

Waste Connections, Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
October 22, 2014

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark  
One)

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

**For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2014**

**Or**

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

**For the transition period from                      to**

**Commission file number 1-31507**

**WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**

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

**94-3283464**

*(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)*

**3 Waterway Square Place, Suite 110  
The Woodlands, TX 77380**

*(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)*

**(832) 442-2200**

*(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)*

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports); and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

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

Yes " No p

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock:

As of October 15, 2014: 124,120,127 shares of common stock

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

FORM 10-Q

TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <b><u>PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION (unaudited)</u></b>   |             |
| Item 1. <u>Financial Statements</u>  |             |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>   | 1           |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Net Income</u>   | 2           |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u>                                     | 3           |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Equity</u>   | 4           |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>   | 6           |
| <u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>  | 7           |
| Item 2. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 28          |
| Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>                            | 49          |
| Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>   | 51          |
| <b><u>PART II – OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>  |             |
| Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>   | 52          |
| Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>  | 52          |
| <u>Signatures</u>  | 53          |
| <u>Exhibit Index</u>   | 54          |

## PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|  | September 30,<br>2014 | December 31,<br>2013 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                       |                      |
| Current assets:  |                       |                      |
| Cash and equivalents   | \$ 13,327             | \$ 13,591            |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6,377 and \$7,348 at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively | 262,346               | 234,001              |
| Deferred income taxes  | 48,715                | 41,275               |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets  | 36,131                | 39,638               |
| Total current assets   | 360,519               | 328,505              |
| Property and equipment, net  | 2,450,067             | 2,450,649            |
| Goodwill   | 1,687,915             | 1,675,154            |
| Intangible assets, net   | 510,914               | 527,871              |
| Restricted assets  | 38,636                | 35,921               |
| Other assets, net  | 45,813                | 46,152               |
|  | \$ 5,093,864          | \$ 5,064,252         |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>  |                       |                      |
| Current liabilities:   |                       |                      |
| Accounts payable   | \$ 113,303            | \$ 105,394           |
| Book overdraft   | 12,276                | 12,456               |
| Accrued liabilities  | 146,019               | 119,026              |
| Deferred revenue   | 78,440                | 71,917               |
| Current portion of contingent consideration  | 32,417                | 30,840               |
| Current portion of long-term debt and notes payable  | 3,621                 | 5,385                |
| Total current liabilities  | 386,076               | 345,018              |
| Long-term debt and notes payable   | 1,888,593             | 2,067,590            |
| Long-term portion of contingent consideration  | 25,236                | 24,710               |
| Other long-term liabilities  | 85,675                | 77,035               |
| Deferred income taxes  | 513,654               | 501,692              |
| Total liabilities  | 2,899,234             | 3,016,045            |

Commitments and contingencies (Note 15)

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Equity:

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Preferred stock: \$0.01 par value per share; 7,500,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding  | -            | -            |
| Common stock: \$0.01 par value per share; 250,000,000 shares authorized; 124,119,712 and 123,566,487 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively | 1,241        | 1,236        |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 813,308      | 796,085      |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | (1,940       | ) (1,869     |
| Retained earnings  | 1,376,623    | 1,247,630    |
| Total Waste Connections' equity  | 2,189,232    | 2,043,082    |
| Noncontrolling interest in subsidiaries  | 5,398        | 5,125        |
| Total equity   | 2,194,630    | 2,048,207    |
|  | \$ 5,093,864 | \$ 5,064,252 |

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

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF NET INCOME

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|  | Three months ended September<br>30, |             | Nine months ended September<br>30, |              |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
|  | 2014                                | 2013        | 2014                               | 2013         |
| Revenues   | \$ 546,551                          | \$ 503,646  | \$ 1,552,953                       | \$ 1,442,918 |
| Operating expenses:  |                                     |             |                                    |              |
| Cost of operations   | 297,849                             | 274,141     | 847,860                            | 794,588      |
| Selling, general and administrative  | 57,991                              | 53,536      | 170,163                            | 159,690      |
| Depreciation   | 58,998                              | 55,863      | 171,920                            | 162,277      |
| Amortization of intangibles  | 6,702                               | 6,211       | 20,158                             | 18,861       |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and<br>impairments                                 | 9,000                               | (1,725)     | ) 7,535                            | 11,895       |
| Operating income   | 116,011                             | 115,620     | 335,317                            | 295,607      |
| Interest expense   | (15,815)                            | ) (17,911)  | ) (48,666)                         | ) (55,851)   |
| Other income (expense), net  | (389)                               | ) 845       | (252)                              | ) (119)      |
| Income before income tax provision   | 99,807                              | 98,554      | 286,399                            | 239,637      |
| Income tax provision   | (39,523)                            | ) (37,641)  | ) (113,992)                        | ) (93,049)   |
| Net income   | 60,284                              | 60,913      | 172,407                            | 146,588      |
| Less: Net income attributable to<br>noncontrolling interests                         | (200)                               | ) (207)     | ) (644)                            | ) (359)      |
| Net income attributable to Waste<br>Connections                                      | \$ 60,084                           | \$ 60,706   | \$ 171,763                         | \$ 146,229   |
| Earnings per common share attributable to<br>Waste Connections' common stockholders: |                                     |             |                                    |              |
| Basic  | \$ 0.48                             | \$ 0.49     | \$ 1.38                            | \$ 1.18      |
| Diluted  | \$ 0.48                             | \$ 0.49     | \$ 1.38                            | \$ 1.18      |
| Shares used in the per share calculations:   |                                     |             |                                    |              |
| Basic  | 124,342,493                         | 123,676,936 | 124,179,478                        | 123,557,317  |
| Diluted  | 124,769,981                         | 124,279,666 | 124,778,292                        | 124,089,422  |
| Cash dividends per common share  | \$ 0.115                            | \$ 0.10     | \$ 0.345                           | \$ 0.30      |

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





## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|   | Three months ended<br>September 30, |           | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |            |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2014                                | 2013      | 2014                               | 2013       |
| Net income  | \$ 60,284                           | \$ 60,913 | \$ 172,407                         | \$ 146,588 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax:                              |                                     |           |                                    |            |
| Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense               | 1,313                               | 1,424     | 3,267                              | 4,203      |
| Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations                     | (214 )                              | -         | (841 )                             | -          |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps                                | 968                                 | (1,310 )  | (1,536 )                           | 514        |
| Changes in fair value of the fuel hedge                                     | (1,192 )                            | 438       | (1,010 )                           | 486        |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax                               | 875                                 | 552       | (120 )                             | 5,203      |
| Income tax (expense) benefit related to items of other comprehensive income | (336 )                              | (211 )    | 49                                 | (1,985 )   |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax                               | 539                                 | 341       | (71 )                              | 3,218      |
| Comprehensive income  | 60,823                              | 61,254    | 172,336                            | 149,806    |
| Less: Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests         | (200 )                              | (207 )    | (644 )                             | (359 )     |
| Comprehensive income attributable to Waste Connections                      | \$ 60,623                           | \$ 61,047 | \$ 171,692                         | \$ 149,447 |

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

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share amounts)

|   | Waste Connections' Equity |          |                    |   |              |                |              |  |
|---|---------------------------|----------|--------------------|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
|   | Common Stock              |          | Additional         | Accumulated                             | Retained     | Noncontrolling |              |  |
|   | Shares                    | Amount   | Paid-In<br>Capital | Other<br>Comprehensive<br>Income (Loss) | Earnings     | Interests      | Total        |  |
| Balances at December 31, 2013   | 123,566,487               | \$ 1,236 | \$ 796,085         | \$ (1,869 )                             | \$ 1,247,630 | \$ 5,125       | \$ 2,048,207 |  |
| Vesting of restricted stock units   | 501,857                   | 5        | (5 )               | -                                       | -            | -              | -            |  |
| Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units | (159,534 )                | (2 )     | (6,794 )           | -                                       | -            | -              | (6,796 )     |  |
| Equity-based compensation   | -                         | -        | 13,889             | -                                       | -            | -              | 13,889       |  |
| Exercise of stock options and warrants                                      | 210,902                   | 2        | 2,956              | -                                       | -            | -              | 2,958        |  |
| Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation                | -                         | -        | 7,177              | -                                       | -            | -              | 7,177        |  |
| Cash dividends on common stock  | -                         | -        | -                  | -                                       | (42,770 )    | -              | (42,770 )    |  |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings, net of taxes                            | -                         | -        | -                  | 1,496                                   | -            | -              | 1,496        |  |
| Changes in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of taxes                     | -                         | -        | -                  | (1,567 )                                | -            | -              | (1,567 )     |  |
| Distributions to noncontrolling interests                                   | -                         | -        | -                  | -                                       | -            | (371 )         | (371 )       |  |
| Net income  | -                         | -        | -                  | -                                       | 171,763      | 644            | 172,407      |  |
| Balances at September 30, 2014  | 124,119,712               | \$ 1,241 | \$ 813,308         | \$ (1,940 )                             | \$ 1,376,623 | \$ 5,398       | \$ 2,194,630 |  |

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



## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share amounts)

|   | Waste Connections' Equity |          |                       |                                       |              |                |              |
|---|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   | Common Stock              |          | Additional<br>Paid-In | Accumulated<br>Other<br>Comprehensive | Retained     | Noncontrolling |              |
|   | Shares                    | Amount   | Capital               | Income (Loss)                         | Earnings     | Interests      | Total        |
| Balances at December 31, 2012   | 123,019,494               | \$ 1,230 | \$ 779,904            | \$ (6,165 )                           | \$ 1,103,188 | \$ 4,973       | \$ 1,883,130 |
| Vesting of restricted stock units   | 480,903                   | 5        | (5 )                  | -                                     | -            | -              | -            |
| Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units | (151,769 )                | (2 )     | (5,419 )              | -                                     | -            | -              | (5,421 )     |
| Equity-based compensation   | -                         | -        | 11,268                | -                                     | -            | -              | 11,268       |
| Exercise of stock options and warrants                                      | 197,560                   | 2        | 2,232                 | -                                     | -            | -              | 2,234        |
| Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation                | -                         | -        | 3,539                 | -                                     | -            | -              | 3,539        |
| Cash dividends on common stock  | -                         | -        | -                     | -                                     | (37,005 )    | -              | (37,005 )    |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings, net of taxes                            | -                         | -        | -                     | 2,595                                 | -            | -              | 2,595        |
| Changes in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of taxes                     | -                         | -        | -                     | 623                                   | -            | -              | 623          |
| Distributions to noncontrolling interests                                   | -                         | -        | -                     | -                                     | -            | (198 )         | (198 )       |
| Net income  | -                         | -        | -                     | -                                     | 146,229      | 359            | 146,588      |
| Balances at September 30, 2013  | 123,546,188               | \$ 1,235 | \$ 791,519            | \$ (2,947 )                           | \$ 1,212,412 | \$ 5,134       | \$ 2,007,353 |

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



## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)

|   | Nine months ended September 30, |            |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2014                            | 2013       |
| Cash flows from operating activities:   |                                 |            |
| Net income  | \$ 172,407                      | \$ 146,588 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                                 |            |
| Loss on disposal of assets and impairments  | 7,535                           | 11,895     |
| Depreciation  | 171,920                         | 162,277    |
| Amortization of intangibles   | 20,158                          | 18,861     |
| Deferred income taxes, net of acquisitions  | 4,572                           | 24,411     |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs   | 2,362                           | 2,836      |
| Equity-based compensation   | 13,889                          | 11,268     |
| Interest income on restricted assets  | (345 )                          | (295 )     |
| Interest accretion  | 3,631                           | 3,677      |
| Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation                      | (7,177 )                        | (3,539 )   |
| Payment of contingent consideration recorded in earnings                          | -                               | (5,059 )   |
| Net change in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions               | 25,674                          | 12,484     |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 414,626                         | 385,404    |
| Cash flows from investing activities:   |                                 |            |
| Payments for acquisitions, net of cash acquired                                   | (49,231 )                       | (2,031 )   |
| Proceeds from adjustments to acquisition consideration                            | 843                             | 18,000     |
| Capital expenditures for property and equipment                                   | (148,843 )                      | (140,872 ) |
| Proceeds from disposal of assets  | 6,139                           | 9,075      |
| Increase in restricted assets, net of interest income                             | (2,370 )                        | (81 )      |
| Other   | 18                              | (4,868 )   |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (193,444 )                      | (120,777 ) |
| Cash flows from financing activities:   |                                 |            |
| Proceeds from long-term debt  | 214,000                         | 212,500    |
| Principal payments on notes payable and long-term debt                            | (394,761 )                      | (418,316 ) |
| Payment of contingent consideration recorded at acquisition date                  | (578 )                          | (23,530 )  |
| Change in book overdraft  | (180 )                          | (374 )     |
| Proceeds from option and warrant exercises  | 2,958                           | 2,234      |
| Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation                      | 7,177                           | 3,539      |
| Payments for cash dividends   | (42,770 )                       | (37,005 )  |
| Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units       | (6,796 )                        | (5,421 )   |
| Distributions to noncontrolling interests   | (371 )                          | (198 )     |
| Debt issuance costs   | (125 )                          | (1,987 )   |

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

|  |           |   |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Net cash used in financing activities  | (221,446  | ) | (268,558  | ) |
| Net decrease in cash and equivalents   | (264      | ) | (3,931    | ) |
| Cash and equivalents at beginning of period                                    | 13,591    |   | 23,212    |   |
| Cash and equivalents at end of period  | \$ 13,327 |   | \$ 19,281 |   |
| Non-cash financing activity:   |           |   |           |   |
| Liabilities assumed and notes payable issued to sellers of businesses acquired | \$ 5,370  |   | \$ 486    |   |

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

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SUMMARY

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements relate to Waste Connections, Inc. and its subsidiaries ("WCI" or the "Company") for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. In the opinion of management, the accompanying balance sheets and related interim statements of net income, comprehensive income, cash flows and equity include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring items, necessary for their fair statement in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Preparing financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Examples include accounting for landfills, self-insurance accruals, income taxes, allocation of acquisition purchase price and asset impairments. An additional area that involves estimation is when the Company estimates the amount of potential exposure it may have with respect to litigation, claims and assessments in accordance with the accounting guidance on contingencies. Actual results for all estimates could differ materially from the estimates and assumptions that the Company uses in the preparation of its condensed consolidated financial statements.

Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. These interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity. In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued guidance that changes the threshold for reporting discontinued operations and adds new disclosures. The new guidance defines a discontinued operation as a disposal of a component or group of components that is disposed of or is classified as held for sale and "represents a strategic shift that has (or will have) a major effect on an entity's operations and financial results." For disposals of individually significant components that do not qualify as discontinued operations, an entity must disclose pre-tax earnings of the disposed component. For public business entities, this guidance is effective prospectively for all disposals (or classifications as held for sale) of components of an entity that occur within annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those years. Early adoption is permitted, but only for disposals (or



classifications as held for sale) that have not been reported in financial statements previously issued or available for issuance. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Revenue From Contracts With Customers. In May 2014, the FASB issued guidance to provide a single, comprehensive revenue recognition model for all contracts with customers. The revenue guidance contains principles that an entity will apply to determine the measurement of revenue and timing of when it is recognized. The underlying principle is that an entity will recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers at an amount that the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. The standard will be effective for the first interim period within annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016 for public entities, with no early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Accounting for Share-Based Payment When the Terms of an Award Provide That a Performance Target Could Be Achieved After the Requisite Service Period. In June 2014, the FASB issued guidance that applies to all reporting entities that grant their employees share-based payments in which the terms of the award provide that a performance target that affects vesting could be achieved after the requisite service period. It requires that a performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition and follows existing accounting guidance for the treatment of performance conditions. The standard will be effective for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

### 3. LANDFILL ACCOUNTING

At September 30, 2014, the Company owned or operated 42 municipal solid waste (“MSW”) landfills, six exploration and production (“E&P”) waste landfills, which only accept E&P waste, eight non-MSW landfills, which only accept construction and demolition, industrial and other non-putrescible waste, and two development stage landfills. At September 30, 2014, the Company’s developed and operational landfills consisted of 45 owned landfills, six landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements and five landfills operated under limited-term operating agreements. The Company’s landfills had site costs with a net book value of \$1,622,906 at September 30, 2014. For the Company’s landfills operated under limited-term operating agreements and life-of-site operating agreements, the owner of the property (generally a municipality) usually owns the permit and the Company operates the landfill for a contracted term. Where the contracted term is not the life of the landfill, the property owner is generally responsible for final capping, closure and post-closure obligations. The Company is responsible for all final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities at the landfills it operates under life-of-site operating agreements.

The Company’s internal and third-party engineers perform surveys at least annually to estimate the remaining disposal capacity at its landfills. Many of the Company’s existing landfills have the potential for expanded disposal capacity beyond the amount currently permitted. The Company’s landfill depletion rates are based on the remaining disposal capacity, considering both permitted and probable expansion airspace, at the landfills it owns, and certain landfills it operates, but does not own, under life-of-site agreements. The Company’s landfill depletion rate is based on the term of the operating agreement at its operated landfill that has capitalized expenditures. Expansion airspace consists of additional disposal capacity being pursued through means of an expansion that has not yet been permitted. Expansion airspace that meets certain criteria is included in the estimate of total landfill airspace.

Based on remaining permitted capacity as of September 30, 2014, and projected annual disposal volumes, the average remaining landfill life for the Company’s owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements is estimated to be approximately 37 years. As of September 30, 2014, the Company is seeking to expand permitted capacity at six of its owned landfills and two landfills that it operates under life-of-site operating agreements, and considers the achievement of these expansions to be probable. Although the Company cannot be certain that all future expansions will be permitted as designed, the average remaining life, when considering remaining permitted capacity, probable expansion capacity and projected annual disposal volume, of the Company’s owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements is approximately 42 years, with lives ranging from approximately 2 to 192 years.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company expensed \$62,334 and \$60,142, respectively, or an average of \$4.09 and \$4.21 per ton consumed, respectively, related to landfill depletion at owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site agreements.

