SOUTHWEST GAS CORP Form 10-Q August 06, 2014

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2014

Commission File Number 1-7850

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California (State or other jurisdiction of

88-0085720 (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

5241 Spring Mountain Road

89193-8510

Post Office Box 98510

Las Vegas, Nevada
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)
Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (702) 876-7237

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 x No "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes x 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, non-accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer x 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 x

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer s classes of common stock as of the latest practicable date.

Common Stock, \$1 Par Value, 46,512,597 shares as of July 29, 2014.

Form 10-Q

PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Thousands of dollars, except par value)

(Unaudited)

	JUNE 30, 2014	DEC	CEMBER 31, 2013
ASSETS			
Utility plant:			
Gas plant	\$ 5,398,729	\$	5,252,469
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,928,978)		(1,868,504)
Acquisition adjustments, net	640		730
Construction work in progress	74,884		101,413
Net utility plant	3,545,275		3,486,108
Other property and investments	267,763		260,871
Restricted cash	16,649		
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	26,890		41,077
Accounts receivable, net of allowances	183,472		219,469
Accrued utility revenue	31,600		72,700
Income taxes receivable, net	4,283		3,790
Deferred income taxes			31,130
Deferred purchased gas costs	80,441		18,217
Prepaids and other current assets	83,805		108,289
Total current assets	410,491		494,672
Deferred charges and other assets	322,111		323,523
Total assets	\$ 4,562,289	\$	4,565,174
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES			

Capitalization:

Capitanzation.			
Common stock, \$1 par (authorized - 60,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding			
- 46,503,111 and 46,356,125 shares)	\$	48,133	\$ 47,986
Additional paid-in capital		844,851	840,521
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net		(39,638)	(41,698)
Retained earnings		613,760	567,714
Total Southwest Gas Corporation equity		1,467,106	1,414,523
Noncontrolling interest		(2,214)	(2,128)
Total equity		1,464,892	1,412,395
Long-term debt, less current maturities		1,365,926	1,381,327
Total capitalization	,	2,830,818	2,793,722
Current liabilities:			
Current maturities of long-term debt		23,741	11,105
Accounts payable		94,400	183,511
Customer deposits		72,896	73,367
Accrued general taxes		35,657	39,681
Accrued interest		18,187	17,920
Deferred income taxes		5,566	
Other current liabilities		132,165	108,580
Total current liabilities		382,612	434,164
Deferred income taxes and other credits:			
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credits		663,470	674,411
Taxes payable			284
Accumulated removal costs		291,000	279,000
Other deferred credits		394,389	383,593
Total deferred income taxes and other credits		1,348,859	1,337,288
Total capitalization and liabilities	\$ 4	4,562,289	\$ 4,565,174

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Form 10-Q

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

(Unaudited)

				S	IX MONT	HS	ENDED					
	THREE MO	NTH	S ENDED		JU	NE		TW	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED			
	JUN	IE 30),		30	0,			JUNI	E 30),	
	2014		2013		2014		2013		2014		2013	
Operating revenues:												
Gas operating revenues	\$ 271,479	\$	238,869	\$	757,972	\$	732,469	\$	1,325,657	\$	1,267,567	
Construction revenues	181,674		172,705		303,577		292,610		661,595		617,877	
Total operating revenues	453,153		411,574]	1,061,549		1,025,079		1,987,252		1,885,444	
Operating expenses:												
Net cost of gas sold	97,985		69,388		289,362		269,996		455,367		414,892	
Operations and maintenance	97,620		94,935		200,028		192,022		392,920		374,267	
Depreciation and amortization			58,570		125,077		117,503		244,391		231,225	
Taxes other than income taxes			11,073		22,421		22,868		45,104		44,131	
Construction expenses	157,642		148,700		270,841		255,388		588,737		532,106	
Total operating expenses	426,398		382,666		907,729		857,777		1,726,519		1,596,621	
Operating income	26,755		28,908		153,820		167,302		260,733		288,823	
Other income and (expenses):												
Net interest deductions	(17,305)		(15,290)		(34,824)		(31,168)		(67,356)		(63,777)	
Other income (deductions)	2,863		1,452		4,475		5,521		11,254		6,994	
Total other income and	(14.440)		(12.020)		(20.240)		(25.647)		(56.100)		(5(702)	
(expenses)	(14,442)		(13,838)		(30,349)		(25,647)		(56,102)		(56,783)	
Income before income taxes	12,313		15,070		123,471		141,655		204,631		232,040	
Income tax expense	2,686		5,003		43,147		50,914		70,175		83,607	
Net income	9,627		10,067		80,324		90,741		134,456		148,433	
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest			(41)		(86)		(140)		(393)		(536)	
	\$ 9,627	\$	10,108	\$	80,410	\$	90,881	\$	134,849	\$	148,969	

