

MDU RESOURCES GROUP INC  
Form 10-K  
February 21, 2014

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013

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 1-3480

MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation  
or organization)

41-0423660  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1200 West Century Avenue  
P.O. Box 5650  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5650  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
(Zip Code)

(701) 530-1000  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$1.00	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Preferred Stock, par value \$100  
(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  
Yes  No

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes  No .

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 .

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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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No .

State the aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by nonaffiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2013: \$4,892,599,006.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of February 14, 2014: 189,370,016 shares.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's 2014 Proxy Statement are incorporated by reference in Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of this Report.

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Definitions

The following abbreviations and acronyms used in this Form 10-K are defined below:

Abbreviation or Acronym

AFUDC	Allowance for funds used during construction
Army Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ASC	FASB Accounting Standards Codification
BART	Best available retrofit technology
Bbl	Barrel
Bcf	Billion cubic feet
Bicent	Bicent Power LLC
Big Stone Station	475-MW coal-fired electric generating facility near Big Stone City, South Dakota (22.7 percent ownership)
Black Hills Power	Black Hills Power, Inc.
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOE	One barrel of oil equivalent - determined using the ratio of one barrel of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids to six Mcf of natural gas
BOPD	Barrels of oil per day
Brazilian Transmission Lines	Company's investment in the company owning ECTE, ENTE and ERTE (ownership interests in ENTE and ERTE were sold in the fourth quarter of 2010 and portions of the ownership interest in ECTE were sold in the third quarters of 2013 and 2012 and the fourth quarters of 2011 and 2010)
Btu	British thermal unit
Calumet	Calumet Specialty Products Partners, L.P.
Cascade	Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of MDU Energy Capital
CCU	Cane Creek Unit
CEM	Colorado Energy Management, LLC, a former direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources (sold in the third quarter of 2007)
Centennial	Centennial Energy Holdings, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of the Company
Centennial Capital	Centennial Holdings Capital LLC, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial
Centennial Resources	Centennial Energy Resources LLC, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
Clean Air Act	Federal Clean Air Act
Clean Water Act	Federal Clean Water Act
Colorado State District Court	Colorado Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Yuma County
Company	MDU Resources Group, Inc.
Coyote Creek	Coyote Creek Mining Company, LLC, a subsidiary of The North American Coal Corporation
Coyote Station	427-MW coal-fired electric generating facility near Beulah, North Dakota (25 percent ownership)
Dakota Prairie Refinery	20,000-barrel-per-day diesel topping plant being built by Dakota Prairie Refining in southwestern North Dakota
Dakota Prairie Refining	Dakota Prairie Refining, LLC, a limited liability company jointly owned by WBI Energy and Calumet
dk	Decatherm

Dodd-Frank Act  
EBITDA

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act  
Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization

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ECTE	Empresa Catarinense de Transmissão de Energia S.A. (2.5 percent ownership interest at December 31, 2013, 2.5, 2.5, 2.5 and 14.99 percent ownership interests were sold in the third quarters of 2013 and 2012 and the fourth quarters of 2011 and 2010, respectively)
EIN	Employer Identification Number
ENTE	Empresa Norte de Transmissão de Energia S.A. (entire 13.3 percent ownership interest sold in the fourth quarter of 2010)
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
ERTE	Empresa Regional de Transmissão de Energia S.A. (entire 13.3 percent ownership interest sold in the fourth quarter of 2010)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Exchange Act	Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Fidelity	Fidelity Exploration & Production Company, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings
FIP	Funding improvement plan
GAAP	Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
GHG	Greenhouse gas
Great Plains	Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a public utility division of the Company
GVTC	Generation Verification Test Capacity
IBEW	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
ICWU	International Chemical Workers Union
Intermountain	Intermountain Gas Company, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of MDU Energy Capital
IPUC	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Item 8	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data
JTL	JTL Group, Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Knife River
Knife River	Knife River Corporation, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial
Knife River - Northwest	Knife River Corporation - Northwest, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Knife River
K-Plan	Company's 401(k) Retirement Plan
kW	Kilowatts
kWh	Kilowatt-hour
LPP	Lea Power Partners, LLC, a former indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources (member interests were sold in October 2006)
LWG	Lower Willamette Group
MBbls	Thousands of barrels
MBOE	Thousands of BOE
Mcf	Thousand cubic feet
MD&A	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations
Mdk	Thousand decatherms
MDU Brasil	MDU Brasil Ltda., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Resources
MDU Construction Services	MDU Construction Services Group, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial
MDU Energy Capital	MDU Energy Capital, LLC, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of the Company
MISO	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
MMBOE	Millions of BOE



