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2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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Section

MAR 19 2009

Washington, DC
106

Financial Highlights

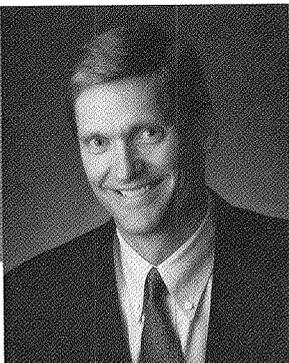
(dollars in millions, except per share data)

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Net sales	\$4,212.4	\$3,912.5	\$3,602.6	\$3,312.4	\$3,033.3
Operating Costs and Expenses					
Cost of product sold	2,381.1	2,157.9	1,995.3	1,841.0	1,578.8
Selling, administrative, and research expenses	1,247.2	1,201.0	1,094.7	1,020.9	1,038.8
Amortization of intangible assets	56.8	62.1	70.1	81.6	96.3
In-process research and development	—	—	—	—	122.3
Restructuring expenses	33.4	15.3	9.5	25.6	1.7
Gain on divestiture	(38.1)	—	—	—	—
Impairment of goodwill	544.2	—	—	—	—
Sponsor monitoring fees	—	—	—	—	11.2
Sponsor monitoring agreement termination fee	—	—	—	—	35.0
Operating costs and expenses	4,224.6	3,436.3	3,169.6	2,969.1	2,884.1
Operating earnings (loss)	(12.2)	476.2	433.0	343.3	149.2
Other income (expense), net	(17.4)	(4.8)	(4.4)	3.1	(10.8)
Interest income	8.3	9.1	9.1	8.4	10.2
Interest expense	(258.8)	(274.0)	(272.0)	(258.0)	(250.8)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests	(280.1)	206.5	165.7	96.8	(102.2)
Income tax provision	54.5	69.3	58.9	43.3	30.8
Minority interests	(8.0)	(8.2)	(7.9)	(5.7)	(5.8)
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (342.6)	\$ 129.0	\$ 98.9	\$ 47.8	\$ (138.8)
Net earnings (loss) per share—diluted	\$ (2.44)	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.42)
Weighted average shares—diluted (millions)	140.1	146.7	146.7	146.6	97.7
Statement of Cash Flows Data					
Operating activities	\$ 283.1	\$ 323.4	\$ 284.8	\$ 199.9	\$ 237.5
Investing activities	(95.4)	(141.7)	(99.6)	(75.9)	(72.2)
Financing activities	(232.9)	(105.3)	(179.6)	(125.9)	(232.8)
Other Financial Data (unaudited)					
Adjusted EBITDA*	\$ 732.3	\$ 729.8	\$ 680.1	\$ 603.0	\$ 585.3

* Discussion and reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income is included under Item 7 of our 10-K.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Balance Sheet Data					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 61.8	\$ 119.9	\$ 37.3	\$ 30.8	\$ 33.3
Working capital**	684.8	629.7	560.9	498.0	424.2
Total assets	5,042.0	5,978.6	5,656.5	5,552.4	5,933.9
Total debt (including current portion of long-term debt)	3,223.4	3,324.1	3,188.8	3,266.8	3,442.5
Total shareholders' equity	393.3	1,117.8	890.9	705.5	710.4

**Working capital is defined as current assets (excluding cash and cash equivalents) less current liabilities (excluding short-term debt and current portion of long-term debt).



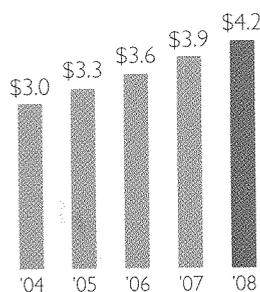
J. Erik Fyrwald
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

To Our Shareholders

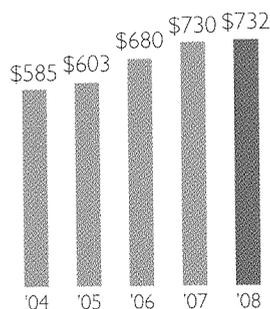
As you know, the past year was one of the most volatile we have ever experienced, with economies quickly transitioning from rapid growth to very deep global decline. In this context, our Nalco team quickly adapted to changing market conditions and delivered solid results.

Against the top priorities we established in early 2008, Nalco achieved strong performance. Energy Services grew sharply. Results in Europe improved meaningfully. Our water businesses grew nicely, thanks to improving 3D TRASAR® technology penetration. Our BRIC+ focus yielded nominal sales growth of more than 20 percent in those countries. Even on price capture, while we fell short of our goal of fully covering cost increases, we improved results as the year progressed and exceeded cost increases in the fourth quarter.

Net Sales
(in billions)



Adjusted EBITDA
(in millions)



In today's difficult economic conditions, our ability to help customers save money through water conservation and energy efficiency improvements—among other benefits—makes our services more critical than ever for leading companies around the world. In 2008, the savings we delivered from just one cooling water offering reduced water use enough to provide the full year's basic water needs of more than 13 million people. In the power generation industry alone, our water automation and control technology saved additional energy equal to the annual per capita use of more than half a million people.

2008 RESULTS

Critical achievements in 2008 included the following:

- We drove 7.8 percent organic sales growth—matching our best result of the decade—with double-digit growth in the Americas, 6.3 percent growth in Asia Pacific and 1.7 percent growth in Europe. Second-half performance meaningfully improved from first-half results, behind traction on pricing, technology and service growth programs.
- Earnings per share improved 29.2% to \$1.24, excluding the gain from the sale of Finishing Technologies, restructuring expenses and the goodwill impairment charge for Paper Services.
- Adjusted EBITDA increased 3.7% from the 2007 base that excludes synfuel results. This gain came despite increases in direct material and freight costs of \$170 million that were not fully offset by \$159 million in price capture.
- Free Cash Flow of \$142 million was below target. Disappointingly, we increased inventory cash use by about \$90 million. We also contributed an optional \$30 million to our pension fund following our third-quarter Finishing Technologies divestiture.



China Growth

Even with the slowing global economy, China continues to offer growth opportunities, and Naalco is continuing its Chinese investments. In 2008, we opened a new \$25 million manufacturing plant in Nanjing and a new research center at our plant in Suzhou near Shanghai. We also added new sales engineers and other personnel, bringing total employment in the country to more than 500.

Those investments have yielded good results. China is now our 4th largest market, trailing only the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom in annual sales.

- We exceeded our \$75 million productivity/cost savings target.
- The entire European team delivered positive organic growth, after 4 years of negative organic growth in Western Europe.
- Aggressive investment in Energy Services growth led to 17.5 percent organic growth. The Energy Services team closed 65 percent of all new CapEx business in Oil Field Services and more than 50 percent in Downstream, with 75 percent achievement in the Middle East. We are also bringing great new technologies to the market in 2009 to drive continued growth.
- Investments in Naalco Mobotec allowed this business to grow to \$43 million from the \$24 million in sales during the 12 months prior to our December 2007 Mobotec acquisition. We are excited about the long-term potential of this business as we deliver on projects in Eastern Europe, China and North America.
- We took actions to get ahead of weakening economic conditions, including managing a restructuring project to take out costs while minimizing employee distraction.

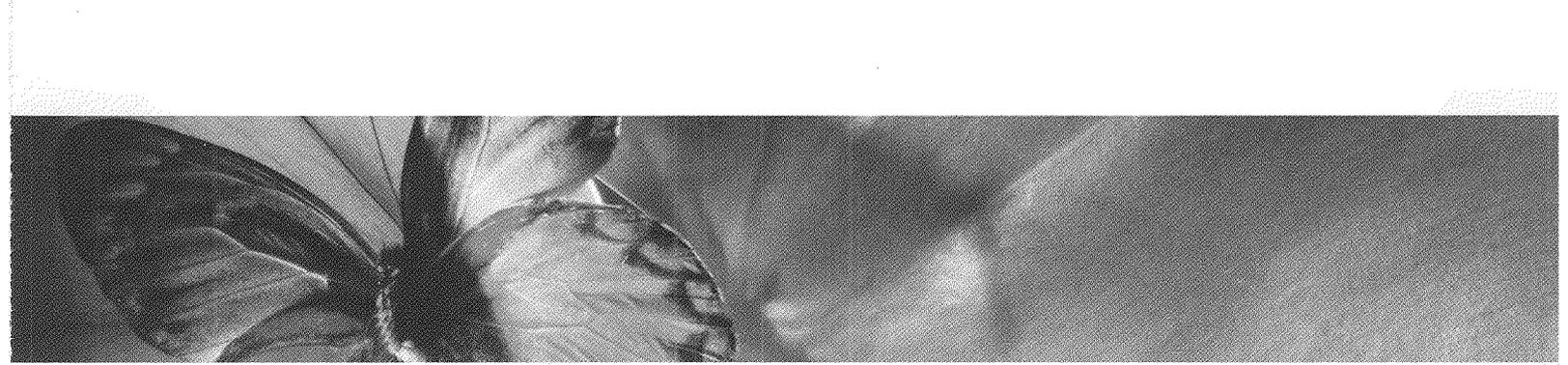
While successful in 2008, we are not yet operating at peak levels, having not met our expectations for inventory management and resulting Free Cash Flow due to poor inventory management. To address this head on in 2009, we have put supply chain management directly under business control to fully connect our supply chain with business operations. We added capabilities to establish world-class Sales and Operations Planning processes, a fundamental change to enable inventory reductions to be accomplished simultaneous with improved customer delivery service levels. We also combined the former Paper Services and Industrial and Institutional Services divisions into a new Water and Process Services Division to drive operating efficiencies. These changes will deliver results starting in 2009.

2009 EXPECTATIONS

In 2009, we expect even more tumultuous conditions than we experienced in 2008. We face strong headwinds from currency and continued steep declines, shutdowns and bankruptcies across many industries.

Given these extraordinary challenges, we are adapting our approach in 2009 with focus on a new top five priorities.

- Our top 2009 priority is, as always, safety. We dramatically improved our results for our Total Recordable Injury Rate in 2008 and will build on this momentum.
- We are now clearly focused on delivering a step change in productivity. We are committed to achieving at least \$100 million in productivity cost savings. Our internal goals are higher. We decided to not have any merit pay increase this



year, and are instead providing employees with the opportunity to earn Productivity Success Payments—a broad employee earn-out plan tied to cost savings. The minimum threshold for these payments is not reached until we deliver \$85 million in savings. To receive a bonus similar to the amount that might have been earned in a normal merit increase year, we will need to deliver \$150 million in productivity gains.

- Our next key priority is to pursue profitable growth but with specific focus. We will target resource increases to geographies, market segments and technologies that can generate high growth even during the crisis. Programs such as our expanded 3D TRASAR technology platform, Nalco Mobotec's combustion efficiency/air quality control offering and new Low Dose Hydrate Inhibitors are key sources of differentiation. China, India and the Middle East will be our 2009 priorities against our BRIC+ strategy. Industries with stable growth profiles, including power, food and beverage and new oil production will also receive heavy focus. Finally, across our operations, we are spending more time pursuing business with solid customers who are in a strong market position. The ability to fund sales engineers to support these growth initiatives is coming entirely from aggressive redeployments from low or negative growth areas.
- Another top priority is increasing Cash Flow. We have put in place the key building block capabilities to drive inventory reductions while also ensuring product delivery reliability. With senior leadership emphasis and this capability, we expect to make significant progress in cash flow in 2009, regardless of the economic challenges we confront.
- Finally, our other key priority is strengthening our future through a variety of enhancements to our service offerings, driving our technology pipeline to the market and strengthening and taking more advantage of the Nalco brand.

With a strong focus on productivity, targeted growth and cash flow improvement, I am confident we can again achieve success in 2009 against our priorities.

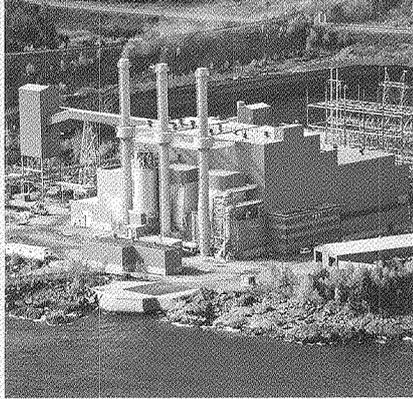
After a year at Nalco, I am even more excited than when I started, given the opportunity we have in our growth markets and our ability to improve our position in those markets. We are on a better track and have the right business leadership team in place to move forward. In 2009, we face huge economic difficulties and uncertainties, but are committed to improving our market position and key capabilities to deliver 2009 results ahead of competition and in a way that strengthens us for 2010 and beyond.



J. Erik Fyrwald
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer
March 2009

Discussion and reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net earnings and Free Cash Flow to cash provided by operations are included under Item 7 of our 10-K.

This letter contains forward-looking statements that are subject to risk factors identified in our 10-K. We urge careful attention to these risk factors. If you are interested in Nalco Holding Company stock, management recommends that, at a minimum, you read the Company's current annual report and 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) over the past year. The Company's recent proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders also contains important information. These and other materials that have been filed with the SEC are accessible through the Company's Web site at www.nalco.com/investors and are also available at the SEC's Web site at www.sec.gov.



*3D TRASAR technology for cooling systems saved enough water for the basic needs of **13 MILLION** people*

Profitable Growth by Protecting Water, Energy and Air

Nalco Mobotec

We are extending our reach into the rapidly growing energy use reduction and air emission control markets with Nalco Mobotec's capability to reduce many critical pollutants, including greenhouse gases, nitrogen and sulfur oxides (NOx and SOx), mercury, hydrogen chloride and particulates.

A major utility in the Midwestern United States has invested in Nalco Mobotec's engineered solutions, modifying combustion processes to provide effective and low cost methods for emissions control. Projects for NOx and SOx control will be completed on multiple units at two power plants in 2009. The customer anticipates the system will cut NOx emissions by more than 60 percent along with significant sulfur dioxide emission reduction.

www.nalcomobotec.com

The world requires companies to be productive to survive in our extremely demanding economy. At the same time, expectations today also call for an increased sensitivity to the use of natural resources and the impact on people and the planet. Nalco's success is dependent on our ability to help customers achieve these financial, environmental and social goals. We are uniquely positioned to accomplish this with unmatched expertise and technology.

We bring a number of benefits to our customers—cleaner water, less industrial use of fresh water, energy savings, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants—while allowing them to operate more cost effectively.

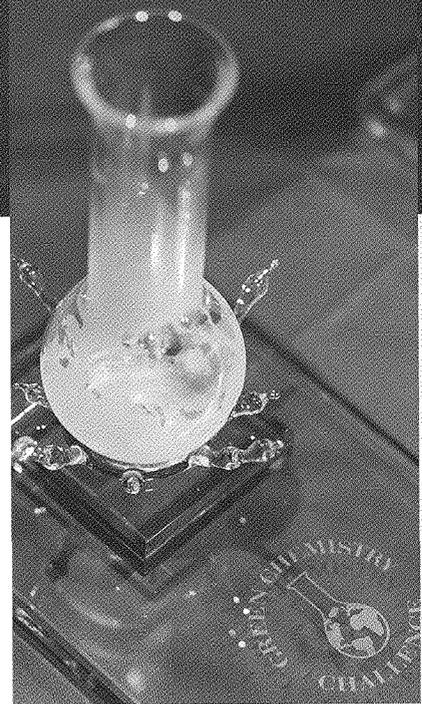
There are many examples of our ability to accomplish this. Our award-winning 3D TRASAR technology for cooling water saved 63 billion gallons of water worldwide in 2008. Patented combustion efficiency solutions from Nalco Mobotec are helping power plants drastically cut harmful air emissions. PARETO™ wet-end optimization technology allowed paper customers around the world to save more than 4 million cubic meters of water and 460 billion BTUs of energy in 2008, the latter preventing 30,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. Sub-micron sized BrightWater® molecules provide a revolutionary, cost-effective way to plug water paths in reservoirs to allow more oil to be pumped from existing fields.

20% SALES GROWTH in BRIC+* countries

These technological achievements are also helping Nalco grow—with more than \$1.1 billion in 2008 sales from products introduced in the last five years—and we're not standing still.

We are launching the next generation of 3D TRASAR technology, introducing it into boiler operations with the same capability to operate more efficiently and reduce costs. As in cooling water, 3D TRASAR technology for boilers allows fast, effective response to system changes. Its automatic adjustments maintain optimum boiler operations and have the ability to signal users—through alarms, pages and text messages—which quickly provides vital information to customers and Nalco sales engineers.

Our innovation pipeline remains robust. Our new ultra-deepwater research lab in Sugar Land, Texas is developing the technology needed for oil and gas production in 5,000 feet or more of water. Advanced cooling water treatment automation will also build on 3D TRASAR technology to allow use of lower quality water by industry, preserving more fresh water for human use. New fiber substitution advances in paper will allow more use of recycled fiber, reducing energy and raw material consumption. Our innovative steam technologies will help heavy oil producers enhance the Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage process to extract oil from oil sands using more energy- and water-efficient methods.



Courtesy, US EPA

Green Chemistry Award

In 2008, we won our second United States Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award, which acknowledged the environmental advantages of our 3D TRASAR technology for cooling water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's annual awards are designed to reward "innovations in cleaner, cheaper, smarter chemistry." The American Chemical Society convened a panel of technical experts that evaluated nearly 100 nominations to choose the five winners.

www.nalco.com/3DTRASAR

**Brazil, Russia, India, China, Middle East, West Africa and Caspian region*



PARETO technology saved customers **460 BILLION BTUs** of energy, avoiding **30,000 TONS** of CO₂ emissions

Beyond Monitoring and Control

Nalco constantly develops state-of-the-art systems to most effectively apply our chemical solutions. For example, 3D TRASAR technology detects system variability, determines treatment changes and delivers them to optimize a cooling or boiler system. OxiPRO™ technology for deposit control monitors the sheet through the papermaking process and applies our innovative chemistry, as needed, to prevent surface deposits and paper breaks.

