy process.

*For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2009 Compared to the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008*

Total gallons of ethanol sold in the third quarter of 2009 decreased to 55.5 million gallons, versus 226.6 million gallons sold in the third quarter of 2008. Gallons of ethanol were sourced as follows:

## For the Three Months Ended September 30,

(In thousands of gallons, except for percentages)	2009	2008	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Equity production	49,519	47,381	2,138	4.5%
Marketing alliance purchases		130,278	(130,278)	(100.0)%
Purchase/resale	4,857	54,495	(49,638)	(91.09)%
Decrease (increase) in inventory	1,123	(5,584)	6,707	N.M.*
Total	55,499	226,570	(171,071)	(75.5)%

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\* Not meaningful

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Net sales in the third quarter of 2009 decreased 80.3% from the third quarter of 2008. Net sales were \$118.1 million in the third quarter of 2009 versus \$599.5 million in the third quarter of 2008. Overall, the decrease in net sales was the result of less supply available as we terminated our marketing alliance and significantly reduced purchase/resale supply operations along with lower ethanol pricing. Ethanol prices averaged \$1.70 per gallon in the third quarter of 2009 versus \$2.47 in the third quarter of 2008.

Co-product revenues for the third quarter of 2009 totaled \$23.6 million, a decrease of \$10.1 million or 30.0%, from the third quarter 2008 total of \$33.7 million. Co-product revenues decreased during the third quarter of 2009 as a result of significantly lower co-product pricing. In the third quarter of 2009, we sold 272.1 thousand tons, versus 284.1 thousand tons in the third quarter of 2008. Co-product revenues, as a percentage of corn costs, increased to 36.3% during the third quarter of 2009,

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versus 32.3% in the third quarter of 2008. In 2008, we were selling co-products into the spot market during a period of time in which our corn costs were higher than the CBOT average. In 2009, co-products and corn costs were at market prices.

Cost of goods sold for the quarter ended September 30, 2009 was \$110.3 million, compared to \$606.0 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, a decrease of \$495.7 million or 81.8%. As a percentage of net sales, cost of goods sold decreased to 93.4% of sales from 101.1% of sales in the third quarter of 2008. Cost of goods sold consists of the cost to produce ethanol, freight and logistics costs to ship ethanol and co-products, the cost of ethanol sold out of inventory, the cost of motor fuel taxes which have been billed to customers and, in the third quarter of 2008, the cost of purchased ethanol. The decrease in total cost of goods sold is principally the result of lower volumes of ethanol shipped as a result of the termination of our marketing alliance and significantly reduced purchase/resale program, lower corn costs and lower conversion costs. Purchased biofuels decreased by \$402.4 million during the third quarter of 2009 as compared to the third quarter of 2008.

Production costs include corn costs, conversion costs (defined as the cost of converting the corn into ethanol, and includes production salaries, wages and stock-based compensation costs, fringe benefits, utilities (including coal and natural gas), maintenance, denaturant, insurance, materials and supplies and other miscellaneous production costs) and depreciation. Corn costs in the third quarter of 2009 totaled \$65.0 million or \$3.47 per bushel, versus \$104.2 million, or \$5.79 per bushel in the third quarter of 2008. Our average corn costs in the third quarter of 2009 were slightly higher than the \$3.27 average CBOT price during the same period. The decrease in corn costs is principally due to lower corn prices.

Conversion costs for the third quarter of 2009 decreased to \$23.2 million from \$36.7 million for the third quarter of 2008. The total dollars spent on conversion costs decreased year over year principally as a result of significantly lower costs for utilities, chemicals and other supplies, denaturant, and outside services which have decreased as a result of significantly lower petroleum prices. The conversion cost per gallon decreased year over year to \$0.47 per gallon in the third quarter of 2009 versus \$0.77 per gallon in the third quarter of 2008. Conversion cost per gallon is affected by both dollars spent on conversion of corn to ethanol and also on the number of gallons of ethanol produced.

Freight/logistics costs were down 36.8% on a per gallon basis in the third quarter of 2009 from the third quarter of 2008. Freight/logistics costs in the third quarter of 2009 were \$0.12 per gallon as compared to \$0.19 per gallon in the third quarter of 2008. Freight/logistics dollars spent decreased in the third quarter of 2009 to \$6.4 million from \$44.0 million in the third quarter of 2008 as a result of lower volumes shipped and the elimination of the majority of our fixed terminal network structure. Freight/logistics cost per gallon is calculated by taking total freight/logistics costs incurred (including costs to ship co-products) and dividing by the total ethanol gallons sold.

Depreciation in the third quarter of 2009 totaled \$3.5 million, versus \$3.4 million in the third quarter of 2008. Other cost of goods sold, including motor fuel taxes and the cost of ethanol sold from inventory, were \$0.7 million in the third quarter of 2009, versus \$3.8 million in the third quarter of 2008. The cost of motor fuel taxes are recovered through billings to customers.

Selling, general & administrative expenses ( SG&A ) were \$5.2 million in the third quarter of 2009 as compared to \$8.8 million in the third quarter of 2008. The lower expense in the third quarter of 2009 primarily relates to significantly lower salaries and wages (including stock-based compensation expense) as a result of a reduction in staff and significantly lower expenditures on non-reorganization professional fees.