The Company reserves for final capping, closure and post-closure maintenance obligations at the landfills it owns and landfills it operates under life-of-site operating agreements. The Company calculates the net present value of its final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities by estimating the total obligation in current dollars, inflating the obligation based upon the expected date of the expenditure and discounting the inflated total to its present value using a credit-adjusted risk-free rate. Any changes in expectations that result in an upward revision to the estimated undiscounted cash flows are treated as a new liability and are inflated and discounted at rates reflecting current market conditions. Any changes in expectations that result in a downward revision (or no revision) to the estimated undiscounted cash flows result in a liability that is inflated and discounted at rates reflecting the market conditions at the time the cash flows were originally estimated. This policy results in the Company's final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities being recorded in "layers." The Company's discount rate assumption for purposes of computing 2014 and 2013 "layers" for final capping, closure and post-closure obligations was 5.75% for each year, which reflects the Company's long-term cost of borrowing as of the end of 2013 and 2012. The Company's inflation rate assumption is 2.5% for the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013. The resulting final capping, closure and post-closure obligations are recorded on the condensed consolidated balance sheet along with an offsetting addition to site costs which is amortized to depletion expense as the remaining landfill airspace is consumed. Interest is accreted on the recorded liability using the corresponding discount rate. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company expensed \$2,445 and \$2,077, respectively, or an average of \$0.16 and \$0.15 per ton consumed, respectively, related to final capping, closure and post-closure accretion expense.

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

The following is a reconciliation of the Company's final capping, closure and post-closure liability balance from December 31, 2013 to September 30, 2014:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Final capping, closure and post-closure liability at December 31, 2013  | \$50,128 |
| Adjustments to final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities      | 2,113    |
| Liabilities incurred  | 2,782    |
| Accretion expense associated with landfill obligations                  | 2,445    |
| Closure payments  | (48 )    |
| Assumption of closure liabilities from acquisitions                     | 120      |
| Final capping, closure and post-closure liability at September 30, 2014 | \$57,540 |

The Adjustments to final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities primarily consisted of the following changes at some of the Company's landfills: increases in estimated future closure expenditures, changes in engineering estimates of total site capacities and increases in estimated annual tonnage consumption. The Company performs its annual review of its cost and capacity estimates in the first quarter of each year.

At September 30, 2014, \$36,016 of the Company's restricted assets balance was for purposes of securing its performance of future final capping, closure and post-closure obligations.

**4. LONG-TERM DEBT**

Long-term debt consists of the following:

|   | September 30,<br>2014 | December 31,<br>2013 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Revolver under credit facility, bearing interest ranging from 1.52% to 3.75%* | \$ 591,000            | \$ 727,100           |
| Term loan facility, bearing interest ranging from 1.65% to 2.04%*             | 660,000               | 700,000              |
| 2015 Notes, bearing interest at 6.22%   | 175,000               | 175,000              |

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| 2016 Notes, bearing interest at 3.30%  | 100,000      | 100,000      |
| 2018 Notes, bearing interest at 4.00%  | 50,000       | 50,000       |
| 2019 Notes, bearing interest at 5.25%  | 175,000      | 175,000      |
| 2021 Notes, bearing interest at 4.64%  | 100,000      | 100,000      |
| Tax-exempt bonds, bearing interest ranging from 0.06% to 0.18%*                      | 31,430       | 33,030       |
| Notes payable to sellers and other third parties, bearing interest at 2.5% to 10.9%* | 9,784        | 12,845       |
|  | 1,892,214    | 2,072,975    |
| Less – current portion   | (3,621 )     | (5,385 )     |
|  | \$ 1,888,593 | \$ 2,067,590 |

\*Interest rates in the table above represent the range of interest rates incurred during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014.

On May 15, 2014, the Company entered into an amendment (the “Term Loan Amendment”) to its term loan facility, which changed the range of the additional interest margin applicable to borrowings under the term loan facility from a range of 1.375% to 2.375% to a range of 1.250% to 2.000% with respect to LIBOR borrowings and from a range of 0.375% to 1.375% to a range of 0.250% to 1.000% with respect to base rate borrowings. The Term Loan Amendment also eliminated the Company’s obligation to make principal payments on its term loans prior to maturity and made certain adjustments to the definition of LIBOR.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

## 5. ACQUISITIONS

In March 2014, the Company acquired Screwbean Landfill, LLC (“Screwbean”), which owns land and permits to construct and operate an E&P waste facility, and S.A. Dunn & Company, LLC (“Dunn”), which owns land and permits to construct and operate a construction and demolition landfill, for aggregate total cash consideration of \$27,020 and contingent consideration of \$2,923. Contingent consideration represents the fair value of up to \$3,000 of amounts payable to the former Dunn owners based on the successful modification of site construction permits that would enable increased capacity at the landfill. The fair value of the contingent consideration was determined using probability assessments of the expected future cash flows over the two-year period in which the obligations are expected to be settled, and applying discount rates ranging from 2.4% to 2.7%.

In September 2014, the Company acquired Rumsey Environmental, LLC (“Rumsey”), which provides solid waste collection services in western Alabama, for aggregate total cash consideration of \$16,000 and contingent consideration of \$1,891. Contingent consideration represents the fair value of up to \$2,000 of amounts payable to the former owners based on the achievement of certain operating targets specified in the asset purchase agreement. The fair value of the contingent consideration was determined using probability assessments of the expected future cash flows over the two-year period in which the obligation is expected to be settled, and applying a discount rate of 2.8%.

The Company also acquired three individually immaterial non-hazardous solid waste collection, transfer and disposal businesses during the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The Company acquired six individually immaterial non-hazardous solid waste collection businesses during the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

Cash consideration for the acquisition of the business of R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc. (“R360”) in October 2012 included payment for the estimated net working capital of \$18,906, as defined in the acquisition agreement, which was subject to final adjustment subsequent to the close of the acquisition. In March 2013, Waste Connections received \$18,000 from the former owners of R360 due to the final adjustment to the net working capital that was estimated at the closing date.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company incurred \$1,384 and \$974, respectively, of acquisition-related costs. These expenses are included in Selling, general and administrative expenses in the Company's Condensed Consolidated Statements of Net Income.

## 6. INTANGIBLE ASSETS, NET

Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill, consisted of the following at September 30, 2014:

|   | Gross Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net Carrying<br>Amount |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Finite-lived intangible assets:                   |                          |                             |                        |
| Long-term franchise agreements and contracts      | \$ 195,887               | \$ (50,597 )                | \$ 145,290             |
| Customer lists                                    | 155,562                  | (73,466 )                   | 82,096                 |
| Permits and non-competition agreements            | 41,369                   | (11,484 )                   | 29,885                 |
|   | 392,818                  | (135,547 )                  | 257,271                |
| Indefinite-lived intangible assets:               |                          |                             |                        |
| Solid waste collection and transportation permits | 151,505                  | -                           | 151,505                |
| Material recycling facility permits               | 42,283                   | -                           | 42,283                 |
| E&P facility permits                              | 59,855                   | -                           | 59,855                 |
|   | 253,643                  | -                           | 253,643                |
| Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill          | \$ 646,461               | \$ (135,547 )               | \$ 510,914             |

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill, consisted of the following at December 31, 2013:

|   | Gross Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net Carrying<br>Amount |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Finite-lived intangible assets:                   |                          |                             |                        |
| Long-term franchise agreements and contracts      | \$ 196,110               | \$ (45,114 )                | \$ 150,996             |
| Customer lists                                    | 152,378                  | (59,950 )                   | 92,428                 |
| Permits and non-competition agreements            | 41,369                   | (10,565 )                   | 30,804                 |
|   | 389,857                  | (115,629 )                  | 274,228                |
| Indefinite-lived intangible assets:               |                          |                             |                        |
| Solid waste collection and transportation permits | 151,505                  | -                           | 151,505                |
| Material recycling facility permits               | 42,283                   | -                           | 42,283                 |
| E&P facility permits                              | 59,855                   | -                           | 59,855                 |
|   | 253,643                  | -                           | 253,643                |
| Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill          | \$ 643,500               | \$ (115,629 )               | \$ 527,871             |

Estimated future amortization expense for the next five years relating to finite-lived intangible assets is as follows:

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| For the year ending December 31, 2014 | \$26,856 |
| For the year ending December 31, 2015 | \$26,452 |
| For the year ending December 31, 2016 | \$22,499 |
| For the year ending December 31, 2017 | \$20,418 |
| For the year ending December 31, 2018 | \$19,492 |

**7.SEGMENT REPORTING**

The Company's revenues are generated from the collection, transfer, recycling and disposal of non-hazardous solid waste and the treatment, recovery and disposal of non-hazardous E&P waste. No single contract or customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company's total revenues at the consolidated or reportable segment level during the periods presented.



The Company manages its operations through three geographic operating segments (Western, Central and Eastern) and its E&P segment, which includes the majority of the Company's E&P waste treatment and disposal operations. The Company's three geographic operating segments and its E&P segment comprise the Company's reportable segments. Each operating segment is responsible for managing several vertically integrated operations, which are comprised of districts. The Company's Western segment is comprised of operating locations in Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and western Wyoming; the Company's Central segment is comprised of operating locations in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and eastern Wyoming; and the Company's Eastern segment is comprised of operating locations in Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The E&P segment is comprised of the Company's E&P operations in Louisiana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming and along the Gulf of Mexico.

The Company's Chief Operating Decision Maker ("CODM") evaluates operating segment profitability and determines resource allocations based on several factors, of which the primary financial measure is EBITDA. The Company defines EBITDA as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, gain (loss) on disposal of assets and impairments and other income (expense). EBITDA is not a measure of operating income, operating performance or liquidity under GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. The Company's management uses EBITDA in the evaluation of segment operating performance as it is a profit measure that is generally within the control of the operating segments. A reconciliation of EBITDA to Income before income tax provision is included at the end of this Note 7.

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

Summarized financial information concerning the Company's reportable segments for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, is shown in the following tables:

| Three Months Ended       | Gross Revenues | Intercompany Revenues <sup>(b)</sup> | Net Revenues | EBITDA <sup>(c)</sup> |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| September 30, 2014       |                |                                      |              |                       |
| Western                  | \$ 240,744     | \$ (24,895 )                         | \$ 215,849   | \$ 69,140             |
| Central                  | 167,945        | (18,732 )                            | 149,213      | 53,809                |
| Eastern                  | 123,634        | (21,010 )                            | 102,624      | 29,379                |
| E&P                      | 82,385         | (3,520 )                             | 78,865       | 39,535                |
| Corporate <sup>(a)</sup> | -              | -                                    | -            | (1,152 )              |
|                          | \$ 614,708     | \$ (68,157 )                         | \$ 546,551   | \$ 190,711            |

| Three Months Ended       | Gross Revenues | Intercompany Revenues <sup>(b)</sup> | Net Revenues | EBITDA <sup>(c)</sup> |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| September 30, 2013       |                |                                      |              |                       |
| Western                  | \$ 236,849     | \$ (26,638 )                         | \$ 210,211   | \$ 67,773             |
| Central                  | 151,181        | (16,848 )                            | 134,333      | 48,845                |
| Eastern                  | 115,944        | (19,884 )                            | 96,060       | 28,038                |
| E&P                      | 65,376         | (2,334 )                             | 63,042       | 31,125                |
| Corporate <sup>(a)</sup> | -              | -                                    | -            | 188                   |
|                          | \$ 569,350     | \$ (65,704 )                         | \$ 503,646   | \$ 175,969            |

| Nine Months Ended        | Gross Revenues | Intercompany Revenues <sup>(b)</sup> | Net Revenues | EBITDA <sup>(c)</sup> |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| September 30, 2014       |                |                                      |              |                       |
| Western                  | \$ 689,251     | \$ (71,778 )                         | \$ 617,473   | \$ 194,894            |
| Central                  | 471,247        | (51,052 )                            | 420,195      | 148,471               |
| Eastern                  | 353,551        | (59,543 )                            | 294,008      | 87,284                |
| E&P                      | 232,447        | (11,170 )                            | 221,277      | 111,730               |
| Corporate <sup>(a)</sup> | -              | -                                    | -            | (7,449 )              |

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

\$1,746,496 \$ (193,543 ) \$1,552,953 \$ 534,930

| Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30,<br>2013 | Gross<br>Revenues | Intercompany<br>Revenues <sup>(b)</sup> | Net<br>Revenues | EBITDA <sup>(c)</sup> |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Western                                       | \$682,705         | \$ (76,510 )                            | \$606,195       | \$ 188,736            |
| Central                                       | 426,353           | (46,993 )                               | 379,360         | 137,600               |
| Eastern                                       | 336,916           | (57,362 )                               | 279,554         | 82,947                |
| E&P   | 186,255           | (8,446 )                                | 177,809         | 82,036                |
| Corporate <sup>(a)</sup>                      | -                 | -                                       | -               | (2,679 )              |
|   | \$1,632,229       | \$ (189,311 )                           | \$1,442,918     | \$ 488,640            |

Corporate functions include accounting, legal, tax, treasury, information technology, risk management, human (a)resources, training and other administrative functions. Amounts reflected are net of allocations to the four operating segments.

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

Intercompany revenues reflect each segment's total intercompany sales, including intercompany sales within a (b) segment and between segments. Transactions within and between segments are generally made on a basis intended to reflect the market value of the service.

(c) For those items included in the determination of EBITDA, the accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The following tables show changes in goodwill during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, by reportable segment:

|                                  | Western   | Central   | Eastern   | E&P       | Total       |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2013  | \$372,915 | \$459,054 | \$380,570 | \$462,615 | \$1,675,154 |
| Goodwill acquired                | -         | 2,050     | 11,698    | -         | 13,748      |
| Goodwill divested                | -         | (143 )    | -         | -         | (143 )      |
| Goodwill adjustments             | -         | (843 )    | (1 )      | -         | (844 )      |
| Balance as of September 30, 2014 | \$372,915 | \$460,118 | \$392,267 | \$462,615 | \$1,687,915 |

|                                  | Western   | Central   | Eastern   | E&P       | Total       |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2012  | \$373,143 | \$430,412 | \$380,561 | \$452,441 | \$1,636,557 |
| Goodwill transferred             | -         | (9,196 )  | -         | 9,196     | -           |
| Goodwill acquired                | 521       | 70        | 567       | 575       | 1,733       |
| Goodwill divested                | (749 )    | -         | -         | -         | (749 )      |
| Balance as of September 30, 2013 | \$372,915 | \$421,286 | \$381,128 | \$462,212 | \$1,637,541 |

The Company has no accumulated impairment losses associated with goodwill.

A reconciliation of the Company's primary measure of segment profitability (EBITDA) to Income before income tax provision in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Net Income is as follows:

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

|   | Three months ended |           | Nine months ended |           |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
|   | September 30,      |           | September 30,     |           |
|   | 2014               | 2013      | 2014              | 2013      |
| Western segment EBITDA                            | \$69,140           | \$67,773  | \$194,894         | \$188,736 |
| Central segment EBITDA                            | 53,809             | 48,845    | 148,471           | 137,600   |
| Eastern segment EBITDA                            | 29,379             | 28,038    | 87,284            | 82,947    |
| E&P segment EBITDA                                | 39,535             | 31,125    | 111,730           | 82,036    |
| Subtotal reportable segments                      | 191,863            | 175,781   | 542,379           | 491,319   |
| Unallocated corporate overhead                    | (1,152 )           | 188       | (7,449 )          | (2,679 )  |
| Depreciation                                      | (58,998 )          | (55,863 ) | (171,920)         | (162,277) |
| Amortization of intangibles                       | (6,702 )           | (6,211 )  | (20,158 )         | (18,861 ) |
| Gain (loss) on disposal of assets and impairments | (9,000 )           | 1,725     | (7,535 )          | (11,895 ) |
| Interest expense                                  | (15,815 )          | (17,911 ) | (48,666 )         | (55,851 ) |
| Other income (expense), net                       | (389 )             | 845       | (252 )            | (119 )    |
| Income before income tax provision                | \$99,807           | \$98,554  | \$286,399         | \$239,637 |

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

The following table shows, for the periods indicated, the Company's total reported revenues by service line and with intercompany eliminations:

|  | Three months ended |           | Nine months ended |             |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
|  | September 30,      |           | September 30,     |             |
|  | 2014               | 2013      | 2014              | 2013        |
| Solid waste collection                     | \$333,917          | \$312,872 | \$962,683         | \$912,488   |
| Solid waste disposal and transfer          | 167,129            | 158,142   | 461,605           | 434,513     |
| E&P waste treatment, recovery and disposal | 86,085             | 68,605    | 242,049           | 194,720     |
| Solid waste recycling                      | 14,973             | 18,402    | 44,713            | 55,806      |
| Intermodal and other                       | 12,604             | 11,329    | 35,446            | 34,702      |
|  | 614,708            | 569,350   | 1,746,496         | 1,632,229   |
| Less: intercompany elimination             | (68,157)           | (65,704)  | (193,543)         | (189,311)   |
| Total revenues                             | \$546,551          | \$503,646 | \$1,552,953       | \$1,442,918 |

## 8. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company recognizes all derivatives on the condensed consolidated balance sheet at fair value. All of the Company's derivatives have been designated as cash flow hedges; therefore, the effective portion of the changes in the fair value of derivatives will be recognized in accumulated other comprehensive loss ("AOCL") until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. The ineffective portion of the changes in the fair value of derivatives will be immediately recognized in earnings. The Company classifies cash inflows and outflows from derivatives within operating activities in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

One of the Company's objectives for utilizing derivative instruments is to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in cash flows due to changes in the variable interest rates of certain borrowings issued under its revolving credit facility. The Company's strategy to achieve that objective involves entering into interest rate swaps that are specifically designated to the Company's revolving credit facility and accounted for as cash flow hedges.

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

At September 30, 2014, the Company's derivative instruments included seven interest rate swap agreements as follows:

| Date Entered  | Notional Amount | Fixed Interest Rate Paid* | Variable Interest Rate Received | Effective Date | Expiration Date |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| August 2011   | \$ 150,000      | 0.798                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | April 2012     | January 2015    |
| December 2011 | \$ 175,000      | 1.600                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | February 2014  | February 2017   |
| April 2014    | \$ 100,000      | 1.800                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | July 2014      | July 2019       |
| May 2014      | \$ 50,000       | 2.344                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | October 2015   | October 2020    |
| May 2014      | \$ 25,000       | 2.326                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | October 2015   | October 2020    |
| May 2014      | \$ 50,000       | 2.350                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | October 2015   | October 2020    |
| May 2014      | \$ 50,000       | 2.350                     | % 1-month LIBOR                 | October 2015   | October 2020    |

---

\* Plus applicable margin.