MMBtu

Million Btu

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MMcf	Million cubic feet
MMdk	Million decatherms
MNPUC	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Montana-Dakota	Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a public utility division of the Company
Montana DEQ	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana First Judicial District Court	Montana First Judicial District Court, Lewis and Clark County
Montana Seventeenth Judicial District Court	Montana Seventeenth Judicial District Court, Phillips County
MPPAA	Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980
MTPSC	Montana Public Service Commission
MW	Megawatt
NDPSC	North Dakota Public Service Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
New York Supreme Court	Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York
NGL	Natural gas liquids
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
Oil	Includes crude oil and condensate
Omimex	Omimex Canada, Ltd.
OPUC	Oregon Public Utility Commission
Oregon DEQ	Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PDP	Proved developed producing
Prairielands	Prairielands Energy Marketing, Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings
Proxy Statement	Company's 2014 Proxy Statement
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
psi	Pounds per square inch
PUD	Proved undeveloped
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROD	Record of Decision
RP	Rehabilitation plan
Ryder Scott	Ryder Scott Company, L.P.
SDPUC	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
SEC	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Defined Prices	The average price of oil and natural gas during the applicable 12-month period, determined as an unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within such period, unless prices are defined by contractual arrangements, excluding escalations based upon future conditions
Securities Act	Securities Act of 1933, as amended
Securities Act Industry Guide 7	Description of Property by Issuers Engaged or to be Engaged in Significant Mining Operations
Sheridan System	A separate electric system owned by Montana-Dakota
SMCRA	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
SourceGas	SourceGas Distribution LLC
Stock Purchase Plan	Company's Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan
UA	United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada
VIE	Variable interest entity



WBI Energy	WBI Energy, Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings
WBI Energy Midstream	WBI Energy Midstream, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings (previously Bitter Creek Pipelines, LLC, name changed effective July 1, 2012)
WBI Energy Transmission	WBI Energy Transmission, Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of WBI Holdings (previously Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company, name changed effective July 1, 2012)
WBI Holdings Westmoreland WUTC	WBI Holdings, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Westmoreland Coal Company Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Wygen III	100-MW coal-fired electric generating facility near Gillette, Wyoming (25 percent ownership)
WYPSC	Wyoming Public Service Commission
ZRC	Zonal resource credit - a MW of demand equivalent assigned to generators by MISO for meeting system reliability requirements

## Part I

### Forward-Looking Statements

This Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, including without limitation those statements that are identified by the words "anticipates," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "predicts" and similar expressions, and include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions (many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions) and other statements that are other than statements of historical facts. From time to time, the Company may publish or otherwise make available forward-looking statements of this nature, including statements contained within Item 7 - MD&A - Prospective Information.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed. The Company's expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and are believed by the Company to have a reasonable basis, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in the Company's records and other data available from third parties. Nonetheless, the Company's expectations, beliefs or projections may not be achieved or accomplished.

Any forward-looking statement contained in this document speaks only as of the date on which the statement is made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all of the factors, nor can it assess the effect of each factor on the Company's business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. All forward-looking statements, whether written or oral and whether made by or on behalf of the Company, are expressly qualified by the risk factors and cautionary statements in this Form 10-K, including statements contained within Item 1A - Risk Factors.

### Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties

#### General

The Company is a diversified natural resource company, which was incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware in 1924. Its principal executive offices are at 1200 West Century Avenue, P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5650, telephone (701) 530-1000.

Montana-Dakota, through the electric and natural gas distribution segments, generates, transmits and distributes electricity and distributes natural gas in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Cascade distributes natural gas in Oregon and Washington. Intermountain distributes natural gas in Idaho. Great Plains distributes natural gas in western Minnesota and southeastern North Dakota. These operations also supply related value-added services.

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Centennial, owns WBI Holdings (comprised of the pipeline and energy services and the exploration and production segments), Knife River (construction materials and contracting segment), MDU Construction Services (construction services segment), Centennial Resources and Centennial Capital (both reflected in the Other category).

The Company's investment in ECTE is reflected in the Other category. For additional information, see Item 8 - Note 4.

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had 9,133 employees with 157 employed at MDU Resources Group, Inc., 1,010 at Montana-Dakota, 34 at Great Plains, 302 at Cascade, 219 at Intermountain, 583 at WBI Holdings, 3,071 at Knife River and 3,757 at MDU Construction Services. The number of employees at certain Company operations fluctuates during the year depending upon the number and size of construction projects. The Company considers its relations with employees to be satisfactory.

The following information regarding the number of employees represented by labor contracts is as of December 31, 2013.

At Montana-Dakota and WBI Energy Transmission, 350 and 77 employees, respectively, are represented by the IBEW. Labor contracts with such employees are in effect through April 30, 2015, and March 31, 2014, for Montana-Dakota and WBI Energy Transmission, respectively.

At Cascade, 173 employees are represented by the ICWU. The labor contract with the field operations group is effective through April 1, 2015.

At Intermountain, 116 employees are represented by the UA. Labor contracts with such employees are in effect through September 30, 2016.

Knife River operates under 43 labor contracts that represent approximately 520 of its construction materials employees. Knife River is in negotiations on 7 of its labor contracts.

MDU Construction Services has 176 labor contracts representing the majority of its employees. The majority of the labor contracts contain provisions that prohibit work stoppages or strikes and provide for binding arbitration dispute resolution in the event of an extended disagreement.