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Interest expense in the third quarter of 2009 was \$1.8 million, as compared to \$0.2 million in the third quarter of 2008. The accrual of interest expense on our Senior Unsecured Notes was discontinued after April 7, 2009 (the date of our Bankruptcy Filing) in accordance with authoritative guidance. Interest expense in the third quarter of 2009 is comprised of \$0.7 million related to our pre-petition secured revolving credit facility, \$0.6 million related to our DIP Facility and \$0.5 million of amortization of deferred debt issuance fees. Interest expense in the third quarter of 2008 included \$7.5 million in interest on the \$300 million aggregate principal amount of the Senior Unsecured Notes and \$0.2 million of amortization of deferred financing fees, reduced by capitalized interest of \$7.5 million.

Though realized gains in other non-operating income were immaterial in the third quarter of 2009, realized and unrealized net gains on corn and gasoline derivative contracts was \$18.4 million in the third quarter of 2008. We did not have any open derivative positions at the end of the third quarter of 2009. We do not mark to market forward physical contracts to purchase corn.

We recorded a net gain of \$12.6 million in the third quarter of 2009 relating to our Bankruptcy Cases. This net gain primarily consists of gains of \$13.6 million pertaining to revisions to estimated liabilities related to rejected executory contracts and leases, and gains of \$1.2 million on the settlement of pre-petition vendor claims for less than amounts owed, partially offset by \$2.2 million in professional fees incurred.

The income tax benefit accrued in the third quarter of 2009 totaled \$0.6 million versus an income tax expense in the third quarter of 2008 of \$1.8 million. The difference between the tax benefit rate accrued and the statutory benefit rate is principally due to the establishment of valuation allowances as we expect to be unable to realize the tax benefit of our net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets. During the third quarter of 2009, the Company decreased the recorded valuation allowance on its deferred tax assets by \$4.8 million, to \$31.9 million to reduce the deferred tax assets to the amount that the Company believes is more likely than not to be realized.

On November 6, 2009, the President of the United States signed The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. Under the legislation, qualifying businesses may elect for tax purposes to carry back Net Operating Losses (NOLs) incurred in either 2008 or 2009 (but not for both years) for up to five years preceding the generation of the NOLs. These businesses are able to offset 100% of their taxable income with their available NOLs in the four years preceding NOLs generation, and 50% of their taxable income in the fifth year preceding the generation of the NOLs. The Company has generated NOLs in 2008 and 2009 for which utilization had been limited to two carry-back years under prior legislation. We are currently evaluating the impact of the new law but expect to be able to recover certain taxes paid in prior years through this expanded opportunity to carry-back NOLs.

*For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009 Compared to the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008*

Total gallons of ethanol sold in the first nine months of 2009 decreased to 229.1 million gallons, versus 658.1 million gallons sold in the first nine months of 2008. Gallons of ethanol were sourced as follows:

For the Nine Months Ended September 30,

2009

2008

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(In thousands of gallons, except for percentages)			Increase/ (Decrease)	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Equity production	<b>148,017</b>	140,706	7,311	5.2%
Marketing alliance purchases	<b>30,858</b>	380,392	(349,534)	(91.9)%
Purchase/resale	<b>35,163</b>	142,603	(107,440)	(75.3)%
Decrease (increase) in inventory	<b>15,084</b>	(5,625)	20,709	N.M.*
Total	<b>229,122</b>	658,076	(428,954)	(65.2)%

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\* Not meaningful

Net sales in the first nine months of 2009 decreased 72.4% from the first nine months of 2008. Net sales were \$472.8 million in the first nine months of 2009 versus \$1.7 billion in the first nine months of 2008. Overall, the decrease in net sales was the result of less supply available as we terminated our marketing alliance and significantly reduced purchase/resale supply operations and from a decrease in the average sales price of ethanol sold. Ethanol prices averaged \$1.69 per gallon in the first nine months of 2009 versus \$2.40 in the first nine months of 2008.

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Co-product revenues for the first nine months of 2009 totaled \$72.5 million, a decrease of \$31.5 million or 30.2%, from the first nine months of 2008 total of \$104.0 million. Co-product revenues decreased during the first nine months of 2009 principally as a result of significantly lower co-product pricing. In the first nine months of 2009, we sold 827.2 thousand tons, versus 829.3 thousand tons in the first nine months of 2008. Co-product revenues, as a percentage of corn costs, fell to 33.2% during the first nine months of 2009, versus 37.6% in the first nine months of 2008. In 2008, we were selling co-products into the spot market during a period of time in which our corn costs were lower than the CBOT average. In 2009, both co-products and corn costs were at market prices.

Cost of goods sold for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 was \$486.3 million, compared to \$1.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, a decrease of \$1.2 billion or 70.7%. As a percentage of net sales, cost of goods sold increased to 102.9% of sales from 97.1% of sales in the first nine months of 2008. Cost of goods sold consists of the cost to produce ethanol at our own facilities, the cost of freight and logistics to ship ethanol and co-products, the cost of ethanol sold from inventory, the cost of motor fuel taxes which have been billed to customers and, prior to the third quarter of 2009, the cost of purchased ethanol. The decrease in total cost of goods sold is principally the result of lower volumes of ethanol purchased, lower corn costs and lower conversion costs.