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Net income attributable to Southwest Gas Corporation											
Basic earnings per share	\$	0.21	\$	0.22	\$	1.73	\$	1.96	\$	2.91	\$ 3.22
Diluted earnings per share	\$	0.21	\$	0.22	\$	1.71	\$	1.95	\$	2.88	\$ 3.19
Dividends declared per share	\$	0.365	\$	0.330	\$	0.730	\$	0.660	\$	1.390	\$ 1.250
Average number of common shares outstanding		46,502		46,331		46,471		46,291		46,407	46,214
Average shares outstanding (assuming dilution) The	e acco	46,948 ompanyin	ig no	46,757 otes are an	inte	46,910 gral part o	of the	46,704 ese stateme	ents.	46,860	46,654

Form 10-Q

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Thousands of dollars)

(Unaudited)

	THI	REE MON JUN		TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30,					
		2014	2013	JUN 2014	2013		2014		2013
Net income	\$	9,627	\$ 10,067	\$ 80,324	\$ 90,741	\$	134,456	\$	148,433
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax									
Defined benefit pension plans:									
Net actuarial gain (loss)							62,214		(46,409)
Amortization of prior service cost		55	54	110	109		221		109
Amortization of transition obligation									270
Amortization of net actuarial loss		3,666	5,298	7,333	10,596		17,927		18,530
Prior service cost									(1,502)
Regulatory adjustment		(3,210)	(4,702)	(6,420)	(9,404)		(73,667)		24,366
Net defined benefit pension plans		511	650	1,023	1,301		6,695		(4,636)
Forward-starting interest rate swaps:									
Amounts reclassified into net income)	519	519	1,037	1,037		2,074		2,074
Net forward-starting interest rate swaps		519	519	1,037	1,037		2,074		2,074
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax		1,030	1,169	2,060	2,338		8,769		(2,562)
Comprehensive income		10,657	11,236	82,384	93,079		143,225		145,871
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interes	t	,,,,,,,	(41)	(86)	(140)		(393)		(536)
Comprehensive income attributable to Southwest Gas Corporation	\$	10,657	\$ 11,277	\$ 82,470	\$ 93,219	\$	143,618	\$	146,407

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Form 10-Q

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Thousands of dollars)

(Unaudited)

	SIX MONTI JUNI		TWELVE MON JUNE	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Net income	\$ 80,324	\$ 90,741	\$ 134,456	\$ 148,433
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash				
provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation and amortization	125,077	117,503	244,391	231,225
Deferred income taxes	24,493	45,781	47,351	73,824
Changes in current assets and liabilities:				
Accounts receivable, net of allowances	35,997	36,649	(23,208)	(5,436)
Accrued utility revenue	41,100	41,600	(1,200)	(1,200)
Deferred purchased gas costs	(62,224)	(64,376)	(108,991)	(88,324)
Accounts payable	(91,674)	(53,924)	(10,082)	22,746
Accrued taxes	(4,801)	(2,452)	(1,424)	4,100
Other current assets and liabilities	46,238	24,088	27,234	(23,204)
Gains on sale	(4,137)	(2,285)	(5,964)	(7,031)
Changes in undistributed stock compensation	3,766	3,855	6,869	5,839
AFUDC and property-related changes	(1,024)	(1,002)	(2,296)	(2,231)
Changes in other assets and deferred charges	(15,150)	(16,393)	(20,476)	(22,582)
Changes in other liabilities and deferred credits	19,462	(4,564)	41,775	3,931
Net cash provided by operating activities	197,447	215,221	328,435	340,090
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Construction expenditures and property additions	(175,444)	(151,877)	(387,843)	(371,207)
Restricted cash	(16,649)		(16,649)	
Changes in customer advances	8,947	3,127	13,593	13,900
Miscellaneous inflows	7,060	4,905	10,620	13,766
Miscellaneous outflows				(969)
Net cash used in investing activities	(176,086)	(143,845)	(380,279)	(344,510)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Issuance of common stock, net	237	1,357	515	1,626
Dividends paid	(32,316)	(28,947)	(62,904)	(56,169)