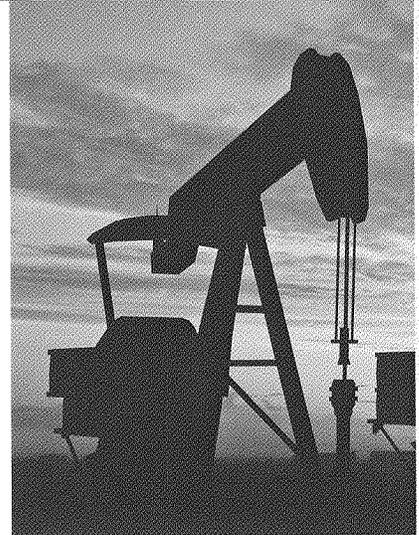
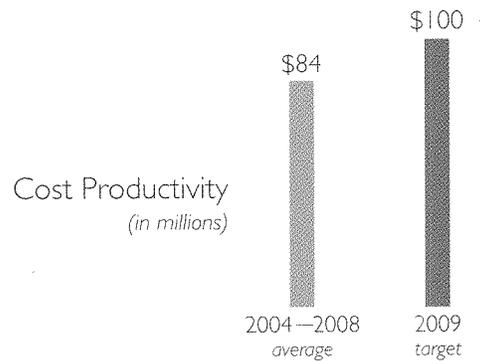
We don't stop there, though. We combine the data collected by monitoring systems with data analysis tools and our on-site experts' knowledge to discover undetected problems and suggest improvements. The result improves efficiency, reduces operating costs and enhances end-product quality.

We expect our Energy Services Division to continue to be a growth-driver because Nalco expertise and technology will help energy producers be more successful, despite lower oil prices, capitalizing on existing production resources and maximizing cost-effective production at refineries and petrochemical plants.

Oil is being produced in increasingly extreme conditions, from the cold of the North Slope of Alaska to the heat of the deserts of the Middle East and North Africa, and at ever-greater depths in the oceans. Among the problems faced in these environments is the formation of hydrates—ice-like masses of natural gas and water—that form in and can block oil flow lines and equipment, especially in deepwater and ultra-deepwater offshore fields.

Our latest patented low dose hydrate inhibitors (LDHIs) provide specialized chemistry to meet specific project conditions that vary by field and geography. These Nalco LDHIs handle more severe conditions at lower dosages than competing programs, while being safer and easier to handle.

We increased our enhanced oil recovery (EOR) capabilities in 2008, with the acquisition of TIORCO, an oil recovery engineering firm. We then combined TIORCO with our breakthrough BrightWater reservoir efficiency technology and the surfactant capabilities of Stepan Company in a new joint venture to provide complete EOR services.



Expanding our sustainable development solutions to include air pollution reduction provides additional growth opportunities. Nalco Mobotec delivers practical approaches for the control of nitrogen and sulfur oxides (NOx and SOx), carbon monoxide, mercury and particulates. Rather than requiring costly new systems, many Nalco Mobotec offerings only require modifications to existing furnaces and other equipment that cost a fraction of a new system. We expect to see substantial opportunities in Eastern Europe and China. We are also targeting current Nalco customers to expand from the water treatment side of the boiler to the fire side with improved combustion.

Concentrating our efforts on the right geographic areas and industries will also provide profitable growth. Our BRIC+ strategy yielded greater than 20 percent nominal sales growth last year and China is now our fourth largest market. Brazil, China, India and the Middle East, along with the power, food and beverage and new oil production industries, will continue to be our focus in 2009.

Despite challenging times, our combination of technical expertise, global reach and innovative technology position Nalco to grow by providing the services and programs that save customers water and energy, improve air quality and help them succeed by reducing their total cost of operations.

Enhanced Oil Recovery

Even in an economic downturn, maximizing oil from existing fields is attractive. We formed our TIORCO joint venture with Stepan Company to combine our innovative BrightWater enhanced oil recovery technology with TIORCO's 30 years of experience improving oil recovery in thousands of wells worldwide and Stepan's surfactants, to provide an unmatched one-stop Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) solution.

Oilfield operators are faced with balancing the desire to maximize field production against reduced capital spending programs. TIORCO chemical EOR—combining proper reservoir analysis and modeling with the correct programs—can increase oil recovery by 5–20 percent of the original oil in place, at a relatively low added-cost.

www.tiorco.com

Essential Expertise for Water, Energy and AirSM

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to lead the industry in creating value for customers and Nalco through differentiated services and technologies that save water and energy, enhance production and improve air quality while reducing total costs of operation.

Vision

Our goal is to earn customers for life and enhance the lives of our employees while protecting the planet.

Nalco Objectives for 2009

1. Improve Our Safety Performance Toward Our Goal of Zero Incidents
2. Gain a Step-Change Improvement in Cost Productivity
3. Generate Focused, Profitable Sales Growth
4. Increase Cash Flow
5. Strengthen Our Future

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, DC 20549

**FORM 10-K/A
Amendment No. 1**

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008

or

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

For the transition period from to .

Commission File No. 001-32342

NALCO HOLDING COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

16-1701300

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**1601 West Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563-1198**

(630) 305-1000

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	New York Stock Exchange

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

None

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the 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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of 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, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2008 was \$2,947,131,564.

As of January 30, 2009, the number of shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding was 137,379,603 shares.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's proxy statement (the "Proxy Statement") for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held May 1, 2009 are incorporated by reference into Part III.

FORM 10-K
NALCO HOLDING COMPANY
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Nalco Holding Company (the “Company”) is filing this Amendment No. 1 to Form 10-K (the “Amended Report”) to amend its annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 (the “Original Report”) to correct an inadvertent error in the Company’s expected cash contributions to its pension plans in 2009, as disclosed in Note 14 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of the Company’s Original Report filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on February 25, 2009. The corrected amount of expected contributions to the Company’s pension plans in 2009 is \$102.1 million. The Amended Report continues to speak as of the date of the Original Report and does not otherwise change the Company’s Original Report, which is reproduced herein in its entirety for ease of reference.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Overview

Nalco Holding Company is the global leader in water, energy, air and process technologies and services that deliver savings for customers and improve the environment. Our principal executive offices are located at 1601 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois, 60563.

On August 31, 2003, Nalco Holdings LLC, our subsidiary and a company formed by The Blackstone Group, Apollo Management, L.P. and GS Capital Partners (the “Sponsors”), entered into a stock purchase agreement pursuant to which it agreed to purchase all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of Ondo Nalco Company (which is now known as Nalco Company) and the Nalco International SAS Subsidiaries, which had been operated as a single business unit, from subsidiaries of Suez S.A. (“Suez” or “Seller”). The Transactions closed on November 4, 2003. In this report, we refer to this acquisition as the “Acquisition,” and the term “Transactions” means, collectively, the Acquisition and the related financings to fund the Acquisition.

All references in this report to “Nalco,” “the “Company,” “we,” “our,” and “us” mean, unless the context indicates otherwise, (1) Nalco Holding Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates on a consolidated basis, (2) the Predecessor, and (3) the Successor. In addition, when the context so requires, we use the term “Predecessor” to refer to the historical operations of the Predecessor prior to the Acquisition and “Successor” to refer to our historical operations following the Acquisition.

3D TRASAR®, ADOMITE®, BrightWater®, Clean n Cor®, EXTRA WHITE™, FREEFLOW®, OxiPRO™, PARETO™, PORTA-FEED®, RO TRASAR®, SMART Solutions®, SULFA-CHECK®, SurFlo Certified®, TIORCO®, TRASAR®, ULTIMER®, UltraTreat®, VALUELINE®, VANTAGE®, and certain other products and services named in this document are our registered trademarks and service marks.

Our programs and services are used in water treatment applications to prevent corrosion, contamination and the buildup of harmful deposits and in production processes to enhance process efficiency, extend asset life, improve our customers’ end products, and enhance air quality. We also help our customers reduce energy, water and other natural resource consumption, minimizing environmental releases while boosting their bottom line. Together our comprehensive solutions contribute to the sustainable development of customer operations.

Through our sales, service, research and marketing teams of more than 7,000 technically trained professionals, we serve more than 70,000 customer locations in a broad range of end markets, including aerospace, chemical, pharmaceutical, petroleum, steel, power, food and beverage, medium and light manufacturing, marine and pulp and papermaking industries as well as institutions such as hospitals, universities and hotels. We focus on providing our customers with sustainable, technologically advanced, engineered solutions and services.

We have an established global presence with more than 11,500 employees working in 130 countries, supported by a comprehensive network of manufacturing facilities, sales offices and research centers. This global presence provides a competitive advantage by enabling us to offer a high level of service to our local, regional and multinational customers.

In September 2008, we completed the sale of our Finishing Technologies surface treatment business to Chemetall Corp., a subsidiary of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. Proceeds from the sale were \$74.1 million, net of selling and other cash expenses of \$0.9 million, and resulted in a pre-tax gain of \$38.1 million. A plant in Jackson, Michigan, dedicated to the Finishing Technologies business, was included in the sale, along

with dedicated Finishing Technologies sales, service, marketing, research and supply chain employees. The sale also included products, goodwill, customer relationships and other related assets. On an after-tax basis, the transaction increased diluted earnings per share by 11 cents for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Our Competitive Strengths

Our Company has benefited from the following competitive strengths:

Leading Market Positions. We are the #1 provider of water treatment services to industrial and institutional end markets. We are also a leading provider of integrated water treatment and process improvement services, maintaining the #1 position in the petroleum and petrochemical markets and a #3 position in the pulp and paper market. We believe that our leading positions across our primary markets provide a competitive advantage in retaining existing business and competing for new business.

Diverse Customers and Industries Served. We provide products and services to more than 70,000 customer locations across a broad range of industries and institutions. In 2008, no single customer accounted for more than 3% of our net sales. Our business is also diversified geographically. In 2008, 48% of total sales were to customers in North America, 27% in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, 10% in Latin America and 15% in the Asia/Pacific region. We believe this diversification helps to lessen the impact of volatility from any one customer, industry or geographic area.

Global Reach. We have a direct sales and marketing presence in 130 countries across six continents. This enables us to provide a high level of service to local, regional and multinational customers. We believe our global presence offers us a competitive advantage to meet the global needs of our multinational customers, which are increasingly seeking single-source suppliers, and this positions us to extend our reach to higher growth markets. Our geographical diversity also mitigates the potential impact of volatility in any individual country or region. In 2008, we derived approximately \$2,328 million, or 55% of our net sales, from countries outside the United States (excluding sales to our U.S. operations).

World Class Sales Team. Through the expertise of our more than 7,000 sales engineers and service technicians, we provide our customers with relevant industry knowledge and experience in order to solve technically challenging and dynamic problems. Our team of experts has significant experience, with 40% of our approximately 2,000-person North American sales team having more than ten years of service with our Company. We believe this contributes significantly to the number and strength of relationships with our customers. We also invest heavily in recruiting and continuously training our sales professionals. For example, new hires spend more than half of their first year on training. Sales and marketing expense was \$969.1 million, \$909.7 million, and \$823.8 million for the years 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Of those amounts, approximately 90% represented the cost of our sales force, and their related expenses during these time periods.

Integrated Technology, Sales and Service. We combine on-site service, innovative technology and engineering excellence to create value for our customers. Our technical sales professionals identify problems and opportunities at the customer's plant and our research teams then work to develop effective solutions to these needs, often working jointly with our customers. Many of our customers specify our formulations into their processes and products. This approach has led to over 5,500 unique formulations, the development of more than 2,000 active patents worldwide and a high degree of customer loyalty.

Stable and Significant Cash Flow Generation. We have produced consistent cash flows and maintained high margins over a sustained period of time. We attribute this to (1) the diversity of our revenues, (2) the service nature of our business, (3) the high value we offer our customers, including through patented technology, (4) the strength of our customer relationships, (5) our limited dependency on any single raw material and (6) our low capital expenditures relative to our net sales.

Deep Management Team. Our senior management team consists of professionals with significant experience within our Company and the water treatment and industrial process improvement industry. J. Erik Fyrwald, a veteran of 28 years with E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, most recently as Group Vice President of its Agriculture and Nutrition Division, is our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. Bradley J. Bell, former Chief Financial Officer of Rohm and Haas Company, is our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Our Energy Services and European divisions are led by Steve M. Taylor and David Johnson, respectively, both long-time Nalco veterans. Additionally, established industry veterans who joined the Company in 2008, David E. Flitman and Eric G. Melin, lead our Water and Process Services and Asia/Pacific divisions, respectively.

Our Business Strategy

We have established a five-part business strategy designed to focus internal resources on the issues and opportunities with the greatest opportunity to improve our performance for many years to come.

1. Improve Safety.

Given our exposure to critical processes through a wide range of industrial applications, we put a strong focus on our ability to ensure that we maintain the safety of our customers and our employees. In 2008, we reduced our Total Recordable Incident Rate by 35 percent to 0.55 incidents per 100 workers. Improving our safety performance remains a critical objective of senior management.

2. Continue to Reduce Costs.

Our ongoing comprehensive cost productivity plan yielded savings in 2008 of \$94 million compared to 2007. Through work process redesign and other cost control initiatives, we achieved average annual savings of \$84 million over the past five years, compared to our historic annual target of \$75 million. With the challenging global economic conditions we faced as we entered 2009, we have now stepped up this commitment to \$100 million. We expect our cost reduction plan to achieve sustainable efficiencies using our Nalco Seven Steps process improvement methodology and the best of several other productivity improvement approaches. Our productivity improvement programs include focus on individual spending accountability, team- or department-based efficiency improvements, and mid-sized and larger transformational process improvements. All of these efforts target greater efficiencies in our sales, marketing, service, supply chain and corporate functions globally. We pay particular attention to ensuring that internal efficiency efforts are developed with a clear focus on improving customer service levels.

3. Generate Focused, Profitable Growth.

We have historically experienced sales growth in excess of industrial production growth in our core markets. We are now pursuing a strategy designed to double our real sales growth rate over a period of several years, although we expect that economic conditions as this is written will restrain our ability to make progress on this front in 2009. We define real sales growth as organic growth less price that is designed simply to pass on higher raw material and freight costs. The key elements of our growth strategy are:

- **Pursue High-Growth Geographies.** We intend to continue to focus on high-growth markets and segments, implementing a “BRIC+” strategy that prioritizes resources — particularly hiring and training sales engineers — to areas with the greatest growth potential. Over the long term, we believe Brazil, Russia, India and China are among the countries offering the highest growth potential. Modernization in those markets is expected to drive water treatment growth at a rate faster than industrial production. In the near term, China and India are our top growth priorities. The “+” part of the BRIC+ strategy is focused on markets with emerging or expanding oil, refining and petrochemical operations, including the Caspian, Middle East and West Africa.
- **Maintain Technological Leadership.** We invest to develop new technologies and products through a focused commitment to technology, research and development. The evolution of our existing products and the development of new technologies have historically allowed us to sustain and enhance the profitability of our business and further penetrate our target markets,

including our existing customer base. For example, over the past 15 years we have developed several generations of our TRASAR automated feed and control technology for cooling water treatment programs. We launched the latest generation of this technology, our 3D TRASAR cooling water stress management program, in 2004. In 2007, we extended our reach with this platform by introducing 3D TRASAR Technology for Reverse Osmosis membrane control. In 2009, we are further expanding on this breakthrough technology system by broadly introducing 3D TRASAR Control Technology for Boilers in many industrial markets. Our engineers will continue to work closely with our customers in an effort to identify new product opportunities and jointly develop new technologies.

- ***Pursue High-Growth Industry Segments.*** While we have shown the ability to exceed market growth rates even in many mature markets through innovative technology and advanced engineering, monitoring and control services, we believe that selecting the right industries on which to focus resources helps us exceed underlying market growth rates. In the late 1990s, we decided to disproportionately invest in research, development and training resources to support fast growth in the deepwater oil production industry. As a result, we continue to capture over 65% of business on these large platforms, exceeding our average market share in our overall Energy Services business. In addition to substantial investments in internally developed technology, we continue to pursue technology ventures and acquisitions that expand the expertise we can bring to customers in growing segments. We believe clean air technologies will grow faster than other areas, and are increasing resources dedicated to Nalco Mobotec combustion efficiency and air emission control applications. Through acquiring an 87.5% interest in Mobotec USA in late 2007, we now have the capability to reduce many critical air pollutants, including greenhouse gases, nitrogen and sulfur oxides (NO_x /SO_x), mercury, hydrogen chloride and particulates. During 2008, we acquired TIORCO, Inc. to add reservoir-engineering expertise to our enhanced oil recovery offering, and GL OneSource to expand our natural gas production maximization offering. We also bought Data Mobility Systems to expand our engineered modeling capabilities to optimize performance of various customer processes and Veranum Tempus Engenharia to expand our indoor climate control capabilities.
- ***Build Upon Our Customer Base.*** We seek to strengthen our position with our existing customer base as well as pursue new customers by continuing to serve as the leading global provider of fully integrated water treatment services and industrial process solutions, while building an air quality control platform. An essential element of our strategy is to continue integrating our sales and technical staff into our customers' daily operations and process planning. Historically, this strategy has allowed us to expand our service and product offerings with existing customers and has led to the development of new technologies. We continually seek to add value for our customers by identifying those services, products and equipment that will enhance their profitability through reduced costs, improved yields and decreased capital spending — generally with substantial environmental benefits that include water use reduction, improved water quality, energy efficiency, waste reductions and air quality improvements.
- ***Benefit from our Global Resource Advantage.*** As one of a small number of companies that can provide turnkey water management solutions on a global basis, we seek to leverage our relationships with multinational companies by servicing them globally. We expect to benefit significantly as larger customers further consolidate their supplier base and increase their reliance on full service providers, such as our Company.

4. Improve Cash Flow.

We believe that there are significant opportunities to increase our cash flow. We believe that the capital expenditures required to maintain our business are low relative to our sales. We generally expect capital expenditures at or near \$100 to \$130 million annually. In 2009, we expect to spend about \$120 to \$130 million. In 2007 and 2008, net capital expenditures were \$114.6 million and \$133.1 million, respectively. Working capital management remains a source of opportunity for our Company. While management has historically focused on particular components of working capital, the large increase in raw material costs and commensurate price increases achieved to cover these costs have substantially driven up working

capital requirements during the past several years. This working capital demand was further stretched in 2008 as inventories were increased to avoid potential customer service disruptions, and then only modestly reduced by the end of the year when those disruptions no longer loomed as a threat. Through a new integrated business management approach, combined with improved Sales and Operations Planning processes, we intend to reduce inventories meaningfully in the coming years. During 2008, improvements in Days Sales Outstanding during the first three quarters of the year were offset in the final months of the year as customers slowed the pace of paying receivables back to near levels that existed at the start of 2008. During the year ended December 31, 2008, we used cash flow from operations of \$283.1 million for capital expenditures, share repurchase activities, several small acquisitions, common stock dividends, and modest debt payments.