Purchased biofuels in the first nine months of 2009 totaled \$87.0 million, versus \$1.2 billion in the first nine months of 2008. The decrease in purchased biofuels resulted from the termination of our marketing alliance and our scaled back purchase/resale programs. Furthermore, in 2009, the Company significantly sold off biofuels inventories on hand, which provided for \$52.3 million of biofuels cost of goods sold through September 30, 2009.

Production costs include corn costs, conversion costs (defined as the cost of converting the corn into ethanol, and includes production salaries, wages and stock-based compensation costs, fringe benefits, utilities (including coal and natural gas), maintenance, denaturant, insurance, materials and supplies and other miscellaneous production costs) and depreciation. Corn costs in the first nine months of 2009 totaled \$218.7 million or \$3.93 per bushel, versus \$277.1 million, or \$5.22 per bushel in the first nine months of 2008. Our average corn costs in the first nine months of 2009 were higher than the CBOT average price of \$3.70 during the same period. The decrease in corn costs is principally due to lower corn market prices.

Conversion costs for the first nine months of 2009 decreased to \$72.2 million from \$99.5 million for the first nine months of 2008. The total dollars spent on conversion costs decreased year over year principally as a result of significantly lower costs for utilities, chemicals and other supplies which have decreased as a result of significantly lower petroleum prices. The conversion cost per gallon decreased year over year to \$0.49 per gallon in the first nine months of 2009 versus \$0.71 per gallon in the first nine months of 2008. Conversion cost per gallon is affected by both dollars spent on conversion of corn to ethanol and also on the number of gallons of ethanol produced.

Freight/logistics costs were reduced on a per gallon basis in the first nine months of 2009 from the first nine months of 2008. Freight/logistics costs in the first nine months of 2009 were \$0.17 per gallon as compared to \$0.20 per gallon in the first nine months of 2008. Freight/logistics dollars spent decreased in the first nine months of 2009 to \$39.7 million from \$130.5 million in the first nine months of 2008 as a result of lower volumes shipped and the termination of fixed price terminal obligations. Freight/logistics cost per gallon is calculated by taking total freight/logistics costs incurred (including costs to ship co-products) and dividing by the total ethanol gallons sold.

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Depreciation in the first nine months of 2009 totaled \$10.4 million, versus \$10.0 million in the first nine months of 2008. Other cost of goods sold, including motor fuel taxes and the cost of ethanol sold from inventory, were \$5.3 million in the first nine months of 2009, versus \$11.6 million in the first nine months of 2008. The cost of motor fuel taxes are recovered through billings to customers.

Selling, general & administrative expenses ( SG&A ) were \$21.8 million in the first nine months of 2009 as compared to \$27.8 million in the first nine months of 2008. Approximately \$5.5 million of the decrease relates to significant reductions in wages and benefits (including stock-based compensation ) as a result of a reduction in staff at the end of the first quarter of 2009. Additionally, we recorded a \$1.1 million increase in bad debt expense during the nine months ended September 30, 2009.

During the first nine months of 2009, we recognized income from the termination of marketing agreements with alliance partners totaling \$10.2 million. During the first nine months of 2008, the Company incurred losses totaling \$31.6 million related to the valuation and ultimate sale of its portfolio of auction rate securities.

Interest income in the first nine months of 2009 was \$11 thousand, versus interest income of \$3.0 million in the first nine months of 2008. The significant decrease in interest income is due to a decrease in excess cash available for investment.

Interest expense in the first nine months of 2009 was \$12.8 million, as compared to \$3.8 million in the first nine months of 2008. Interest expense in the first nine months of 2009 was higher than in the same period in 2008 due to suspension of interest expense capitalization in conjunction with the halting of our expansion projects, offset by the cessation of accruing interest on our Notes as of the Petition Date. Interest expense in the first nine months of 2009 included \$8.1 million of interest expense related to our Notes (compared to contractual interest of \$22.5 million), pre-petition secured revolving credit facility interest expense of \$1.7 million, interest expense on our DIP Facility of \$1.1 million, and \$1.9 million for amortization of deferred financing fees. Interest expense in the first nine months of 2008 included \$22.5 million in interest on our Notes and \$0.8 million of amortization of deferred financing fees, reduced by capitalized interest of \$19.5 million.

Other non-operating income for the first nine months of 2009 includes \$1.2 million of realized net gains on corn derivative contracts versus net realized and unrealized losses in the first nine months of 2008 of \$6.1 million. We did not have any open derivative positions at the end of September 2009. We do not mark to market forward physical contracts to purchase corn.

We recorded a reorganization expense of \$30.1 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2009 relating to our Bankruptcy Cases. This expense primarily consists of \$5.3 million in professional fees incurred and a provision of \$26.1 million for rejected executory contracts and leases, partially offset by gains of \$1.3 million on the settlement of pre-petition vendor claims for less than amounts owed.