Another of the Company's objectives for utilizing derivative instruments is to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in cash flows due to changes in the price of diesel fuel. The Company's strategy to achieve that objective involves periodically entering into fuel hedges that are specifically designated to certain forecasted diesel fuel purchases and accounted for as cash flow hedges.

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

At September 30, 2014, the Company's derivative instruments included one fuel hedge agreement as follows:

| Date Entered | Notional Amount<br>(in gallons per month) | Diesel Rate Paid<br>Fixed (per gallon) | Diesel Rate Received<br>Variable | Effective Date | Expiration Date |
|--------------|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| June 2012    | 300,000                                   | \$ 3.60                                | DOE Diesel Fuel Index*           | January 2014   | December 2015   |

\* If the national U.S. on-highway average price for a gallon of diesel fuel ("average price"), as published by the Department of Energy ("DOE"), exceeds the contract price per gallon, the Company receives the difference between the average price and the contract price (multiplied by the notional number of gallons) from the counterparty. If the average price is less than the contract price per gallon, the Company pays the difference to the counterparty.

The fair values of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges as of September 30, 2014, were as follows:

| Derivatives Designated as Cash Flow Hedges       | Asset Derivatives<br>Balance Sheet Location              | Fair Value | Liability Derivatives<br>Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value  |
|--|--|------------|---|-------------|
| Interest rate swaps                              | Other assets, net  | \$ 1,236   | Accrued liabilities <sup>(a)</sup>              | \$ (3,985 ) |
|  |  |            | Other long-term liabilities                     | (747 )      |
| Fuel hedge                                       | Prepaid expenses and other current assets <sup>(b)</sup> | 275        |   |             |
|  | Other assets, net  | 73         |   |             |
| Total derivatives designated as cash flow hedges |  | \$ 1,584   |   | \$ (4,732 ) |



Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

(a) Represents the estimated amount of the existing unrealized losses on interest rate swaps as of September 30, 2014 (based on the interest rate yield curve at that date), included in AOCL expected to be reclassified into pre-tax earnings within the next 12 months. The actual amounts reclassified into earnings are dependent on future movements in interest rates.

(b) Represents the estimated amount of the existing unrealized gains on the fuel hedge as of September 30, 2014 (based on the forward DOE diesel fuel index curve at that date), included in AOCL expected to be reclassified into pre-tax earnings within the next 12 months. The actual amounts reclassified into earnings are dependent on future movements in diesel fuel prices.

The fair values of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges as of December 31, 2013, were as follows:

| Derivatives Designated as Cash<br>Flow Hedges       | Asset Derivatives                            |            | Liability Derivatives       |             |
|---|--|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|   | Balance Sheet Location                       | Fair Value | Balance Sheet Location      | Fair Value  |
| Interest rate swaps                                 |  |            | Accrued liabilities         | \$ (3,373 ) |
|   |  |            | Other long-term liabilities | (1,853 )    |
| Fuel hedge  | Prepaid expenses and other<br>current assets | \$ 1,304   |                             |             |
|   | Other assets, net                            | 895        |                             |             |
| Total derivatives designated as<br>cash flow hedges |  | \$ 2,199   |                             | \$ (5,226 ) |

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

The following table summarizes the impact of the Company's cash flow hedges on the results of operations, comprehensive income and AOCL for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

| Derivatives<br>Designated as Cash<br>Flow Hedges | <b>Amount of Gain or (Loss)<br/>Recognized as AOCL on<br/>Derivatives,<br/>Net of Tax (Effective Portion)<sup>(a)</sup></b> |            | Statement of<br>Net Income<br>Classification | <b>Amount of (Gain) or Loss<br/>Reclassified from AOCL into<br/>Earnings, Net of Tax (Effective<br/>Portion)<sup>(b),(c)</sup></b> |        |
|--|---|------------|--|--|--------|
|  | Three Months Ended<br>September 30,   |            |  | Three Months Ended<br>September 30,  |        |
|  | 2014  | 2013       |  | 2014   | 2013   |
| Interest rate swaps                              | \$ 597  | \$ (809)   | ) Interest expense                           | \$ 809   | \$ 879 |
| Fuel hedge                                       | (735)   | ) 271      | Cost of operations                           | (132)  | ) -    |
| Total  | \$ (138)  | ) \$ (538) | )  | \$ 677   | \$ 879 |

| Derivatives<br>Designated as Cash<br>Flow Hedges | <b>Amount of Gain or (Loss)<br/>Recognized as AOCL on<br/>Derivatives,<br/>Net of Tax (Effective Portion)<sup>(a)</sup></b> |          | Statement of<br>Net Income<br>Classification | <b>Amount of (Gain) or Loss<br/>Reclassified from AOCL into<br/>Earnings, Net of Tax (Effective<br/>Portion)<sup>(b),(c)</sup></b> |          |
|--|---|----------|--|--|----------|
|  | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30,  |          |  | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30,   |          |
|  | 2014  | 2013     |  | 2014   | 2013     |
| Interest rate swaps                              | \$ (942)  | ) \$ 323 | Interest expense                             | \$ 2,014   | \$ 2,595 |
| Fuel hedge                                       | (625)   | ) 300    | Cost of operations                           | (518)  | ) -      |
| Total  | \$ (1,567)  | ) \$ 623 |  | \$ 1,496   | \$ 2,595 |

(a) In accordance with the derivatives and hedging guidance, the effective portions of the changes in fair values of interest rate swaps and the fuel hedge have been recorded in equity as a component of AOCL. As the critical terms of the interest rate swaps match the underlying debt being hedged, no ineffectiveness is recognized on these swaps and, therefore, all unrealized changes in fair value are recorded in AOCL. Because changes in the actual price of diesel fuel and changes in the DOE index price do not offset exactly each reporting period, the Company assesses whether the fuel hedge is highly effective using the cumulative dollar offset approach.

(b) Amounts reclassified from AOCL into earnings related to realized gains and losses on interest rate swaps are recognized when interest payments or receipts occur related to the swap contracts, which correspond to when interest

payments are made on the Company's hedged debt.

(c) Amounts reclassified from AOCL into earnings related to realized gains and losses on the fuel hedge are recognized when settlement payments or receipts occur related to the hedge contract, which correspond to when the underlying fuel is consumed.

The Company measures and records ineffectiveness on the fuel hedge in Cost of operations in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Net Income on a monthly basis based on the difference between the DOE index price and the actual price of diesel fuel purchased, multiplied by the notional number of gallons on the contract. There was no significant ineffectiveness recognized on the fuel hedge during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013.

See Note 12 for further discussion on the impact of the Company's hedge accounting to its consolidated comprehensive income and AOCL.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

**9. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Company's financial instruments consist primarily of cash and equivalents, trade receivables, restricted assets, trade payables, debt instruments, contingent consideration obligations, interest rate swaps and a fuel hedge. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the carrying values of cash and equivalents, trade receivables, restricted assets, trade payables and contingent consideration are considered to be representative of their respective fair values. The carrying values of the Company's debt instruments, excluding certain notes as listed in the table below, approximate their fair values as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, based on current borrowing rates, current remaining average life to maturity and borrower credit quality for similar types of borrowing arrangements, and are classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. The carrying values and fair values of the Company's debt instruments where the carrying values do not approximate their fair values as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, are as follows:

|                             | Carrying Value at        |                             | Fair Value* at           |                             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                             | September<br>30,<br>2014 | December 31,<br><b>2013</b> | September<br>30,<br>2014 | December 31,<br><b>2013</b> |
| 6.22% Senior Notes due 2015 | \$ 175,000               | \$ 175,000                  | \$ 183,844               | \$ 187,206                  |
| 3.30% Senior Notes due 2016 | \$ 100,000               | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 102,823               | \$ 102,066                  |
| 4.00% Senior Notes due 2018 | \$ 50,000                | \$ 50,000                   | \$ 52,825                | \$ 50,992                   |
| 5.25% Senior Notes due 2019 | \$ 175,000               | \$ 175,000                  | \$ 193,773               | \$ 185,037                  |
| 4.64% Senior Notes due 2021 | \$ 100,000               | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 107,592               | \$ 100,341                  |

\*Senior Notes are classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. Fair value is based on quotes of bonds with similar ratings in similar industries.

For details on the fair value of the Company's interest rate swaps, fuel hedge and restricted assets, refer to Note 11.

**10. NET INCOME PER SHARE INFORMATION**

Edgar Filing: Waste Connections, Inc. - Form 10-Q

The following table sets forth the calculation of the numerator and denominator used in the computation of basic and diluted net income per common share attributable to the Company's common stockholders for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

|   | Three months ended<br>September 30, |             | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | 2014                                | 2013        | 2014                               | 2013        |
| Numerator:  |                                     |             |                                    |             |
| Net income attributable to Waste Connections for basic and diluted earnings per share | \$60,084                            | \$60,706    | \$171,763                          | \$146,229   |
| Denominator:  |                                     |             |                                    |             |
| Basic shares outstanding  | 124,342,493                         | 123,676,936 | 124,179,478                        | 123,557,317 |
| Dilutive effect of stock options and warrants   | 62,205                              | 182,175     | 103,401                            | 192,054     |
| Dilutive effect of restricted stock units   | 365,283                             | 420,555     | 495,413                            | 340,051     |
| Diluted shares outstanding  | 124,769,981                         | 124,279,666 | 124,778,292                        | 124,089,422 |

For the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, stock options and warrants to purchase 9,906 and 493 shares of common stock, respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share as they were anti-dilutive. For the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, stock options and warrants to purchase 9,906 and 1,533 shares of common stock, respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share as they were anti-dilutive.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

## 11. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Company uses a three-tier fair value hierarchy to classify and disclose all assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, as well as assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis, in periods subsequent to their initial measurement. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities; Level 2, defined as inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data.

The Company's financial assets and liabilities recorded at fair value on a recurring basis include derivative instruments and restricted assets. The Company's derivative instruments are pay-fixed, receive-variable interest rate swaps and a pay-fixed, receive-variable diesel fuel hedge. The Company's interest rate swaps are recorded at their estimated fair values based on quotes received from financial institutions that trade these contracts. The Company verifies the reasonableness of these quotes using similar quotes from another financial institution as of each date for which financial statements are prepared. The Company uses a discounted cash flow ("DCF") model to determine the estimated fair value of the diesel fuel hedge. The assumptions used in preparing the DCF model include: (i) estimates for the forward DOE index curve; and (ii) the discount rate based on risk-free interest rates over the term of the hedge contract. The DOE index curve used in the DCF model was obtained from financial institutions that trade these contracts and ranged from \$3.64 to \$3.79 at September 30, 2014 and from \$3.79 to \$4.00 at December 31, 2013. The weighted average DOE index curve used in the DCF model was \$3.68 and \$3.91 at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. Significant increases (decreases) in the forward DOE index curve would result in a significantly higher (lower) fair value measurement. For the Company's interest rate swaps and fuel hedge, the Company also considers the Company's creditworthiness in its determination of the fair value measurement of these instruments in a net liability position and the banks' creditworthiness in its determination of the fair value measurement of these instruments in a net asset position. The Company's restricted assets are valued at quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets, which the Company receives from the financial institutions that hold such investments on its behalf. The Company's restricted assets measured at fair value are invested primarily in U.S. government and agency securities.

The Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, were as follows:

|  | Fair Value Measurement at September 30, 2014 Using |  |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
|  | Total  | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Interest rate swap derivative instruments – net liability position | \$ (3,496 )  | \$ -   | \$ (3,496 )                                   | \$ -                                      |
| Fuel hedge derivative instrument – net asset position              | \$ 348   | \$ -   | \$ -  | \$ 348                                    |
| Restricted assets  | \$ 36,428  | \$ 36,428  | \$ -  | \$ -                                      |

## WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

|  | Fair Value Measurement at December 31, 2013 Using |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  | Total   | Quoted Prices<br>in<br>Active Markets<br>for Identical<br>Assets<br>(Level 1) | Significant<br>Other<br>Observable<br>Inputs<br>(Level 2) | Significant<br>Unobservable<br>Inputs<br>(Level 3) |
| Interest rate swap derivative instruments – net liability position | \$ (5,226 )                                       | \$ -  | \$ (5,226 )   | \$ -   |
| Fuel hedge derivative instrument – net asset position              | \$ 2,199  | \$ -  | \$ -  | \$ 2,199   |
| Restricted assets  | \$ 32,782   | \$ 32,782   | \$ -  | \$ -   |

The following table summarizes the change in the fair value for Level 3 derivatives for the nine months ended September 30, 2014:

|                                     | Level 3<br>Derivatives |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2013     | \$ 2,199               |
| Realized gains included in earnings | (841 )                 |
| Unrealized gains included in AOCL   | (1,010 )               |
| Balance as of September 30, 2014    | \$ 348                 |

The following table summarizes the change in the fair value for Level 3 derivatives for the nine months ended September 30, 2013:

|                                   | Level 3<br>Derivatives |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2012   | \$ 1,187               |
| Unrealized gains included in AOCL | 486                    |
| Balance as of September 30, 2013  | \$ 1,673               |





WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

**12. OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)**

Other comprehensive income (loss) includes changes in the fair value of interest rate swaps and the fuel hedge that qualify for hedge accounting. The components of other comprehensive income (loss) and related tax effects for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, are as follows:

|   | Three months ended September 30, 2014 |            |            |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | Gross                                 | Tax effect | Net of tax |
| Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense | \$ 1,313                              | \$ (504 )  | \$ 809     |
| Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations       | (214 )                                | 82         | (132 )     |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps                  | 968                                   | (371 )     | 597        |
| Changes in fair value of fuel hedge                           | (1,192 )                              | 457        | (735 )     |
|   | \$ 875                                | \$ (336 )  | \$ 539     |

|   | Three months ended September 30, 2013 |            |            |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | Gross                                 | Tax effect | Net of tax |
| Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense | \$ 1,424                              | \$ (545 )  | \$ 879     |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps                  | (1,310 )                              | 501        | (809 )     |
| Changes in fair value of fuel hedge                           | 438                                   | (167 )     | 271        |
|   | \$ 552                                | \$ (211 )  | \$ 341     |

|   | Nine months ended September 30, 2014 |             |            |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
|   | Gross                                | Tax effect  | Net of tax |
| Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense | \$ 3,267                             | \$ (1,253 ) | \$ 2,014   |
| Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations       | (841 )                               | 323         | (518 )     |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps                  | (1,536 )                             | 594         | (942 )     |
| Changes in fair value of fuel hedge                           | (1,010 )                             | 385         | (625 )     |
|   | \$ (120 )                            | \$ 49       | \$ (71 )   |

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

|   | Nine months ended September 30, 2013 |             |            |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
|   | Gross                                | Tax effect  | Net of tax |
| Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense | \$ 4,203                             | \$ (1,608 ) | \$ 2,595   |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps                  | 514                                  | (191 )      | 323        |
| Changes in fair value of fuel hedge                           | 486                                  | (186 )      | 300        |
|   | \$ 5,203                             | \$ (1,985 ) | \$ 3,218   |

A rollforward of the amounts included in AOCL, net of taxes, is as follows:

|                                    | Fuel Hedge | Interest<br>Rate Swaps | Accumulated<br>Other<br>Comprehensive<br>Loss |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|---|
| Balance at December 31, 2013       | \$ 1,357   | \$ (3,226 )            | \$ (1,869 )                                   |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings | (518 )     | 2,014                  | 1,496   |
| Changes in fair value              | (625 )     | (942 )                 | (1,567 )                                      |
| Balance at September 30, 2014      | \$ 214     | \$ (2,154 )            | \$ (1,940 )                                   |

See Note 8 for further discussion on the Company's derivative instruments.

**13. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**Stock-Based Compensation*Adoption of 2014 Incentive Award Plan*

On May 16, 2014 at the annual meeting of stockholders, the Company's stockholders approved the Waste Connections, Inc. 2014 Incentive Award Plan (the "2014 Plan"), which had previously been adopted by the Company's board of directors (the "Board"), subject to stockholder approval. Upon such stockholder approval, the 2014 Plan became effective, replacing the Waste Connections, Inc. Third Amended and Restated 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, pursuant to which no more awards may be granted.

The 2014 Plan authorizes the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Compensation Committee") to grant nonqualified stock options, warrants, restricted stock, restricted stock units, dividend equivalents and stock payment awards. The 2014 Plan also authorizes the Compensation Committee to grant performance awards payable in the form of the Company's common stock or cash, including equity awards and incentive cash bonuses that are intended to qualify as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Section 162(m)"). The 2014 Plan authorizes the grant of awards to employees and consultants of the Company and its subsidiaries and non-employee directors.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

*Restricted Stock Units*

A summary of activity related to restricted stock units under the Third Amended and Restated 2004 Equity Incentive Plan during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014, is presented below:

|                                   | Unvested<br>Shares |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2013  | 1,299,466          |
| Granted                           | 491,405            |
| Forfeited                         | (29,362 )          |
| Vested and Issued                 | (491,192 )         |
| Vested and Unissued               | (70,422 )          |
| Outstanding at September 30, 2014 | 1,199,895          |

The weighted average grant-date fair value per share for the shares of common stock underlying the restricted stock units granted during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 was \$42.41.

A summary of activity related to restricted stock units under the 2014 Plan during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014, is presented below:

|                                   | Unvested<br>Shares |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2013  | -                  |
| Granted                           | 12,350             |
| Forfeited                         | -                  |
| Vested and Issued                 | -                  |
| Vested and Unissued               | -                  |
| Outstanding at September 30, 2014 | 12,350             |

The weighted average grant-date fair value per share for the shares of common stock underlying the restricted stock units granted during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 was \$47.35.

*Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units*

The 2014 Plan allows for the issuance of performance-based restricted stock units (“PBRsUs”), among other types of awards. The vesting of the PBRsUs is dependent on the Company’s performance against pre-established performance targets. The PBRsUs are payable in shares of common stock after the end of a three-year performance period, when the Company’s financial performance for the entire performance period is determined. At the end of the performance period, the number of shares awarded can range from 0% to 150% of the original granted amount, depending on the performance against the pre-established targets.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

A summary of activity related to PBR SU's during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014, is presented below:

|                                   | Unvested<br>Shares |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2013  | -                  |
| Granted                           | 54,723             |
| Forfeited                         | -                  |
| Vested                            | -                  |
| Outstanding at September 30, 2014 | 54,723             |

The weighted average grant-date fair value per share for the shares of common stock underlying the PBR SUs granted during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 was \$42.33. The Compensation Committee will determine the achievement of performance results and corresponding vesting of PBR SUs for each three-year performance period. The three-year performance period for the PBR SU's granted during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 ends on December 31, 2016.