5. Strengthen our Future.

Several elements of our operations are critical to our long-term success, including training and developing our people, developing improved recognition of our global brand, increasing customer satisfaction through a broader and more thorough implementation of our Six Service Standards approach to customer service management, and development of ever-increasing value from our technology pipeline. All of these issues attract substantial and ongoing senior leadership attention.

Our Segments and Offerings

	<u>Industrial and Institutional Services</u>	<u>Energy Services</u>	<u>Paper Services</u>
Market Positions	\$7.5 billion global market (1)(2) #1 Market Position	\$4.8 billion global market (1) #1 Market Position	\$8.5 billion global market (1) #3 Market Position
Market Share (3)	18%	32%	9%
2008 Net Sales(4)	\$1,813 million	\$1,506 million	\$777 million
Representative Markets	Food, Beverage Buildings, Hotels, Hospitals Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing, Metals, Power Utilities, Mining, Marine	Exploration Field Development Production Refining Petrochemical Manufacturing	Fine Paper Uncoated Free Sheet Coated Free Sheet Newsprint Tissue and Towel Containerboard

(1) Approximate market size based on internal estimates and industry publications and surveys.

(2) Represents the water treatment and services markets, which accounted for approximately 72% of our Industrial and Institutional Services (I&IS) segment's net sales in 2008.

(3) Market share calculations include end-market allocations from an all-inclusive Emerging Market business unit within I&IS. Some chemical business and associated market size transferred from I&IS to Energy Services in 2008.

(4) Segment net sales exclude approximately \$116 million of sales reflected in our Other segment, including our sales through an Integrated Channels group.

Detailed results by Segment are available in Note 22 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Water and Process Services

Our new Water and Process Services Division encompasses two reporting segments – Paper Services, serving the pulp and paper industries, and Industrial and Institutional Services, which focuses on customers across industrial and institutional markets and will be renamed Water Services. Within both segments, we provide water, air and process applications aimed at combining environmental benefits with economic gains for our customers. Typically, water savings, energy savings, maintenance and capital expenditure avoidance are among the primary sources of value to our customers, with product quality improvements also being a key differentiating feature for many of our offerings.

Our offerings are organized according to the markets we serve so we can address the unique drivers faced by each segment. Innovative treatment of boiler water, cooling water, influent, and wastewater, along with practical solutions for process improvements and pollutant control, allow our customers to

capture benefits from our programs. Typically, these benefits are measured with a return on investment calculation that incorporates reductions in total costs of operation, capital expenditure avoidance and improvements in our customers' product pricing. We serve customers in the aerospace, chemical, pharmaceutical, mining and primary metals, power, food and beverage, medium and light manufacturing, marine and pulp and papermaking industries as well as institutional clients such as hospitals, universities, commercial buildings and hotels. Our Paper segment offers a comprehensive portfolio of programs that are used in all principal steps of the papermaking process and across all grades of paper, including graphic grades, board and packaging, and tissue and towel. We have typically served our largest customers in Water and Process Services for 15 years or longer. Our Industrial and Institutional segment generated net sales of \$1.8 billion in 2008, representing 43% of net sales. Our Paper Services segment generated 2008 net sales of \$777 million, representing 18% of our net sales.

Water Treatment Applications

Our water treatment capabilities are applied across our divisions. In the former Industrial and Institutional Services segment, water treatment programs accounted for 72% of net ongoing sales in 2008. Water applications accounted for 14% of net sales in our Paper segment. In our Energy Services segment, water applications accounted for 14% of net sales in 2008. The following descriptions include water treatment applications used across all of our segments.

Boiler Water Applications. Nalco is the world leader in boiler water treatment technology. We have more than 80 years of experience in this core area and continue to invest and innovate to enhance reliability, reduce water use and improve efficiency for our customers. Corrosion and scale buildup are the most common problems addressed by our boiler water treatment programs. We have helped our customers overcome various boiler system challenges by providing integrated chemical solutions, process improvements and mechanical component modifications to optimize boiler performance. In 2009, we are expanding introduction of 3D TRASAR Technology for Boilers to most industrial markets — adding cutting-edge automation and control capabilities to our offering.

Cooling Water Applications. Our cooling water treatment programs are designed to control the main problems associated with cooling water systems — corrosion, scale and microbial fouling and contamination — in open recirculating, once-through and closed systems. Our 3D TRASAR technology for cooling water is the world's first automated system for simultaneous control of corrosion, scale and microbial fouling and contamination. This multi-patented combination of services, equipment, chemistry, automation and control was recognized with a United States Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in 2008.

Wastewater Applications. Our wastewater products and programs focus on improving overall plant economics, addressing compliance issues, optimizing equipment efficiency and improving operator capabilities and effectiveness. This is accomplished by a team of highly trained sales engineers, marketers, and technical support staff members along with innovative programs, such as our water-based ULTIMER polymers, for which Nalco won a United States Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award and a Research and Development 100 Award in 1999.

Clean Air Technologies

Nalco's 2007 acquisition of an 87.5% interest in Mobotec USA, Inc., led to the formation of Nalco Mobotec, which provides innovative solutions to the world's global air pollution challenges and offers practical approaches for the control of nitrogen and sulfur oxides (NO_x /SO_x), carbon monoxide, mercury and particulates. Nalco Mobotec's patented solutions can accommodate fuel flexibility, biomass conversions, or co-firing in boilers. Instead of requiring major capital equipment purchases, its engineered solutions approach optimizes current assets. In addition to air quality improvements, Nalco Mobotec's technologies can increase combustion efficiency — saving on energy costs and reducing greenhouse gas releases.

Pulp and Papermaking Applications

Today's pulp and papermakers are under constant pressure to improve the overall efficiency of their operations in the face of excess capacity, shifting market demand for their finished products and escalating costs. To help our customers excel, we developed our SMART Solutions offering, a grade-based approach for improving customers' end-product performance and optimizing operational efficiency.

Pulp Applications. Careful management of fiber and energy resources is critical to both the quality and the efficiency of the pulping operation, especially when wood and energy costs force manufacturers to use variable sources of fiber. Our SMART Solutions for Fiber and Energy Management provide pulp manufacturers the answers to help increase efficiency, improve pulp quality and decrease the total cost of operation.

Whether it is the mechanical, chemical, or de-inked pulping process, our programs and services are designed and tailored to meet the individual customer's needs for every phase of the pulping and bleaching process. Our programs maximize process efficiency and increase pulp cleanliness and brightness in bleaching operations, as well as predict and monitor scaling potential utilizing on-line monitoring to design effective treatment programs and avoid costly failures.

Paper Applications. Our paper process applications focus on the key business drivers that our customers determine are critical to the success of their business. For example, manufacturers of board and packaging, graphic papers, and tissue and towel have very different customer needs. Maintaining strength in board and packaging is achieved very differently from the softness demanded by consumers of tissue and towel products. Different paper segments also have varying needs based on current market trends. Some may need to maximize production rates and optimize finished quality while others may need to improve operating efficiencies and reduce total cost of operations.

We integrate the entire papermaking process through mechanical, operational and chemical means to concentrate specifically on what our customers need to succeed in their market segments and improve overall their operational efficiency. Advanced sensing, monitoring and automation combine with innovative chemistries and detailed process knowledge to provide a broad range of customer solutions.

Our PARETO Technology for Wet-End Optimization improves and optimizes the delivery of retention aid chemicals to the paper machine while minimizing water and energy use for improved environmental performance. OxiPRO Technology for Deposit Control uses a combination of proactive monitoring tools, individually tailored chemistry strategies, and local application expertise to reduce sheet defects, improve runnability and increase paper machine uptime. EXTRA WHITE Technology for Brightness delivers cost-effective brightness and whiteness development in an environmentally friendly and safe manner, while having a positive impact on operational efficiency as compared to traditional brightness development methods.

Mining and Mineral Processing Applications

We provide a wide range of quality products, programs and services to help the mining and mineral processing industry improve product quality and productivity in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Specifically, these offerings help increase recovery of the valued mineral, improve water quality for re-use or discharge to the environment, reduce contaminants in our customers' products, increase plant throughput/utilization, reduce energy consumption, increase equipment life through scale and corrosion control and reduce or eliminate dust. The industries we serve include alumina and bauxite, coal, copper, precious metals, iron ore, aggregates, kaolin, phosphate, and soda ash.

Colloidal Technologies Applications

We invented and patented a commercial process for the production of stable concentrated silica solutions in 1941. Today, we operate one of the single largest colloidal silica facilities in the world, and our broad range of colloidal silica products, other specialty colloidal particles and complementary process chemicals are used in the polishing of silicon wafers, semiconductor chips, memory disks and other electronic substrates; in the manufacture of catalyst supports, vacuum formed shapes, high temperature refractories and specialty coatings; and in the precision investment casting of metal parts.

Membrane Technologies Applications

Membrane technology is being adopted at an ever-increasing rate as a cost-effective technology for purifying water for both industrial and potable applications. Our products address the needs of all types of membrane systems, ranging from seawater desalination and well and surface water purification, to advanced water recycle processes and wastewater treatment.

Odor Control Applications

We offer programs to combat odor based on three approaches: odor neutralization, precipitation and biological hydrogen sulfide prevention. Our odor control solutions treat a broad range of applications including roof vents, truck wash staging areas, landfills and garbage areas, HVAC equipment, automotive interiors, storage areas, sludge tanks, floor drains, lift stations, equalization tanks, digesters, gas scrubbers, aeration basins and clarifiers.

Environmental Hygiene Services

We offer a complete line of specialized services designed to assess, control and reduce risk from water-borne pathogens such as *Legionella*. Trained hygiene service specialists perform risk assessments to identify areas within water systems that could be at risk for pathogen proliferation. We then develop a site-specific, prioritized recommendation plan to reduce the risk of pathogen exposure that can lead to illnesses such as Legionnaires' Disease. Our water system Cleaning & Disinfection services remediate sources of pathogen risk. We also offer Pathogen Analytical services to measure program performance. Our protocols aim to help customers comply with guidelines created by professional organizations, state and federal government agencies, and local governments.

Energy Services

Our Energy Services division provides on-site, technology-driven solutions to the global natural gas, petroleum and petrochemical industries. In addition to recovery, production and process enhancements, we deliver a full range of water treatment offerings to refineries and petrochemical plants. Our upstream process applications improve oil and gas recovery and production, extend production equipment life and decrease operating costs through services that include scale, paraffin and corrosion control, oil and water separation, and gas hydrate management solutions. Our downstream process applications increase refinery and petrochemical plant efficiency and the useful lives of customer assets, while improving refined and petrochemical product quality and yields. We continue to emphasize safety and environmental leadership in our product development and implementation efforts. Our customers include nearly all of the largest publicly traded oil companies. Our 10 largest Energy Services customers in 2008 have been with us for more than 10 years, with most more than 20 years. Our Energy Services division generated 2008 net sales of \$1.5 billion, representing 36% of our net sales.

The Energy Services division is divided into a Downstream refinery and petrochemical processing service business and an Upstream group composed of our Oilfield Chemicals and Adomite business.

Adomite Well Service Applications

We support the Drilling/Exploration service industry by designing and supplying chemicals for drilling activities. Our Adomite business supplies chemicals for the cementing, drilling, fracturing and acidizing phases of oil and gas exploration, as well as conducting independent research and jointly developing products with major well service companies.

Oilfield Applications

Oil and natural gas production is increasing in harsh environments, including extreme temperature and pressure in remote locations. Exploration and production projects are gaining in scope and size, and the stakes have increased in flow assurance and infrastructure protection. Focusing on these new challenges, the Oilfield Chemicals group offers solutions to production flow challenges such as hydrate formation, paraffin deposition and emulsified streams.

We are the technology leader in the offshore marketplace. Our SurFlo certified products have undergone aggressive testing to ensure safety and effectiveness in offshore, deepwater and ultra-deepwater environments. Our FREEFLOW natural gas hydrate inhibition program represents an industry step-change, economically and safely displacing traditional hydrate control methods. Our expertise in new production techniques, such as seawater flood injection, helps our customers maximize the production of their operation while ensuring the safety and reliability of their infrastructure. Produced oil contains water that is costly to transport and is damaging to infrastructure. Our oil and water separation technologies and custom-blended products break oil and water emulsions, allowing water removal. Our water clarifiers work to purify the water and make it safe for environmental re-introduction.

Clean n Cor pipeline performance technology incorporates hands-on technical expertise with advanced chemistry and in-field monitoring to provide a comprehensive treatment solution that removes deposits from inner pipe walls and filter equipment and then prevents otherwise aggressive corrosion from taking place.

Enhanced Oil Recovery

In 2008 we formed a joint venture with Stepan Company to globally market custom-engineered chemical solutions that increase production of crude oil and gas from existing fields. Operating under the TIORCO brand, the company integrates enhanced oil recovery (EOR) processes by leveraging TIORCO's 30 years of experience in EOR polymer and reservoir expertise, Nalco's extensive reach in global upstream energy markets and Stepan's global surfactant technology and manufacturing capabilities. Customers receive seamless sales and service with the first unified approach to the EOR market – identifying, evaluating and implementing solutions that optimize oil recovery. TIORCO markets our proprietary BrightWater Reservoir Sweep Efficiency Technology that was jointly developed with major oil companies. Early applications of BrightWater have demonstrated crude oil production increases of 25% to 80% in test wells.

Downstream Refining Applications

Our industry-focused sales engineers provide process and water treatment applications specific to the petroleum refining and fuels industry, enabling our customers to profitably refine and upgrade hydrocarbons. Our heavy oil upgrading programs minimize operation costs and mitigate fouling, corrosion, foaming and the effects of heavy metals when refining lower-quality crude oils.

Our total systems approach to water and process enables our customers to minimize energy use on the utilities side. With advances in monitoring, chemistry and application, 3D TRASAR technology for cooling water has reduced shutdowns for customers, resulting in maximum operational efficiency.

Clean fuels regulations require drastic reduction in the level of sulfur allowed in fuels. Our H₂S Scavengers, such as the SULFA-CHECK system, help our customers to comply with all regulatory standards. We offer an entire line of fuel additives, including corrosion inhibitors, to protect engine fuel systems and pre-market underground storage tanks and piping. In addition, we offer fuel stabilizers, pour point depressants, cetane improvers, detergents and antioxidants for home heating oil and premium diesel and gasoline packages.

Downstream Chemical Processing Applications

Our industry-focused sales engineers provide on-site technical service and innovative chemical processing and water treatment technologies at more than 250 chemical plants in 45 countries worldwide. We guide chemical plants through obstacles that arise during operation and help maximize return on investment through products and services tailored to each customer's requirements, climate and logistics. We support olefins producers worldwide with proprietary treatment programs for ethylene and butadiene plant performance maximization.

Water Treatment Applications

We provide total water management solutions specific to customers' refining and chemical processing needs including boiler treatment, cooling water treatment and wastewater treatment. See "— Water and Process Services — Water Treatment Applications."

Our Services

Our business is focused on providing integrated solutions to complex issues for our customers. These solutions are often adapted on-site by our technical sales professionals, and our sales teams are supported by a variety of innovative service offerings.

Analytical Services

Our highly trained analytical researchers combine in-field work and laboratory analysis to develop recommendations. Our ISO 9001:2000-certified laboratories use state-of-the-art equipment, including mass and nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers and scanning electron microscopes, to conduct sample testing and process failure analysis for a range of water treatment and process applications. We have provided analytical services for more than 50 years and our more than 100 analytical researchers have an average of more than 10 years of experience in this field.

Consulting Services

Our on-site experts, industry technical consultants and researchers develop appropriate solutions for a broad range of customer requirements, such as single process optimization, system-wide program implementation, troubleshooting or increasing efficiencies. We provide numerous plant, process and application audits and surveys in water, energy or paper processing. We offer consulting for all water use and discharge areas and make recommendations for improvements, cost reductions or efficiency improvements through our Advanced Recycle Technology programs. Our technically trained sales professionals can also rely on guidance from a global knowledge management system that allows access to our specialized experts anywhere in the world. We take a multi-disciplinary approach to developing solutions by evaluating the mechanical, operational and chemical aspects of each process. By monitoring interactions among these three system components, our field engineers are able to anticipate and solve problems and prevent damage to customer processes. We utilize advanced database and computer analytical programs to support these efforts, including our VANTAGE database, which captures analytical data, prepares diagnostic images and reports on a real-time basis.

Technical and Field Services

We provide expert technical assistance for chemical feed and control equipment installation, start-up, calibration, preventative maintenance and repair throughout the world. In addition to the components we maintain regionally, we provide on-site services, including on-site testing, on-site system troubleshooting, inventory management, chemical usage determination, chemical dosage audits and cleaning services.

Customer Training

To educate our customers and promote more efficient and effective systems and processes in their operations, we have developed various classroom and online training programs that teach operators and engineers how to work more effectively and efficiently. We conduct water treatment seminars to formally train our customers how to use our equipment and chemicals and how to implement best practices. These water treatment workshops are held in a classroom setting, allowing attendees to discuss technical and industry-related issues among their peers and to review tailored answers to their operation-specific questions. Facilitators guide the attendees through various topics such as trending, energy management, cost implications, and best practices. These peer group discussions help the attendees troubleshoot and create informal support networks. Our interactive, Web-based program, Nalco Customer University, provides an economical and convenient alternative to our classroom seminars.

Equipment

We offer complete equipment systems as part of our integrated offering, ranging from reusable shipping containers and feed and process control equipment to integrated wireless, Web-based, data collection services. In addition, we offer a range of field test kits, process-monitoring equipment, and complete chemical feed and storage systems proven and tested for industrial environments.

We recognize the importance of accurate, reliable chemical feed to the success of manufacturing process and water treatment programs. Pre-packaged chemical feed systems ensure easy installation, start-up and reliable chemical feed, including our ValueLine Polymer Feeders and a line of modular pump and control systems. These chemical feed systems are used to pump chemicals into a customer's manufacturing and/or water treatment process. Some feed systems also have mixing technologies that produce high-quality solutions without using mechanical agitators. Additionally, we have set the standard for returnable chemical delivery systems and "hands-off" chemical handling. Our PORTA-FEED units are returnable shipping containers set up at a customer's plant to feed our chemicals into the customer's system. When the chemical level is low, a refill unit is delivered to the plant and we take the empty PORTA-FEED unit back for cleaning and re-use. Since the introduction of the PORTA-FEED program in 1985, we have eliminated the disposal of over four million chemical drums.