The income tax benefit recorded in the first nine months of 2009 totaled \$7.3 million. The difference between the tax benefit rate accrued and the statutory benefit rate is principally due to the establishment of valuation allowances as we expect to be unable to realize the tax benefit of our net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets. For the first nine months of 2009, the Company increased its valuation allowance by \$14.5 million, to \$31.9 million at September 30, 2009 on its deferred tax assets to reduce the deferred tax assets to the amount that the Company believes is more likely than not to be realized.

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On November 6, 2009, the President of the United States signed The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. Under the legislation, qualifying businesses may elect for tax purposes to carry back Net Operating Losses (NOLs) incurred in either 2008 or 2009 (but not for both years) for up to five years preceding the generation of the NOLs. These businesses are able to offset 100% of their taxable income with their available NOLs in the four years preceding NOLs generation, and 50% of their taxable income in the fifth year preceding the generation of the NOLs. The Company has generated NOLs in 2008 and 2009 for which utilization had been limited to two carry-back years under prior legislation. We are currently evaluating the impact of the new law but expect to be able to recover certain taxes paid in prior years through this expanded opportunity to carry-back NOLs.

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**Trends and Factors that May Affect Future Operating Results**

*Forward Commodity Transactions*

We are exposed to certain risks related to our ongoing business operations. The primary risks related to our business are price risk on anticipated purchases of corn, natural gas and the sale of ethanol. We have historically used forward or derivative instruments to manage these risks. We are not currently using forward or derivative instruments, and are primarily in the spot markets for commodity pricing.

*Ethanol Pricing*

Ethanol prices rose to be above the spot cost to produce ethanol during the third quarter of 2009, making the cash spot margins positive. As the supply of ethanol from plants which are currently under construction begins to make its way into the marketplace or plants that are currently shut-in begin to produce ethanol again, ethanol pricing may remain soft, and gross margins may be limited by changes in both ethanol pricing and production cost components.

As of September 30, 2009, we had contracts for delivery of ethanol totaling 37.0 million gallons through December 31, 2009. All of these commitments were at spot prices (using various Platt, OPIS and AXXIS indices). We did not have any commitments to sell ethanol past the fourth quarter of 2009.

*Corn*

Corn prices rose significantly from 2006 to 2008 and reached record levels during 2008. Since 2008, corn prices have declined with the economic conditions in general, along with most other commodities. However, we continue to believe that corn prices are likely to remain above historical levels for the foreseeable future.

We continuously purchase corn for physical delivery from suppliers using forward purchase contracts in order to assure supply. As we do this, we have in the past often shorted a like amount of CBOT corn futures with similar dates to lock in the basis differential. We have also occasionally used CBOT futures contracts to lock in the price of corn by taking long positions in CBOT contracts in order to reduce our risk of price increases. Exchange traded forward contracts for commodities are marked to market each period. Our forward physical purchases of corn are not marked to market.

At September 30, 2009, we had fixed the price of 1.3 million bushels of corn through December 2009 at an average cost of \$3.35 per bushel.

*Marketing Alliance*

For the past few years, our marketing business was an important component of our business. Using the gallons we sourced from third parties, we were able to distribute significantly more ethanol than we could have produced from our own equity production, thereby giving us a greater marketing presence without having to make capital investments. However, with severely declining margins and general liquidity stress due to frozen credit markets, this marketing model no longer worked for our alliance partners or Aventine. Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2008, we negotiated termination agreements with our marketing alliance partners and began to rationalize our distribution network to primarily focus on sales of our equity production. We completed the termination of our marketing alliance during the first quarter of 2009. Accordingly, ethanol sourced from marketing alliance partners has declined sharply in 2009.

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*Supply and Demand*

According to the Renewable Fuels Association, the annual ethanol production capacity in the United States of plants currently in operation, those currently not producing, and those under construction is almost 14 billion gallons annually. Presently this volume qualifies as renewable biofuels but not as advanced biofuels. In 2014 the mandate for renewable biofuels is 14.4 billion gallons and for advanced biofuels is another 3.75 billion gallons (including 1.75 billion gallons of cellulosic biofuels) for a total Renewable Fuels Standard of 18.15 billion gallons. Ethanol produced in the United States competes with sugar-based ethanol produced in Brazil, which currently qualifies as advanced biofuels. While we cannot be certain as to industry operating rates or completion of plants under construction, this domestic production capacity, along with imports, may cause supply to exceed mandated demand. If additional demand for ethanol is not created, either through additions to discretionary blending (through increased penetration rates in areas that blend ethanol today or through the establishment of new markets where little or no ethanol is blended today), or through additional state level mandates, the excess supply may cause ethanol gross margins to decrease, perhaps substantially.

*Bankruptcy*

As described in more detail elsewhere in this Form 10-Q, Aventine and all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on April 7, 2009. No assurance can be provided as to what values, if any, will be ascribed in Aventine's bankruptcy proceedings to the pre-petition liabilities, common stock and other securities. Accordingly, caution should be exercised with respect to existing and future investments in any of these liabilities or securities.