PBR SUs have no voting rights. PBR SUs are payable to an employee (or his beneficiary), subject to pro-rata vesting, upon death, disability, involuntary termination other than for cause, and voluntary termination for good reason in cases where an underlying employment agreement provides for such rights, and are subject to forfeiture in the event of other voluntary or for-cause termination. PBR SUs may also become payable to an employee pursuant to certain change in control provisions depending on whether the PBR SUs are assumed by the acquirer immediately following the change in control.

Compensation expense associated with outstanding PBR SUs is measured using the fair value of the Company's common stock and is based on its estimated achievement of the established performance criteria at the end of each reporting period until the performance period ends, recognized ratably over the performance period. Compensation expense is only recognized for those awards that the Company expects to vest, which it estimates based upon an assessment of the probability that the performance criteria will be achieved. The Company assumed a forfeiture rate of 0%.

### *Deferred Restricted Stock Units*

Recipients of the Company's restricted stock unit awards ("RSUs") who participate in the Company's Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan may elect to defer some or all of their RSUs as they vest until a specified date or dates they choose. At the end of the deferral periods, the Company issues to recipients who deferred their RSUs shares of the Company's common stock underlying the deferred RSUs. At September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company had 223,752 and 163,995 vested deferred RSUs outstanding, respectively.

### Share Repurchase Program

The Company's Board of Directors has authorized a common stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$1,200,000 of common stock through December 31, 2014. Under the program, stock repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time at management's discretion. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including the Company's capital structure, the market price of the common stock and overall market conditions. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company did not repurchase any shares of its common stock. As of September 30, 2014, the remaining maximum dollar value of shares available for repurchase under the program was approximately \$415,960. The Company's policy related to repurchases of its common stock is to charge any excess of cost over par value entirely to additional paid-in capital.

### Cash Dividend

In October 2013, the Company announced that its Board of Directors increased its regular quarterly cash dividend by \$0.015, from \$0.10 to \$0.115 per share. Cash dividends of \$42,770 and \$37,005 were paid during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.



WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

14. OFFICE RELOCATIONS

In December 2011, the Company commenced a relocation of its corporate headquarters from Folsom, California to The Woodlands, Texas, which was substantially completed in 2013. Costs related to personnel and office relocation expenses are recorded in Selling, general and administrative expenses in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Net Income. In addition, the Company incurred a loss on its prior office leases of \$9,902 during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 due to the cessation of use of its former corporate headquarters in Folsom, California and its E&P segment's former regional offices in Houston, Texas. In October 2013, the Company remitted a payment to terminate the remaining lease obligation of its former headquarters in Folsom, California. These costs are recorded in Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Net Income.

15. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

In the normal course of its business and as a result of the extensive governmental regulation of the solid waste and E&P waste industries, the Company is subject to various judicial and administrative proceedings involving federal, state or local agencies. In these proceedings, an agency may seek to impose fines on the Company or to revoke or deny renewal of an operating permit held by the Company. From time to time, the Company may also be subject to actions brought by special interest or other groups, adjacent landowners or residents in connection with the permitting and licensing of landfills, transfer stations, and E&P waste treatment, recovery and disposal operations, or alleging environmental damage or violations of the permits and licenses pursuant to which the Company operates.

In addition, the Company is a party to various claims and suits pending for alleged damages to persons and property, alleged violations of certain laws and alleged liabilities arising out of matters occurring during the normal operation of the waste management business. Except as noted in the matters described below, as of September 30, 2014, there is no current proceeding or litigation involving the Company or its property that the Company believes could have a material adverse impact on its business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Chaparral, New Mexico Landfill Permit Litigation

The Company's subsidiary, High Desert Solid Waste Facility, Inc. (formerly known as Rhino Solid Waste, Inc.) ("HDSWF"), owns undeveloped property in Chaparral, New Mexico, for which it sought a permit to operate a municipal solid waste landfill. The New Mexico Environment Department (the "Department") approved the permit for the facility on January 30, 2002. Colonias Development Council ("CDC"), a nonprofit organization, appealed the Department's decision to the courts of New Mexico, alleging primarily that the Department failed to consider the social impact of the landfill on the community of Chaparral, and failed to consider regional planning issues. On July 18, 2005, in *Colonias Dev. Council v. Rhino Env'tl. Servs., Inc. (In re Rhino Env'tl. Servs.)*, 2005 NMSC 24, 117 P.3d 939, the New Mexico Supreme Court remanded the matter back to the Department to conduct a limited public hearing on certain evidence that CDC claimed was wrongfully excluded from consideration by the hearing officer, and to allow the Department to reconsider the evidence already proffered concerning the impact of the landfill on the surrounding community's quality of life. In July 2007, the Department, CDC, the Company and Otero County signed a stipulation requesting a postponement of the limited public hearing to allow the Company time to explore a possible relocation of the landfill to a new site. Since 2007, the Department has issued several orders postponing the limited public hearing, and on October 17, 2012, it granted a request by the parties to hold the limited public hearing in abeyance until further notice.

In July 2009, HDSWF purchased approximately 325 acres of undeveloped land comprising a proposed new site from the State of New Mexico. HDSWF filed a formal landfill permit application for the new site with the Department on September 17, 2010. On September 12, 2011, the Department deemed the permit application complete and a public hearing on the matter had been tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2012, in Chaparral, New Mexico. On November 9, 2011, HDSWF filed a motion with the Department to hold in abeyance indefinitely the notice for public hearing and the permit hearing, and HDSWF agreed to provide the Department with at least 120 days' prior notice of any desired, future permit hearing. The Department granted the motion. HDSWF requested the abeyance to defer capital expenditures related to permitting the new site until late 2014, when HDSWF expected to have a better understanding of several current market conditions and regulatory factors that affect the timing and feasibility of the project. As a result of a variety of business factors, however, HDSWF decided in October 2014 to further postpone any decisions about whether to resume its permitting process for the new site.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

At September 30, 2014, the Company had \$11,778 of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. Depending on the outcome of various business factors, the Company may decide in the future to abandon the project and expense the \$11,778 of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped properties and other amounts recovered. Alternatively, HDSWF may decide in the future to resume its permitting process for the new site. Under those circumstances, if the Department ultimately denies the landfill permit application for the new site, HDSWF intends to actively resume its efforts to enforce the previously issued landfill permit for the original site in Chaparral. If the Company is ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill at the new site purchased in July 2009, the Company will be required to expense in a future period \$10,324 of capitalized expenditures related to the original Chaparral property, less the recoverable value of that undeveloped property and other amounts recovered. If the Company instead is ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill at the original Chaparral property, the Company will be required to expense in a future period \$1,454 of capitalized expenditures related to the new site purchased in July 2009, less the recoverable value of that undeveloped property and other amounts recovered. If the Company is not ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill at either one of the two sites, the Company will be required to expense in a future period the \$11,778 of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped properties and other amounts recovered.

Solano County, California Landfill Expansion Litigation

On December 17, 2010, Sustainability, Parks, Recycling and Wildlife Legal Defense Fund (“SPRAWLDEF”) and one its members filed a petition for writ of mandate in San Francisco Superior Court seeking to overturn the October 2010 approval of the marsh development permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (“BCDC”) for the expansion of the Potrero Hills Landfill, alleging that the approval is contrary to the Suisun Marsh Protection Act. The petition, captioned SPRAWLDEF v. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, names BCDC as a respondent and the Company as the real party in interest. The Company’s subsidiary, Potrero Hills Landfill, Inc. (“PHLF”), owns and operates the Potrero Hills Landfill. The San Francisco Superior Court stayed the action and, on April 5, 2012, transferred the case to Solano County Superior Court. On November 29, 2012, the Superior Court issued an order finding that the administrative record before BCDC did not contain sufficient evidence regarding net profits for the proposed project or the alternative to support the agency’s finding that the alternative was economically infeasible. The Superior Court therefore issued a writ of mandamus and final judgment on January 14, 2013, setting aside the BCDC permit and remanding it back to the agency for further consideration. Both the Company and BCDC filed notices of appeal, staying execution of the writ and judgment pending the appeal. On April 29, 2014, the Court of Appeal issued an opinion reversing the trial court order. In a unanimous decision, the Court of Appeal rejected SPRAWLDEF’s arguments, finding ample evidence in the record to support BCDC’s determination that alternatives to landfill expansion were economically infeasible and

remanded the case back to the Superior Court to deny the petition. On June 9, 2014, SPRAWLDEF filed a petition for review in the California Supreme Court. On July 30, 2014, the California Supreme Court denied the petition for review. Following the September 2, 2014 remittitur from the Court of Appeal, on September 17, 2014 the trial court issued judgment in favor of BCDC and PHLF, denying the SPRAWLDEF petition for writ of mandate in its entirety, ending the litigation in the Company's favor.

On June 10, 2011, June Guidotti, a property owner adjacent to PHLF, and SPRAWLDEF and one of its members, each filed administrative petitions for review with the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board") seeking to overturn a May 11, 2011 Order No. 2166-(a) approving waste discharge requirements issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") for PHLF's landfill expansion, alleging that the order is contrary to the State Board's Title 27 regulations authorizing waste discharge requirements for landfills, and in the case of the SPRAWLDEF petition, further alleging that the Regional Board's issuance of a Clean Water Act section 401 certification is not supported by an adequate alternatives analysis as required by the federal Clean Water Act. The Regional Board is preparing the administrative record of its decision to issue Order 2166-(a) to be filed with the State Board as well as its response to the petitions for review. It is anticipated that the Regional Board will vigorously defend its actions and seek dismissal of the petitions for review. A hearing date has not yet been set on either petition, and the State Board has held both the Guidotti and SPRAWLDEF petitions in abeyance at the petitioners' requests. The Company believes the appeal is without merit, particularly in light of the Court of Appeal's validation of the Clean Water Act section 401 alternatives analysis in the above-described litigation upholding the BCDC permit. The Company believes that the outcome of the appeals, which may be dismissed by the State Water Resources Control Board, would not have a material effect on the expansion project. The appeals would have no effect on the validity of the land use permit or the marsh development permit, both of which have been finally approved and the litigation challenging these permits has now been concluded in PHLF's favor.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

Madera County, California Materials Recovery Facility Contract Litigation

The Company's subsidiary, Madera Disposal Systems, Inc. ("MDSI") was named in a complaint captioned County of Madera vs. Madera Disposal Systems, Inc., et al, filed in Madera County Superior Court (Case No. MCV 059402) on March 5, 2012, and subsequently transferred to Fresno County Superior Court. Madera County alleges in the complaint that from 2007 through 2010, MDSI breached a contract with the County for the operation of a materials recovery facility by withholding profits from facility operations in excess of those authorized by the contract. The County further alleges that the breach gives the County the unilateral right to terminate all of its contracts with MDSI, including contracts for (1) the collection of residential and commercial waste in the unincorporated parts of the County, (2) operation of the materials recovery facility, (3) operation of the North Fork Transfer Station and (4) operation of the Fairmead Landfill. The County seeks monetary damages of \$2,962 from MDSI, plus pre-judgment interest at 10% per annum.

MDSI had been under contract with the County to collect residential and commercial waste and operate the county-owned Fairmead Landfill continuously since at least 1981. In 1993, MDSI contracted with the County to construct and operate a materials recovery facility for the County on the premises of the Fairmead Landfill. After it entered into the materials recovery facility contract, MDSI entered into new contracts with the County for waste collection and landfill operation to run concurrently with the materials recovery facility contract. In 1998, MDSI and the County agreed to extend the terms of the County contracts until November 10, 2012, with MDSI holding a unilateral option to extend the contracts for an additional five-year term.

In March 2011, the County issued a Notice of Default to MDSI under the materials recovery facility contract and gave MDSI 30 days to cure the default. MDSI provided information that it believed demonstrated that it was not in default under the contract and had not withheld profits that it was obligated to deliver to the County under the terms of the contract.

On February 7, 2012, the County issued a Notice of Termination to MDSI terminating all of its contracts effective November 1, 2012. The lawsuit followed on March 5, 2012. MDSI answered the complaint and asserted a claim against the County for wrongful termination of the contracts. On October 31, 2012, MDSI ceased providing services and vacated the County premises. The case is set for trial in Fresno in May 2015.

At this point, the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in this matter. The Company disputes Madera County's right to terminate the MDSI contracts effective November 1, 2012, and seeks damages for the profits lost as a result of the wrongful termination. The Company estimates that the current annual impact to its pre-tax earnings resulting from the termination of MDSI's contracts with Madera County is approximately \$2,300 per year, not including any monetary damages and interest the Court could order MDSI to pay the County.

Hudson Valley, New York TEAM Transportation Workers' Compensation Trust

In April 2011, the Company acquired Hudson Valley Waste Holding, Inc., County Waste and Recycling Service, Inc., and their subsidiaries (collectively, the "HVC Companies") from private owners (the "HVC Sellers") pursuant to a stock purchase agreement dated March 31, 2011 (the "HVC Purchase Agreement"). The HVC Companies are engaged in the solid waste and recycling business in New York's Hudson Valley. In October 2011, the Company received a letter from the New York State Workers' Compensation Board (the "WCB") with respect to the TEAM Transportation Workers' Compensation Trust (the "TEAM Trust"). The TEAM Trust is a self-insured workers' compensation program of which certain of the HVC Companies, together with approximately 760 unrelated entities, were participants. The TEAM Trust incurred deficits for a number of years leading up to 2011. In late 2010, TEAM and its members elected to close the TEAM Trust and cease all workers' compensation coverage, effective on January 1, 2011. The October 2011 WCB letter asserted that the TEAM Trust had insufficient funds to cover outstanding claims and liabilities that preceded the trust's closure and that, based upon the WCB's preliminary estimates, the HVC Companies' allocable portion of the underfunding was approximately \$866. On December 7, 2011, the WCB determined that TEAM had demonstrated an inability to properly administer its liabilities, and accordingly, effective February 1, 2012, the WCB assumed the administration and final distribution of TEAM's assets and liabilities. In February 2012 the Company notified the HVC Sellers that the failure to disclose the HVC Companies' liability for the TEAM Trust's underfunded obligations was a breach by the HVC Sellers of the representations and warranties contained in the HVC Purchase Agreement and that, pursuant to the terms of the HVC Purchase Agreement, the Company was seeking indemnification from the HVC Sellers for any liability that the HVC Companies may have with respect to the underfunding of the TEAM Trust. In March 2012, the HVC Sellers agreed to assume the defense of the matter but have denied liability for indemnification under the HVC Purchase Agreement.

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE, PER TON AND PER GALLON AMOUNTS)

In July 2014, the Company received another letter from the WCB indicating that, based on a forensic accounting firm's review of the TEAM Trust's accumulated deficit, the WCB was increasing its estimate of the HVC Companies' allocable portion of the liability for the TEAM Trust's underfunding from approximately \$866 to approximately \$5,000, including accrued interest. The WCB has also alleged that each former member of the TEAM Trust is jointly and severally liable for the entire deficit of the TEAM Trust. To date, the WCB has issued a total of over \$32,000 in deficiency assessments to the TEAM Trust members, including the HVC Companies.

On October 14, 2014, the Company commenced an action against the HVC Sellers in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York alleging breach of contract, negligent misrepresentation, fraud, and common law indemnification for the TEAM deficits assessed by the WCB and for other costs, fees and damages, and for a declaratory judgment enforcing the HVC Sellers' indemnification obligations to the Company.

The Company intends to defend itself vigorously, where appropriate, with respect to any alleged liability regarding the underfunding of the TEAM Trust. The Company has accrued for its estimated exposure and expects to begin making monthly payments of approximately \$70 on the TEAM deficits assessed by the WCB in the fourth quarter of 2014. As for the Company's action seeking indemnification or other compensation from the HVC Sellers for any such resulting liabilities and costs, at this point the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in that matter.

#### Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site Allocation Process

The Company's subsidiary, Northwest Container Services, Inc. ("NWCS"), has been named by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 ("EPA"), along with more than 100 others, as a potentially responsible party under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA") with respect to the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site (the "LDWS"). Listed on the National Priorities List in 2001, the LDWS is a five mile stretch of the Duwamish River flowing into Elliott Bay in Seattle, Washington. A group consisting of the City of Seattle, King County, the Port of Seattle, and Boeing Company has conducted a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. Cleanup costs are currently estimated in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range, although EPA is scheduled to issue its Record of Decision ("ROD") in late 2014 that should clarify the scope of the planned remediation and its estimated cost. In August 2014, NWCS entered into an Alternative Dispute Resolution Memorandum of Agreement with several

dozen other PRPs and a neutral allocator to conduct a non-binding allocation of certain past and future response costs allegedly incurred at the LDWS. The allocation process is just commencing and is expected to take at least two years to develop evidence relating to each party's nexus, if any, to the LDWS, for the allocator to hear arguments as to how each PRP's nexus affects the allocation of response costs, and to determine each party's share. While the Company does not presently believe its operations have a nexus to the LDWS that would result in liability and intends to defend itself vigorously, at this point the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in this matter.

## **16. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

On October 21, 2014, the Company's Board of Directors extended the term of its existing common stock repurchase program for an additional three years, which now runs through December 31, 2017.

On October 21, 2014, the Company announced that its Board of Directors increased its regular quarterly cash dividend by \$0.015, from \$0.115 to \$0.13 per share, and then declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.13 per share on the Company's common stock. The dividend will be paid on November 18, 2014, to stockholders of record on the close of business on November 4, 2014.



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

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are forward-looking in nature, including statements related to our ability to provide adequate cash to fund our operating activities, our ability to draw on our credit facility or raise additional capital, the impact of global economic conditions on our volume, business and results of operations, the effects of landfill special waste projects on volume results, the effects of seasonality on our business and results of operations, demand for recyclable commodities and recyclable commodity pricing, our expectations with respect to capital expenditures, our expectations with respect to our ability to obtain expansions of permitted landfill capacity, our expectations with respect to our stock repurchase program and future dividend payments, our expectations with respect to the outcomes of our legal proceedings and our expectations with respect to the purchase of fuel and fuel prices. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes," "expects," "may," "will," "should," or "anticipates," or the negative thereof or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy.