We also understand that it is crucial to all businesses to have the power to monitor and control their chemical treatment programs on an on-going basis in an efficient and easy-to-use manner. We have developed equipment that works with our innovative TRASAR and 3D TRASAR technology to provide real-time, on-line monitoring of actual chemical levels in a system. Through our TRASAR system, we chemically "bar-code" treatment molecules with a fluorescent tracer that reacts to specific light wavelengths. Once in the system, the tracer is optically excited and detected. Our equipment monitors the level of chemicals and continuously makes automatic adjustments as necessary through chemical injection systems linked to the TRASAR or 3D TRASAR controller. By preventing overfeeding and underfeeding, and eliminating the unnecessary application of chemicals, this real-time, on-line monitoring capability saves water and energy as well as improves efficiency, reliability and productivity.

We offer integrated UltraTreat systems that include industrial reverse osmosis systems, water softening equipment, multi-media and carbon filtration and high efficiency filters.

Joint Ventures

During our history, we have entered into general partnerships or joint ventures for limited scope business opportunities. We have a joint venture with Siemens Water Technologies Inc., Treated Water Outsourcing, to pursue process water treatment outsourcing projects and to supply standard water treatment equipment packages with our chemicals and service offerings. In June 2004, we entered into a joint venture with Katayama Chemical, Inc., or KCI, for the marketing and sale of our water treatment and process chemicals in Japan. KCI is a leading participant in these markets in Japan and the venture permits the combination of our broad product portfolio with KCI's strong market presence. This joint venture does not include manufacturing, research and administrative resources, which are provided to the joint venture by the parents. In 2008 we formed a joint venture with Stepan Company operating under the TIORCO brand to globally market custom engineered chemical solutions for increased production of crude oil and gas from existing fields. The joint venture is equally owned and controlled by Nalco and Stepan. The two partners will capture most of the value generation directly. Additionally, we maintain longstanding partnerships in Saudi Arabia, relating to base-water treatment, and in Spain, relating to oil-free emulsion polymers.

We will continue to evaluate the potential for partnerships and joint ventures that can assist us in increasing our geographic, technological and product reach. For example, we continue to evaluate partnerships that will expand our offerings to our middle market customers and that will permit us a more significant local identity in certain Asian countries.

Competition

Water management and process improvement service companies compete on the basis of their demonstrated value, technical expertise, chemical formulations, consulting services, detection equipment, monitoring services, and dosing and metering equipment. In general, the markets in which our Company competes are led by a few large companies, with the rest of the market served by smaller entities focusing on more limited geographic regions.

The market for water treatment chemicals is highly fragmented, but is led by our Company and GE Water Technologies. The remainder of the market is comprised of mainly regional and local players. Regional service providers tend to be mid-sized and focus either on a limited geographic region or a smaller subset of products and services and include companies such as Ashland Inc.'s Drew Industrial Division, Danaher Corporation's ChemTreat business, and Kurita Water Industries Ltd. Local players are smaller and tend to focus on servicing local businesses typically requiring less sophisticated applications.

The largest participants in the energy services sector are our Company, Baker Petrolite Corporation, GE Water Technologies and Champion Technologies, Inc. The remainder of the market consists of smaller, regional niche companies focused on limited geographic areas.

The market for specialty and water treatment chemicals used in the pulp and paper industry is fragmented. The top suppliers of water treatment services to the pulp and paper industry are our Company, Ashland's newly acquired Hercules business, Kemira Oyj, Akzo Nobel N.V.'s EKA Chemicals AB and BASF AG, which is in the process of acquiring Ciba Specialty Chemical Holding Inc. The remainder of the market is comprised of smaller, regional participants.

Research and Development

We benefit from a high quality research and development effort consisting of more than 490 personnel worldwide, more than 200 of whom have Ph.D.s, dedicated to developing new technology and providing support. Our laboratories, which are located in the United States, the Netherlands, China and Singapore, are involved in the research and development of chemical products and in providing technical support, including chemical analyses of water and process samples. Research and development spending was

\$74.0 million, \$66.1 million and \$60.9 million and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. In recent years, we have received numerous research and development awards, including a United States Presidential Green Chemistry Achievement Award in 2008 for our 3D TRASAR technology for cooling water.

We believe that continued research and development activities are critical to maintaining our leadership position within the industry and will provide us with a competitive advantage as we seek additional business with new and existing customers.

Intellectual Property

We own or have licenses to use a large number of patents relating to a large number of products and processes. We currently have nearly 600 patents in the United States and more than 2,000 worldwide with remaining durations ranging from less than one year to 20 years. The average remaining duration is approximately nine years. We also have nearly 300 registered U.S. trademarks covering our products. Our rights under such patents and licenses and trademarks are of significant importance in the operation of the business. Patents related to our TRASAR and 3D TRASAR technology and trademarks related to Nalco Company and Calgon are considered material to our business. We believe that no other patent, trademark or license is material to our business.

Raw Materials

We purchase more than 6,900 raw materials, with the largest single raw material representing less than 1% of sales, or less than 3% of raw material purchases. While single raw material purchases are not significant to us, we do purchase similar categories of products in many cases. Four categories of raw material purchases each represented more than 10% of our total North American purchases in a recent analysis: Organics; Monomers; Polymers; and Solvents, Oils and Alcohols. In addition, another four categories of raw materials each accounted for more than 5% of our raw material purchases: Amines; Surfactants; Biocides; and Inorganics and Salts. Our raw material purchases also include a variety of packages, bases, defoamers, fatty acids and phosphonates, among many other types of materials. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, we purchased direct materials valued at \$1,265.0 million, \$1,126.0 million and \$1,053.0 million, respectively. In addition, joint ventures consolidated by us made direct material purchases valued at \$88.0, \$79.7 million and \$60.6 million in the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Working Capital

To better serve and meet the needs of our customers, approximately 14% of our inventories are maintained at customer sites as consignment inventories. Although the consignment inventory model is in place throughout the world, its use is most prevalent in North America. The decision to put inventory at a customer's site is usually based on a request from the customer. Processes are in place to follow movements, and inventory quantities at most sites are physically counted at least annually to validate these processes and to ensure that the accounting records are properly stated.

Employees

As of December 31, 2008, we had about 11,770 employees, of whom approximately 4,790 were employed in North America, approximately 3,015 were employed in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, approximately 1,680 were employed in Latin America and approximately 2,285 were employed in the Pacific region. We consider relations with our employees to be good.

Environmental Matters

Governmental provisions regulating the discharge of materials into the environment or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment, have had, and will continue to have, an effect on us and on

our operations. Under some environmental laws, we may be jointly and severally liable for the costs of environmental contamination on or emanating from our properties and at off-site locations where we disposed or arranged for the disposal or treatment of regulated materials, and may also incur liability for damages to natural resources. We have made and continue to make expenditures for projects relating to the environment. We are currently identified as a potentially responsible party at certain contaminated waste disposal sites. We do not anticipate that these matters will result in material liabilities; however, there can be no assurance that discovery of previously unknown conditions or other circumstances will not require significant expenditures by us.

We do not believe that compliance with environmental protection laws and regulations will have a material effect upon our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position, although there can be no assurance to that effect. Our capital expenditures for environmental control facilities during 2009 and future periods are not presently expected to be material to us. We believe that any liability that may result from the resolution of environmental matters for which sufficient information is available to support cost estimates will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations. However, we cannot predict the effect on our financial position of expenditures for aspects of certain matters for which there is insufficient information. In addition, we cannot predict the effect of compliance with environmental laws and regulations with respect to unknown environmental matters or future environmental requirements on our financial position, results of operations, liquidity or cash flow.

We have been named as a defendant in multi-party lawsuits based on our claimed involvement in the supply of allegedly hazardous materials. The plaintiffs seek damages for alleged personal injury or the potential of personal injury resulting from exposure to various chemicals. These matters have had *de minimis* impact on our business historically, and we do not anticipate that these matters present any material risk to our business or competitive position in the future. Notwithstanding our past experience, we cannot predict with certainty the outcome of any such tort claims or the involvement we might have in such matters in the future.

We are also subject to a variety of regulations relating to the production and handling of our products, as well as the conduct and condition of our production facilities. We do not believe that these regulatory requirements will have a material effect on capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position. Recently adopted chemical registration regulations in the European Union, referred to as REACH, will result in additional costs to us and our competitors. These costs are presently not anticipated to materially impact earnings or our competitive position and we have developed a program to meet the regulations.

Executive Officers

Name	Title	Age
J. Erik Frywald	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	49
Bradley J. Bell	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	56
David E. Flitman	Executive Vice President and President, Water and Process Services Division	44
David Johnson	Executive Vice President and President, Europe, Africa and Middle East	48
Mary Kay Kaufmann	Chief Marketing Officer	49
Scott C. Mason	Senior Vice President, Supply Chain and Safety, Health and Environment	49
Eric G. Melin	Executive Vice President and President, Asia Pacific	48
Dr. Manian Ramesh	Chief Technology Officer	51
Steve M. Taylor	Executive Vice President and President, Energy Services Division	46
John P. Yimoyines	Group Vice President, Business Optimization	60

J. Erik Fyrwald has been our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer since February 2008. From 2003 to 2008, Mr. Fyrwald served as Group Vice President of the Agriculture and Nutrition division of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

Bradley J. Bell has been our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since joining us in November 2003. From 1997 to 2003, Mr. Bell served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Rohm and Haas Company.

David E. Flitman is our Executive Vice President and President, Water and Process Services division. Prior to joining Nalco in August 2008, Mr. Flitman was President of Allegheny Power, the energy delivery arm of Allegheny Energy Inc. He joined Allegheny in 2005 as Vice President of Distribution. Before that, he was Global Business Director for the Nonwovens Business Group of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

David Johnson is our Executive Vice President and President of Europe, Africa, Middle East (EAME). In May 2007, he was named Group Vice President and President of Europe, Africa, Middle East (EAME) Operations. Prior to that, Mr. Johnson was Vice President of the global Downstream business for our Energy Services division since 2006. He was the Global Strategic Business Leader for Energy Services Downstream from 2004 to 2005. In 2003, Mr. Johnson was General Sales Manager for the Downstream business in North America.

Mary Kay Kaufmann is our Chief Marketing Officer. She has held this position since August 2008. In May 2007, she was named Group Vice President and President, Industrial and Institutional Services — Middle Market. Beginning in 2006, Ms. Kaufmann was Vice President, Nalco Business Transformation Team. From 2004 to 2006, she was Strategic Business Unit Leader for Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical industries in the Americas and Europe. Ms. Kaufmann was Vice President of Sales for I&IS — North America from 2002 to 2004.

Scott C. Mason is our Senior Vice President, Supply Chain and Safety, Health and Environment. He joined us in January 2006 as Group Vice President and President, Alternate Channels and Operations Planning. In May 2007, he took on the added responsibility for our Global Supply Chain, including all manufacturing and procurement. Effective October 2008, he took responsibility for our Safety, Health and Environment operations. Mr. Mason was formerly Vice President of GrafTech International Ltd. and served as President, Advanced Carbon Solutions (2005). He was President, Graphite Power Systems from 2003 to 2005. He was elected Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Carbon Savoie (France) from 2003 to 2005, and he was elected Chief Executive Officer and President, UCAR SpA (Italy) from 2003 to 2005.

Eric G. Melin is Executive Vice President and President, Asia Pacific. Prior to being named to his present position in September 2008, Mr. Melin worked for Nalco as a consultant on growth in Asia. Prior to that, he had been Chief Operating Officer, President and Board Member of Isola Corporation, a private-equity-owned global designer, developer and manufacturer of high-performance materials used in electronic systems. Before joining Isola in 2006, he was Vice President and General Manager of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company's Refinish Systems.

Dr. Manian Ramesh was named Chief Technology Officer in September 2008. Prior to that, he had been our Corporate Vice President for Research and Development since May 2007; Vice President, Process, Water and Core Technologies from July 2006 to May 2007; Vice President, Water and Core Technologies from October 2003 to July 2006; and Vice President, Research and Development from September 2002 to October 2003.

Steve M. Taylor is Executive Vice President and President, Energy Services division. From May 2007 until January 2009, he was Group Vice President and President of our Energy Services division. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Upstream Energy Services since 2006. In 2005, Mr. Taylor served as

Strategic Business Unit Leader of our Oilfield Chemicals group. In 2004, he was named Division Vice President of Marketing for Upstream and Downstream in our Energy Services division. From 2002 to 2004, Mr. Taylor served as Worldwide Marketing Manager.

John P. Yimoyines is our Group Vice President, Business Optimization. From June 2006 until January 2009, he was Group Vice President and President, Paper Services division. Prior to joining us, Mr. Yimoyines spent 35 years in the chemical industry working first for Union Carbide and then Dow after the acquisition of Union Carbide by Dow.

Web Site

The Company's Web site address is www.nalco.com. The Company makes available free of charge on or through its Web site its Code of Ethical Business Conduct, Officer Code of Ethics, annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Web site also includes the Company's corporate governance guidelines and the charters for the audit, compensation, nominating and corporate governance and safety, health and environment committees of the Board of Directors.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

If we are unable to respond to the changing needs of a particular industry and to anticipate, respond to or utilize changing technologies and develop new offerings, it could become more difficult for us to respond to our customers' needs and cause us to be less competitive.

We have historically been able to maintain our market positions and margins through continuous innovation of products and development of new offerings to create value for our customers. Recent innovations and developments that we have relied on include our 3D TRASAR system for controlling and monitoring chemical feed. We may not be successful in continuing to make similar innovations in the future. Our future operating results will depend to a significant extent on our ability to continue to introduce new products and applications and to develop new offerings that offer distinct value for our customers. Many of our products may be affected by rapid technological change and new product introductions and enhancements. We expect to continue to enhance our existing products and identify, develop and manufacture new products with improved capabilities and make improvements in our productivity in order to maintain our competitive position. We intend to devote sizeable resources to the development of new technologically advanced products and systems and to continue to devote a substantial amount of expenditures to the research and development functions of our business. However, we cannot assure you that:

- we will be successful in developing new products or systems or bringing them to market in a timely manner;
- products or technologies developed by others will not render our offerings obsolete or non-competitive;
- the market will accept our innovations;
- our competitors will not be able to produce our core non-patented products at a lower cost;
- we will have sufficient resources to research and develop all promising new technologies and products; or
- significant research and development efforts and expenditures for products will ultimately prove successful.

Our ability to anticipate, respond to and utilize changing technologies is crucial because we compete with many companies in each of the markets in which we operate. For example, we compete with hundreds of companies in the water treatment chemicals market, including our largest global water treatment competitor, GE Water Technologies. Our ability to compete effectively is based on a number of considerations, such as product and service innovation, product and service quality, distribution capability and price. Moreover, water treatment for industrial customers depends on the particular needs of the industry. For example, the paper industry requires a specific water quality for bleaching paper; certain industrial boilers require demineralized water; the pharmaceuticals industry requires ultra pure water for processing; and, in the case of municipal services, water treatment includes clarification for re-use, sludge dewatering and membrane ultra filtration. We may not have sufficient financial resources to respond to the changing needs of a particular industry and to continue to make investments in our business, which could cause us to become less competitive.

Our substantial leverage could harm our business by limiting our available cash and our access to additional capital.

As of December 31, 2008, our total consolidated indebtedness was \$3,223.4 million and we had \$250.0 million of borrowing capacity available under our revolving credit facility (excluding \$21.1 million of outstanding letters of credit).

Our high degree of leverage could have important consequences for you, including the following:

- It may limit our and our subsidiaries' ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, product development, debt service requirements, acquisitions and general corporate or other purposes on favorable terms or at all;

- A substantial portion of our subsidiaries' cash flows from operations must be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on their and our indebtedness and thus will not be available for other purposes, including operations, capital expenditures and future business opportunities;
- It may limit our ability to adjust to changing market conditions and place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to those of our competitors that are less highly-leveraged;
- It may restrict our ability to make strategic acquisitions or cause us to make non-strategic divestitures; and
- We may be more vulnerable than a less leveraged company to a downturn in general economic conditions or in our business, or we may be unable to carry out capital spending that is important to our growth.
- \$887.0 million of our term debt matures in 2010. Current economic conditions have resulted in tighter business credit, and thus our ability to refinance or do so with desirable interest rates or other terms may be limited, and may be further jeopardized by the goodwill impairment charge recorded in 2008.

At December 31, 2008, we had \$1,071.1 million of variable rate debt. A 1% increase in the average interest rate would increase future interest expense by approximately \$10.7 million per year.

Despite our current leverage, we may still be able to substantially increase our indebtedness. This could further exacerbate the risks that we and our subsidiaries face.

We and our subsidiaries may be able to substantially increase our indebtedness in the future. The terms of the indentures governing our subsidiaries' notes do not fully prohibit our subsidiaries or us from doing so. Nalco Company's revolving credit facility provides commitments of up to \$250.0 million, all of which would have been available for future borrowings as of December 31, 2008 (excluding \$21.1 million of outstanding letters of credit). If new debt is added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we and our subsidiaries now face could intensify.

Our subsidiaries' debt agreements contain restrictions that limit our flexibility in operating our business.

Nalco Company's senior credit agreement and the indentures governing our subsidiaries' existing notes contain a number of significant covenants that, among other things, restrict our or our subsidiaries' ability to:

- incur additional indebtedness;
- pay dividends on or make other distributions or repurchase certain capital stock;
- make certain investments;
- enter into certain types of transactions with our affiliates;
- pay dividends or other payments by restricted subsidiaries;
- use assets as security in other transactions; and
- sell certain assets or merge with or into other companies.

In addition, under the senior credit agreement, Nalco Holdings LLC is required to satisfy and maintain specified financial ratios and tests. Events beyond our control may affect its ability to comply with those provisions and Nalco Holdings LLC may not be able to meet those ratios and tests. The breach of any of these covenants would result in a default under the senior credit agreement and the lenders could elect to declare all amounts borrowed under the senior credit agreement, together with accrued interest, to be due and payable and could proceed against the collateral securing that indebtedness.

The terms of Nalco Company's senior credit agreement limit Nalco Holdings LLC and its subsidiaries from paying dividends or otherwise transferring their assets to us.