In order to successfully exit Chapter 11 bankruptcy, Aventine will need to propose, and obtain confirmation by the Bankruptcy Court of a plan of reorganization that satisfies the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code. A plan of reorganization could, among other things, resolve Aventine's pre-petition obligations, set forth the revised capital structure of the newly reorganized entity and provide for corporate governance subsequent to exit from bankruptcy. Although Aventine expects to file a reorganization plan that provides for emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy some time in the future, there can be no assurance that a reorganization plan will be proposed by Aventine or confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court, or that any such plan will be consummated.

The Company has incurred and will continue to incur significant costs associated with the reorganization. The amount of these costs, which are being expensed as incurred, are expected to significantly affect the Company's results of operations.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

*Overview and Outlook*

The following table sets forth selected information concerning our financial condition:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2009 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2008
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 35,772	\$ 23,339
Working capital	23,730	(294,039)
Total debt not subject to compromise	42,765	352,200
Current ratio	1.40	0.39

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As a result of our Bankruptcy Filing and the circumstances leading to our Bankruptcy Filing as described elsewhere in this report, we face uncertainty regarding the adequacy of our liquidity and capital resources and have limited access to financing. The Bankruptcy Filing constituted an event of default under our pre-petition secured revolving credit facility and the indenture governing our Notes, and the debt obligations under those agreements became automatically and immediately due and payable, subject to the automatic stay provisions of Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code.

During the pendency of the Bankruptcy Cases, we expect that our primary sources of liquidity will be cash flows from operations and the ability to borrow under our DIP Facility. In addition to the cash requirements necessary to fund ongoing operations, we have incurred significant professional fees and other costs in connection with the Bankruptcy Filing and expect that we will continue to incur significant professional fees and costs. We cannot assure you that the amounts of cash available from operations, together with our DIP Facility, will be sufficient to fund our operations, including operations during the period until such time as we are able to propose a plan of reorganization that will receive the requisite acceptance by creditors and be confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court. Our long-term liquidity requirements and the adequacy of our capital resources are difficult to predict at this time and ultimately cannot be determined until a plan of reorganization has been developed and is confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court.

Funds available under our DIP Facility, together with cash generated from operations, are expected to be sufficient to fund operations of our business through the end of the first quarter of 2010. However, funds available under our DIP Facility cannot be used for capital expenditures beyond those permitted in our DIP Facility budget, absent consent from the post-petition lenders and modification of the DIP Facility budget. Consequently, at this time, we do not currently expect to complete construction of our Aurora, Nebraska or Mt. Vernon, Indiana expansion projects during bankruptcy.

*Sources of Liquidity*

Our current principal sources of liquidity are cash and cash equivalents, cash provided by operations, and cash provided by our DIP Facility.

*Cash and cash equivalents.* For the first nine months of 2009, cash and cash equivalents increased by \$12.4 million as compared to \$19.1 million for the first nine months of 2008. Cash and cash equivalents as of September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 were \$35.8 million and \$23.3 million, respectively.

*Cash provided by operations.* Net cash provided by operating activities in the first nine months of 2009 was \$23.2 million, as compared to cash provided by operating activities of \$56.6 million for the first nine months of 2008. Cash provided by operations in 2009 was reduced by significant operating losses incurred in the first nine months of 2009. In the first nine months of 2009, we offset these large operating losses principally with the liquidation of accounts receivables and inventory, along with the receipt of alliance termination payments, offset somewhat by large reductions in accounts payable. As a result of our Bankruptcy Filing, we did not pay pre-petition accounts payable as they came due, which provided cash from operations.

*Cash available under our DIP Facility.* As of September 30, 2009, the Company has drawn \$15 million of the DIP Facility. The DIP Facility provides for a first priority term loan in a maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$30

million. Proceeds of the DIP Facility can be used, among other things, to (i) fund the working capital and general corporate needs of the Debtors and the costs of the Bankruptcy Cases in accordance with an approved budget, and (ii) provide adequate protection, in

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accordance with the terms of the DIP Facility, to the pre-petition agent and pre-petition lenders under the Company's existing credit facilities.

*Uses of Liquidity*

Our principal uses of liquidity are interest payments related to our pre-petition secured revolving credit facility and our DIP Facility, working capital, the funding of operating losses, and capital expenditures.

*Payments related to our pre-petition secured revolving credit facility and our DIP Facility.* During the first nine months of 2009, we used a net \$24.4 million of cash to make required principal reductions on our pre-petition secured revolving credit facility. We did not make the \$15 million interest payment due April 1, 2009 as required under our Notes. As a result of the Bankruptcy Filing, the outstanding principal amount and accrued interest under our Notes became immediately due and payable, subject to the automatic stay provisions of Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code. We also used \$2.6 million of cash to pay interest on our pre-petition secured revolving credit facility and our DIP Facility.

*Working capital.* Our net working capital position increased by \$317.8 million during the first nine months of 2009. The reclassification of our Notes and the related accrued interest payable from current liabilities to the long-term liability Pre-petition liabilities subject to compromise accounted for \$307.5 million of the increase in working capital during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009. Excluding this reclassification, our working capital increased by \$10.3 million during the first nine months of 2009.