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Issuance of long-term debt, net	1	17,719		41,673	287,336	130,387
Retirement of long-term debt	(1	0,716)	(101,269)	(46,460)	(205,269)
Change in credit facility and commercial paper	(1	(0,000)		8,000	(119,000)	119,000
Other		(472)			1,527	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(3	35,548)		(79,186)	61,014	(10,425)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(1	4,187)		(7,810)	9,170	(14,845)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	4	11,077		25,530	17,720	32,565
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 2	26,890	\$	17,720	\$ 26,890	\$ 17,720
Supplemental information:						
Interest paid, net of amounts capitalized	\$ 3	31,787	\$	29,116	\$ 61,401	\$ 60,103
Income taxes paid	1	2,246		3,531	15,565	4,608

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Form 10-Q

Note 1 Nature of Operations and Basis of Presentation

Nature of Operations. Southwest Gas Corporation and its subsidiaries (the Company) consist of two segments: natural gas operations (Southwest or the natural gas operations segment) and construction services. Southwest is engaged in the business of purchasing, distributing, and transporting natural gas for customers in portions of Arizona, Nevada, and California. Public utility rates, practices, facilities, and service territories of Southwest are subject to regulatory oversight. All of Southwest s service territories have decoupled rate structures, which are designed to mitigate the impacts of weather variability and conservation on operating margin. The timing and amount of rate relief can materially impact results of operations. Natural gas sales are seasonal, peaking during the winter months; therefore, results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. Natural gas purchases and the timing of related recoveries can materially impact liquidity. NPL Construction Co. (NPL or the construction services segment), a wholly owned subsidiary, is a full-service underground piping contractor that primarily provides utility companies with trenching and installation, replacement, and maintenance services for energy distribution systems. Typically, NPL revenues are lowest during the first quarter of the year due to unfavorable winter weather conditions. Operating revenues typically improve as more favorable weather conditions occur during the summer and fall months.

Basis of Presentation. The condensed consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared by the Company, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. The preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring items and estimates necessary for a fair presentation of results for the interim periods, have been made. It is suggested that these condensed consolidated financial statements be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the 2013 Annual Report to Shareholders, which is incorporated by reference into the 2013 Form 10-K, and the first quarter 2014 Form 10-Q.

Prepaids and other current assets. Prepaids and other current assets includes gas pipe inventory and operating supplies of \$23 million at June 30, 2014 and \$21 million at December 31, 2013.

Cash and Cash Equivalents. For purposes of reporting consolidated cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and financial instruments with a purchase-date maturity of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents fall within Level 1 (quoted prices for identical financial instruments) of the three-level fair value hierarchy that ranks the inputs used to measure fair value by their reliability. Upon contract expiration, customer advances of approximately \$5.6 million and \$4.8 million, during the first six months of 2014 and 2013, respectively, were applied as contributions toward utility construction activity and represent non-cash investing activity.

Intercompany Transactions. NPL recognizes revenues generated from contracts with Southwest (see **Note 3 - Segment Information** below). Accounts receivable for these services are presented in the table below (thousands of dollars):

	June 30, 2014	ember 31, 2013
Accounts receivable for NPL services	\$ 10,786	\$ 10,787

The accounts receivable balance, revenues, and associated profits are included in the condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company and were not eliminated during consolidation in accordance with accounting treatment for rate-regulated entities.

Form 10-Q

Other Property and Investments. Other property and investments includes (millions of dollars):

	June 30, 2014	mber 31, 2013
NPL property and equipment	\$ 332	\$ 320
NPL accumulated provision for depreciation and		
amortization	(172)	(163)
Net cash surrender value of COLI policies	96	93
Other property	12	11
Total	\$ 268	\$ 261

Other Income (Deductions). The following table provides the composition of significant items included in Other income (deductions) in the condensed consolidated statements of income (thousands of dollars):

	Three Mor Jun		En	Ionths ded e 30	Twelve Months Ended June 30			
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013		
Change in COLI policies	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,800	\$3,200	\$5,600	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,900		
Interest income	612	144	1,109	264	1,306	683		
Pipe replacement costs		(36)		(121)	(11)	(1,759)		
Miscellaneous income and (expense)	(49)	(456)	166	(222)	(41)	(830)		
Total other income (deductions)	\$ 2,863	\$ 1,452	\$4,475	\$5,521	\$ 11,254	\$ 6,994		