Our operations are conducted through our subsidiaries and our ability to make payments on any obligations we may have is dependent on the earnings and the distribution of funds from our subsidiaries. However, the terms of Nalco Company's senior credit agreement limit the amount of dividends and other transfers by Nalco Holdings LLC and its subsidiaries to us.

The effects of the recent global economic crisis may impact our business, operating results or financial condition.

The recent global economic crisis has caused a general tightening in the credit markets, lower levels of liquidity, increases in the rates of default and bankruptcy, and extreme volatility in credit, equity and fixed income markets. These macroeconomic developments could negatively affect our business, operating results or financial condition in a number of ways, including impairments of goodwill and other intangible and tangible assets. When general economic conditions deteriorate, we may suffer reductions in our sales and profitability. In addition, the financial stability of our customers and suppliers may be compromised, which could result in additional bad debts for us or non-performance by suppliers. We may also find it more costly or difficult to obtain financing to fund operations or investment opportunities, or to refinance our debt in the future.

Our significant non-U.S. operations expose us to global economic and political changes that could impact our profitability.

We have significant operations outside the United States, including joint ventures and other alliances. We conduct business in approximately 130 countries and, in 2008, approximately 55% of our net sales originated outside the United States and some of our business is conducted in politically unstable countries such as Venezuela. There are inherent risks in our international operations, including:

- exchange controls and currency restrictions;
- currency fluctuations and devaluations;
- tariffs and trade barriers;
- export duties and quotas;
- changes in local economic conditions;
- changes in laws and regulations;
- difficulties in managing international operations and the burden of complying with foreign laws;
- exposure to possible expropriation or other government actions;
- restrictions on our ability to repatriate dividends from our subsidiaries;
- unsettled political conditions and possible terrorist attacks against American interests; and
- countries whose governments have been hostile to U.S.-based businesses.

Our international operations also expose us to different local political and business risks and challenges. For example, in certain countries we are faced with periodic political issues that could result in currency risks or the risk that we are required to include local ownership or management in our businesses. We are also periodically faced with the risk of economic uncertainty, which has impacted our business in these countries. Other risks in international business also include difficulties in staffing and managing local operations, including our obligations to design local solutions to manage credit risk to local customers and distributors.

Our overall success as a global business depends, in part, upon our ability to succeed in differing economic, social and political conditions. We may not continue to succeed in developing and implementing policies and strategies that are effective in each location where we do business, which could negatively affect our profitability.

Environmental, safety and production and product regulations or concerns could subject us to liability for fines or damages, require us to modify our operations and increase our manufacturing and delivery costs.

We are subject to the requirements of environmental and occupational safety and health laws and regulations in the United States and other countries. These include obligations to investigate and clean up environmental contamination on or from properties or at off-site locations where we are identified as a responsible party. For example, we are currently identified as a potentially responsible party at certain waste management sites. We have also been named as a defendant in multi-party and individual lawsuits based on claims of exposure to hazardous materials and claims that our products are defective or dangerous. We have also been named as a defendant in lawsuits where our products have not caused injuries, but the claimants wish to be monitored for potential future injuries. We cannot predict with certainty the outcome of any such tort claims or the involvement we or our products might have in such matters in the future and there can be no assurance that the discovery of previously unknown conditions will not require significant expenditures. In each of these chemical exposure cases, our insurance carriers have accepted the claims on our behalf (with or without reservation) and our financial exposure should be limited to the amount of our deductible; however, we cannot predict the number of claims that we may have to defend in the future and we may not be able to continue to maintain such insurance.

On November 27, 2006, the U.K. Health and Safety Executive (“HSE”) issued a summons charging one of our subsidiaries with a violation of the Health and Safety at Work Act. The summons was re-issued in the Crown Court of Worcester on July 23, 2007. The charge relates to a *Legionella* outbreak that is claimed to have originated at cooling towers owned by one of the subsidiary’s customers. The *Legionella* outbreak is believed to have resulted in two fatalities and multiple injuries. The customer, H.P. Bulmer Limited, was also charged. Our subsidiary submitted a guilty plea to a portion of the charge, exposing non-employees to a health risk, on September 3, 2007. Similarly, our subsidiary’s customer submitted a guilty plea. On July 1, 2008, the Crown Court issued a penalty of £300,000 (\$0.6 million) and court costs of £50,000 (\$0.1 million) against our subsidiary relating to this violation. An identical penalty was issued against the subsidiary’s customer.

We have made and will continue to make capital and other expenditures to comply with environmental requirements. Although we believe we are in material compliance with environmental law requirements, we may not have been and will not at all times be in complete compliance with all of these requirements, and may incur material costs, including fines or damages, or liabilities in connection with these requirements in excess of amounts we have reserved. In addition, these requirements are complex, change frequently and have tended to become more stringent over time. In the future, we may discover previously unknown contamination that could subject us to additional expense and liability. In addition, future requirements could be more onerous than current requirements.

The activities at our production facilities are subject to a variety of federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations (“production regulations”). Similarly, the solid, air and liquid waste streams produced from our production facilities are subject to a variety of regulations (“waste regulations”) and many of our products and the handling of our products are governmentally regulated or registered (“product regulations”). Each of the production, waste and product regulations is subject to expansion or enhancement. Any new or tightened regulations could lead to increases in the direct and indirect costs we incur in manufacturing and delivering products to our customers. For example, the European Commission has imposed new chemical registration requirements on the manufacturers and users of all chemicals, not just those which are considered to be harmful or hazardous. Such regulations, referred to as REACH, will cause all chemical companies to incur additional costs to conduct their businesses in

European Commission countries. Similarly, the need for certain of our products and services is dependent upon — or triggered by — governmental regulation, and changes in such regulation could impact our sales of these products or services. In addition to an increase in costs in manufacturing and delivering products, a change in production regulations or product regulations could result in interruptions to our business and potentially cause economic or consequential losses should we be unable to meet the demands of our customers for products.

We may not be able to achieve all of our expected cost savings.

For the years 2004 through 2008, our average annual cost savings were \$84 million. In 2008, we achieved cost savings of \$94 million, which was well above our target of \$75 million. A variety of risks could cause us not to achieve the benefits of our expected cost savings, including, among others, the following:

- higher than expected severance costs related to staff reductions;
- higher than expected retention costs for employees that will be retained;
- delays in the anticipated timing of activities related to our cost-saving plan, including the reduction of inefficiencies in our administrative and overhead functions; and
- other unexpected costs associated with operating the business.

We have experienced in the past, and could again experience in the future, difficulties in securing the supply of certain raw materials we and our competitors need to manufacture some of our products, and we have also been impacted by significant increases in raw material costs.

In 2004 and 2006, certain of the raw materials used by us and other chemical companies faced supply limitation. If these limitations occur again in the future, we risk shortfalls in our sales and the potential of claims from our customers if we are unable to fully meet contractual requirements.

Also, limitations on raw materials and rising prices for underlying materials have resulted in the past, and could result in the future, in price increases for raw materials we purchase. In the past, our margins have been impacted by such raw materials price increases, and our margins could be similarly impacted in the future if we are unable to pass any future raw material price increases through to our customers.

Our pension plans are currently underfunded and we may have to make significant cash payments to the plans, reducing the cash available for our business.

We sponsor various pension plans worldwide that are underfunded and require significant cash payments. For example, in 2007 and 2008, we contributed \$86.8 million and \$86.2 million, respectively, to our pension plans. We expect to contribute at least \$85.0 million to the U.S. pension plan in 2009. We may also opt to make additional voluntary contributions to various pension plans worldwide in 2009. If the performance of the assets in our pension plans does not meet our expectations, or if other actuarial assumptions are modified, our contributions could be even higher than we expect. If our cash flow from operations is insufficient to fund our worldwide pension liability, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, seek additional capital or seek to restructure or refinance our indebtedness.

As of December 31, 2008, our worldwide pension plans were underfunded by \$321.8 million (based on the actuarial assumptions used for purposes of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 87, *Employers' Accounting for Pensions*). Our U.S. pension plans are subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA. Under ERISA, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or PBGC, has the authority to terminate an underfunded pension plan under certain circumstances. In the event our U.S. pension plans are terminated for any reason while the plans are underfunded, we will incur a liability to the PBGC that may be equal to the entire amount of the underfunding.

We have recorded a significant amount of goodwill and other identifiable intangible assets, and we may never realize the full value of our intangible assets.

We have recorded a significant amount of goodwill and other identifiable intangible assets, including customer relationships, trademarks and developed technologies. Goodwill and other net identifiable intangible assets were approximately \$2.8 billion as of December 31, 2008, or approximately 55% of our total assets. Goodwill, which represents the excess of cost over the fair value of the net assets of the businesses acquired, was approximately \$1.7 billion as of December 31, 2008, or 34% of our total assets. Goodwill and net identifiable intangible assets are recorded at fair value on the date of acquisition and, in accordance with SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, will be reviewed at least annually for impairment. Impairment may result from, among other things, deterioration in our performance, adverse market conditions, adverse changes in applicable laws or regulations, including changes that restrict the activities of or affect the products and services sold by our business, and a variety of other factors. We recognized a \$544.2 million goodwill impairment charge in 2008. Some of the products and services we sell to our customers are dependent upon laws and regulations, and changes to such laws or regulations could impact the demand for our products and services. The amount of any quantified impairment must be expensed immediately as a charge to results of operations. Depending on future circumstances, it is possible that we may never realize the full value of our intangible assets. Any future determination of impairment of a significant portion of goodwill or other identifiable intangible assets would have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our future success will depend in part on our ability to protect our intellectual property rights, and our inability to enforce these rights could permit others to offer products competitive with ours, which could reduce our ability to maintain our market position and maintain our margins.

We rely on the patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret laws of the United States and other countries to protect our intellectual property rights. However, we may be unable to prevent third parties from using our intellectual property without authorization. The use of our intellectual property by others could reduce any competitive advantage we have developed or otherwise harm our business. If we had to litigate to protect these rights, any proceedings could be costly, and we may not prevail.

We have obtained and applied for several U.S. and foreign trademark registrations, and will continue to evaluate the registration of additional service marks and trademarks, as appropriate. Our pending applications may not be approved by the applicable governmental authorities and, even if the applications are approved, third parties may seek to oppose or otherwise challenge these registrations. A failure to obtain trademark registrations in the United States and in other countries could limit our ability to protect our trademarks and impede our marketing efforts in those jurisdictions.

We may be subject to information technology system failures, network disruptions and breaches in data security.

We rely to a large extent upon sophisticated information technology systems and infrastructure. The size and complexity of our computer systems make them potentially vulnerable to breakdown, malicious intrusion and random attack. Likewise, data privacy breaches by employees and others with permitted access to our systems may pose a risk that sensitive data may be exposed to unauthorized persons or to the public. While we have invested heavily in protection of data and information technology, there can be no assurance that our efforts will prevent breakdowns or breaches in our systems that could adversely affect our business.

The market price of our common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.

Securities markets worldwide experience significant price and volume fluctuations. This market volatility, as well as general economic, market or potential conditions, could reduce the market price of

our common stock in spite of our operating performance. In addition, our operating results could be below the expectations of securities analysts and investors, and in response, the market price of our common stock could decrease significantly.

Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware law may discourage a takeover attempt.

Provisions contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware law could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so might be beneficial to our stockholders. Provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws impose various procedural and other requirements, which could make it more difficult for stockholders to effect certain corporate actions. For example, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our Board of Directors to determine the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of unissued series of preferred stock, without any vote or action by our stockholders. Thus, our Board of Directors can authorize and issue shares of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting or other rights of holders of our common stock. These rights may have the effect of delaying or deterring a change of control of our company. In addition, a change of control of our company may be delayed or deterred as a result of our having three classes of directors. Additionally, Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that, subject to specified exceptions, a Delaware corporation shall not engage in business combinations with any entity that acquires enough shares of our common stock without the consent of our Board of Directors to be considered an “interested stockholder” under Delaware law for a three-year period following the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder. These provisions could limit the price that certain investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our principal administrative offices and research center are located in Naperville, Illinois. These facilities are leased. We maintain administrative and research facilities in Sugar Land, Texas and Leiden, Netherlands, both of which we own, and in Singapore, which we lease. We position our manufacturing locations and warehouses in a manner to permit ready access to our customers. We operate 18 plants in North America, 6 plants in Latin America, 11 plants in Europe and the Middle East and 13 plants in the Asia/Pacific region. We own all of our major manufacturing facilities and we also have a network of small leased sales offices in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in other parts of the world.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Various claims, lawsuits and administrative proceedings are pending or threatened against us and our subsidiaries, arising from the ordinary course of business with respect to commercial, contract, intellectual property, product liability, employee, environmental and other matters. Historically, we have not faced any litigation matters or series of litigation matters that have had a material adverse impact on our business. In addition, we do not believe that there is any pending or reasonably predictable litigation, either individually or in the aggregate, that is likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or cash flow. However, we cannot predict with certainty the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation.

On November 27, 2006, the U.K. Health and Safety Executive (“HSE”) issued a criminal summons charging our U.K. subsidiary with a violation of the Health and Safety at Work Act. The summons was re-issued in the Crown Court of Worcester on July 23, 2007. The charge relates to a *Legionella* outbreak that is claimed to have originated at cooling towers owned by one of the subsidiary’s customers. The

Legionella outbreak is believed to have resulted in two fatalities and multiple injuries. The customer, H. P. Bulmer Limited, was also charged. Our subsidiary submitted a guilty plea to a portion of the charge, exposing non-employees to a health risk, on September 3, 2007. Similarly, our subsidiary's customer submitted a guilty plea. On July 1, 2008, the Crown Court issued a penalty of £300,000 (\$0.6 million) and court costs of £50,000 (\$0.1 million) against our subsidiary relating to this violation. An identical penalty was issued against the subsidiary's customer.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

None.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (ticker symbol NLC). As of February 5, 2009, the number of holders of record of our common stock was approximately 18,200.

High and low sales prices per share of our common stock for each quarter during 2008 and 2007 were as follows:

<u>Quarter Ended</u>	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>	
	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
March 31	\$24.50	\$17.32	\$25.17	\$19.94
June 30	26.28	21.11	29.29	23.75
September 30	25.90	17.60	30.08	22.51
December 31	18.84	7.80	30.98	21.32

The closing sales price on December 31, 2008 was \$11.54.

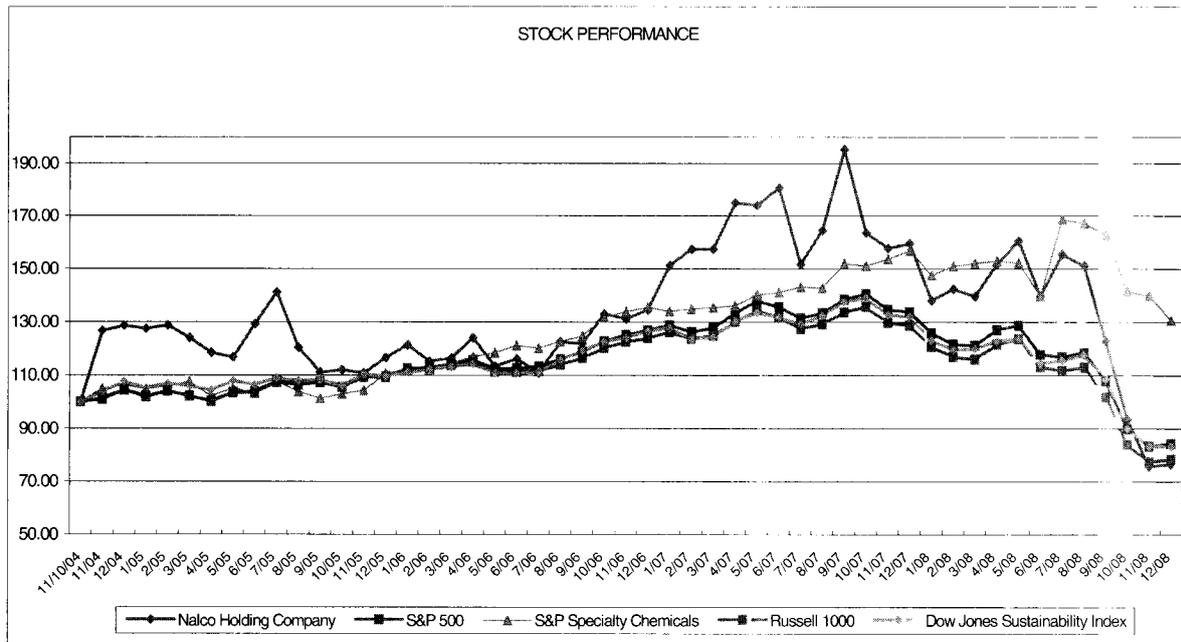
Our Board of Directors instituted a quarterly cash dividend by declaring a dividend of \$0.035 per share of common stock in the quarter ended March 31, 2007 and in each succeeding quarter. Nalco Holding Company's operations are conducted through its subsidiaries and its ability to make payments on any obligations it may have is dependent on the earnings and the distribution of funds from its subsidiaries. However, the terms of Nalco Company's senior credit agreement limit the amount of dividends and other transfers by Nalco Holdings LLC and its subsidiaries to Nalco Holding Company. As a result, Nalco Holding Company is limited in its ability to pay dividends on its common stock.

The table below sets forth information regarding repurchases of our common stock during the three months ended December 31, 2008:

	<u>(a)</u> <u>Total Number of</u> <u>Shares Purchased</u>	<u>(b)</u> <u>Average Price</u> <u>Paid per Share</u>	<u>(c)</u> <u>Total Number of</u> <u>Shares Purchased</u> <u>as Part of Publicly</u> <u>Announced Plans</u> <u>or Programs (1)</u>	<u>(d)</u> <u>Approximate</u> <u>Dollar Value of</u> <u>Shares that May</u> <u>Yet Be Purchased</u> <u>Under the Plans</u> <u>or Programs (1)</u>
October 1, 2008 – October 31, 2008	200,000	\$13.04	200,000	\$90,856,516
November 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008	165,900	\$12.67	165,900	\$88,753,833
December 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008	—	\$ —	—	\$88,753,833
Total	<u>365,900</u>	<u>\$12.87</u>	<u>365,900</u>	<u>\$88,753,833</u>

- (1) On July 31, 2007, our Board of Directors authorized a \$300 million share repurchase program, and gave our management discretion in determining the conditions under which shares may be purchased from time to time. We intend to repurchase all shares under this authorization in open market transactions. There is no set timetable for share repurchases, and the program has no stated expiration date.