*Capital expenditures.* During the first nine months of 2009, we spent approximately \$1.4 million on capital projects. Of this amount, \$1.1 million was spent on maintenance and environmental projects, while \$0.3 million was spent on our suspended capacity expansion projects.

**Secured Revolving Credit Facility**

As a result of the Bankruptcy Filing, all the commitments under the Company's secured revolving credit facility automatically terminated, and the principal of the loans and the reimbursement obligations then outstanding, together with accrued interest thereon and any unpaid fees and all other obligations of the borrowers accrued under the applicable loans documents, became immediately due and payable, subject to the Company's defenses and rights under the facility and the automatic stay provisions of Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code.

**Debtor-in-Possession Debt Facility**

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Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., Aventine Renewable Energy Mt. Vernon, LLC and Aventine Renewable Energy Aurora West, LLC (together the Borrowers ), all indirect subsidiaries of the Company, together with the Company and all of the Company's other direct or indirect subsidiaries, (together hereinafter called the Guarantors ), entered into a DIP Facility among the Borrowers, the Guarantors, the lenders thereto, and Whitebox Advisors, as both the agent and a lender, on April 7, 2009. The DIP Facility provides for a first priority debtor-in-possession financing composed of a term loan facility made available to the Borrowers in a maximum aggregate principal amount of up to \$30 million. Proceeds of the DIP Facility will be used, among other things, to (i) fund the working capital and general corporate needs of the Debtors and the costs of the Bankruptcy Cases in accordance with an approved budget, and (ii) provide adequate protection, in accordance with the terms of the DIP Facility, to the pre-petition agent for the benefit of itself and the pre-petition lenders. As of September 30, 2009, the

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Debtors have drawn \$15 million under the DIP Facility, which was the minimum amount required to be drawn.

The description of our DIP Facility below is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the DIP Agreement as described in the Debtor-in-Possession Credit Facility Term Sheet filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 8-K filed on April 13, 2009.

The term loan matures at the earliest of (i) one year after the commencement of the Bankruptcy Cases, (ii) the consummation of a sale of substantially all of the assets of the Debtors, (iii) the effective date of a plan of reorganization in the Bankruptcy Cases, (iv) the date the loans become due and payable, whether by stated maturity, upon an event of default or otherwise, (v) the expiration of the approved budget, (vi) the acceptance by any of the Debtors of any offer or bid for the purchase of all or substantially all of the assets of any of the Debtors or all or substantially all of the equity in any of the reorganized Debtors, or (vii) the date on which any of the Debtors files a motion with the Bankruptcy Court for authority to proceed with the sale or liquidation of any of the Debtors (or any material portion of any of the assets of the Debtors). The DIP Facility bears interest at a rate equal to 16.5% per annum, which shall be payable monthly in arrears in cash on the last day of each month.

As of September 30, 2009, the Debtors are in compliance with the terms of the DIP Facility.

**Environmental Matters**

We are subject to extensive federal, state and local environmental laws, regulations and permit conditions (and interpretations thereof), including those relating to the discharge of materials into the air, water and ground, the generation, storage, handling, use, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials, and the health and safety of our employees. These laws, regulations, and permits require us to incur significant capital and other costs, including costs to obtain and maintain expensive pollution control equipment. They may also require us to make operational changes to limit actual or potential impacts to the environment. A violation of these laws, regulations or permit conditions can result in substantial fines, natural resource damages, criminal sanctions, permit revocations and/or facility shutdowns. In addition, environmental laws and regulations (and interpretations thereof) change over time, and any such changes, more vigorous enforcement policies or the discovery of currently unknown conditions may require substantial additional environmental expenditures.

We are also subject to potential liability for the investigation and cleanup of environmental contamination at each of the properties that we own or operate and at off-site locations where we arranged for the disposal of hazardous wastes. For instance, soil and groundwater contamination has been identified in the past at our Illinois campus. If any of these sites are subject to investigation and/or remediation requirements, we may be responsible under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act or other environmental laws for all or part of the costs of such investigation and/or remediation, and for damages to natural resources. We may also be subject to related claims by private parties alleging property damage or personal injury due to exposure to hazardous or other materials at or from such properties. While costs to address contamination or related third-party claims could be significant, based upon currently available information, we are not aware of any material liability relating to contamination or such third party claims. We have not accrued any amounts for environmental matters as of September 30, 2009. The ultimate costs of any liabilities that may be identified or the discovery of additional contaminants could adversely impact our results of operation or financial condition.