The Company's principal properties, which are of varying ages and are of different construction types, are generally in good condition, are well maintained and are generally suitable and adequate for the purposes for which they are used.

The financial results and data applicable to each of the Company's business segments, as well as their financing requirements, are set forth in Item 7 - MD&A and Item 8 - Note 15 and Supplementary Financial Information.

The operations of the Company and certain of its subsidiaries are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations providing for air, water and solid waste pollution control; state facility-siting regulations; zoning and planning regulations of certain state and local authorities; federal health and safety regulations and state hazard communication standards. The Company believes that it is in substantial compliance with these regulations, except as to what may be ultimately determined with regard to items discussed in Environmental matters in Item 8 - Note 19. There are no pending CERCLA actions for any of the Company's properties, other than the Portland, Oregon, Harbor Superfund Site and the Bremerton Gasworks Superfund Site.

The Company produces GHG emissions primarily from its fossil fuel electric generating facilities, as well as from natural gas pipeline and storage systems, operations of equipment and fleet vehicles, and oil and natural gas exploration and development activities. GHG emissions also result from customer use of natural gas for heating and other uses. As interest in reductions in GHG emissions has grown, the Company has developed renewable generation with lower or no GHG emissions. Governmental legislative and regulatory initiatives regarding environmental and energy policy are continuously evolving and could negatively impact the Company's operations and financial results. Until legislation and regulation are finalized, the impact of these measures cannot be accurately predicted. The Company will continue to monitor legislative and regulatory activity related to environmental and energy policy initiatives. Disclosure regarding specific environmental matters applicable to each of the Company's businesses is set forth under each business description later. In addition, for a discussion of the Company's risks related to environmental laws and regulations, see Item 1A - Risk Factors.

This annual report on Form 10-K, the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act are available free of charge through the Company's Web site as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company has electronically filed such reports with, or furnished such reports to, the SEC. The Company's Web site address is [www.mdu.com](http://www.mdu.com). The information available on the Company's Web site is not part of this annual report on Form 10-K.

#### Electric

General Montana-Dakota provides electric service at retail, serving more than 134,000 residential, commercial, industrial and municipal customers in 177 communities and adjacent rural areas as of December 31, 2013. The principal properties owned by Montana-Dakota for use in its electric operations include interests in 10 electric

generating facilities and three small portable diesel generators, as further described under System Supply, System Demand and Competition, approximately 3,100 and 4,700 miles of transmission and distribution lines, respectively, and 52 transmission and 269 distribution substations. Montana-Dakota has obtained and holds, or is in the process of renewing, valid and existing franchises authorizing it to conduct its electric operations in all of the municipalities it serves where such franchises are required. Montana-Dakota intends to protect its service area and seek renewal of all expiring franchises. At December 31, 2013, Montana-Dakota's net electric plant investment was \$812.9 million.

The percentage of Montana-Dakota's 2013 retail electric utility operating revenues by jurisdiction is as follows: North Dakota - 62 percent; Montana - 22 percent; Wyoming - 10 percent; and South Dakota - 6 percent. Retail electric rates, service,



accounting and certain security issuances are subject to regulation by the NDPSC, MTPSC, SDPUC and WYPSC. The interstate transmission and wholesale electric power operations of Montana-Dakota also are subject to regulation by the FERC under provisions of the Federal Power Act, as are interconnections with other utilities and power generators, the issuance of securities, accounting and other matters.

Through MISO, Montana-Dakota has access to wholesale energy, ancillary services and capacity markets for its integrated system. MISO is a regional transmission organization responsible for operational control of the transmission systems of its members. MISO provides security center operations, tariff administration and operates day-ahead and real-time energy markets, ancillary services and capacity markets. As a member of MISO, Montana-Dakota's generation is sold into the MISO energy market and its energy needs are purchased from that market.

**System Supply, System Demand and Competition** Through an interconnected electric system, Montana-Dakota serves markets in portions of western North Dakota, including Bismarck, Mandan, Dickinson, Williston and Watford City; eastern Montana, including Sidney, Glendive and Miles City; and northern South Dakota, including Mobridge. The maximum electric peak demand experienced to date attributable to Montana-Dakota's sales to retail customers on the interconnected system was 573,587 kW in July 2012. Montana-Dakota's latest forecast for its interconnected system indicates that its annual peak will continue to occur during the summer and the sales growth rate through 2018 will approximate 5 percent annually. The interconnected system consists of nine electric generating facilities and three small portable diesel generators, which have an aggregate nameplate rating attributable to Montana-Dakota's interest of 488,905 kW and total net ZRCs of 452.5 in 2013. ZRCs are a MW of demand equivalent measure and are allocated to individual generators to meet supply obligations within MISO. For 2013, Montana-Dakota's total ZRCs, including its firm purchase power contracts, were 583.5. Montana-Dakota's peak demand supply obligation, including firm purchase power contracts, within MISO was 508.3 ZRCs for 2013. Montana-Dakota's four principal generating stations are steam-turbine generating units using coal for fuel. The nameplate rating for Montana-Dakota's ownership interest in these four stations (including interests in the Big Stone Station and the Coyote Station) is 327,758 kW. Two combustion turbine peaking stations, two wind electric generating facilities, a heat recovery electric generating facility and three small portable diesel generators supply the balance of Montana-Dakota's interconnected system electric generating capability.