The following graph compares the cumulative total return of our common stock to the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Stock Index, Russell 1000 Index, the S&P Specialty Chemicals Index and the Dow Jones Sustainability Index through the year ended December 31, 2008, the last trading day of our fiscal year. The graph assumes that the value of the investment in our common stock and each index was \$100 at November 10, 2004 and that all dividends were reinvested. It should be noted that 2008 is a transition year. The Dow Jones Sustainability Index has been added and the Russell 1000 will not be included going forward.



ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The Nalco Holding Company financial statements include the consolidated audited financial statements of Nalco Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

You should read the following data in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

	Year ended December 31				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
(dollars in millions, except per share data)					
Statement of Operations Data:					
Net sales	\$4,212.4	\$3,912.5	\$3,602.6	\$3,312.4	\$3,033.3
Operating costs and expenses:					
Costs of product sold	2,381.1	2,157.9	1,995.3	1,841.0	1,578.8
Selling, administrative, and research expenses	1,247.2	1,201.0	1,094.7	1,020.9	1,038.8
Impairment of goodwill (1)	544.2	—	—	—	—
Amortization of intangible assets	56.8	62.1	70.1	81.6	96.3
In-process research and development (6)	—	—	—	—	122.3
Restructuring expenses (2)	33.4	15.3	9.5	25.6	1.7
Sponsor monitoring fees	—	—	—	—	11.2
Sponsor monitoring agreement termination fee (7)	—	—	—	—	35.0
Loss (gain) on divestiture	(38.1)	—	—	—	—
Operating costs and expenses	4,224.6	3,436.3	3,169.6	2,969.1	2,884.1
Operating earnings (loss)	(12.2)	476.2	433.0	343.3	149.2
Other income (expense), net (3)	(17.4)	(4.8)	(4.4)	3.1	(10.8)
Interest income	8.3	9.1	9.1	8.4	10.2
Interest expense	(258.8)	(274.0)	(272.0)	(258.0)	(250.8)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests	(280.1)	206.5	165.7	96.8	(102.2)
Income tax provision	54.5	69.3	58.9	43.3	30.8
Minority interests	(8.0)	(8.2)	(7.9)	(5.7)	(5.8)
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (342.6)	\$ 129.0	\$ 98.9	\$ 47.8	\$ (138.8)
Common Share Data:					
Net earnings (loss) per share (4):					
Basic	\$ (2.44)	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.34	\$ (1.42)
Diluted	\$ (2.44)	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.42)
Weighted average shares (millions):					
Basic	140.1	143.2	143.0	141.7	97.7
Diluted	140.1	146.7	146.7	146.6	97.7
Cash dividends declared per share	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14	—	—	—
Statement of Cash Flows Data:					
Net cash provided by (used for):					
Operating activities	\$ 283.1	\$ 323.4	\$ 284.8	\$ 199.9	\$ 237.5
Investing activities	(95.4)	(141.7)	(99.6)	(75.9)	(72.2)
Financing activities	(232.9)	(105.3)	(179.6)	(125.9)	(232.8)
Other Financial Data (unaudited):					
EBITDA (5)	\$ 155.8	\$ 657.6	\$ 621.8	\$ 555.6	\$ 343.2
Non-cash charges included in EBITDA (6)	568.2	35.6	35.5	19.8	174.4
Unusual items included in EBITDA (7)	(14.5)	27.8	19.2	8.3	59.7
Capital expenditures, net (8)	133.1	114.6	93.4	74.6	91.8
Depreciation	136.6	132.3	131.0	133.3	114.3
Amortization of intangible assets	56.8	62.1	70.1	81.6	96.3

(dollars in millions)	As of December 31				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 61.8	\$ 119.9	\$ 37.3	\$ 30.8	\$ 33.3
Working capital (9)	684.8	629.7	560.9	498.0	424.2
Property, plant and equipment, net	703.7	762.3	743.4	755.3	847.3
Total assets	5,042.0	5,978.6	5,656.5	5,552.4	5,933.9
Total debt (including current portion of long-term debt)	3,223.4	3,324.1	3,188.8	3,266.8	3,442.5
Total shareholders' equity	393.3	1,117.8	890.9	705.5	710.4

- (1) During the fourth quarter of 2008, we recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$544.2 million, reducing the goodwill balance of our Paper Services reporting unit to zero.
- (2) We incur restructuring (formerly entitled "business optimization") expenses, representing mostly employee severance and related costs, in connection with our programs to redesign and optimize our business and work processes.
- (3) Other income (expense), net consists of recognized gains and losses on foreign currency transactions, equity earnings of unconsolidated subsidiaries, franchise taxes, gains/(losses) on the disposals of assets, and other miscellaneous income (expense). The year ended December 31, 2008 included \$10.7 million of foreign currency transaction losses. Included for the year ended December 31, 2004 was a \$13.7 million charge for the early repayment of senior discount notes.
- (4) Net earnings (loss) per share is calculated by dividing net earnings (loss) by the weighted average shares outstanding.
- (5) EBITDA, a measure used by management to measure operating performance, is defined as net earnings plus interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. EBITDA is reconciled to net earnings (loss) in the following table. We believe EBITDA is useful to the investors because it is frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in the evaluation of companies in our industry. EBITDA is not a recognized term under U.S. GAAP and does not purport to be an alternative to net earnings (loss) as an indicator of operating performance or to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Because not all companies use identical calculations, this presentation of EBITDA may not be comparable to other similarly titled measures of other companies. Additionally, EBITDA is not intended to be a measure of cash flow for management's discretionary use, as it does not consider certain cash requirements such as interest payments, tax payments and debt service requirements. The amounts shown for EBITDA as presented herein differ from the amounts calculated under the definition of EBITDA used in our debt instruments. The definition of EBITDA used in our debt instruments is further adjusted for certain cash and non-cash charges and is used to determine compliance with financial covenants and our ability to engage in certain activities such as incurring additional debt and making certain payments.

The following is a reconciliation of net earnings (loss) to EBITDA:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Net earnings (loss)	\$(342.6)	\$129.0	\$ 98.9	\$ 47.8	\$(138.8)
Interest expense, net	250.5	264.9	262.9	249.6	240.6
Income tax provision	54.5	69.3	58.9	43.3	30.8
Depreciation	136.6	132.3	131.0	133.3	114.3
Amortization of intangible assets	56.8	62.1	70.1	81.6	96.3
EBITDA	<u>\$ 155.8</u>	<u>\$657.6</u>	<u>\$621.8</u>	<u>\$555.6</u>	<u>\$ 343.2</u>

- (6) EBITDA, as defined above, was reduced by the following non-cash charges, each of which is further discussed below:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Impairment of goodwill	\$544.2	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
In-process research and development	—	—	—	—	122.3
Inventory step-up	—	—	—	—	14.6
Asset write-offs	—	—	2.5	2.8	1.1
Profit sharing and 401(k) expense funded by Suez	20.1	28.6	25.6	13.2	27.8
Other	3.9	7.0	7.4	3.8	8.6
	<u>\$568.2</u>	<u>\$35.6</u>	<u>\$35.5</u>	<u>\$19.8</u>	<u>\$174.4</u>

Impairment of Goodwill

Goodwill impairment of \$544.2 million was recorded during the year ended December 31, 2008, eliminating all goodwill previously allocated to our Paper Services reporting unit during our 2003 leveraged buyout.

In-process Research and Development

In-process research and development was a one-time charge of \$122.3 million recorded during the year ended December 31, 2004, as a result of purchase accounting entries related to the Acquisition.

Inventory Step Up

As a result of purchase accounting for the Acquisition, we wrote up our inventory to fair value and subsequently charged the write up to cost of sales as the inventory was sold. The statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2004 reflects the inventory step-up in cost of product sold.

Profit Sharing and 401(k) Expense Funded by Suez

In conjunction with the Acquisition, we entered into an agreement with Suez whereby Suez will reimburse us for certain profit sharing and 401(k) matching contributions made to the Profit-Sharing Trust until no later than 2010.

Other

Other non-cash charges include the non-cash impact on earnings of our equity investments and minority interests, and also include the non-cash portion of rent expense under the sublease that we entered into with a Suez subsidiary in conjunction with the Acquisition.

In addition, in 2007, we reduced the estimated residual value on a leveraged lease investment, resulting in a non-cash loss of \$2.3 million.

- (7) In addition to incurring non-cash charges and restructuring expenses, our EBITDA was impacted by the following unusual (income) expenses, each of which is further discussed below:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Pension and OPEB settlement and curtailment	\$ 10.6	\$ 0.5	\$ 1.7	\$0.5	\$ 0.1
Loss (gain) on sales, net of expenses	(33.2)	2.0	6.0	4.1	0.2
Other unusual items	8.1	25.3	11.5	3.7	59.4
	<u>\$(14.5)</u>	<u>\$27.8</u>	<u>\$19.2</u>	<u>\$8.3</u>	<u>\$59.7</u>

Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits (OPEB) Settlement and Curtailment

In 2008, we incurred \$10.6 million of settlement charges mostly as a result of an increase in the volume of lump sum payments to retiring employees.

Loss (Gain) on Sales, Net of Expenses

In 2008, we recognized a \$38.1 million gain on the sale of our Finishing Technologies surface treatment business. In 2006, we recorded a loss of \$2.1 million from the sale-leaseback of our facility in Austria, and we also recognized losses of \$1.2 million from the disposal of equipment at a plant in the U.K. In 2005, an impairment loss of \$2.4 million was recognized on a business that was held for sale.

Other Unusual Items

Other unusual items include the non-cash compensation expenses recognized from grants of stock options or other stock rights to officers, directors and employees. Our share-based compensation plan expenses for the years 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 were \$6.2 million, \$15.5 million, \$1.8 million, \$0.3 million, and \$0.1 million, respectively. Included in 2007 was a \$12.0 million expense for a grant of nonvested common stock as part of an agreement with our former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. William H. Joyce, who retired effective December 30, 2007.

For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, significant other unusual items included consultancy fees in connection with our work process redesign initiatives of \$4.0 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, and consulting and legal fees associated with our legal entity restructure of \$5.2 million in each year.

In 2005, we incurred \$1.0 million of costs on behalf of the Sponsors' secondary offering. In addition, \$1.1 million of inventory that pre-dated the Acquisition was written off.

Results for the year ended December 31, 2004 were impacted by the effects of certain unusual items, including a \$35.0 million charge for the termination of the Monitoring Fee Agreement with affiliates of the Sponsors, a \$13.7 million charge for the early repayment of senior discount notes, \$1.4 million of expenses associated with changing the name of the Successor's operating company from Ondeo Nalco Company to Nalco Company, \$1.8 million in connection with the re-audit of the Predecessor's 2001 financial statements, \$1.9 million of expenses related to the registration of publicly tradable senior notes and senior subordinated notes that were exchanged for privately placed notes issued in connection with the Acquisition, and other expenses resulting from the Acquisition.

- (8) Capital expenditures are net of proceeds from disposal of assets.
- (9) Working capital is defined as current assets (excluding cash and cash equivalents) less current liabilities (excluding short-term debt and current portion of long-term debt) and calculated as follows:

(dollars in millions)	As of December 31				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Current assets less current liabilities	\$652.8	\$ 619.2	\$448.0	\$506.2	\$439.8
Less cash and cash equivalents	(61.8)	(119.9)	(37.3)	(30.8)	(33.3)
Plus short-term debt	93.8	130.4	150.2	22.6	17.7
Working capital as defined	<u>\$684.8</u>	<u>\$ 629.7</u>	<u>\$560.9</u>	<u>\$498.0</u>	<u>\$424.2</u>

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations includes references to the Transactions, defined as the acquisition of Ondeo Nalco Group, comprised of Nalco Company and Nalco International SAS Subsidiaries, by Nalco Holdings from Suez ("Suez") and the related financings in connection with such acquisition (the "Acquisition").

"Safe Harbor" Statement Under Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

This Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 (the "Annual Report") includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements include statements concerning our plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events, future revenue or performance, capital expenditures, financing needs, plans or intentions relating to acquisitions, business trends and other information that is not historical information. When used in this Annual Report, the words "estimates," "expects," "anticipates," "projects," "plans," "intends," "believes," "forecasts," or future or conditional verbs, such as "will," "should," "could" or "may," and variations of such words or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends and data are based upon our current expectations and various assumptions. Our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and we believe there is a reasonable basis for them. However, there can be no assurance that management's expectations, beliefs and projections will be achieved.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report. Additionally, important factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make in this Annual Report. As stated in Item 1A, "Risk Factors," such risks, uncertainties and other important factors include, among others:

- our substantial leverage;
- limitations on flexibility in operating our business contained in our debt agreements;
- increases in interest rates as a result of our variable rate indebtedness;
- pricing pressure from our customers;
- technological change and innovation;
- risks associated with our non-U.S. operations;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates;
- high competition in the markets in which we operate;
- adverse changes to environmental, health and safety regulations;
- operating hazards in our production facilities;
- inability to achieve expected cost savings;
- difficulties in securing the raw materials we use;
- our significant pension benefit obligations and the current underfunding of our pension plans;
- our ability to realize the full value of our intangible assets;
- our ability to attract and retain skilled employees, particularly research scientists, technical sales professionals and engineers; and
- our ability to protect our intellectual property rights.

There may be other factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf apply only as of the date of this Annual Report and are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements included in this Annual Report. We undertake no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements which may be made to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Direct contribution, EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA and Free Cash Flow are measures used by management to evaluate operating performance. Adjusted EBITDA is also used to determine our compliance with financial covenants and our ability to engage in certain activities such as incurring additional debt and making certain payments.

Direct contribution is defined as net sales, less cost of product sold, selling and service expenses, marketing expenses, research expenses and capital charges (an internal non-GAAP charge based on trade accounts receivable, inventories and equipment specifically identifiable to each of our operating segments). EBITDA is defined as net earnings (loss) plus interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as EBITDA further adjusted for certain cash and non-cash charges, as permitted under our senior discount note, senior note and senior subordinated note indentures and our senior credit facility. Free Cash Flow is defined as net cash provided by operating activities, less capital expenditures and minority interest charges.

Direct contribution provides investors with the measurement used by our management to evaluate the performance of our segments. We believe EBITDA is useful to the investors because it is frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in the evaluation of companies in our industry. We consider the inclusion of supplementary adjustments to EBITDA applied in presenting Adjusted EBITDA appropriate to provide additional information to investors to demonstrate compliance with our financing covenants. We believe Free Cash Flow provides investors with a measure of our ability to generate cash for the repayment of debt.

Direct contribution, EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA and Free Cash Flow are not recognized terms under U.S. GAAP and do not purport to be alternatives to net earnings as an indicator of operating performance or to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Direct contribution is reconciled to consolidated earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests in Note 22 of our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this Annual Report. The most direct comparable GAAP financial measures of each other non-GAAP financial measure, as well as the reconciliation between each other non-GAAP financial measure and the GAAP financial measure, are presented in the discussions of the non-GAAP financial measures below. Because not all companies use identical calculations, our measures may not be comparable to other similarly titled measures of other companies.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Revenue Recognition

Revenue from sales of products, including chemicals and equipment, is recognized at the time: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, (2) ownership and all risks of loss have been transferred to the buyer, which is generally upon shipment, (3) the price is fixed and determinable, and (4) collectibility is reasonably assured. Revenue from services is recognized when the services are provided to the customer.

Significant estimates used in recognizing revenues include (1) the delay between the time that chemicals/equipment are shipped and when they are received by customers and title transfers and (2) the amount of credit memos to be issued in subsequent periods.

We provide our chemical and equipment offerings to our customers using various commercial arrangements, but the following are most commonly used:

Ship-and-bill arrangements. Following the receipt of a purchase order from the customer, we invoice the customer at the time that the chemicals/equipment are shipped, based on agreed pricing and the volume of chemicals shipped or units of equipment shipped. At the end of each period, for those shipments where title to the product and the risks of loss and rewards of ownership do not transfer until the product has been received by the customer, adjustments to revenues and cost of product sold are made to account for the delay between the time that the chemicals/equipment are shipped and when they are received by the customer. Our sales policy does not provide for general rights of return and does not contain customer acceptance clauses.

Usage with level billing arrangements. At the beginning of the contractual relationship, we prepare an estimate of the chemicals that will be used by the customer. As agreed with the customer, a fixed amount is invoiced monthly based on this estimate. At the end of each quarter, we reconcile the actual amount of chemicals used by the customer and bill the customer for products actually used during that period. Revenue is recognized to reflect actual usage. For any products not consumed in the customer's operations in a particular period, we retain ownership of such products on a consigned basis and do not recognize any revenue.

Fixed-fee arrangements. At the beginning of the contractual relationship, we prepare an estimate of the chemicals that will be used by the customer during the contractual period, which is usually twelve months. A fixed amount is automatically invoiced to the customer on a periodic basis, typically monthly. We retain ownership, on a consigned basis, of any inventory at the customer site that is not consumed in the customer's operations in a particular period. Revenue is recognized on a ratable basis over the contractual period, which is generally consistent with the customer's usage of the chemicals.

Under these arrangements, as part of the sales cycle for our chemical programs, our technical and sales representatives may visit our customers' facilities to develop and monitor the chemical programs. Typically, there is no contractual obligation for these visits, or any penalty for not visiting the customer sites. During these visits, our employees perform routine testing activities to ensure that our chemical products' functionalities are having the desired effect on the customers' equipment (e.g., boilers, chillers and water treatment plants). In the majority of instances, our customers perform the on-going application of the chemicals. At the same time, the sales representatives investigate and determine whether the customers have needs for additional applications from Nalco. We consider our technical and sales representatives' activities in this regard to be an integral and inherent part of our selling process and not a separate deliverable for revenue recognition purposes.

Some of our customers, however, look to us for our technical expertise only, without the purchase of chemicals/equipment. We offer specialized services designed to assess, control, and reduce risk from water-borne pathogens such as *Legionella*, and we provide other technical and analytical services.

We invoice for our services using various commercial arrangements, but the following arrangements are the most common:

Perform-and-bill arrangements. Revenue is recognized in the same period that the related service is performed, based on the agreed pricing, which can be either a price per hour or a fixed fee.