In addition, the hazards and risks associated with producing and transporting our products (such as fires, natural disasters, explosions, abnormal pressures and spills) may result in spills or releases of



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hazardous substances, and may result in claims from governmental authorities or third parties relating to actual or alleged personal injury, property damage, or damages to natural resources. We maintain insurance coverage against some, but not all, potential losses caused by our operations. Our coverage includes, but is not limited to, physical damage to assets, employer's liability, comprehensive general liability, automobile liability and workers' compensation. We do not carry environmental insurance. We believe that our insurance is adequate for our industry, but losses could occur for uninsurable or uninsured risks or in amounts in excess of existing insurance coverage. The occurrence of events which result in significant personal injury or damage to our property, natural resources or third parties that is not covered by insurance could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our air emissions are subject to the federal Clean Air Act, as amended, and similar state laws which generally require us to obtain and maintain air emission permits for our ongoing operations as well as for any expansion of existing facilities or any new facilities. Obtaining and maintaining those permits requires us to incur costs, and any future more stringent standards may result in increased costs and may limit or interfere with our operating flexibility. In addition, the permits ultimately issued may impose conditions which are more costly to implement than we had anticipated. These costs could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Because other ethanol manufacturers in the U.S. are and will continue to be subject to similar laws and restrictions, we do not currently believe that our costs to comply with current or future environmental laws and regulations will adversely affect our competitive position. However, because ethanol is produced and traded internationally, these costs could adversely affect us in our efforts to compete with foreign producers not subject to such stringent requirements.

Federal and state environmental authorities have been investigating alleged excess VOC emissions and other air emissions from many U.S. ethanol plants, including our Illinois and Nebraska facilities. The matter relating to our Illinois wet mill facility is still pending, and we could be required to install additional air pollution control equipment or take other measures to control air pollutant emissions at that facility. If authorities require us to install controls, we would anticipate that costs would be higher than the approximately \$3.4 million we incurred for this matter at our Nebraska facility due to the larger size of the Illinois wet mill facility. In addition, if the authorities determine our emissions were in violation of applicable law, we would likely be required to pay fines that could be material.

We have made, and expect to continue making, significant capital expenditures on an ongoing basis to comply with increasingly stringent environmental laws, regulations and permits, including compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants, or NESHAP, for industrial, commercial and institutional boilers and process heaters. This NESHAP was issued, but subsequently vacated. The vacated version of the rule required us to implement maximum achievable control technology at our Illinois wet mill facility to reduce hazardous air pollutant emissions from our boilers. We expect the EPA will revise the rule to impose more stringent requirements than were contained in the vacated version. In the absence of a final EPA NESHAP for industrial, commercial and institutional boilers and process heaters, we are working with state authorities to determine what technology will be required at our Illinois wet mill facility and when such technology must be installed. We currently cannot estimate the amount that will be needed to comply with any future federal or state technology requirement regarding air emissions from our boilers.

New laws or regulations relating to the production, disposal or emissions of carbon dioxide may require us to incur significant additional costs and may also adversely affect our ability to continue generating revenue from carbon dioxide sales. In particular, Illinois and five other Midwestern States have entered into the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord, a program which directs participating states to develop a multi-sector cap-and-trade mechanism to help achieve reductions in

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greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide. It is possible this program could require carbon dioxide emissions reductions from our Pekin, Illinois plants, which could result in significant costs. In addition, it is possible that other states in which we conduct or plan to conduct business, including Nebraska and Indiana, could join this accord or that federal, state or local regulators could require other costly carbon dioxide emissions reductions or offsets.

We are currently reviewing proposed and recently adopted regulations relating to greenhouse gases and the carbon lifecycle from renewable fuel production to determine what impact they may have on our business.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

We are exposed to various market risks, including changes in commodity prices. Market risk is the potential loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices. In the ordinary course of business, we periodically enter into various types of transactions involving financial instruments to manage and reduce the impact of changes in commodity prices, including price risk on anticipated purchases of corn, natural gas and the sale of ethanol. We do not enter into derivatives or other financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

***Commodity Price Risks***

We are exposed to certain risks related to our ongoing business operations. The primary risks related to our business are price risk on anticipated purchases of corn, natural gas and the sale of ethanol. We have historically used forward or derivative instruments to manage these risks. We are not currently using forward or derivative instruments, and are primarily in the spot markets for commodity pricing.

We are subject to market risk with respect to the price and availability of corn, the principal raw material we use to produce ethanol and ethanol by-products. In general, rising corn prices result in lower profit margins and, therefore, represent unfavorable market conditions. This is especially true when market conditions do not allow us to pass along increased corn costs to our customers. The availability and price of corn is subject to wide fluctuations due to unpredictable factors such as weather conditions, farmer planting decisions, governmental policies with respect to agriculture and international trade and global demand and supply. Our weighted average gross corn cost for the three months ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 was \$3.47 and \$5.79 per bushel, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, our weighted average gross corn cost was \$3.93 and \$5.22 per bushel, respectively.

We have firm-price purchase commitments with some of our corn suppliers under which we agree to buy corn at a price set in advance of the actual delivery of that corn to us. At September 30, 2009, we had commitments to purchase approximately 1.3 million bushels of corn through December 2009 at an average price of \$3.35 per bushel from these corn suppliers. Under these arrangements, we assume the risk of a price decrease in the market price of corn between the time this price is fixed and the time the corn is delivered. In order to reduce our market exposure to price decreases, we have in the past, at the time we enter into a firm-price purchase commitment, often entered into commodity forward contracts to sell a certain amount of corn at the then-current price for delivery to the counterparty at a later date. We account for these commodity forward transactions under ASC 815 on *Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. Such forward contracts are not designated as hedges and, therefore, are marked to market each period, with corresponding gains and losses recorded in other non-operating income. The fair value of these derivative assets, if any, is recognized in other current assets in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet, net of any cash received from the brokers. We did not have any of this type of derivative positions at September 30, 2009.