Our business and operations are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and, consequently, actual results may differ materially from those projected by any forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those projected include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Our results are vulnerable to economic conditions;

- Our industry is highly competitive and includes larger and better capitalized companies, companies with lower prices, return expectations or other advantages, and governmental service providers, which could adversely affect our ability to compete and our operating results;

- Our E&P waste business depends on the level of drilling and production activity in the basins in which we operate and the willingness of E&P companies to outsource their waste services activities;

- We have limited experience in running an E&P waste treatment, recovery and disposal business;

- Competition for acquisition candidates, consolidation within the waste industry and economic and market conditions may limit our ability to grow through acquisitions;

- Our indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and limit our financial flexibility;

- Price increases may not be adequate to offset the impact of increased costs, or may cause us to lose volume;

Fluctuations in prices for recycled commodities that we sell and rebates we offer to customers may cause our revenues and operating results to decline;

- The seasonal nature of our business and “event-driven” waste projects cause our results to fluctuate;

- We may lose contracts through competitive bidding, early termination or governmental action;

· Increases in labor costs could impact our financial results;

Increases in the price of diesel or compressed natural gas fuel may adversely affect our collection business and reduce our operating margins;

- Labor union activity could divert management attention and adversely affect our operating results;

We could face significant withdrawal liability if we withdraw from participation in one or more multiemployer pension plans in which we participate and the accrued pension benefits are not fully funded;

- Our financial results could be adversely affected by impairments of goodwill or indefinite-lived intangibles;

We may incur charges related to capitalized expenditures of landfill development projects, which would decrease our earnings;

Pending or future litigation or governmental proceedings could result in material adverse consequences, including judgments or settlements;

We may be subject in the normal course of business to judicial, administrative or other third-party proceedings that could interrupt or limit our operations, require expensive remediation, result in adverse judgments, settlements or fines and create negative publicity;

Increases in insurance costs and the amount that we self-insure for various risks could reduce our operating margins and reported earnings;

A portion of our growth and future financial performance depends on our ability to integrate acquired businesses, and the success of our acquisitions;

Each business that we acquire or have acquired may have liabilities or risks that we fail or are unable to discover, or that become more adverse to our business than we anticipated at the time of acquisition;

- Our financial results are based upon estimates and assumptions that may differ from actual results;

- Our accruals for our landfill site closure and post-closure costs may be inadequate;

- We depend significantly on the services of the members of our senior and regional management team, and the departure of any of those persons could cause our operating results to suffer;

Our decentralized decision-making structure could allow local managers to make decisions that adversely affect our operating results;

- Liabilities for environmental damage may adversely affect our financial condition, business and earnings;

We rely on computer systems to run our business and disruptions or privacy breaches in these systems could impact our ability to service our customers and adversely affect our financial results, damage our reputation, and expose us to litigation risk;

If we are not able to develop and protect intellectual property, or if a competitor develops or obtains exclusive rights to a breakthrough technology, our financial results may suffer;

Our financial and operating performance may be affected by the inability to renew landfill operating permits, obtain new landfills and expand existing ones;

- Our E&P waste business could be adversely affected by changes in laws regulating E&P waste;

Changes in laws or government regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing could increase our customers' costs of doing business and reduce oil and gas production by our customers, which could adversely impact our business;

Future changes in laws regulating the flow of solid waste in interstate commerce could adversely affect our operating results;

Extensive and evolving environmental, health and safety laws and regulations may restrict our operations and growth and increase our costs;

Extensive regulations that govern the design, operation and closure of landfills may restrict our landfill operations or increase our costs of operating landfills; and

- Alternatives to landfill disposal may cause our revenues and operating results to decline.

These risks and uncertainties, as well as others, are discussed in greater detail in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. There may be additional risks of which we are not presently aware or that we currently believe are immaterial which could have an adverse impact on our business. We make no commitment to revise or update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect events or circumstances that may change.

## OVERVIEW

We are an integrated municipal solid waste services company that provides solid waste collection, transfer, disposal and recycling services primarily in exclusive and secondary markets in the U.S. and a leading provider of non-hazardous exploration and production, or E&P, waste treatment, recovery and disposal services in several of the most active natural resource producing areas of the U.S. We also provide intermodal services for the rail haul movement of cargo and solid waste containers in the Pacific Northwest through a network of intermodal facilities.

We seek to avoid highly competitive, large urban markets and instead target markets where we can attain high market share either through exclusive contracts, vertical integration or asset positioning. In markets where waste collection services are provided under exclusive arrangements, or where waste disposal is municipally owned or funded or available at multiple municipal sources, we believe that controlling the waste stream by providing collection services under exclusive arrangements is often more important to our growth and profitability than owning or operating landfills. We also target niche markets, like E&P waste treatment and disposal services, with similar characteristics and, we believe, higher comparative growth potential.

As of September 30, 2014, we served residential, commercial, industrial and E&P customers in 31 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. As of September 30, 2014, we owned or operated a network of 148 solid waste collection operations; 67 transfer stations; seven intermodal facilities, 35 recycling operations, 56 active MSW, E&P and/or non-MSW landfills, 22 E&P liquid waste injection wells, 17 E&P waste treatment and recovery facilities, 20 oil recovery facilities and two development stage landfills.

The municipal solid waste industry is a local and highly competitive business, requiring substantial labor and capital resources. The participants compete for collection accounts primarily on the basis of price and, to a lesser extent, the quality of service, and compete for landfill business on the basis of tipping fees, geographic location and quality of operations. The municipal solid waste industry has been consolidating and continues to consolidate as a result of a number of factors, including the increasing costs and complexity associated with waste management operations and regulatory compliance. Many small independent operators and municipalities lack the capital resources, management, operating skills and technical expertise necessary to operate effectively in such an environment. The consolidation trend has caused municipal solid waste companies to operate larger landfills that have complementary collection routes that can use company-owned disposal capacity. Controlling the point of transfer from haulers to landfills has become increasingly important as landfills continue to close and disposal capacity moves further from collection markets.

Generally, the most profitable operators within the municipal solid waste industry are those companies that are vertically integrated or enter into long-term collection contracts. A vertically integrated operator will benefit from: (1) the internalization of waste, which is bringing waste to a company-owned landfill; (2) the ability to charge third-party haulers tipping fees either at landfills or at transfer stations; and (3) the efficiencies gained by being able to aggregate and process waste at a transfer station prior to landfilling.

The E&P waste services industry is regional in nature and is also highly fragmented, with acquisition opportunities available in several active natural resource basins. Competition for E&P waste comes primarily from smaller regional companies that utilize a variety of disposal methods and generally serve specific geographic markets. In addition, customers in many markets have the option of using internal disposal methods or outsourcing to another third-party disposal company. The principal competitive factors in this business include: gaining customer approval of treatment and disposal facilities; location of facilities in relation to customer activity; reputation; reliability of services; track record of environmental compliance; ability to accept multiple waste types at a single facility; and price.

#### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities in the condensed consolidated financial statements. As described by the SEC, critical accounting estimates and assumptions are those that may be material due to the levels of subjectivity and judgment necessary to account for highly uncertain matters or the susceptibility of such matters to change, and that have a material impact on the financial condition or operating performance of a company. Such critical accounting estimates and assumptions are applicable to our reportable segments. Refer to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for a complete description of our critical accounting estimates and assumptions.

#### NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

For a description of the new accounting standards that affect us, see Note 2 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

The following table sets forth items in our condensed consolidated statements of net income in thousands and as a percentage of revenues for the periods indicated.

|   | Three months ended September 30, |        |            |        | Nine months ended September 30, |        |              |        |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
|   | 2014                             |        | 2013       |        | 2014                            |        | 2013         |        |
| Revenues  | \$ 546,551                       | 100.0% | \$ 503,646 | 100.0% | \$ 1,552,953                    | 100.0% | \$ 1,442,918 | 100.0% |
| Cost of operations                                  | 297,849                          | 54.5   | 274,141    | 54.4   | 847,860                         | 54.6   | 794,588      | 55.1   |
| Selling, general and administrative                 | 57,991                           | 10.6   | 53,536     | 10.6   | 170,163                         | 11.0   | 159,690      | 11.1   |
| Depreciation  | 58,998                           | 10.8   | 55,863     | 11.1   | 171,920                         | 11.0   | 162,277      | 11.2   |
| Amortization of intangibles                         | 6,702                            | 1.2    | 6,211      | 1.2    | 20,158                          | 1.3    | 18,861       | 1.3    |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments   | 9,000                            | 1.7    | (1,725 )   | (0.3 ) | 7,535                           | 0.5    | 11,895       | 0.8    |
| Operating income                                    | 116,011                          | 21.2   | 115,620    | 23.0   | 335,317                         | 21.6   | 295,607      | 20.5   |
| Interest expense                                    | (15,815 )                        | (2.9 ) | (17,911 )  | (3.6 ) | (48,666 )                       | (3.1 ) | (55,851 )    | (3.9 ) |
| Other income (expense), net                         | (389 )                           | (0.1 ) | 845        | 0.2    | (252 )                          | -      | (119 )       | -      |
| Income tax provision                                | (39,523 )                        | (7.2 ) | (37,641 )  | (7.5 ) | (113,992 )                      | (7.4 ) | (93,049 )    | (6.5 ) |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | (200 )                           | -      | (207 )     | -      | (644 )                          | -      | (359 )       | -      |
| Net income attributable to Waste Connections        | \$ 60,084                        | 11.0 % | \$ 60,706  | 12.1 % | \$ 171,763                      | 11.1 % | \$ 146,229   | 10.1 % |

**Revenues.** Total revenues increased \$43.0 million, or 8.5%, to \$546.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$503.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013.

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, incremental revenue from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, increased revenues by approximately \$8.9 million. Operations divested during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, decreased revenues by approximately \$2.3 million.

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, the net increase in prices charged to our customers was \$12.4 million, consisting of \$12.1 million of core price increases and \$0.3 million of fuel, materials and environmental surcharges.

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, volume increases in our existing business increased solid waste revenues and E&P revenues by \$9.1 million and \$15.9 million, respectively. The increase in solid waste volumes was primarily attributable to increases in roll off collection, landfill special waste volumes and transfer station volumes resulting from increased construction and general economic activity in our markets. The increase in E&P volumes was primarily attributable to \$7.8 million of revenue from new facilities opened subsequent to September 30, 2013 and \$8.1 million of volume increases at facilities owned and operated in each of the comparable periods.

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, the closure of two recycling operations in our Western segment decreased revenues by \$3.1 million. Revenues from sales of recyclable commodities at all other facilities owned during the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 increased \$0.8 million due primarily to an increase in volumes processed and sold.

Other revenues increased by \$1.3 million during the three months ended September 30, 2014, primarily due to \$1.1 million of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate.

Total revenues increased \$110.1 million, or 7.6%, to \$1.553 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$1.443 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, incremental revenue from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, increased revenues by approximately \$22.7 million. Operations divested during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, decreased revenues by approximately \$9.7 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the net increase in prices charged to our customers was \$35.1 million, consisting of \$34.5 million of core price increases and \$0.6 million of fuel, materials and environmental surcharges.



During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, volume increases in our existing business increased solid waste revenues and E&P revenues by \$25.2 million and \$43.5 million, respectively. The increase in solid waste volumes was primarily attributable to increases in roll off collection, landfill special waste projects, landfill MSW volumes and transfer station volumes resulting from increased construction and general economic activity in our markets. The increase in E&P volumes was primarily attributable to \$16.5 million of revenue from new facilities opened subsequent to September 30, 2013 and \$27.0 million of volume increases at facilities owned and operated in each of the comparable periods.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the closure of two recycling operations in our Western segment decreased revenues by \$8.6 million. Revenues from sales of recyclable commodities at all other facilities owned during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 increased \$1.2 million due primarily to an increase in volumes processed and sold.

Other revenues increased by \$0.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2014, consisting of \$2.0 million of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate and \$0.3 million of other revenue increases, partially offset by a \$1.6 million decrease from lower cargo volumes at our intermodal operations due primarily to the loss of a large intermodal customer.

Cost of Operations. Total cost of operations increased \$23.7 million, or 8.6%, to \$297.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$274.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily the result of \$4.7 million of additional operating costs from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in operating costs of \$1.6 million resulting from operations divested during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2013 and 2014: an increase in third-party trucking and transportation expenses of \$4.0 million due to increased transfer station, landfill and E&P volumes that require us to transport the waste to our disposal sites, an increase in taxes and royalties on revenues of \$3.2 million due to increased revenues, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$2.8 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in labor expenses of \$2.7 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase in third-party disposal expense of \$1.9 million due to disposal rate increases and higher disposal costs associated with increased collection volumes, an increase in third-party subcontractor expenses of \$1.4 million at our E&P facilities to perform processing and remediation services resulting from higher E&P disposal volumes, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$1.3 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase of \$1.1 million associated with the cost of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate, an increase in auto, workers' compensation and property claims expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$1.0 million due primarily to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims, an increase in cell processing reserves at certain E&P locations of \$0.6 million, an increase in landfill solidification materials of \$0.5 million due to increased E&P volumes and \$0.5 million of other net increases, partially offset by a decrease in fuel expense of \$0.4 million due to lower market prices for diesel fuel not purchased under diesel fuel hedge agreements.

Total cost of operations increased \$53.3 million, or 6.7%, to \$847.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$794.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily the result of \$12.2 million of additional operating costs from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in operating costs of \$7.5 million resulting from operations divested during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2013 and 2014: an increase in labor expenses of \$10.3 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase in third-party trucking and transportation expenses of \$9.0 million due to increased transfer station, landfill and E&P volumes that require us to transport the waste to our disposal sites, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$7.3 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in taxes and royalties on revenues of \$7.2 million due primarily to increased revenues, an increase in third-party disposal expense of \$5.7 million due to disposal rate increases and higher disposal associated with increased collection volumes, an increase in auto and workers' compensation claims expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$3.8 million due primarily to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims, an increase of \$2.1 million related to an increase in the volume of waste solidification materials needed to treat higher waste volumes at our E&P facilities and regulatory changes requiring use of higher cost waste solidification materials at one of our landfills, an increase of \$2.0 million associated with the cost of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate, an increase in third-party subcontractor expenses of \$1.3 million at our E&P facilities to perform processing and remediation services resulting from higher E&P disposal volumes, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$1.0 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase in fuel expense of \$0.4 million resulting from the net of an increase in total diesel fuel gallons consumed, less lower market prices for diesel fuel not purchased under diesel fuel hedge agreements and \$1.6 million of other net increases, partially offset by a decrease in equipment rental expense of \$1.6 million resulting from capital purchases replacing certain equipment that was previously rented at our E&P facilities and a decrease in the cost of recyclable commodities of \$1.5 million due to declines in commodity prices and decreased commodity volumes resulting from the closure of two of our recyclable processing centers subsequent to September 30, 2013.

Cost of operations as a percentage of revenues increased 0.1 percentage points to 54.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from 54.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase as a percentage of revenues was comprised of a 0.4 percentage point increase from higher third-party trucking expenses, a 0.3 percentage point increase in taxes and royalties on revenue, a 0.3 percentage point increase in third-party subcontractor expenses at our E&P facilities, a 0.2 percentage point increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses and a 0.2 percentage point increase associated with the cost of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate, partially offset by a 0.6 percentage point decrease in labor expenses and a 0.5 percentage point decrease in fuel due to leveraging existing personnel and equipment to support increases in landfill and E&P revenues, and a 0.2 percentage point decrease in disposal expense resulting from the increased internalization of certain collection and transfer station volumes, as well as increased landfill and E&P revenues not resulting in increased disposal expenses.

Cost of operations as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.5 percentage points to 54.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from 55.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was comprised of a 0.4 percentage point decrease in labor expenses and a 0.3 percentage point decrease in fuel due to leveraging existing personnel and equipment to support increases in landfill and E&P revenues, a 0.2 percentage point decrease from lower equipment rental expenses and a 0.2 percentage point decrease in disposal expense resulting from the increased internalization of certain collection and transfer station volumes as well as increased landfill and E&P revenues not resulting in increased disposal expenses, partially offset by a 0.3 percentage point increase from higher third-party trucking expenses, a 0.2 percentage point increase in auto, workers' compensation and property claims expense under our high deductible insurance program and a 0.1 percentage point increase in taxes and royalties on revenues.

**SG&A.** SG&A expenses increased \$4.5 million, or 8.3%, to \$58.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$53.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily the result of \$0.8 million of additional SG&A expenses from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in SG&A expenses of \$0.2 million resulting from operations divested during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2013 and 2014: an increase in accrued cash incentive compensation expense of \$2.5 million resulting from the achievement of certain financial targets in the current period, an increase in professional fees of \$0.8 million due primarily to increased expenses for external legal and information technology services, an increase in direct acquisition expenses of \$0.6 million due to an increase in acquisition activity, an increase in equity-based compensation expense of \$0.5 million associated with an increase in the total fair value of our annual recurring grant of restricted stock units to our personnel and an increase in payroll and payroll-related expenses of \$0.5 million primarily related to annual compensation increases, partially offset by a decrease in deferred compensation expense of \$0.7 million as a result of decreases in the market value of investments to which employee deferred compensation liability balances are tracked and \$0.3 million of other net expense decreases.

SG&A expenses increased \$10.5 million, or 6.6%, to \$170.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$159.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily the result of \$2.0 million of additional SG&A expenses from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in SG&A expenses of \$0.8 million resulting from operations

divested during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2013 and 2014: an increase in accrued cash incentive compensation expense of \$4.8 million resulting from the achievement of certain financial targets in the current period, an increase in equity-based compensation expense of \$2.5 million associated with a decrease in our estimated pre-vesting forfeiture rate and an increase in the total fair value of our annual recurring grant of restricted stock units to our personnel, an increase in payroll and payroll-related expenses of \$2.1 million primarily related to annual compensation increases and an increase in professional fees of \$1.4 million due primarily to increased expenses for external legal and information technology services, partially offset by a \$0.9 million decrease in expenses for uncollectible accounts receivable and a decrease in deferred compensation expense of \$0.6 million as a result of decreases in the market value of investments to which employee deferred compensation liability balances are tracked.

SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues was unchanged at 10.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 as a result of a 0.4 percentage point increase from increased cash incentive compensation expense being offset by a 0.2 percentage point decrease from decreased deferred compensation expense and a 0.2 percentage point decrease from leveraging existing administrative functions to support increases in revenues.

SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.1 percentage points to 11.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from 11.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was comprised of a 0.2 percentage point decrease from leveraging existing administrative functions to support increases in revenues and a 0.1 percentage point decrease resulting from reduced expenses for uncollectible accounts receivable, partially offset by a 0.2 percentage point increase from increased cash incentive compensation expense.

Depreciation. Depreciation expense increased \$3.1 million, or 5.7%, to \$59.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$55.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily the result of \$0.5 million of additional depreciation expense from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in depreciation expense of \$0.1 million resulting from operations divested during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2013 and 2014: an increase in depletion expense of \$1.4 million due primarily to an increase in volumes at our existing landfill operations and an increase in depreciation expense of \$1.3 million associated with additions to our fleet and equipment purchased to support our existing operations.

Depreciation expense increased \$9.6 million, or 6.0%, to \$171.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$162.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily the result of \$1.5 million of additional depreciation expense from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in depreciation expense of \$0.8 million resulting from operations divested during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2013 and 2014: an increase in depreciation expense of \$6.9 million associated with additions to our fleet and equipment purchased to support our existing operations and an increase in depletion expense of \$3.4 million due primarily to an increase in volumes at our existing landfill operations, partially offset by an adjustment to depletion expense of \$1.4 million recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 resulting from an adjustment to final capping obligations at one of our landfill operations.

Depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.3 percentage points to 10.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from 11.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was due primarily to leveraging existing facilities and equipment to support increases in landfill and E&P revenues.

Depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.2 percentage points to 11.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from 11.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was due primarily to the aforementioned prior year adjustment to depletion expense resulting from an adjustment to final capping obligations at one of our landfill operations.

Amortization of Intangibles. Amortization of intangibles expense increased \$0.5 million, or 7.9%, to \$6.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$6.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was attributable to additional amortization expense during the three months ended September 30, 2014 from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013.

Amortization of intangibles expense increased \$1.3 million, or 6.9%, to \$20.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$18.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was attributable to \$1.6 million of additional amortization expense during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, partially offset by a decrease in amortization expense of \$0.3 million resulting from certain intangible assets becoming fully amortized subsequent to the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

Amortization expense as a percentage of revenues was 1.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. Amortization expense as a percentage of revenues was 1.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013.

Loss (Gain) on Disposal of Assets and Impairments. Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments increased \$10.7 million, to a loss of \$9.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from a gain of \$1.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments decreased \$4.4 million, to a loss of \$7.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from a loss of \$11.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

During the three months ended September 30, 2013, we recorded a \$1.4 million gain on the sale of an operating location and \$0.3 million of net gains on the disposal of certain operating assets. During the three months ended September 30, 2014, we recorded a \$8.4 million impairment charge at an E&P disposal facility as a result of projected operating losses resulting from the migration of the majority of the facility's customers to a new E&P facility that we own and operate and \$0.6 million of net losses on the disposal of certain operating assets.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, we recorded a \$9.1 million charge associated with the cessation of use of our former corporate headquarters in Folsom, California, a \$0.8 million charge associated with the cessation of use of our E&P segment's former regional offices in Houston, Texas, a \$3.2 million net loss on the disposal of an operating location and \$0.2 million of net losses on the disposal of certain operating assets, partially offset by a gain of \$1.4 million on the sale of an operating location. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we recorded the aforementioned \$8.4 million impairment charge, which was partially offset by \$0.9 million of net gains on the disposal of certain operating assets.

Operating Income. Operating income increased \$0.4 million, or 0.3%, to \$116.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$115.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was attributable to the \$43.0 million increase in revenues, partially offset by a \$23.7 million increase in costs of operations, \$10.7 million increase in loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments, \$4.5 million increase in SG&A expense, \$3.1 million increase in depreciation expense and \$0.5 million increase in amortization of intangibles expense.

Operating income increased \$39.7 million, or 13.4%, to \$335.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$295.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was attributable to the \$110.1 million increase in revenues and a \$4.4 million decrease in loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments, partially offset by the \$53.3 million increase in costs of operations, \$10.5 million increase in SG&A expense, \$9.6 million increase in depreciation expense and \$1.3 million increase in amortization of intangibles expense.

Operating income as a percentage of revenues decreased 1.8 percentage points to 21.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from 23.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease as a percentage of revenues was comprised of a 2.0 percentage point increase in loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments and a 0.1 percentage point increase in cost of operations, partially offset by a 0.3 percentage point decrease in depreciation expense.

Operating income as a percentage of revenues increased 1.1 percentage points to 21.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from 20.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase as a percentage of revenues was comprised of a 0.5 percentage point decrease in cost of operations, a 0.3 percentage point decrease in loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments, a 0.2 percentage point decrease in depreciation expense and a 0.1 percentage point decrease in SG&A expense.

Interest Expense. Interest expense decreased \$2.1 million, or 11.7%, to \$15.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$17.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013, due to the following changes: a decrease of \$1.0 million due to a reduction in the applicable margin above the base rate or LIBOR rate for outstanding borrowings under our senior revolving credit facility and term loan facility as a result of a reduction in our leverage ratio of total debt to EBITDA and amendments to the senior credit facility and term loan facility, a decrease

of \$0.7 million due to a reduction in the average outstanding balances on our senior revolving credit facility and term loan facility, a decrease of \$0.5 million due to the expiration in February 2014 of a \$175 million interest rate swap with a fixed rate of 2.85% and the commencement of a new \$175 million interest rate swap with a fixed rate of 1.60%, a decrease of \$0.2 million resulting from a decrease in interest accretion expense recorded on liability-classified contingent consideration arrangements that were settled or became fully accrued subsequent to September 30, 2013 and a \$0.1 million decrease from other net changes, partially offset by a \$0.4 million increase resulting from the commencement in July 2014 of a new \$100 million interest rate swap with a fixed rate of 1.80%.

Interest expense decreased \$7.2 million, or 12.9%, to \$48.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$55.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, due to the following changes: a decrease of \$2.7 million due to a reduction in the applicable margin above the base rate or LIBOR rate for outstanding borrowings under our senior credit facility and term loan facility as a result of a reduction in our leverage ratio of total debt to EBITDA and amendments to the senior credit facility and term loan facility, a decrease of \$2.4 million due to a reduction in the average outstanding balances on our senior revolving credit facility and term loan facility, a decrease of \$1.5 million due to the expiration in February 2014 of a \$175 million interest rate swap with a fixed rate of 2.85% and the commencement of a new \$175 million interest rate swap with a fixed rate of 1.60%, a decrease of \$0.6 million resulting from a decrease in interest accretion expense recorded on liability-classified contingent consideration arrangements that were settled or became fully accrued subsequent to September 30, 2013 and a \$0.4 million decrease from other net changes, partially offset by a \$0.4 million increase resulting from the commencement in July 2014 of a new \$100 million interest rate swap with a fixed rate of 1.80%.

Other Income (Expense), Net. Other income (expense), net, decreased \$1.2 million, to an expense total of \$0.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from an income total of \$0.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease was primarily attributable to a decrease in investment income of \$0.9 million and other net decreases of \$0.3 million.



Other income (expense), net, decreased \$0.1 million, to an expense total of \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from an expense total of \$0.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The decrease was primarily attributable to a decrease in investment income of \$0.9 million and other net decreases of \$0.5 million being partially offset by adjustments recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 of a net \$1.3 million to increase the fair value of amounts payable under liability-classified contingent consideration arrangements.

Income Tax Provision. Income taxes increased \$1.9 million, or 5.0%, to \$39.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$37.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013, as a result of increased pre-tax income.

Income taxes increased \$21.0 million, or 22.5%, to \$114.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$93.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, as a result of increased pre-tax income and a non-recurring adjustment in deferred tax liabilities resulting from the enactment of New York State's 2014-2015 Budget Act that increased our income tax expense and our effective tax rate during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 by \$1.2 million and 0.4 percentage points, respectively.

Our reconciliation of the income tax provision to the 2012 federal and certain state tax returns, which were filed in the third quarter of 2013, decreased our tax expense by \$0.8 million and reduced our effective tax rates by 0.8 percentage points for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 0.3 percentage points for the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

Our effective tax rates for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, were 39.6% and 38.2%, respectively.

Our effective tax rates for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, were 39.8% and 38.8%, respectively.

## SEGMENT RESULTS

### General

No single contract or customer accounted for more than 10% of our total revenues at the consolidated or reportable segment level during the periods presented. The table below shows for the periods indicated our total reported revenues attributable to services provided (dollars in thousands).

|  | Three months ended September 30, |        |           |        | Nine months ended September 30, |        |             |        |
|--|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
|  | 2014                             |        | 2013      |        | 2014                            |        | 2013        |        |
| Solid waste collection                     | \$333,917                        | 54.3 % | \$312,872 | 55.0 % | \$962,683                       | 55.1 % | \$912,488   | 55.9 % |
| Solid waste disposal and transfer          | 167,129                          | 27.2   | 158,142   | 27.8   | 461,605                         | 26.4   | 434,513     | 26.6   |
| E&P waste treatment, recovery and disposal | 86,085                           | 14.0   | 68,605    | 12.0   | 242,049                         | 13.9   | 194,720     | 12.0   |
| Solid waste recycling                      | 14,973                           | 2.4    | 18,402    | 3.2    | 44,713                          | 2.6    | 55,806      | 3.4    |
| Intermodal and other                       | 12,604                           | 2.1    | 11,329    | 2.0    | 35,446                          | 2.0    | 34,702      | 2.1    |
|  | 614,708                          | 100.0% | 569,350   | 100.0% | 1,746,496                       | 100.0% | 1,632,229   | 100.0% |
| Less: intercompany elimination             | (68,157 )                        |        | (65,704 ) |        | (193,543 )                      |        | (189,311 )  |        |
| Total revenue                              | \$546,551                        |        | \$503,646 |        | \$1,552,953                     |        | \$1,442,918 |        |

Our CODM evaluates operating segment profitability and determines resource allocations based on several factors, of which the primary financial measure is EBITDA. EBITDA is not a measure of operating income, operating performance or liquidity under GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. Our management uses EBITDA in the evaluation of segment operating performance as it is a profit measure that is generally within the control of the operating segments.

We manage our operations through three geographic operating segments (Western, Central and Eastern) and our E&P segment, which includes the majority of our E&P waste treatment and disposal operations. Our three geographic operating segments and our E&P segment comprise our reportable segments. Each operating segment is responsible for managing several vertically integrated operations, which are comprised of districts. Our Western segment is comprised of operating locations in Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and western Wyoming; our Central segment is comprised of operating locations in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and eastern Wyoming; and our Eastern segment is comprised of operating locations in Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The E&P segment is comprised of our E&P operations in Louisiana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming and along the Gulf of Mexico.

Revenues, net of intercompany eliminations, for our reportable segments are shown in the following table in thousands and as a percentage of total revenues for the periods indicated:

|         | Three months ended September 30, |        |           |        | Nine months ended September 30, |        |             |        |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
|         | 2014                             |        | 2013      |        | 2014                            |        | 2013        |        |
| Western | \$215,849                        | 39.5 % | \$210,211 | 41.7 % | \$617,473                       | 39.8 % | \$606,195   | 42.0 % |
| Central | 149,213                          | 27.3   | 134,333   | 26.7   | 420,195                         | 27.1   | 379,360     | 26.3   |
| Eastern | 102,624                          | 18.8   | 96,060    | 19.1   | 294,008                         | 18.9   | 279,554     | 19.4   |
| E&P     | 78,865                           | 14.4   | 63,042    | 12.5   | 221,277                         | 14.2   | 177,809     | 12.3   |
|         | \$546,551                        | 100.0% | \$503,646 | 100.0% | \$1,552,953                     | 100.0% | \$1,442,918 | 100.0% |

EBITDA for our reportable segments is shown in the following table in thousands and as a percentage of total revenues for the periods indicated:

|                          | Three months ended September 30, |        |           |       | Nine months ended September 30, |        |           |        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|
|                          | 2014                             |        | 2013      |       | 2014                            |        | 2013      |        |
| Western                  | \$69,140                         | 12.7%  | \$67,773  | 13.4% | \$194,894                       | 12.5%  | \$188,736 | 13.1%  |
| Central                  | 53,809                           | 9.8    | 48,845    | 9.7   | 148,471                         | 9.6    | 137,600   | 9.5    |
| Eastern                  | 29,379                           | 5.4    | 28,038    | 5.6   | 87,284                          | 5.6    | 82,947    | 5.8    |
| E&P                      | 39,535                           | 7.2    | 31,125    | 6.2   | 111,730                         | 7.2    | 82,036    | 5.7    |
| Corporate <sup>(a)</sup> | (1,152 )                         | (0.2 ) | 188       | -     | (7,449 )                        | (0.5 ) | (2,679 )  | (0.2 ) |
|                          | \$190,711                        | 34.9%  | \$175,969 | 34.9% | \$534,930                       | 34.4%  | \$488,640 | 33.9%  |

(a) Corporate functions include accounting, legal, tax, treasury, information technology, risk management, human resources, training and other administrative functions. Amounts reflected are net of allocations to the four operating segments.

A reconciliation of EBITDA to Income before income tax provision is included in Note 7 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part 1, Item 1 of this report.

Significant changes in revenue and EBITDA for our reportable segments for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014, compared to the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2013, are discussed below:

Segment Revenue

Revenue in our Western segment increased \$5.6 million, or 2.7%, to \$215.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$210.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of volume increases of \$5.8 million primarily in our collection operations, transfer stations and solid waste landfills and net price increases of \$2.8 million, partially offset by recyclable commodity sales decreases of \$2.2 million due primarily to the closure of two of our recycling operations subsequent to September 30, 2013, decreases of \$0.7 million from divested operations and intermodal revenue decreases of \$0.1 million.

Revenue in our Western segment increased \$11.3 million, or 1.9%, to \$617.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$606.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of volume increases of \$15.3 million primarily in our collection operations, transfer stations and solid waste landfills, net price increases of \$9.0 million, revenue growth from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, of \$0.3 million and other revenue increases of \$0.3 million, partially offset by decreases of \$5.3 million from divested operations, recyclable commodity sales decreases of \$6.7 million due primarily to the closure of two of our recycling operations subsequent to September 30, 2013 and intermodal revenue decreases of \$1.6 million due to decreases in cargo volume resulting primarily from the loss of a large intermodal customer.

Revenue in our Central segment increased \$14.9 million, or 11.1%, to \$149.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$134.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of revenue growth from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, of \$8.0 million, net price increases of \$6.2 million, volume increases of \$0.9 million primarily in our roll off collection business, transfer station and solid waste landfills and \$0.1 million of other revenue increases, partially offset by decreases of \$0.2 million from divested operations and recyclable commodity sales decreases of \$0.1 million.

Revenue in our Central segment increased \$40.8 million, or 10.8%, to \$420.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$379.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of revenue growth from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, of \$21.2 million, net price increases of \$16.6 million and volume increases of \$3.7 million primarily in our roll off collection business, transfer station and solid waste landfills, partially offset by recyclable commodity sales decreases of \$0.4 million and decreases of \$0.3 million from divested operations.

Revenue in our Eastern segment increased \$6.5 million, or 6.8%, to \$102.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$96.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of net price increases of \$3.4 million, volume increases of \$2.4 million primarily in our roll off collection business and solid waste landfills, other revenue increases of \$1.2 million primarily associated with contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate and revenue growth from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2013, of \$0.9 million, partially offset by decreases of \$1.4 million from divested operations.

Revenue in our Eastern segment increased \$14.4 million, or 5.2%, to \$294.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$279.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of net price increases of \$9.5 million, volume increases of \$6.2 million primarily in our roll off collection business, transfer station and solid waste landfills, other revenue increases of \$2.0 million primarily associated with contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate and revenue growth from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2013, of \$1.2 million, partially offset by decreases of \$4.1 million from divested operations and recyclable commodity sales decreases of \$0.4 million due to lower prices for recyclable commodities.

Revenue in our E&P segment increased \$15.9 million, or 25.1%, to \$78.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$63.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of \$7.8 million of revenue from new facilities opened subsequent to September 30, 2013 and \$8.1 million of volume increases at facilities owned and operated in each of the comparable periods.

Revenue in our E&P segment increased \$43.5 million, or 24.4%, to \$221.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$177.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The components of the increase consisted of \$16.5 million of revenue from new facilities opened subsequent to September 30, 2013 and \$27.0 million of volume increases at facilities owned and operated in each of the comparable periods.

#### Segment EBITDA

EBITDA in our Western segment increased \$1.3 million, or 2.0%, to \$69.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$67.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$5.6 million, a net \$0.7 million decrease in cost of operations and SG&A expenses attributable to divested operations and a decrease in the cost of recyclable commodities of \$0.4 million due primarily to a net decline in commodity volumes resulting from the closure of two of our recyclable processing centers subsequent to September 30, 2013, partially offset by an increase in taxes on revenues of \$2.3 million due to increased revenues, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$0.9 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$0.7 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase in third-party disposal expense of \$0.6 million due to disposal rate increases, an increase in auto and workers' compensation expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$0.4 million due primarily to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims, an increase in corporate overhead expense allocations of \$0.3 million due primarily to revenue growth and \$0.2 million of other net expense increases.

EBITDA in our Western segment increased \$6.2 million, or 3.3%, to \$194.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$188.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$11.3 million, a net \$4.9 million decrease in cost of operations and SG&A expenses attributable to divested operations, a decrease in rail transportation expenses at our intermodal operations of \$1.3 million due to decreased rail cargo volume primarily associated with the loss of a large customer and a decrease in the cost of recyclable commodities of \$1.4 million due to a net decline in commodity volumes resulting from the closure of two of our recyclable processing centers subsequent to September 30, 2013, partially offset by an increase in taxes on revenues of \$3.8 million due to increased revenues, an increase in third-party disposal expense of \$2.8 million due to disposal rate increases and higher disposal associated with increased roll off collection volumes, an increase in auto, workers' compensation and property claims expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$2.1 million due primarily to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims, an increase in direct and administrative labor expenses of \$1.4 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$0.8 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$0.7 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase in corporate overhead expense allocations of \$0.5 million due primarily to revenue growth and \$0.6 million of other net expense increases.