Fixed-fee arrangements. At the beginning of the contractual relationship, we estimate the saleable service that will be performed during a given period, usually twelve months. A fixed amount is automatically invoiced to the customer on a periodic basis, which may be monthly, quarterly, or annually, either in arrears or in advance of the services provided. Because an unspecified number of similar acts are performed within a fixed period of performance, revenue is recognized ratably over the period of performance.

Time and material arrangements. The fee with the customer is structured on a time and material basis, and revenue is recognized in the same period that the work is completed.

In certain arrangements, which are usually reserved for our largest customers, we provide some combination or all of the following deliverables: (1) chemicals, (2) equipment and (3) on-site technical expertise. In these arrangements, we usually remain the owner of any equipment at the customer site. At the end of the contractual relationship, the equipment is either recovered or sold to the customer or a competitor. Additionally, our representatives may have a regular presence at a customer's facility, which is provided under a contract. Over time, the representatives have gained a true expertise in the particular production/water treatment process at the customer's facility, and are able to selectively apply our specific chemical programs given the customer environment (water quality, equipment type, etc.). The regular presence of the representative permits us to closely track the results of the program and to make modifications to the program as necessary for the highest efficiency.

The following two types of commercial arrangements are the most commonly used for the sale of multiple deliverables:

Production-based arrangements. Our billing is based on a customer's production-based formula (e.g., dollars per ton of paper produced) within certain technical parameters. We use a combination of our service chemicals, on-site technical expertise and equipment to satisfy the customer requirement. The chemicals and equipment used and on-site technical expertise required are highly correlated with the customer's production. Revenue is recognized monthly based on the production-based formula.

Usage-based arrangements. For these arrangements, we invoice according to the consumption of chemicals by the customer. The agreed price by kilogram or pound of chemical consumed also includes the availability of on-site expertise and the use of equipment to satisfy the customer requirement. Revenue is recognized monthly based on the usage-based formula.

For all of our commercial arrangements, we also record estimated reserves for anticipated non-collectible accounts and for product returns and other credits at the time revenue is recognized.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets Other Than Intangibles

We conduct periodic reviews for idle equipment and review business plans for possible impairment implications. PORTA-FEED stainless steel containers, utilized to ship chemicals, represent approximately 7.1% of our property, plant and equipment and are managed globally to optimize the delivery of chemicals to customer and company sites around the world. Due to their high mobility, there is a risk that PORTA-FEEDs could be damaged or lost in transit. We perform continuous cycle counts of our PORTA-FEEDs and when such counts are inconsistent with our tracking system, we investigate the discrepancy in order to locate the container. If the PORTA-FEED is not found, we write off the asset immediately.

We capitalize qualifying costs incurred in the acquisition and development of software for internal use, including the costs of the software, materials, consultants, interest and payroll and payroll-related costs for employees dedicated to the development. We must use our judgment in determining whether the direct costs of materials and services consumed in developing or obtaining internal-use computer software and an employee's time and travel expenses directly associated with developing software are recoverable and should be capitalized. We base our determination on the nature and the extent of the activity that the employee is performing. A significant portion of our capitalized software costs relates to our SAP implementation.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The carrying values of goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite lives are reviewed for possible impairment annually on the first day of our fourth quarter, October 1, or when events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. The carrying values of

intangible assets with finite lives are reviewed for possible impairment when events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

We have defined our reportable segments as our reporting units for our goodwill impairment testing. We use a two-step process to test goodwill for impairment. First, the reporting unit's fair value is compared to its carrying value. Fair value is estimated using a discounted cash flow approach. If a reporting unit's carrying amount exceeds its fair value, an indication exists that the reporting unit's goodwill may be impaired, and the second step of the impairment test would be performed. The second step of the goodwill impairment test is used to measure the amount of the impairment loss, if any. In the second step, the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill is determined by allocating the reporting unit's fair value to all of its assets and liabilities other than goodwill in a manner similar to a purchase price allocation. The implied fair value of the goodwill that results from the application of this second step is then compared to the carrying amount of the goodwill and an impairment charge would be recorded for the difference if the carrying value exceeds the implied fair value of the goodwill.

We test the carrying value of other intangible assets with indefinite lives by comparing the fair value of the intangible assets to the carrying value. Fair value is estimated using a relief of royalty approach, a discounted cash flow methodology.

The estimates and assumptions we use are consistent with the business plans and estimates we use to manage operations and to make acquisition and divestiture decisions. The use of different assumptions could impact whether an impairment charge is required and, if so, the amount of such impairment. Future outcomes may also differ. If we fail to achieve estimated volume and pricing targets, experience unfavorable market conditions or achieve results that differ from our estimates, then revenue and cost forecasts may not be achieved, and we may be required to recognize impairment charges.

We performed our annual impairment test during the fourth quarter 2008. The fair value of our reporting units was estimated based on a discounted projection of cash flows. The rates used in determining discounted cash flows for each of our reporting units was a rate corresponding to our cost of capital, adjusted for risk where appropriate. In determining estimated future cash flows, current and future levels of income were considered that reflected business trends and market conditions. As a result of a significant decline in our stock price in the fourth quarter 2008, and a sharp deterioration in conditions within the paper industry and the general economy during that quarter, our impairment test indicated the potential for impairment in our Paper Services reporting unit.

We performed the second step of the goodwill impairment test and determined that an impairment of goodwill existed. Accordingly, we recorded a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$544.2 million in the fourth quarter 2008, reducing the goodwill balance of our Paper Services reporting unit to zero.

The aggregate fair value of our reporting units as determined in the first step of our annual impairment test was reconciled to our market capitalization as of September 30, 2008. Our market capitalization was 25% higher than the aggregate fair value of our reporting units, which represented an implied control premium. While lower than the control premiums of some chemical industry transactions announced earlier in 2008, we believe it is reasonable in light of the changes in market and economic conditions subsequent to those announced transactions.

Critical assumptions used in estimating the fair value of our reporting units for the impairment test included the discount rate and the terminal growth rate for each unit. The following table summarizes those assumptions:

	<u>Discount Rate</u>	<u>Terminal Growth Rate</u>
Industrial & Institutional Services	11.0%	3.0%
Energy Services	12.0%	3.0%
Paper Services	12.0%	1.0%

The following table presents the amount of headroom (the percentage difference between each reporting unit's fair value and carrying value) for each of our reporting units as of the date of our annual impairment test, October 1, 2008:

	<u>Headroom (1)</u>
Industrial & Institutional Services	52%
Energy Services	154%
Paper Services	(50)%

(1) Headroom = (fair value – carrying value) / carrying value.

The following table presents the impact on the resultant headroom if there was a one-percentage-point change in the discount rate and terminal growth rate from what was actually used for the impairment test:

	<u>Headroom as of October 1, 2008</u>		
	<u>Industrial & Institutional Services</u>	<u>Energy Services</u>	<u>Paper Services</u>
One-percentage-point:			
Increase in discount rate	34%	127%	(55)%
Decrease in discount rate	76%	188%	(45)%
Increase in terminal growth rate	68%	179%	(48)%
Decrease in terminal growth rate	40%	134%	(52)%

Pensions

Accounting for pensions involves the selection of a discount rate and an expected rate of return that we apply to a market-related value of plan assets. This methodology generally reduces the volatility of pension expense that would have otherwise resulted from changes in the value of the pension plan assets and pension liability discount rates. The discount rate used to determine the present value of our future U.S. pension obligations is based on a yield curve constructed from a portfolio of high quality corporate debt securities with various maturities. Each year's expected future benefit payments are discounted to their present value at the appropriate yield curve rate, thereby generating the overall discount rate for U.S. pension obligations. The discount rates for our foreign pension plans are selected by reference to high quality corporate bond rates in those countries that have developed corporate bond markets. In those countries where developed corporate bond markets do not exist, the discount rates are selected by reference to local government bond rates with a premium added to reflect the additional risk for corporate bonds.

The assets in the principal domestic pension plan are diversified across equity and fixed income investments. The investment portfolio has target allocations of approximately 49% equity, 32% fixed income and 19% alternative investments such as hedge funds and private equity. Other assets such as real estate may be used judiciously to enhance portfolio returns and diversification.

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is established using historical market data for each asset class as well as the target allocation. Historical markets are analyzed and long-term historical relationships between equity and fixed income investments are preserved consistent with the widely accepted capital market principle that assets with higher volatility will generate a greater return over the long run. Active management is employed in most asset classes, which also contributes to the return assumption. The total weighted-average return on each asset class supports our long-term expected rate of return assumption.

We review our long-term rate of return assumptions annually. While we believe our assumptions of future returns are reasonable and appropriate, significant differences in our actual experience or significant changes in our assumptions may materially affect our pension obligations and our future

pension expense. The expected long-term rate of return is applied to a calculated value of plan assets, which recognizes changes in the fair value of plan assets in a systematic manner over five years in determining pension expense.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, we recognized consolidated pension expense, including settlements, of approximately \$45 million. We expect pension expense, including forecasted settlements, to decrease to about \$29 million in 2009. Holding all other factors constant, an increase/decrease in the discount rate used to measure plan liabilities of one quarter of a percentage-point would decrease/increase 2009 pension expense and the benefit obligation by approximately \$3 million and \$30 million, respectively. Also, holding all other factors constant, an increase/decrease in the expected long-term rate of return of one quarter of a percentage-point would decrease/increase 2009 pension expense by about \$1 million.

Other Postretirement Benefits

Accounting for other postretirement benefits requires the selection of a discount rate and health care cost trend rates used to value benefit obligations. The discount rate used to determine the present value of our future postretirement benefit obligations other than pensions is based on a yield curve constructed from a portfolio of high quality corporate debt securities with various maturities. Each year's expected future benefit payments are discounted to their present value at the appropriate yield curve rate, thereby generating the overall discount rate for our other postretirement benefit obligations. We develop our estimate of the health care cost trend rates through review of our recent health care cost trend experience and discussions with our actuary regarding the experience of similar companies.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, we recognized consolidated other postretirement benefit expense of approximately \$6 million, and we expect it to remain about the same in 2009. Holding all other factors constant, an increase/decrease in the discount rate used to measure plan liabilities of one quarter of a percentage-point would decrease/increase 2009 other postretirement benefit expense by less than \$1 million. See Note 14 of our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this Annual Report for details of the impact of a one-percentage-point change in assumed health care cost trend rates on other postretirement benefit expense and the postretirement benefit obligation.

Income Taxes

We estimate our income tax expense in each of the jurisdictions in which we operate in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, which has been further clarified by Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* (FIN 48), an interpretation of SFAS No. 109. This results in our recording deferred tax assets and liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet to recognize the temporary differences caused by the timing of recognition of income and expense for financial statement and tax purposes. Valuation allowances are recorded based on the realizability of the deferred tax assets. Relevant factors to determine the realizability of the assets include future taxable income, the expected timing of the reversal of temporary differences, tax planning strategies and the expiration dates of the various tax attributes. Valuation allowances are established for those assets that are determined to be more likely than not to expire without benefit, or for which income of the proper character is not anticipated.

The effect of a valuation allowance for a deferred tax asset that is expected to originate in the current year is included in the annual effective tax rate for the year. The effect of a change in the beginning-of-the-year balance of a valuation allowance resulting from a change in judgment about the realizability of the related deferred tax asset in future years is recognized in the interim period in which the change occurs.

The tax positions we take are based on our interpretations of tax laws and regulations in the applicable federal, state and international jurisdictions. We believe that our tax returns properly reflect the tax

consequences of our operations, and that our reserves for tax contingencies are appropriate and sufficient for the positions taken. However, these positions are subject to audit and review by the tax authorities, which may result in future taxes, interest and penalties. Because of the uncertainty of the final outcome of these examinations, we have reserved for potential reductions of tax benefits (including related interest) for amounts that do not meet the more-likely-than-not thresholds for recognition and measurement as required by FIN 48. The tax reserves are reevaluated throughout the year, taking into account new legislation, regulations, case law and audit results.

Environmental

Our business and operations are subject to extensive environmental laws and regulations governing, among other things, air emissions, wastewater discharges, the use and handling of hazardous substances, waste disposal and the investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater contamination. As with other companies engaged in similar manufacturing activities and providing similar services, some risk of environmental liability is inherent in our operations.

We have been named as a potentially responsible party, or PRP, by the Environmental Protection Agency or state enforcement agencies at seven waste sites where some financial contribution is or may be required. These agencies have also identified many other parties who may be responsible for clean up costs at the waste disposal sites. Our financial contribution to remediate these sites is expected to be minor. There has been no significant financial impact on us up to the present, nor is it anticipated that there will be in the future, as a result of these matters. We have made and will continue to make provisions for these costs if our liability becomes probable and when costs can be reasonably estimated.

We have also been named as a defendant in a number of lawsuits alleging personal injury due to exposure to hazardous substances, including multi-party lawsuits alleging personal injury in connection with our products and services. While we do not believe that based upon present information that any of these suits will be material to us, there can be no assurance that these environmental matters could not have, either individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on our future financial condition or results of operations.

Historically, our expenditures relating to environmental compliance and clean up activities have not been significant. The environmental reserves represent our current estimate of our proportional clean up costs and are based upon negotiation and agreement with enforcement agencies, our previous experience with respect to clean up activities, detailed review of known conditions, and information about other PRPs. The reserves are not reduced by any possible recoveries from insurance companies or other PRPs not specifically identified. Although given the evolving nature of environmental regulations, we cannot determine whether or not a material effect on future operations is reasonably likely to occur, we believe that the recorded reserve levels are appropriate estimates of the potential liability. Although settlements will require future cash outlays, it is not expected that such outlays will materially impact our liquidity position, although there can be no assurance that such impacts could not occur.

Executive Level Overview

Nalco delivered strong performance in 2008 against the top priorities we established nearly a year ago, particularly given the current economic environment, with 7.8% organic sales growth that matches our best result of the decade. We define organic growth as nominal, or actual, sales growth less the impacts of changes in foreign currency translation rates and acquisitions and divestitures. Nominally, sales for the year ended December 31, 2008 grew similarly at 7.7% to \$4,212.4 million from \$3,912.5 million.

Diluted earnings per share (EPS) – adjusted to exclude the after-tax impacts of a goodwill impairment charge, business restructuring charges, and a divestiture gain – increased 29.2% to \$1.24 per share from the year-earlier \$0.96 per share. Adjusted EPS is reconciled to the reported EPS as follows:

	Year ended December 31	
	2008	2007
Diluted net earnings (loss), as adjusted (1)	\$ 1.24	\$ 0.96
Restructuring expenses, net of tax	(0.17)	(0.08)
Gain on divestiture, net of tax	0.11	—
Impairment of goodwill, net of tax	(3.63)	—
Diluted net earnings (loss), as reported	(2.44)	0.88

(1) Excludes after-tax impact of restructuring expenses, gain on divestiture, and impairment of goodwill, and reflects the additional dilutive effect of potentially dilutive securities.

Adjusted EBITDA increased 3.7% to \$732.3 million from the 2007 base of \$706.5 million that excludes the results of our waste coal agglomeration (synfuel) business that ended with a December 31, 2007 tax code expiration. This gain came despite increases in direct material and freight costs of \$170.5 million that were not fully offset by \$159.2 million in price capture. We also delivered \$94 million in productivity improvements and cost savings — well in excess of our \$75 million target.

Energy Services led organic sales growth for the year, up 17.5% on continued strength in our Oilfield business, and additionally in our Adomite drilling-related business, each with 23.8% organic increases over 2007. Industrial and Institutional Services (I&IS) grew a solid 5.0% organically, led by the Power and Primary Metals water treatment businesses. Paper Services organic revenues were down 2.3% for the year, and experienced declines in grades other than Tissue and Towel. Other segment sales grew 12.7% organically, mainly as a result of year-over-year changes in revenue recognition adjustments.

Direct contribution margins were 20.5% in both Energy Services and I&IS, but continued product and freight cost escalation resulted in their margins declining from 22.4% and 21.4% reported in 2007, respectively. Paper Services direct contribution margins dropped to 12.0% in 2008 from 15.7% in 2007, due to the combination of higher product and freight costs and declining sales.

Regionally, organic sales in North America and Latin America grew 11.0% and 12.9%, respectively, while the Asia Pacific region, the first and most impacted by the global economic downturn during the fourth quarter, grew 6.3% organically for the year. Europe grew 1.7% organically, after years of challenges in Western Europe.

Free Cash Flow was \$142.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a decrease of \$58.6 million or 29.2% from the \$200.6 million of Free Cash Flow generated in 2007.

Net cash provided by operating activities is reconciled to Free Cash Flow as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31	
	2008	2007
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 283.1	\$ 323.4
Minority interests	(8.0)	(8.2)
Additions to property, plant, and equipment, net	(133.1)	(114.6)
Free cash flow	<u>\$ 142.0</u>	<u>\$ 200.6</u>

Among items that held cash generation to a reduced level in 2008 were a \$92.8 million use of cash to increase inventories and an optional \$30.0 million pension contribution using a portion of the proceeds from the third quarter divestiture of our Finishing Technologies business. For the year, pension funding exceeded expense levels by \$41.1 million, inclusive of a \$10.6 million pension settlement charge. An increase in days investment in inventory of 12 days accounted for over \$70 million of the increase in inventories.

Other notable aspects of our 2008 performance included the following:

- We recorded a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$544.2 million in the fourth quarter 2008, thereby eliminating all goodwill that had been allocated to our Paper Services business at the time of our 2003 leveraged buyout. A sharp deterioration in conditions within the paper industry and the general economy led to the impairment.
- We completed the sale of our Finishing Technologies surface treatment business in September 2008, which resulted in an after-tax gain of \$14.9 million.
- We repurchased an additional 4.9 million shares at a cost of \$103.3 million during 2008, as part of the \$300 million share repurchase authorization approved by our Board of Directors in mid-2007. Through the end of 2008, we have repurchased 9.5 million shares at a cost of \$211.3 million.

2009 Outlook

We are determined to take actions to deliver the best possible performance given the rapid, negative changes seen in external conditions that continue to worsen worldwide. Although world economies continue to weaken, we provide critical water treatment offerings that are needed almost independent of the business cycle.

Nonetheless, 2009 will be a challenging year with expectations for negative foreign currency impacts, continued steep declines in paper markets, an accelerating pace of extended shutdowns and permanent closures among customers in steel, mining, auto, chemical and other markets. Virtually all industries are now being impacted by the recession. Given the breadth of the economic downturn and continued uncertainty as to its duration, our 2009 outlook will not provide specific financial guidance, but will describe where we will focus our efforts to drive our performance in this period of uncertainty.