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We have also, in the past, entered into commodity futures contracts in connection with the purchase of corn to reduce our risk of future price increases. We accounted for these transactions under ASC 815. These futures contracts were not designated as hedges and, therefore, were marked to market each period, with corresponding gains and losses recorded in other non-operating income. The fair value of these derivative contracts would be recognized in other current assets in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet, net of any cash received from the brokers. We did not have any of this type of derivative positions at September 30, 2009.

We sometimes enter into firm-price purchase commitments with some of our natural gas suppliers under which we agree to buy natural gas at a price set in advance of the actual delivery of that natural gas to us. Under these arrangements, we assume the risk of a price decrease in the market price of natural gas between the time this price is fixed and the time the natural gas is delivered. We account for these transactions as normal purchases under ASC 815, and accordingly, do not mark these transactions to market. At September 30, 2009, we did not have any commitments to purchase natural gas in advance at prices other than at market.

We are also subject to market risk with respect to ethanol pricing. Our ethanol sales are priced using contracts that can either be fixed; based upon the price of wholesale gasoline plus or minus a fixed amount; or based upon a market price at the time of shipment. We sometimes fix the price at which we sell ethanol using fixed price physical delivery contracts. These normal sale transactions would not be marked to market. At September 30, 2009, we had no outstanding contracts to sell ethanol at fixed prices.

We also sell forward ethanol using contracts where the price is determined at a point in the future based upon an index plus or minus a fixed amount. At September 30, 2009, we had no contracts for the sale of ethanol using wholesale gasoline as an index plus a fixed spread. Under these arrangements, we assume the risk of a price decrease in the market price of gasoline. In order to reduce our market exposure to price decreases, at the time we enter into a firm sales commitment, we may also enter into commodity forward contracts to sell a like amount of gasoline at the then-current price for delivery to the counterparty at a later date. We account for these transactions under ASC 815. These forward contracts are not designated as hedges and, therefore, are marked to market each period, with corresponding gains and losses recorded in other non-operating income. The fair value of these derivative liabilities is recognized in other current liabilities in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet, net of any cash paid to brokers. We did not have any of this type of derivative position at September 30, 2009.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Under the supervision of and with the participation of management, including our Interim Chief Executive Officer, President, and Interim Chief Financial Officer, George T. Henning, Jr., the Company carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act )) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, Mr. Henning has concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures have been designed and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission. These disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in such reports is accumulated and communicated to our management, including Mr. Henning, as



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appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding the required disclosure. The design of any system of controls is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. There can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goal under all potential future conditions, regardless of how remote.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Based upon evaluation by our management, which was conducted with the participation of Mr. Henning, there has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II.**        **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1.**        **Legal Proceedings**

On April 7, 2009, the Company and all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. The Company's subsidiaries that are part of the Bankruptcy Filing include Aventine Renewable Energy, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., a Delaware corporation; Aventine Renewable Energy - Mt. Vernon, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; Aventine Renewable Energy Aurora West, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; and Nebraska Energy, LLC, a Kansas limited liability company. The Bankruptcy Cases are being jointly administered by the Bankruptcy Court under Case Number 09-11214 (KG). Aventine intends to continue to operate its business as debtor-in-possession under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and orders of the Bankruptcy Court. As a result of the filing, attempts to collect, secure, or enforce remedies with respect to pre-petition claims against Aventine are subject to the automatic stay provisions of Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Bankruptcy Cases are discussed in greater detail in Note 2 to the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements.

On November 6, 2008, the Company commenced an action against JP Morgan Securities, Inc. and JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. (hereinafter collectively referred to as JP Morgan ) in the Tenth Judicial Circuit in Tazewell County, Illinois. The Company's complaint relates to losses incurred in excess of \$31 million as a result of investments in Student Loan Auction Rate Securities purchased through JP Morgan. At this time, we cannot be certain as to the outcome of this litigation.

We are from time to time involved in various legal proceedings, including legal proceedings relating to the extensive environmental laws and regulations that apply to our facilities and operations. We are not involved in any legal proceedings that we believe could have a material adverse effect upon our business, operating results or financial condition.

**Item 1A.**        **Risk Factors**

The Company included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K as of December 31, 2008 and in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009 a description of certain risks and uncertainties that could affect the Company's business, future performance or financial condition ( Risk Factors ). There have been no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed.

**Item 2.**        **Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

None

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

Our Bankruptcy Filing constituted an event of default under the Company's secured revolving credit facility and the Company's indenture governing its 10% senior unsecured notes due 2017. The Company included a description of these events of default in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009.

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**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

None

**Item 5. Other Information**

None

**Item 6. Exhibits**

(a) Exhibits

31.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002.

31.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

32.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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**SIGNATURE**

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 thereto duly authorized.

AVENTINE RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDINGS, INC.

Dated: November 9, 2009

By: /s/ William J. Brennan  
Name: William J. Brennan  
Title: Chief Accounting and Compliance  
Officer (duly authorized officer and  
principal accounting officer)