Montana-Dakota has a contract for capacity of 115 MW for the period June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014, and 120 MW for the period June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015. On October 25, 2013, Montana-Dakota entered into a power purchase agreement with Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC, a subsidiary of Wind Works Power Corp., for approximately 107 MW of installed capacity of wind turbine generators to be located in southwest North Dakota for a 25-year period effective on the commercial operation date of the facility. The project is expected to begin commercial operation in the fourth quarter of 2015. The generation will interconnect at Montana-Dakota's substation near Hettinger, North Dakota. Energy also will be purchased as needed, or if more economical, from the MISO market. In 2013, Montana-Dakota purchased approximately 29 percent of its net kWh needs for its interconnected system through the MISO market.

Montana-Dakota is constructing an 88-MW simple-cycle natural gas turbine and associated facilities, with an estimated project cost of \$77 million and a projected in-service date in the third quarter 2014. The capacity is necessary to meet the requirements of Montana-Dakota's integrated electric system customers and will be a partial replacement for third-party contract capacity expiring in 2015. Advance determination of prudence and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity have been received from the NDPSC for construction and operation of the natural gas turbine. A Certificate of Site Compatibility was issued for the turbine by the NDPSC on December 21, 2012.

Through the Sheridan System, Montana-Dakota serves Sheridan, Wyoming, and neighboring communities. The maximum peak demand experienced to date attributable to Montana-Dakota sales to retail customers on that system was approximately 61,501 kW in July 2012. Montana-Dakota has a power supply contract with Black Hills Power to purchase up to 49,000 kW of capacity annually through December 31, 2016. Wygen III serves a portion of the needs

of its Sheridan-area customers.

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The following table sets forth details applicable to the Company's electric generating stations:

Generating Station	Type	Nameplate Rating (kW)	2013 ZRCs	(a)	2013 Net Generation (kWh in thousands)
Interconnected System:					
North Dakota:					
Coyote (b)	Steam	103,647	101.7		666,431
Heskett	Steam	86,000	85.4		444,867
Glen Ullin	Heat Recovery	7,500	4.3		38,053
Cedar Hills	Wind	19,500	4.5		54,805
Diesel Units	Oil	5,475	5.6		6
South Dakota:					
Big Stone (b)	Steam	94,111	101.3		623,380
Montana:					
Lewis & Clark	Steam	44,000	52.1		298,969
Glendive	Combustion Turbine	75,522	72.9		1,782
Miles City	Combustion Turbine	23,150	19.5		—
Diamond Willow	Wind	30,000	5.2		93,175
		488,905	452.5		2,221,468
Sheridan System:					
Wyoming:					
Wygen III (b)	Steam	28,000	N/A		208,533
		516,905	452.5		2,430,001

(a) Interconnected system only. MISO requires generators to obtain their summer capability through the GVTC. The GVTC is then converted to ZRCs by applying each generator's forced outage factor against its GVTC. Wind generator's ZRCs are calculated based on a wind capacity study performed annually by MISO. ZRCs are used to meet supply obligations within MISO.

(b) Reflects Montana-Dakota's ownership interest.

Virtually all of the current fuel requirements of the Coyote, Heskett and Lewis & Clark stations are met with coal supplied by subsidiaries of Westmoreland under contracts that expire in May 2016, April 2016 and December 2017, respectively. The Coyote Station coal supply agreement provides for the purchase of coal necessary to supply the coal requirements of the Coyote Station or 30,000 tons per week, whichever may be the greater quantity at contracted pricing. The Heskett and Lewis & Clark coal supply agreements provide for the purchase of coal necessary to supply the coal requirements of these stations at contracted pricing. Montana-Dakota estimates the Heskett and Lewis & Clark coal requirement to be in the range of 450,000 to 550,000 tons and 250,000 to 350,000 tons per contract year, respectively.

Montana-Dakota has a contract with Coyote Creek for coal supply to the Coyote Station beginning May 2016 until December 2040. Montana-Dakota estimates the Coyote Station coal supply agreement to be approximately 2.5 million tons per contract year. For more information, see Item 8 - Note 19.

Montana-Dakota has coal supply agreements, which meet a portion of the Big Stone Station's fuel requirements, for the purchase of 1.0 million tons in 2014, 1.0 million tons in 2015 and 500,000 tons in 2016 from Peabody Coalsales, LLC, and 500,000 tons in 2014 from Westmoreland at contracted pricing. The remainder of the Big Stone Station fuel requirements will be secured through separate future contracts.

Montana-Dakota has a coal supply agreement with Wyodak Resources Development Corp., which provides for the purchase of coal necessary to supply the coal requirements of Wygen III at contracted pricing through June 1, 2060. Montana-Dakota estimates the maximum annual coal consumption of the facility to be 585,000 tons.