Included in the table above is the change in cash surrender values of company-owned life insurance (COLI) policies (including net death benefits recognized). These life insurance policies on members of management and other key employees are used by Southwest to indemnify itself against the loss of talent, expertise, and knowledge, as well as to provide indirect funding for certain nonqualified benefit plans. Current tax regulations provide for tax-free treatment of life insurance (death benefit) proceeds. Therefore, changes in the cash surrender value components of COLI policies, as they progress towards the ultimate death benefits, are also recorded without tax consequences. Pipe replacement costs include amounts associated with certain Arizona non-recoverable pipe replacement work. The replacement program work subject to non-recoverability was substantially completed in 2012.

Reclassifications. A reclassification was made to the prior year s financial information between two categories on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income to present it on a basis comparable with the current year s presentation, with no impact on comprehensive income overall.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards Update. In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued the update Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). The update replaces much of the current guidance regarding revenue recognition including most industry-specific guidance. The core principle of the update is

that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. An entity will be required to identify the contract with a customer, identify the performance obligations in the contract, determine the transaction price, allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract, and recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. In addition to the new revenue recognition requirements, entities will be required to disclose sufficient information to enable users of financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers. Entities may choose between two retrospective transition methods when applying the update. The Company plans to adopt this update, as required, on January 1, 2017 for interim and annual reporting periods. Early adoption is not permitted. The Company is evaluating what impact this standard might have on its consolidated financial statements and disclosures.

Note 2 Components of Net Periodic Benefit Cost

Southwest has a noncontributory qualified retirement plan with defined benefits covering substantially all employees and a separate unfunded supplemental retirement plan (SERP) which is limited to officers. Southwest also provides postretirement benefits other than pensions (PBOP) to its qualified retirees for health care, dental, and life insurance.

Form 10-Q

Net periodic benefit costs included in the table below are components of an overhead loading process associated with the cost of labor. The overhead process ultimately results in allocation of net periodic benefit costs to the same accounts to which productive labor is charged. As a result, net periodic benefit costs become components of various accounts, primarily operations and maintenance expense, net utility plant, and deferred charges and other assets.

	Qualified Retirement Plan Period Ended June 30,											
	Three	Months	Six M	onths	Twelve Months							
(Thousands of dollars)	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013						
Service cost	\$ 5,340	\$ 5,764	\$ 10,680	\$ 11,528	\$ 22,208	\$ 21,688						
Interest cost	10,860	9,402	21,721	18,803	40,525	37,936						
Expected return on plan assets	(13,335)	(12,460)	(26,671)	(24,920)	(51,591)	(47,810)						
Amortization of net actuarial loss	5,718	8,065	11,436	16,131	27,566	28,072						
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 8,583	\$ 10,771	\$ 17,166	\$ 21,542	\$ 38,708	\$ 39,886						

	SERP Period Ended June 30, Three Months Six Months Twelve Months											
(Thousands of dollars)		014		013	2	2014		2013		2014		2013
Service cost	\$	73	\$	93	\$	146	\$	187	\$	332	\$	324
Interest cost		436		384		872		767		1,640		1,582
Amortization of net actuarial loss		196		243		392		486		877		827
Net periodic benefit cost	\$	705	\$	720	\$	1,410	\$	1,440	\$	2,849	\$	2,733

		Three Months				PBOP Period Ended June 30, Six Months				Twelve Months			
(Thousands of dollars)	2	2014	2	2013		2014		2013		2014		2013	
Service cost	\$	275	\$	305	\$	551	\$	610	\$	1,161	\$	1,098	
Interest cost		708		621		1,415		1,241		2,656		2,515	
Expected return on plan assets		(816)		(706)		(1,632)		(1,412)		(3,044)		(2,614)	
Amortization of prior service cost		88		88		177		177		355		177	
Amortization of transition obligation												434	
Amortization of net actuarial loss				237				473		472		988	
Net periodic benefit cost	\$	255	\$	545	\$	511	\$	1,089	\$	1,600	\$	2,598	

Note 3 Segment Information

The following tables present revenues from external customers, intersegment revenues, and segment net income (thousands of dollars):

	Natural Gas Operations	Construction Services	Total		
Three months ended June 30, 2014					
Revenues from external customers	\$ 271,479	\$ 156,966	\$ 428,445		
Intersegment revenues		24,708	24,708		
		&nbs			