EBITDA in our Central segment increased \$5.0 million, or 10.2%, to \$53.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$48.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$14.9 million, partially offset by a net \$4.8 million increase in cost of operations and SG&A expenses attributable to acquired operations, an increase in third-party disposal expense of \$1.2 million due to disposal rate increases and higher disposal associated with increased roll off collection volumes, an increase in third-party trucking and transportation expenses of \$1.1 million due to increased volumes disposed of at our transfer stations that require further transportation to our landfills, an increase in labor expenses of \$0.7 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$0.6 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase in corporate overhead expense allocations of \$0.5 million due primarily to revenue growth, an increase in auto and workers' compensation claims expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$0.4 million due primarily to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims and \$0.6 million of other net expense increases.

EBITDA in our Central segment increased \$10.9 million, or 7.9%, to \$148.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$137.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$40.8 million, partially offset by a net \$13.5 million increase in cost of operations and SG&A expenses attributable to acquired operations, an increase in labor expenses of \$3.8 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase in third-party trucking and transportation expenses of \$2.9 million due to increased volumes disposed of at our transfer stations that require further transportation to our landfills, an increase in third-party disposal expense of \$2.6 million due to disposal rate increases and higher disposal associated with increased roll off collection volumes, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$1.6 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in corporate overhead expense allocations of \$1.4 million due primarily to revenue growth, an increase in auto, workers' compensation and property claims expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$1.2 million due primarily to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims, an increase in taxes on revenues of \$0.9 million due to increased revenues, an increase in landfill solidification materials of \$0.7 million due to regulatory changes requiring use of higher cost materials at one of our landfills, a \$0.4 million increase in expenses for uncollectible accounts receivable and \$0.9 million of other net expense increases.

EBITDA in our Eastern segment increased \$1.4 million, or 4.8%, to \$29.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$28.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$6.5 million, partially offset by an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$0.7 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in labor expenses of \$1.2 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase of \$1.1 million associated with the cost of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate, an increase in taxes on revenues of \$0.5 million due to an increase in revenues, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$0.5 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase in corporate overhead expense allocations of \$0.2 million due primarily to revenue growth and \$0.9 million of other net expense increases.

EBITDA in our Eastern segment increased \$4.4 million, or 5.2%, to \$87.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$82.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily

due to an increase in revenues of \$14.4 million and a net \$2.7 million decrease in cost of operations and SG&A expenses attributable to divested operations, partially offset by an increase in labor expenses of \$2.8 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$2.2 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase of \$2.0 million associated with the cost of contracted landfill construction services we performed at a landfill we operate, an increase in taxes on revenues of \$2.0 million due to both an increase in revenues and a prior year adjustment that decreased taxes on revenues expense, an increase in leachate disposal expenses of \$1.1 million at certain landfills we own and operate, an increase in auto and workers' compensation expense under our high deductible insurance program of \$0.9 million due to adjustments to projected losses on prior period claims, an increase in employee benefits expenses of \$0.5 million due to increased employee participation in our benefits program and increased medical claim costs, an increase in corporate overhead expense allocations of \$0.3 million due primarily to revenue growth and \$0.9 million of other net expense increases.



EBITDA in our E&P segment increased \$8.4 million, or 27.0%, to \$39.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from \$31.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$15.9 million and a \$0.5 million decrease in equipment rent expenses, partially offset by an increase in third-party trucking and transportation expenses of \$2.7 million due to increased volumes that require us to transport the waste to our disposal sites, an increase of \$1.4 million for third-party subcontractor processing and remediation services resulting from higher E&P volumes, an increase in labor expenses of \$0.9 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases and increased headcount to support new operating facilities, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$1.3 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs in vehicle and equipment repairs, an increase in cell processing reserves at certain E&P locations of \$0.6 million, an increase in landfill solidification materials of \$0.4 million due to increased E&P volumes and \$0.7 million of other net expense increases.

EBITDA in our E&P segment increased \$29.7 million, or 36.2%, to \$111.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$82.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenues of \$43.5 million, a decrease in equipment rental expense of \$1.6 million resulting from capital purchases replacing certain equipment that was previously rented and a \$0.6 million decrease in expenses for uncollectible accounts receivable, partially offset by an increase in third-party trucking and transportation expenses of \$6.1 million due to increased volumes that require us to transport the waste to our disposal sites, an increase in labor expenses of \$3.0 million due primarily to employee pay rate increases and increased headcount to support new operating facilities, an increase in truck, container, equipment and facility maintenance and repair expenses of \$2.8 million due to variability in the timing and severity of major repairs, an increase in landfill solidification materials of \$1.2 million due to increased E&P volumes, an increase of \$1.1 million for third-party subcontractor processing and remediation services resulting from higher E&P volumes, an increase in royalties paid on higher revenues of \$0.6 million, an increase in cell processing reserves at certain E&P locations of \$0.5 million and an increase in fuel expense of \$0.7 million resulting from an increase in total diesel fuel gallons consumed.

EBITDA at Corporate decreased \$1.4 million, to a loss of \$1.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, from income of \$0.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The increased loss was due to an increase in accrued cash incentive compensation expense of \$2.1 million resulting from the achievement of certain financial targets in the current period, an increase in professional fees of \$0.6 million due primarily to increased expenses for external legal and information technology services, an increase in direct acquisition expenses of \$0.6 million due to an increase in acquisition activity, an increase in equity-based compensation expense of \$0.5 million associated with an increase in the total fair value of our annual recurring grant of restricted stock units to our personnel and \$0.2 million of other net expense increases, partially offset by an increase in revenue-based corporate overhead expense allocations to our segments of \$1.0 million due primarily to our volume growth, a decrease in employee relocation expenses of \$0.9 million primarily associated with our relocation of our corporate headquarters from Folsom, California to The Woodlands, Texas, which was completed in 2013 and a decrease in deferred compensation expense of \$0.7 million resulting from decreases in the market value of investments to which employee deferred compensation liability balances are tracked.

EBITDA at Corporate decreased \$4.7 million, to a loss of \$7.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from a loss of \$2.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The increased loss was due to an increase

in accrued cash incentive compensation expense of \$4.7 million resulting from the achievement of certain financial targets in the current period, an increase in equity-based compensation expense of \$2.5 million associated with a decrease in our estimated pre-vesting forfeiture rate and an increase in the total fair value of our annual recurring grant of restricted stock units to our personnel, an increase in professional fees of \$2.0 million due primarily to increased expenses for external legal and information technology services and an increase in payroll expenses of \$1.1 million due to headcount and pay rate increases, partially offset by an increase in revenue-based corporate overhead expense allocations to our segments of \$2.3 million due primarily to our volume growth, a decrease in employee relocation expenses of \$1.4 million primarily associated with our relocation of our corporate headquarters from Folsom, California to The Woodlands, Texas, which was completed in 2013, a decrease in deferred compensation expense of \$0.6 million as a result of decreases in the market value of investments to which employee deferred compensation liability balances are tracked, a decrease in real estate lease expense of \$0.6 million due primarily to the elimination of duplicate lease obligations for our former headquarters in Folsom, California and our E&P segment's former regional offices in Houston, Texas and \$0.7 million of other net decreases.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The following table sets forth certain cash flow information for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 (in thousands):

|   | Nine Months Ended |           |
|---|-------------------|-----------|
|   | September 30,     |           |
|   | 2014              | 2013      |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | \$414,626         | \$385,404 |
| Net cash used in investing activities       | (193,444)         | (120,777) |
| Net cash used in financing activities       | (221,446)         | (268,558) |
| Net decrease in cash and equivalents        | (264 )            | (3,931 )  |
| Cash and equivalents at beginning of period | 13,591            | 23,212    |
| Cash and equivalents at end of period       | \$13,327          | \$19,281  |

Operating Activities Cash Flows

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014, net cash provided by operating activities was \$414.6 million. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013, net cash provided by operating activities was \$385.4 million. The \$29.2 million increase was due primarily to the following:

- An increase in net income of \$25.8 million, adjusted for an increase in cash flows from operating assets and liabilities, net of effects from acquisitions, of \$13.2 million. Cash provided by operating assets and liabilities was 1) \$25.7 million and \$12.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The significant components of the \$25.7 million in net cash inflows from changes in operating assets and liabilities for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, include the following:
- a) an increase in cash resulting from an increase in accrued liabilities of \$33.5 million due primarily to an increase in accrued interest, accrued income taxes, accrued cash incentive compensation, increased liabilities for auto and workers' compensation claims and increased payroll-related expenses;
  - b) an increase in cash resulting from a \$11.7 million increase in accounts payable due primarily to the timing of payments;
  - c) an increase in cash resulting from a \$2.6 million decrease in prepaid expenses and other current assets due primarily to a decrease in prepaid income taxes, partially offset by an increase in prepaid insurance premiums due to policy renewals and an increase in prepaid diesel fuel;
  - d) an increase in cash resulting from a \$6.1 million increase in deferred revenue due primarily to increased revenues and the timing of billing for services; partially offset by
  - e) a decrease in cash resulting from a \$27.3 million increase in accounts receivable due to an increase in revenues remaining uncollected at the end of the comparable periods;
- 2)

An increase in depreciation expense of \$9.6 million due primarily to increased depletion expense resulting from higher landfill volumes and increased depreciation expense resulting from increased capital expenditures;

3) A decrease in payment of contingent consideration recorded in earnings of \$5.1 million due primarily to the final contingent consideration payout in 2013 resulting from the completion of an earnings target for the 2012 acquisition of SKB exceeding the fair value of the contingent consideration liability recorded at the acquisition close date;

4) An increase in equity-based compensation expense of \$2.6 million attributable to a decrease in our estimated pre-vesting forfeiture rate and an increase in the total fair value of our annual recurring grant of restricted stock units to our personnel; less

5) A decrease in the loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments of \$4.4 million due primarily to the cessation of use of our former corporate headquarters in Folsom, California in 2013, the cessation of use of our E&P segment's former headquarters in Houston, Texas in 2013, and the sale of two operating locations at a loss in 2013 being partially offset by an impairment charge recorded in 2014 at one of our E&P facilities; less

6) A decrease of \$3.6 million attributable to an increase in the excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation, due to an increase in stock option exercises resulting in increased taxable income recognized by employees that is taxable to us; less

7) A decrease in our provision for deferred taxes of \$19.8 million due primarily to tax deductible timing differences associated with depreciation.

As of September 30, 2014, we had a working capital deficit of \$25.6 million, including cash and equivalents of \$13.3 million. Our working capital deficit increased \$9.1 million from a deficit of \$16.5 million at December 31, 2013, including cash and equivalents of \$13.6 million. To date, we have experienced no loss or lack of access to our cash or cash equivalents; however, we can provide no assurances that access to our cash and cash equivalents will not be impacted by adverse conditions in the financial markets. Our strategy in managing our working capital is generally to apply the cash generated from our operations that remains after satisfying our working capital and capital expenditure requirements, along with stock repurchase and dividend programs, to reduce the unhedged portion of our indebtedness under our credit facility and to minimize our cash balances.

### Investing Activities Cash Flows

Net cash used in investing activities increased \$72.6 million to \$193.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$120.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The significant components of the increase include the following:

- 1) An increase in payments for acquisitions of \$47.2 million primarily due to the acquisition of four solid waste businesses, a permitted development stage construction and demolition landfill site and a permitted development stage E&P landfill site during the nine months ended September 30, 2014;
- 2) A cash receipt of \$18.0 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 resulting from the settlement of the final closing date net working capital with the former owners of R360; and
- 3) An increase in capital expenditures for property and equipment of \$8.0 million due primarily to expenditures for acquisitions closed subsequent to September 30, 2013, new facilities in our E&P segment and increases in landfill site cost construction, vehicles and containers, partially offset by decreases in expenditures for equipment for our E&P segment and leasehold improvements associated with our new corporate headquarters in The Woodlands, Texas.

### Financing Activities Cash Flows

Net cash used in financing activities decreased \$47.2 million to \$221.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from \$268.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The significant components of the decrease include the following:

- 1) A decrease in net repayments of long-term borrowings of \$25.1 million due primarily to decreased repayments of our credit facility as a result of the aforementioned increase in payments for acquisitions during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and the cash receipt during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 resulting from the settlement of the final closing date net working capital with the former owners of R360;
- 2)

An increase of \$3.6 million attributable to an increase in the excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation, due to an increase in stock option exercises resulting in increased taxable income recognized by employees that is taxable to us;

3) An increase of \$23.0 million resulting from lower payments of contingent consideration during the nine months ended September 30, 2014; less

4) An increase in cash dividends paid of \$5.8 million due to an increase in our quarterly dividend rate to \$0.115 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, from a quarterly dividend rate of \$0.10 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, and an increase in our total common shares outstanding.

Our business is capital intensive. Our capital requirements include acquisitions and capital expenditures for landfill cell construction, landfill development, landfill closure activities and intermodal facility construction in the future.

On October 21, 2014, our Board of Directors extended the term of our existing common stock repurchase program. As amended, our common stock repurchase program authorizes the repurchase of up to \$1.2 billion of our common stock through December 31, 2017. Under the program, stock repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time at management's discretion. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including our capital structure, the market price of the common stock and overall market conditions. As of each of September 30, 2014 and 2013, we had repurchased in aggregate 39.9 million shares of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$784.0 million. As of September 30, 2014, the remaining maximum dollar value of shares available for purchase under the program was approximately \$416.0 million. No shares were repurchased under the program during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013.

Our Board of Directors authorized the initiation of a quarterly cash dividend in October 2010 and has increased it on an annual basis. Cash dividends of \$42.8 million and \$37.0 million were paid during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. In October 2014, our Board of Directors authorized an increase to our regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.015, from \$0.115 to \$0.13 per share. We cannot assure you as to the amounts or timing of future dividends.

We made \$148.8 million in capital expenditures during the nine months ended September 30, 2014. We expect to make capital expenditures of approximately \$210 million in 2014 in connection with our existing business. We have funded and intend to fund the balance of our planned 2014 capital expenditures principally through cash on hand, internally generated funds and borrowings under our credit facility. In addition, we may make substantial additional capital expenditures in acquiring MSW and E&P waste businesses. If we acquire additional landfill disposal facilities, we may also have to make significant expenditures to bring them into compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, obtain permits or expand our available disposal capacity. We cannot currently determine the amount of these expenditures because they will depend on the number, nature, condition and permitted status of any acquired landfill disposal facilities. We believe that our cash and equivalents, credit facility and the funds we expect to generate from operations will provide adequate cash to fund our working capital and other cash needs for the foreseeable future. However, disruptions in the capital and credit markets could adversely affect our ability to draw on our credit facility or raise other capital. Our access to funds under the credit facility is dependent on the ability of the banks that are parties to the facility to meet their funding commitments. Those banks may not be able to meet their funding commitments if they experience shortages of capital and liquidity or if they experience excessive volumes of borrowing requests within a short period of time.

We are a well-known seasoned issuer with an effective shelf registration statement on Form S-3 filed in February 2012, which registers an unspecified amount of debt and equity securities, including preferred securities, warrants, stockholder rights and units. We may in the future issue debt or equity securities under our shelf registration statement or in private placements from time to time on an opportunistic basis, dependent upon market conditions and available pricing. We expect to use the proceeds from any such offerings for general corporate purposes, including repaying, redeeming or repurchasing debt, acquisitions of additional assets or businesses, capital expenditures and increasing our working capital.

On May 15, 2014, we and certain of our subsidiaries entered into an amendment (the "Term Loan Amendment") to our term loan facility, which changed the range of the additional interest margin applicable to borrowings under the term loan facility from a range of 1.375% to 2.375% to a range of 1.250% to 2.000% with respect to LIBOR borrowings and from a range of 0.375% to 1.375% to a range of 0.250% to 1.000% with respect to base rate borrowings. The Term Loan Amendment also eliminated our obligation to make principal payments on our term loans prior to maturity and made certain adjustments to the definition of LIBOR.

As of September 30, 2014, we had \$591.0 million outstanding under our credit facility, exclusive of outstanding standby letters of credit of \$73.5 million. Our revolving credit facility matures in May 2018.

As of September 30, 2014, we had the following contractual obligations:

| Recorded Obligations                    | Payments Due by Period<br>(amounts in thousands) |                     |                 |              |                 |
|---|--|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
|   | Total  | Less Than<br>1 Year | 1 to 3<br>Years | 3 to 5 Years | Over 5<br>Years |
| Long-term debt                          | \$1,892,214                                      | \$ 3,621            | \$278,550       | \$1,317,335  | \$292,708       |
| Cash interest payments                  | \$215,590  | \$ 57,683           | \$100,959       | \$41,079     | \$15,869        |
| Contingent consideration                | \$76,869   | \$ 32,416           | \$6,168         | \$3,224      | \$35,061        |
| Final capping, closure and post-closure | \$664,716  | \$ -                | \$3,140         | \$2,818      | \$658,758       |

Long-term debt payments include:

\$591.0 million in principal payments due May 2018 related to our credit facility. We may elect to draw amounts on our credit facility in either base rate loans or LIBOR loans. At September 30, 2014, \$589.0 million of the borrowings outstanding under the credit facility were in LIBOR loans, which bear interest at the LIBOR rate plus 1) the applicable LIBOR margin (approximately 1.53% at September 30, 2014) and \$2.0 million of the borrowings outstanding under the credit facility were in swing line loans, which bear interest at the base rate plus the applicable base rate margin (approximately 3.63% at September 30, 2014). As of September 30, 2014, our credit facility allowed us to borrow up to \$1.2 billion.

\$660.0 million in principal payments related to our term loan facility. Outstanding amounts on the term loan facility can be either base rate loans or LIBOR loans. At September 30, 2014, all amounts outstanding under the 2) term loan facility were in LIBOR loans which bear interest at the LIBOR rate plus the applicable LIBOR margin (approximately 1.65% at September 30, 2014). Our term loan facility matures on October 25, 2017.



\$175.0 million in principal payments due October 1, 2015 related to our 2015 Notes. Holders of the 2015 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 3) 2015 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2015 Notes bear interest at a rate of 6.22%. We expect to redeem the 2015 Notes on October 1, 2015 using borrowings under our credit facility.

\$100.0 million in principal payments due 2016 related to our 2016 Notes. Holders of the 2016 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2016 Notes plus 4) accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2016 Notes bear interest at a rate of 3.30%.

\$50.0 million in principal payments due 2018 related to our 2018 Notes. Holders of the 2018 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2018 Notes plus accrued 5) and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2018 Notes bear interest at a rate of 4.00%.