The average cost of coal purchased, including freight, at Montana-Dakota's electric generating stations (including the Big Stone, Coyote and Wygen III stations) was as follows:

Years ended December 31,	2013	2012	2011
Average cost of coal per MMBtu	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.62
Average cost of coal per ton	\$ 25.32	\$ 24.77	\$ 23.38

Montana-Dakota expects that it has secured adequate capacity available through existing baseload generating stations, renewable generation, turbine peaking stations, demand reduction programs and firm contracts to meet the peak customer demand requirements of its customers through mid-2016. Future capacity that is needed to replace contracts and meet system growth requirements is expected to be met by constructing new generation resources, or acquiring additional capacity through power purchase contracts or the MISO capacity auction. For additional information regarding potential power generation projects, see Item 7 - MD&A - Prospective Information - Electric and natural gas distribution.

Montana-Dakota has major interconnections with its neighboring utilities and considers these interconnections adequate for coordinated planning, emergency assistance, exchange of capacity and energy and power supply reliability.

Montana-Dakota is subject to competition in varying degrees, in certain areas, from rural electric cooperatives, on-site generators, co-generators and municipally owned systems. In addition, competition in varying degrees exists between electricity and alternative forms of energy such as natural gas.

Regulatory Matters and Revenues Subject to Refund In North Dakota, Montana-Dakota reflects monthly increases or decreases in fuel and purchased power costs (including demand charges) and is deferring those electric fuel and purchased power costs that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. In Montana, a monthly Fuel and Purchased Power Tracking Adjustment mechanism allows Montana-Dakota to reflect 90 percent of the increases or decreases in fuel and purchased power costs (including demand charges) and Montana-Dakota is deferring 90 percent of costs that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. A fuel adjustment clause contained in South Dakota jurisdictional electric rate schedules allows Montana-Dakota to reflect monthly increases or decreases in fuel and purchased power costs (excluding demand charges). In Wyoming, an annual Electric Power Supply Cost Adjustment mechanism allows Montana-Dakota to reflect increases or decreases in purchased power costs (including demand charges but excluding increases or decreases from base coal price) related to power supply and Montana-Dakota is deferring costs that are greater or less than amounts presently being recovered through its existing rate schedules. Such orders generally provide that these amounts are recoverable or refundable through rate adjustments within a period ranging from 14 to 25 months from the time such costs are paid. For additional information, see Item 8 - Note 6.

Environmental Matters Montana-Dakota's electric operations are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations providing for air, water and solid waste pollution control; state facility-siting regulations; zoning and planning regulations of certain state and local authorities; federal health and safety regulations; and state hazard communication standards. Montana-Dakota believes it is in substantial compliance with these regulations.

Montana-Dakota's electric generating facilities have Title V Operating Permits, under the Clean Air Act, issued by the states in which they operate. Each of these permits has a five-year life. Near the expiration of these permits, renewal applications are submitted. Permits continue in force beyond the expiration date, provided the application for renewal is submitted by the required date, usually six months prior to expiration. The Title V Operating Permit renewal application for Coyote Station was submitted to the North Dakota Department of Health in March 2013 and the Title V Operating Permit renewal application for Big Stone Station was submitted to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources in November 2013.

State water discharge permits issued under the requirements of the Clean Water Act are maintained for power production facilities on the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. These permits also have five-year lives. Montana-Dakota renews these permits as necessary prior to expiration. Other permits held by these facilities may include an initial siting permit, which is typically a one-time, preconstruction permit issued by the state; state permits to dispose of combustion by-products; state authorizations to withdraw water for operations; and Army Corps permits to construct water intake structures. Montana-Dakota's Army Corps permits grant one-time permission to construct and do not require renewal. Other permit terms vary and the permits are renewed as necessary.

Montana-Dakota's electric operations are conditionally exempt small-quantity hazardous waste generators and subject only to minimum regulation under the RCRA. Montana-Dakota routinely handles PCBs from its electric operations in accordance with federal requirements. PCB storage areas are registered with the EPA as required.

Montana-Dakota incurred \$32.7 million of environmental capital expenditures in 2013, largely for the installation of a BART air quality control system at the Big Stone Station. Capital expenditures are estimated to be \$47 million, \$46 million and \$8 million in 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively, to maintain environmental compliance as new emission controls are required, including the installation of a BART air quality control system, as discussed above. Projects for 2014 through 2016 will also include sulfur-dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury and non-mercury metals control equipment installation at electric generating stations. Montana-Dakota's capital and operational expenditures could also be affected in a variety of ways by future air and wastewater effluent discharge regulation, as well as potential new GHG legislation or regulation. In particular, such GHG legislation or regulation would likely increase capital expenditures and operational costs associated with GHG emissions compliance until carbon capture technology becomes economical, at which time capital expenditures may be necessary to incorporate such technology into existing or new generating facilities. Montana-Dakota expects that it will recover the operational and capital expenditures for GHG regulatory compliance in its rates consistent with the recovery of other reasonable costs of complying with environmental laws and regulations.

#### Natural Gas Distribution

General The Company's natural gas distribution operations consist of Montana-Dakota, Great Plains, Cascade and Intermountain, which sell natural gas at retail, serving over 876,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 334 communities and adjacent rural areas across eight states as of December 31, 2013, and provide natural gas transportation services to certain customers on their systems. These services are provided through distribution systems aggregating approximately 18,500 miles. The natural gas distribution operations have obtained and hold, or are in the process of renewing, valid and existing franchises authorizing them to conduct their natural gas operations in all of the municipalities they serve where such franchises are required. These operations intend to protect their service areas and seek renewal of all expiring franchises. At December 31, 2013, the natural gas distribution operations' net natural gas distribution plant investment was \$1.1 billion.

The percentage of the natural gas distribution operations' 2013 natural gas utility operating sales revenues by jurisdiction is as follows: Idaho - 34 percent; Washington - 24 percent; North Dakota - 14 percent; Oregon - 8 percent; Montana - 8 percent; South Dakota - 6 percent; Minnesota - 4 percent; and Wyoming - 2 percent. The natural gas distribution operations are subject to regulation by the IPUC, MNPUC, MTPSC, NDPSC, OPUC, SDPUC, WUTC and WYPSC regarding retail rates, service, accounting and certain security issuances.

System Supply, System Demand and Competition The natural gas distribution operations serve retail natural gas markets, consisting principally of residential and firm commercial space and water heating users, in portions of Idaho, including Boise, Nampa, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls; western Minnesota, including Fergus Falls, Marshall and Crookston; eastern Montana, including Billings, Glendive and Miles City; North Dakota, including Bismarck, Mandan, Dickinson, Wahpeton, Williston, Watford City, Minot and Jamestown; central and eastern Oregon, including Bend, Pendleton, Ontario and Baker City; western and north-central South Dakota, including Rapid City, Pierre, Spearfish and Mobridge; western, southeastern and south-central Washington, including Bellingham, Bremerton, Longview, Aberdeen, Wenatchee/Moses Lake, Mount Vernon, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima; and northern Wyoming, including Sheridan. These markets are highly seasonal and sales volumes depend largely on the weather, the effects of which are mitigated in certain jurisdictions by a weather normalization mechanism discussed in Regulatory Matters. In addition to the residential and commercial sales, the utilities transport natural gas for larger commercial and industrial customers who purchase their own supply of natural gas.

Competition in varying degrees exists between natural gas and other fuels and forms of energy. The natural gas distribution operations have established various natural gas transportation service rates for their distribution businesses to retain interruptible commercial and industrial loads. These services have enhanced the natural gas distribution operations' competitive posture with alternative fuels, although certain customers have bypassed the distribution systems by directly accessing transmission pipelines within close proximity. These bypasses did not have a material

effect on results of operations.

The natural gas distribution operations and various distribution transportation customers obtain their system requirements directly from producers, processors and marketers. The Company's purchased natural gas is supplied by a portfolio of contracts specifying market-based pricing and is transported under transportation agreements with WBI Energy Transmission, Northwest Pipeline GP, Northern Natural Gas, Gas Transmission Northwest LLC, Northwestern Energy, Viking Gas Transmission Company and Ruby Pipeline LLC. The natural gas distribution operations have contracts for storage services to provide gas supply during the winter heating season and to meet peak day demand with various storage providers, including WBI Energy Transmission, Questar Pipeline Company, Northwest Pipeline GP and Northern Natural Gas. In addition, certain of the operations have entered into natural gas supply management agreements with various parties. Demand for natural gas, which is a widely traded commodity, has historically been sensitive to seasonal heating and industrial load requirements as well as

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changes in market price. The natural gas distribution operations believe that, based on current and projected domestic and regional supplies of natural gas and the pipeline transmission network currently available through their suppliers and pipeline service providers, supplies are adequate to meet their system natural gas requirements for the next decade.

**Regulatory Matters** The natural gas distribution operations' retail natural gas rate schedules contain clauses permitting adjustments in rates based upon changes in natural gas commodity, transportation and storage costs. Current tariffs allow for recovery or refunds of under- or over-recovered gas costs within a period ranging from 12 to 28 months.

Montana-Dakota's North Dakota and South Dakota natural gas tariffs contain weather normalization mechanisms applicable to firm customers that adjust the distribution delivery charge revenues to reflect weather fluctuations during the November 1 through May 1 billing periods.

On March 13, 2013, the OPUC approved an extension of Cascade's decoupling mechanism until December 31, 2015. Cascade also has an earnings sharing mechanism with respect to its Oregon jurisdictional operations as required by the OPUC.

For additional information on regulatory matters, see Item 8 - Note 18.

**Environmental Matters** The natural gas distribution operations are subject to federal, state and local environmental, facility-siting, zoning and planning laws and regulations. The natural gas distribution operations believe they are in substantial compliance with those regulations.