\$175.0 million in principal payments due 2019 related to our 2019 Notes. Holders of the 2019 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2019 Notes plus 6) accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2019 Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.25%.

\$100.0 million in principal payments due 2021 related to our 2021 Notes. Holders of the 2021 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2021 Notes plus 7) accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2021 Notes bear interest at a rate of 4.64%.

8) \$31.4 million in principal payments related to our tax-exempt bonds, which bear interest at variable rates (between 0.08% and 0.10%) at September 30, 2014. The tax-exempt bonds have maturity dates ranging from 2018 to 2033.

\$9.8 million in principal payments related to our notes payable to sellers and other third parties. Our notes payable 9) to sellers and other third parties bear interest at rates between 2.5% and 10.9% at September 30, 2014, and have maturity dates ranging from 2015 to 2036.

The following assumptions were made in calculating cash interest payments:

1) We calculated cash interest payments on the credit facility using the LIBOR rate plus the applicable LIBOR margin at September 30, 2014. We assumed the credit facility is paid off when it matures in May 2018.

- 2) We calculated cash interest payments on the term loan facility using the LIBOR rate plus the applicable LIBOR margin at September 30, 2014.
- 3) We calculated cash interest payments on our interest rate swaps using the stated interest rate in the swap agreement less the LIBOR rate through the earlier expiration of the term of the swaps or the term of the credit facility.

Contingent consideration payments include \$57.7 million recorded as liabilities in our condensed consolidated financial statements at September 30, 2014, and \$19.2 million of future interest accretion on the recorded obligations.

The estimated final capping, closure and post-closure expenditures presented above are in current dollars.

| Unrecorded Obligations <sup>(1)</sup> | Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period<br>(amounts in thousands) |                     |                 |              |                 |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
|                                       | Total  | Less Than<br>1 Year | 1 to 3<br>Years | 3 to 5 Years | Over 5<br>Years |
| Operating leases                      | \$ 148,708   | \$ 18,357           | \$ 31,267       | \$ 23,881    | \$ 75,203       |
| Unconditional purchase obligations    | \$ 27,461  | \$ 23,296           | \$ 4,165        | \$ -         | \$ -            |

- We are party to operating lease agreements and unconditional purchase obligations. These lease agreements and purchase obligations are established in the ordinary course of our business and are designed to provide us with access to facilities and products at competitive, market-driven prices. At September 30, 2014, our unconditional purchase obligations consisted of multiple fixed-price fuel purchase contracts under which we have 8.0 million gallons remaining to be purchased for a total of \$27.5 million. The current fuel purchase contracts expire on or before December 31, 2015. These arrangements have not materially affected our financial position, results of operations or liquidity during the nine months ended September 30, 2014, nor are they expected to have a material impact on our future financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

We have obtained financial surety bonds, primarily to support our financial assurance needs and landfill and E&P operations. We provided customers and various regulatory authorities with surety bonds in the aggregate amounts of approximately \$439.3 million and \$393.6 million at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. These arrangements have not materially affected our financial position, results of operations or liquidity during the nine months ended September 30, 2014, nor are they expected to have a material impact on our future financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

From time to time, we evaluate our existing operations and their strategic importance to us. If we determine that a given operating unit does not have future strategic importance, we may sell or otherwise dispose of those operations. Although we believe our reporting units would not be impaired by such dispositions, we could incur losses on them.

The disposal tonnage that we received in the nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, at all of our landfills during the respective period, is shown below (tons in thousands):

|  | Nine months ended September 30, |               |                       |               |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|  | 2014                            |               | 2013                  |               |
|  | Number<br>of<br>Sites           | Total<br>Tons | Number<br>of<br>Sites | Total<br>Tons |
| Owned operational landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site agreements | 51                              | 15,246        | 49                    | 14,287        |
| Operated landfills   | 5                               | 370           | 5                     | 337           |
|  | 56                              | 15,616        | 54                    | 14,624        |

## NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

Adjusted Free Cash Flow

We present adjusted free cash flow, a non-GAAP financial measure, supplementally because it is widely used by investors as a valuation and liquidity measure in the solid waste industry. Management uses adjusted free cash flow as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. We define adjusted free cash flow as net cash provided by operating activities, plus proceeds from disposal of assets, plus or minus change in book overdraft, plus excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation, less capital expenditures for property and equipment and distributions to noncontrolling interests. We further adjust this calculation to exclude the effects of items management believes impact the ability to assess the operating performance of our business. This measure is not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP liquidity or financial measures. Other companies may calculate adjusted free cash flow differently. Our adjusted free cash flow for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, are calculated as follows (amounts in thousands):

|  | Nine months ended |           |
|--|-------------------|-----------|
|  | September 30,     |           |
|  | 2014              | 2013      |
| Net cash provided by operating activities                          | \$414,626         | \$385,404 |
| Less: Change in book overdraft                                     | (180 )            | (374 )    |
| Plus: Proceeds from disposal of assets                             | 6,139             | 9,075     |
| Plus: Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation | 7,177             | 3,539     |
| Less: Capital expenditures for property and equipment              | (148,843)         | (140,872) |
| Less: Distributions to noncontrolling interests                    | (371 )            | (198 )    |
| Adjustments:   |                   |           |
| Payment of contingent consideration recorded in earnings (a)       | -                 | 5,059     |
| Corporate office relocation (b)                                    | -                 | 2,047     |
| Tax effect (c)   | -                 | (244 )    |
| Adjusted free cash flow  | \$278,548         | \$263,436 |

Reflects the addback of acquisition-related payments for contingent consideration that were recorded as expenses (a) in earnings and a component of cash flow from operating activities as the amounts paid exceeded the fair value of the contingent consideration recorded at the acquisition date.

(b) Reflects the addback of third-party expenses and reimbursable advances to employees associated with the relocation of our corporate headquarters from California to Texas.

(c) The tax effect of the Corporate office relocation is calculated based on the applied tax rates for the respective periods.



Adjusted EBITDA

We present adjusted EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure, supplementally because it is widely used by investors as a performance and valuation measure in the solid waste industry. Management uses adjusted EBITDA as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. We define adjusted EBITDA as net income, plus income tax provision, plus interest expense, plus depreciation and amortization expense, plus closure and post-closure accretion expense, plus or minus any loss or gain on disposal of assets and impairments, plus other expense, less other income. We further adjust this calculation to exclude the effects of other items management believes impact the ability to assess the operating performance of our business. This measure is not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP financial measures. Other companies may calculate adjusted EBITDA differently. Our adjusted EBITDA for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, are calculated as follows (amounts in thousands):

|  | Three months ended<br>September 30, |           | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2014                                | 2013      | 2014                               | 2013      |
| Net income   | \$60,284                            | \$60,913  | \$172,407                          | \$146,588 |
| Plus: Income tax provision                                       | 39,523                              | 37,641    | 113,992                            | 93,049    |
| Plus: Interest expense   | 15,815                              | 17,911    | 48,666                             | 55,851    |
| Plus: Depreciation and amortization                              | 65,700                              | 62,074    | 192,078                            | 181,138   |
| Plus: Closure and post-closure accretion                         | 869                                 | 727       | 2,608                              | 2,241     |
| Plus/less: Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments (a) | 9,000                               | (1,725 )  | 7,535                              | 11,895    |
| Plus/less: Other expense (income), net                           | 389                                 | (845 )    | 252                                | 119       |
| Adjustments:   |                                     |           |                                    |           |
| Plus: Acquisition-related costs (b)                              | 736                                 | 167       | 1,384                              | 974       |
| Plus: Corporate relocation expenses (c)                          | -                                   | 215       | -                                  | 636       |
| Adjusted EBITDA  | \$192,316                           | \$177,078 | \$538,922                          | \$492,491 |

(a) Reflects the addback of the loss (gain) on the sale of assets and impairments, including the loss on the prior corporate office lease in 2013 resulting from the relocation of the Company's headquarters from California to Texas and the impairment charge at an E&P disposal facility in 2014 resulting from the migration of the majority of its customers to a new E&P facility that we own and operate.

(b) Reflects the addback of acquisition-related transaction costs.

(c) Reflects the addback of costs associated with the relocation of our corporate headquarters from California to Texas.

Adjusted Net Income and Adjusted Net Income per Diluted Share

We present adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share, both non-GAAP financial measures, supplementally because they are widely used by investors as a valuation measure in the solid waste industry. Management uses adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. We provide adjusted net income to exclude the effects of items management believes impact the comparability of operating results between periods. Adjusted net income has limitations due to the fact that it excludes items that have an impact on our financial condition and results of operations. Adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share are not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP financial measures. Other companies may calculate adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share differently. Our adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, are calculated as follows (amounts in thousands, except per share amounts):

|   | Three months ended<br>September 30, |           | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |            |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2014                                | 2013      | 2014                               | 2013       |
| Reported net income attributable to Waste Connections                                     | \$ 60,084                           | \$ 60,706 | \$ 171,763                         | \$ 146,229 |
| Adjustments:  |                                     |           |                                    |            |
| Amortization of intangibles (a)   | 6,702                               | 6,211     | 20,158                             | 18,861     |
| Acquisition-related expenses (b)  | 736                                 | 167       | 1,384                              | 2,661      |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments (c)                                     | 9,000                               | (1,725 )  | 7,535                              | 11,895     |
| Corporate relocation expenses (d)   | -                                   | 215       | -                                  | 636        |
| Tax effect (e)  | (6,304 )                            | (1,862 )  | (11,151 )                          | (13,025 )  |
| Impact of deferred tax adjustment (f)   | -                                   | -         | 1,220                              | -          |
| Adjusted net income attributable to Waste Connections                                     | \$ 70,218                           | \$ 63,712 | \$ 190,909                         | \$ 167,257 |
| Diluted earnings per common share attributable to Waste Connections' common stockholders: |                                     |           |                                    |            |
| Reported net income   | \$ 0.48                             | \$ 0.49   | \$ 1.38                            | \$ 1.18    |
| Adjusted net income   | \$ 0.56                             | \$ 0.51   | \$ 1.53                            | \$ 1.35    |

- (a) Reflects the elimination of the non-cash amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets.
- (b) Reflects the elimination of acquisition-related expenses, including transaction costs and adjustments to the fair value of contingent consideration.
- (c) Reflects the elimination of a loss (gain) on disposal of assets and impairments, including the loss on the prior corporate office lease in 2013 resulting from the relocation of the Company's corporate headquarters from California to Texas and the impairment charge at an E&P disposal facility in 2014 resulting from the migration of the majority of its customers to a new E&P facility that we own and operate.
- (d) Reflects the addback of costs associated with the relocation of our corporate headquarters from California to Texas.

- (e) The aggregate tax effect of the adjustments in footnotes (a) through (d) is calculated based on the applied tax rates for the respective periods.
- (f) Reflects the elimination of an increase to the income tax provision associated with an increase in the Company's deferred tax liabilities resulting from the enactment of New York State's 2014-2015 Budget Act on March 31, 2014.

## INFLATION

Other than volatility in fuel prices and labor costs in certain markets, inflation has not materially affected our operations in recent years. Consistent with industry practice, many of our contracts allow us to pass through certain costs to our customers, including increases in landfill tipping fees and, in some cases, fuel costs. Therefore, we believe that we should be able to increase prices to offset many cost increases that result from inflation in the ordinary course of business. However, competitive pressures or delays in the timing of rate increases under our contracts may require us to absorb at least part of these cost increases, especially if cost increases exceed the average rate of inflation. Management's estimates associated with inflation have an impact on our accounting for landfill liabilities.



## SEASONALITY

We expect our operating results to vary seasonally, with revenues typically lowest in the first quarter, higher in the second and third quarters and lower in the fourth quarter than in the second and third quarters. This seasonality reflects (a) the lower volume of solid waste generated during the late fall, winter and early spring because of decreased construction and demolition activities during winter months in the U.S., and (b) reduced E&P activity during harsh weather conditions, with expected fluctuation between our highest and lowest quarters of approximately 10% to 13%. In addition, some of our operating costs may be higher in the winter months. Adverse winter weather conditions slow waste collection activities, resulting in higher labor and operational costs. Greater precipitation in the winter increases the weight of collected municipal solid waste, resulting in higher disposal costs, which are calculated on a per ton basis.

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

In the normal course of business, we are exposed to market risk, including changes in interest rates and prices of certain commodities. We use hedge agreements to manage a portion of our risks related to interest rates and fuel prices. While we are exposed to credit risk in the event of non-performance by counterparties to our hedge agreements, in all cases such counterparties are highly rated financial institutions and we do not anticipate non-performance. We do not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. We monitor our hedge positions by regularly evaluating the positions at market and by performing sensitivity analyses over the unhedged fuel and variable rate debt positions.

At September 30, 2014, our derivative instruments included seven interest rate swap agreements that effectively fix the interest rate on the applicable notional amounts of our variable rate debt as follows (dollars in thousands):

| Date Entered  | Notional Amount | Fixed Interest Rate Paid* | Variable Interest Rate Received | Effective Date | Expiration Date |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| August 2011   | \$ 150,000      | 0.798%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | April 2012     | January 2015    |
| December 2011 | \$ 175,000      | 1.600%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | February 2014  | February 2017   |
| April 2014    | \$ 100,000      | 1.800%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | July 2014      | July 2019       |
| May 2014      | \$ 50,000       | 2.344%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | October 2015   | October 2020    |
| May 2014      | \$ 25,000       | 2.326%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | October 2015   | October 2020    |
| May 2014      | \$ 50,000       | 2.350%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | October 2015   | October 2020    |
| May 2014      | \$ 50,000       | 2.350%                    | 1-month LIBOR                   | October 2015   | October 2020    |

\* Plus applicable margin.

Under derivatives and hedging guidance, the interest rate swap agreements are considered cash flow hedges for a portion of our variable rate debt, and we apply hedge accounting to account for these instruments. The notional amounts and all other significant terms of the swap agreements are matched to the provisions and terms of the variable rate debt being hedged.

We have performed sensitivity analyses to determine how market rate changes will affect the fair value of our unhedged floating rate debt. Such an analysis is inherently limited in that it reflects a singular, hypothetical set of assumptions. Actual market movements may vary significantly from our assumptions. Fair value sensitivity is not necessarily indicative of the ultimate cash flow or earnings effect we would recognize from the assumed market rate movements. We are exposed to cash flow risk due to changes in interest rates with respect to the unhedged floating rate balances owed at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, of \$857.4 million and \$1.128 billion, respectively, including floating rate debt under our credit facility, term loan facility and floating rate municipal bond obligations. A one percentage point increase in interest rates on our variable-rate debt as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, would decrease our annual pre-tax income by approximately \$8.6 million and \$11.3 million, respectively. All of our remaining debt instruments are at fixed rates, or effectively fixed under the interest rate swap agreements described above; therefore, changes in market interest rates under these instruments would not significantly impact our cash flows or results of operations, subject to counterparty default risk.

The market price of diesel fuel is unpredictable and can fluctuate significantly. We purchase approximately 31.5 million gallons of fuel per year; therefore, a significant increase in the price of fuel could adversely affect our business and reduce our operating margins. To manage a portion of this risk, we periodically enter into fuel hedge agreements related to forecasted diesel fuel purchases.

At September 30, 2014, our derivative instruments included one fuel hedge agreement as follows:

| Date Entered | Notional Amount (in gallons per month) | Diesel Rate Paid | Diesel Rate Received Variable | Effective Date | Expiration Date |
|--------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| June 2012    | 300,000                                | \$ 3.60          | DOE Diesel Fuel Index*        | January 2014   | December 2015   |

If the national U.S. on-highway average price for a gallon of diesel fuel (“average price”), as published by the \*Department of Energy, exceeds the contract price per gallon, we receive the difference between the average price and the contract price (multiplied by the notional number of gallons) from the counterparty. If the average price is less than the contract price per gallon, we pay the difference to the counterparty.

Under derivatives and hedging guidance, the fuel hedge is considered a cash flow hedge for a portion of our forecasted diesel fuel purchases, and we apply hedge accounting to account for this instrument.

We have performed sensitivity analyses to determine how market rate changes will affect the fair value of our unhedged diesel fuel purchases. Such an analysis is inherently limited in that it reflects a singular, hypothetical set of assumptions. Actual market movements may vary significantly from our assumptions. Fair value sensitivity is not necessarily indicative of the ultimate cash flow or earnings effect we would recognize from the assumed market rate movements. For the year ending December 31, 2014, we expect to purchase approximately 31.5 million gallons of fuel, of which 21.1 million gallons will be purchased at market prices, 6.8 million gallons will be purchased under our fixed price fuel purchase contracts and 3.6 million gallons are hedged at a fixed price under our fuel hedge agreement. During the three month period of October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, we expect to purchase approximately 5.3 million gallons of fuel at market prices; therefore, a \$0.10 per gallon increase in the price of fuel over the remaining three months in 2014 would decrease our pre-tax income during this period by approximately \$0.5 million.

We market a variety of recyclable materials, including cardboard, office paper, plastic containers, glass bottles and ferrous and aluminum metals. We own and operate 35 recycling processing operations and sell other collected recyclable materials to third parties for processing before resale. To reduce our exposure to commodity price risk with respect to recycled materials, we have adopted a pricing strategy of charging collection and processing fees for recycling volume collected from third parties. In the event of a decline in recycled commodity prices, a 10% decrease in average recycled commodity prices from the average prices that were in effect during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, would have had a \$4.3 million and \$5.0 million impact on revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.



Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the fiscal quarter covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, our management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and our management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded as of September 30, 2014, that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level such that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports: (1) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms; and (2) is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2014, there was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Information regarding our legal proceedings can be found in Note 15 of our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this report and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 6. Exhibits

See Exhibit Index immediately following the signature page of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

**SIGNATURES**

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

**WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.**

Date: October 22, 2014 BY: /s/ Ronald J. Mittelstaedt  
Ronald J. Mittelstaedt,  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: October 22, 2014 BY: /s/ Worthing F. Jackman  
Worthing F. Jackman,  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

**Exhibit**

**Number Description of Exhibits**

- 3.1 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, dated as of June 14, 2013 (incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on July 24, 2013)
- 3.2 Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant, effective July 17, 2014 (incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on July 21, 2014)
- 10.1+ Form Grant Agreement for Restricted Stock Units pursuant to 2014 Incentive Award Plan
- 10.2+ Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Robert Cloninger, dated as of August 1, 2014
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
- 32.1 Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

+ Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.