The Company's natural gas distribution operations are conditionally exempt small-quantity hazardous waste generators and subject only to minimum regulation under the RCRA. Certain locations of the natural gas distribution operations routinely handle PCBs from their natural gas operations in accordance with federal requirements. PCB storage areas are registered with the EPA as required. Capital and operational expenditures for natural gas distribution operations could be affected in a variety of ways by potential new GHG legislation or regulation. In particular, such legislation or regulation would likely increase capital expenditures for energy efficiency and conservation programs and operational costs associated with GHG emissions compliance. Natural gas distribution operations expect to recover the operational and capital expenditures for GHG regulatory compliance in rates consistent with the recovery of other reasonable costs of complying with environmental laws and regulations.

The natural gas distribution operations did not incur any material environmental expenditures in 2013. Except as to what may be ultimately determined with regard to the issues described later, the natural gas distribution operations do not expect to incur any material capital expenditures related to environmental compliance with current laws and regulations through 2016.

Montana-Dakota has had an economic interest in four historic manufactured gas plants and Great Plains has had an economic interest in one historic manufactured gas plant within their service territories. Montana-Dakota is investigating a former manufactured gas plant in Montana. Montana-Dakota will seek recovery through the MTPSC in its natural gas rates charged to customers for any remediation costs incurred for this site. None of the remaining former manufactured gas plant sites of Montana-Dakota or Great Plains are being actively investigated. Cascade has had an economic interest in nine former manufactured gas plants within its service territory. Cascade has been involved in the investigation and remediation of three manufactured gas plants in Washington and Oregon. See Item 8 - Note 19 for a further discussion of these three manufactured gas plants. To the extent these claims are not covered by insurance, Cascade will seek recovery through the OPUC and WUTC of remediation costs in its natural gas rates charged to customers.

**Pipeline and Energy Services**

General WBI Energy owns and operates both regulated and nonregulated businesses. The regulated business of this segment, WBI Energy Transmission, owns and operates approximately 3,800 miles of transmission, gathering and storage lines in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Three underground storage fields in Montana and Wyoming provide storage services to local distribution companies, producers, natural gas marketers and others, and serve to enhance system deliverability. Its system is strategically located near five natural gas producing basins, making natural gas supplies available to its transportation and storage customers. The system has 13 interconnecting points with other pipeline facilities allowing for the receipt and/or delivery of natural gas to and from other regions of the country and from Canada. Under the Natural Gas Act, as amended, WBI Energy Transmission is subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC regarding certificate, rate, service and accounting matters, and at December 31, 2013, its net plant investment was \$337.6 million.

The nonregulated business of this segment, owns and operates gathering facilities in Colorado, Montana and Wyoming. It also owns a 50 percent undivided interest in the Pronghorn assets located in western North Dakota that were acquired in 2012,

which include a natural gas processing plant, both oil and gas gathering pipelines, an oil storage terminal and an oil pipeline. In total, facilities include approximately 1,600 miles of operated field gathering lines, some of which interconnect with WBI Energy's regulated pipeline system. The nonregulated business provides natural gas and oil gathering services, natural gas processing and a variety of other energy-related services, including cathodic protection, water hauling, contract compression operations, measurement services, and energy efficiency product sales and installation services to large end-users.

WBI Energy, in conjunction with Calumet, formed Dakota Prairie Refining, to develop, build and operate Dakota Prairie Refinery. Construction began on the facility in late March 2013 and, when complete, it will process Bakken crude oil into diesel, which will be marketed within the Bakken region. Total project costs are estimated to be approximately \$350 million, with a projected in-service date in late 2014.

This segment also includes an energy services business which provides natural gas purchase and sales services to local distribution companies, producers, other marketers and a limited number of large end-users, primarily using natural gas produced by Fidelity. Certain of the services are provided based on contracts that call for a determinable quantity of natural gas. At December 31, 2013, it has commitments to deliver fixed and determinable amounts of natural gas under these contracts of 1.9 MMdk in 2014 and the commitments to deliver natural gas for years subsequent to 2014 are immaterial. The Company currently estimates that it can adequately meet the requirements of these contracts based upon the estimated natural gas production and reserves of Fidelity.

A majority of its pipeline and energy services business is transacted in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States.

For information regarding natural gas gathering operations litigation, see Item 8 - Note 19.

**System Supply, System Demand and Competition** Natural gas supplies emanate from traditional and nontraditional production activities in the region and from off-system supply sources. While certain traditional regional supply sources are in various stages of decline, incremental supply from nontraditional sources have been developed which has helped support WBI Energy Transmission's supply needs. This includes new natural gas supply associated with the continued development of the Bakken area in Montana and North Dakota. The Powder River Basin also provides a nontraditional natural gas supply to the WBI Energy Transmission system. In addition, off-system supply sources are available through the Company's interconnections with other pipeline systems. WBI Energy Transmission expects to facilitate the movement of these supplies by making available its transportation and storage services. WBI Energy Transmission will continue to look for opportunities to increase transportation, gathering and storage services through system expansion and/or other pipeline interconnections or enhancements that could provide substantial future benefits.

WBI Energy Transmission's underground natural gas storage facilities have a certificated storage capacity of approximately 353 Bcf, including 193 Bcf of working gas capacity, 85 Bcf of cushion gas and 75 Bcf of native gas. These storage facilities enable customers to purchase natural gas at more uniform daily volumes throughout the year and meet winter peak requirements.

WBI Energy Transmission competes with several pipelines for its customers' transportation, storage and gathering business and at times may discount rates in an effort to retain market share. However, the strategic location of its system near five natural gas producing basins and the availability of underground storage and gathering services, along with interconnections with other pipelines, serve to enhance its competitive position.

Although certain of WBI Energy Transmission's firm customers, including its largest firm customer Montana-Dakota, serve relatively secure residential and commercial end-users, they generally all have some price-sensitive end-users that could switch to alternate fuels.

WBI Energy Transmission transports substantially all of Montana-Dakota's natural gas, primarily utilizing firm transportation agreements, which for 2013 represented 45 percent of WBI Energy Transmission's subscribed firm transportation contract demand. The majority of the firm transportation agreements with Montana-Dakota expire in June 2017. In addition, Montana-Dakota has a contract with WBI Energy Transmission to provide firm storage services to facilitate meeting Montana-Dakota's winter peak requirements expiring in July 2015.

The nonregulated business competes with several midstream companies for existing customers, for the expansion of its systems and for the installation of new systems. Its strong position in the fields in which it operates, its focus on customer service and the variety of services it offers, along with its interconnection with various other pipelines, serve to enhance its competitive position.

**Regulatory Matters** For additional information on regulatory matters, see Item 8 - Note 18.

**Environmental Matters** The pipeline and energy services operations are generally subject to federal, state and local environmental, facility-siting, zoning and planning laws and regulations. The Company believes it is in substantial compliance with those regulations.

Ongoing operations are subject to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the NEPA and other state and federal regulations. Administration of many provisions of these laws has been delegated to the states where WBI Energy and its subsidiaries operate. Permit terms vary and all permits carry operational compliance conditions. Some permits require annual renewal, some have terms ranging from one to five years and others have no expiration date. Permits are renewed and modified, as necessary, based on defined permit expiration dates, operational demand and/or regulatory changes.

Detailed environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements are included in the FERC's permitting processes for both the construction and abandonment of WBI Energy Transmission's natural gas transmission pipelines, compressor stations and storage facilities.

The pipeline and energy services operations did not incur any material environmental expenditures in 2013 and do not expect to incur any material capital expenditures related to environmental compliance with current laws and regulations through 2016.

#### Exploration and Production

General Fidelity is involved in the acquisition, exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas resources. Fidelity continues to seek additional reserve and production growth opportunities through these activities. Future growth is dependent upon its success in these endeavors. Fidelity shares revenues and expenses from the development of specified properties in proportion to its ownership interests.

For information regarding exploration and production litigation, see Item 8 - Note 19.

Fidelity's business is focused primarily in two core regions: Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent/Gulf States.

#### Rocky Mountain

Fidelity's Rocky Mountain region includes the following significant operating areas:

**Bakken areas** - Oil targets in which Fidelity holds approximately 16,000 net acres in Mountrail County, North Dakota, approximately 50,000 net acres in Stark County, North Dakota, and approximately 59,000 net acres in Richland County, Montana.

**Cedar Creek Anticline** - Primarily in eastern Montana, the Company has a long-held net profits interest in this oil play.

**Paradox Basin** - The Company holds approximately 130,000 net acres located in Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah, targeting oil, including its recent acquisition of 35,000 net acres of leaseholds and has an option to earn another 20,000 acres.

**Big Horn Basin** - These interests include approximately 21,000 net acres in Wyoming, targeting oil and NGL.

**Green River Basin** - These properties were primarily natural gas targets in Wyoming and were sold at the end of 2013.

**Baker Field** - Long-held natural gas properties in which Fidelity holds approximately 98,000 net acres in southeastern Montana and southwestern North Dakota.

**Bowdoin Field** - Long-held natural gas properties in which Fidelity holds approximately 127,000 net acres in north-central Montana.

**Other** - Includes other exploratory oil projects and various non-operated positions.

Mid-Continent/Gulf States

Fidelity's Mid-Continent/Gulf States region includes the following significant operating areas:

• South Texas - This area includes approximately 9,000 net acres in the Tabasco, Texan Gardens and Flores fields. This area has significant NGL content associated with the natural gas.

• East Texas - Fidelity holds approximately 9,000 net acres, primarily natural gas and associated NGL.

• Other - Includes various non-operated onshore interests, as well as offshore interests in the shallow waters off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

Operating Information Annual net production by region for 2013 was as follows:

Region	Oil (MBbls)	NGL (MBbls)	Natural Gas (MMcf)	Total (MBOE)	Percent of Total
Rocky Mountain	4,481	250	19,461	7,975	78