In 2009, we are focusing on five priorities clearly aligned with today's economic environment:

- Safety will be our top priority, as it is every year.
- Our second priority is to achieve improvements in productivity, with a goal of \$100 million in cost savings and efficiency gains and employee compensation increases for 2009 tied to achievement of this goal. These payments will be in lieu of any merit increases. A minimum of \$85 million in savings is required for any such compensation to be paid, with \$150 million in savings necessary to earn a bonus amount similar to what might have been earned in a normal merit increase year. This broad employee bonus program tied to cost savings should be substantially more than self-funding and aid our growth culture and productivity contemporaneously.
- Third, we will pursue profitable growth in a focused manner – targeting our incremental resources toward technologies, geographies, and market segments that can have high growth, even during the economic crisis. Across segments, we will focus on increasing share with strong, solid growth customers. We must also minimize the threat of bad debts reducing our performance by working with customers to make sure payments are current, reducing terms where possible, focusing growth efforts where we believe there is less risk, and by aligning sales incentives with the goal of ensuring payments.
- Cash flow improvement is our fourth priority. As increased inventory was a significant reason for the decline in Free Cash Flow during 2008, we have reorganized in January 2009 to align supply chain practices with the direction of our business.
- Fifth, we will strengthen our future by enhancing our service offerings, driving our technology pipeline to the market, and strengthening and taking greater advantage of the Nalco brand.

This remains a fundamentally sound business with a strong growth profile. We expect to outperform relative to our competitors and achieve better Free Cash Flow results than we delivered in 2008, with cash generated by operating activities improved by inventory reduction efforts already underway. We

have established integrated business management structures that should drive improved working capital management as well as increased operating efficiency. We also have taken steps to deliver improved operating results through restructuring and increasing our productivity expectations, linking compensation increases directly into our productivity goals, and being very focused on a few select markets where we invest for growth through redeployment of resources.

Results of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2008 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2007

Consolidated

Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2008, exceeding \$4.0 billion for the first time, were \$4,212.4 million, an increase of 7.7% over the \$3,912.5 million reported for the year ended December 31, 2007. On an organic basis, which excludes the impacts of changes in foreign currency translation rates and acquisitions and divestitures, net sales were up 7.8%. Every geographic region reported organic growth, including Europe, where previous sales declines have been reversed, and Asia/Pacific, where the economic downturn was experienced first and more severely than other regions.

Gross profit, defined as the difference between net sales and cost of product sold, of \$1,831.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 rose \$76.7 million, or 4.4%, over the \$1,754.6 million for 2007. On an organic basis, gross profit increased by 3.8%. Contributing to the improvement were the impacts of higher sales volumes and cost savings, which were partly offset by higher product and freight costs. A \$12.3 million business interruption insurance settlement from the 2005 U.S. Gulf hurricanes that we received in the fourth quarter 2007 also benefited the prior year. Gross profit margin for the year ended December 31, 2008 declined to 43.5% compared to 44.8% for the year ended December 31, 2007, mostly as the result of increases in direct material and freight costs of \$170.5 million that were not fully offset by \$159.2 million of price increases.

Selling, administrative, and research expenses for the year ended December 31, 2008 of \$1,247.2 million increased \$46.2 million, or 3.8%, from \$1,201.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2007. Organically, selling, administrative, and research expenses grew by \$19.3 million, or 1.6%. The greatest portion of this increase was attributable to selling expense, as a result of our higher salaries, employee incentives, employee benefits, training, travel, and outside services, as we invested in the hiring and training of our sales force in growth markets. Administrative expenses actually declined by \$26.1 million on an organic basis, partly because 2007 expenses included \$12.0 million of compensation cost for a grant of nonvested common stock as part of an agreement with our former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. William H. Joyce, who retired effective December 30, 2007. In addition, outside consulting costs related to our work process redesign and legal entity restructuring initiatives were significantly higher in 2007.

Amortization of intangible assets was \$56.8 million and \$62.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The decrease was attributable to lower amortization of customer relationships, which are amortized using an accelerated method that declines over time.

Restructuring expenses, representing mostly employee severance and related costs associated with the continuing redesign and optimization of business and work processes, were \$33.4 million and \$15.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The increase was mainly the result of a reduction in force of more than 400 positions begun during the fourth quarter of 2008 as part of an organizational realignment.

Gain on divestiture of \$38.1 million in 2008 resulted from the sale of our Finishing Technologies surface treatment business to Chemetall Corp., a subsidiary of Rockwood Holdings.

Impairment of goodwill of \$544.2 million in 2008 represents the write off of all goodwill previously allocated to Paper Services at the time of the Acquisition in 2003. The impairment resulted from a sharp deterioration in conditions within the paper industry and the general economy in late 2008.

Other income (expense), net was a net expense of \$17.4 million and \$4.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The \$12.6 million increase was mainly attributable to an unfavorable change in foreign currency transaction gains and losses of \$9.6 million.

Net interest expense, defined as the combination of interest income and interest expense, of \$250.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 decreased by \$14.4 million from the \$264.9 million reported for the year ended December 31, 2007. Translation rate changes due to the weaker U.S. dollar versus the euro increased interest expense by \$3.6 million, and accretion of our senior discount notes was \$3.2 million higher than a year ago. However, lower interest rates on our variable rate debt and slightly lower average debt levels compared to the year-ago period more than offset these increases.

The tax provision for 2008 resulted in tax expense on a pretax loss primarily because of two transactions that resulted in expensing goodwill for book purposes that had very little tax basis. The larger of the two transactions was the impairment of \$544.2 million of goodwill that only had \$93.7 million of tax basis. As a result, pretax income was reduced by \$544.2 million, while the tax provision was only reduced \$35.6 million. The second transaction was the sale of the Finishing Technologies surface treatment business, which resulted in \$28.3 million of goodwill being expensed with only \$1.6 million of tax benefit. The overall Finishing Technologies sale resulted in \$38.1 million of pretax gain, and \$23.2 million of tax expense.

With these two transactions removed, the adjusted tax rate for the year is 29.6% as shown below:

(dollars in millions)	Reported Results	Goodwill Impairment	Finishing Technologies Divestiture	Excluding Impairment Charge & Divestiture Gain
Income (loss) before tax	\$(280.1)	\$(544.2)	\$38.1	\$226.0
Tax expense (benefit)	54.5	(35.6)	23.2	66.9
Effective tax rate	(19.5)%	6.5%	60.9%	29.6%

We believe excluding these two items from the effective tax rate provides a better basis for comparison to other periods. The adjusted effective tax rate of 29.6% compares to the prior year rate of 33.6%. In 2007, the effective tax varied from the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% primarily due to incremental U.S. federal income taxes on dividends received from non-U.S. subsidiaries, foreign taxes provided at other than the 35% U.S. statutory rate, U.S. state income taxes, nondeductible expenses and other permanent differences between income and expense for financial statement and tax purposes. Except as described below, these differences also apply to 2008.

During 2008, our U.S. tax position changed such that we are now able to credit rather than deduct certain foreign taxes. The ability to credit removes nearly all of the incremental tax cost of repatriating dividends to the U.S. from our foreign subsidiaries. The ability to credit also reduces our expense related to most withholding taxes incurred by the U.S. parent company. The current year tax benefit of being able to credit foreign taxes was to release \$35.4 million of valuation allowance related to prior year credits, and to further reduce 2008 expense by \$29.4 million related to 2008 withholding taxes and foreign dividends, and other foreign taxes.

Also during 2008, we provided valuation allowances on deferred tax assets in the U.K., primarily related to tax loss carryforwards and future pension obligations. The tax impact was to increase current year tax expense by \$20.4 million.

Minority interest expense remained relatively flat, declining by \$0.2 million to \$8.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Segment Reporting

Net sales by reportable segment for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 may be compared as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Year Ended December 31			Attributable to Changes in the Following Factors		
	2008	2007	% Change	Currency Translation	Acquisitions/Divestitures	Organic
Industrial & Institutional Services	\$1,813.4	\$1,753.2	3.4%	1.8%	(3.4)%	5.0%
Energy Services	1,506.4	1,279.2	17.8%	0.7%	(0.4)%	17.5%
Paper Services	776.9	779.0	(0.3)%	2.0%	—	(2.3)%
Other	115.7	101.1	14.4%	1.7%	—	12.7%
Net sales	\$4,212.4	\$3,912.5	7.7%	1.5%	(1.6)%	7.8%

The Industrial and Institutional Services division reported sales of \$1,813.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a 3.4% increase over the year ended December 31, 2007. On an organic basis, sales rose 5.0% and effectively offset the loss of \$79.5 million in revenues earned in 2007 by our waste coal agglomeration (synfuel) business that ended with a December 31, 2007 tax code expiration. Double-digit organic increases were reported in the Power and Municipal water business in the North America and Asia/Pacific regions, as well as in Europe. Primary Metals in Asia/Pacific performed similarly, as did the Water Centric business in Europe and Asia/Pacific. Latin America's Water Centric business reported continued strong growth on top of its double-digit growth in 2007. The Emerging Markets business in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa also reported double-digit growth. Declines in the European and North American Manufacturing businesses were the primary offsets to these results, along with decreases in the European Chemical business and North America's Finishing Technologies business prior to its sale.

The Energy Services division reported sales of \$1,506.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a 17.8% improvement over the \$1,279.2 million for the year-ago-period. Organically, sales increased 17.5%, spurred by strong double-digit increases for the year in the Upstream Oilfield and Adomite business units.

The Paper Services division reported sales of \$776.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a slight decrease from the \$779.0 million reported for 2007, aided by double-digit growth in the Tissue and Towel business. Organically, sales were down 2.3% from the year-ago period, which reflected a sharp deterioration in paper market conditions. Only Latin America reported good organic growth.

In our Other segment, year-over-year changes in revenue recognition adjustments accounted for the majority of the increase in sales, as organic growth was modest in the Integrated Channels Group.

Direct contribution by reportable segment for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 may be compared as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Year Ended December 31			Attributable to Changes in the Following Factors		
	2008	2007	% Change	Currency Translation	Acquisitions/Divestitures	Organic
Industrial & Institutional Services	\$372.6	\$374.6	(0.6)%	2.0%	(6.5)%	3.9%
Energy Services	308.2	286.1	7.7%	0.6%	(0.2)%	7.3%
Paper Services	93.3	122.0	(23.5)%	1.1%	—	(24.6)%
Other	(81.7)	(90.1)	9.3%	0.6%	0.1%	8.6%

Direct contribution of the Industrial and Institutional Services division was \$372.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a decrease of 0.6% from the \$374.6 million reported for the year-ago period which included the synfuel business. Organically, direct contribution improved 3.9%, as a result of the 5.0% organic increase in sales. Gross earnings declined as a percent of sales from 50.7% to 50.0% during a year of rapid product and freight cost increases that left a cost/price gap at year end, and total operating expenses were up 1.3% organically.

The Energy Services division reported direct contribution of \$308.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a 7.7% increase over the \$286.1 million reported for 2007. On an organic basis, direct contribution rose 7.3%. Higher sales volumes drove this growth, but higher product costs reduced gross earnings to 43.1% of sales from 46.1% in 2007. Investments in additional manpower contributed to increased compensation costs that drove operating expenses up 10.9% organically, with related increases in travel and outside services.

The Paper Services division reported direct contribution of \$93.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a 23.5% decline from the direct contribution of \$122.0 million reported for the year ended December 31, 2007. Organically, direct contribution was down 24.6%, as improvements in Latin America sales and profitability were more than offset by declines in other regions that are indicative of industry conditions and the global recession. Operating expenses were up just 1.0% organically, with compensation and related costs representing the majority of the increase, along with an increase in bad debt expense.

The direct contribution loss of \$81.7 million reported in Other for the year ended December 31, 2008 represented an improvement of \$8.4 million from the \$90.1 million direct contribution loss reported in 2007, despite a \$12.3 million business interruption insurance settlement from the 2005 U.S. Gulf hurricanes that we received in the fourth quarter 2007 that reduced that year's direct contribution loss. Favorable supply chain procurement and manufacturing variances were the most significant factors in the improvement.

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Consolidated

Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$3,912.5 million, an increase of 8.6% over the \$3,602.6 million reported for the year ended December 31, 2006. On an organic basis, net sales were up 4.9%, growing in every geographic region except Europe, where sales declined modestly.

Gross profit, defined as the difference between net sales and cost of product sold, of \$1,754.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 rose \$147.3 million, or 9.2%, over the \$1,607.3 million for 2006. On an organic basis, gross profit increased by 5.3%. Contributing to the improvement was the impact of higher sales volumes and cost savings, which were partly offset by higher product and freight costs rising late in the year. A \$12.3 million business interruption insurance settlement from the 2005 Gulf hurricanes that we received in the fourth quarter 2007 also benefited the year. Gross profit margin for the year ended December 31, 2007 was 44.8% compared to 44.6% for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Selling, administrative, and research expenses for the year ended December 31, 2007 of \$1,201.0 million increased \$106.3 million, or 9.7%, from \$1,094.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. Organically, selling, administrative, and research expenses were up \$63.8 million, or 5.8%. Nearly three-fourths of this increase was attributable to selling expense, which was mainly resulted from higher salaries, employee incentives, employee benefits, training, travel, and outside services. Administrative expenses rose \$7.9 million on an organic basis. The increase was primarily driven by a \$12.0 million expense for a grant of nonvested common stock as part of an agreement with former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. William H. Joyce, who retired effective December 30, 2007, partly offset by lower incentive plan expenses.

Amortization of intangible assets was \$62.1 million and \$70.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The decrease was attributable to lower amortization of customer relationships, which are amortized using an accelerated method that declines over time.

Restructuring expenses, representing mostly employee severance and related costs associated with the continuing redesign and optimization of business and work processes, were \$15.3 million and \$9.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Expenses in 2007 included \$5.3 million of non-cash charges that resulted from some share-based payments to exiting executives, who were not replaced.

Other income (expense), net was a net expense of \$4.8 million and \$4.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The \$0.4 million unfavorable difference was mainly attributed to lower earnings by our affiliate entities and higher franchise taxes and other miscellaneous charges, which were partly offset by a favorable change in foreign currency transaction gains and losses of \$2.5 million.

Net interest expense, defined as the combination of interest income and interest expense, of \$264.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 increased by \$2.0 million from the \$262.9 million reported for the year ended December 31, 2006. Translation rate changes due to the weaker U.S. dollar versus the euro increased interest expense by \$5.2 million, and accretion of our senior discount notes was \$3.0 million higher than in 2006. The net impact of a lower average debt level and higher interest rates on our variable rate debt compared to 2006 partly offset these increases.

The effective tax rate was 33.6% for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared to an effective tax rate of 35.5% for the year ended December 31, 2006. The rate varies from the U.S. federal statutory income tax rate of 35% primarily due to the incremental U.S. federal income tax on dividends received from non-U.S. subsidiaries, foreign taxes provided at other than the 35% U.S. statutory rate, U.S. state income taxes, nondeductible expenses, and other permanent differences between income and expense for financial statement and tax purposes.

The aforementioned items also contributed to the variation between the U.S. federal statutory income tax rate and our effective income tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2006.

The year ended December 31, 2007 also included two discrete events related to our tax positions in The Netherlands. During the period, we completed our consultations with the tax authorities regarding their analysis of certain interest deductions incurred by two of our Dutch subsidiaries. The tax effect of these interest deductions represented \$7.9 million of previously unrecognized tax benefits. The Dutch tax authorities concluded that all of the interest deductions we considered at risk were valid deductions under the applicable law. Therefore, we reversed an existing tax reserve, and reduced tax expense during 2007 by \$7.9 million. In addition, we determined that certain net loss carryforwards in The Netherlands are likely to expire without being utilized. Therefore, we established valuation allowances on those losses, which resulted in \$2.4 million of additional tax expense during 2007.

We also implemented various foreign reorganizations in 2007 that provided tax savings during 2007, and are expected to provide on-going savings in future years.

Minority interest expense was \$0.3 million higher than the \$7.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. Higher earnings by most of our non-wholly owned subsidiaries, most notably Saudi Arabia and Japan, accounted for the increase.

Segment Reporting

Net sales by reportable segment for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 may be compared as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Year Ended December 31			Attributable to Changes in the Following Factors		
	2007	2006	% Change	Currency Translation	Acquisitions/Divestitures	Organic
Industrial & Institutional Services	\$1,753.2	\$1,593.9	10.0%	4.2%	0.2%	5.6%
Energy Services	1,279.2	1,147.8	11.4%	3.0%	—	8.4%
Paper Services	779.0	753.9	3.3%	3.2%	—	0.1%
Other	101.1	107.0	(5.4)%	5.2%	—	(10.6)%
Net sales	\$3,912.5	\$3,602.6	8.6%	3.6%	0.1%	4.9%

The Industrial and Institutional Services division reported sales of \$1,753.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, a 10.0% increase over the \$1,593.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. On an organic basis, sales rose 5.6%. Double-digit organic increases were reported by our Pacific and North American Mining businesses and our Pacific and Latin American Water Centric businesses. Strong sales growth was also reported by our North American Food and Beverage, Power and Institutional businesses, as well as our global Colloidal Technologies group and our Emerging Markets business in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Lower organic sales in Western Europe, Finishing Technologies, and North America Manufacturing partly offset these gains.

The Energy Services division reported sales of \$1,279.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, an 11.4% improvement over the \$1,147.8 million for 2006. Organically, sales increased 8.4%. Both our Upstream Oilfield and Downstream businesses accounted for virtually all of this increase with Upstream Oilfield up double-digits. Our Adomite business reported a modest organic sales improvement.

The Paper Services division reported sales of \$779.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, a 3.3% increase over the \$753.9 million reported for 2006. Organically, sales were flat from the year-ago period, as Latin America reported impressive growth and North America sales grew slightly as a result of introducing new technology and services. Pacific sales were slightly lower and European sales declined on an organic basis.

In our Other segment, the organic decrease in sales was mostly attributable to our Integrated Channels Group.

Direct contribution by reportable segment for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 may be compared as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Year Ended December 31			Attributable to Changes in the Following Factors		
	2007	2006	% Change	Currency Translation	Acquisitions/Divestitures	Organic
Industrial & Institutional Services	\$374.6	\$347.1	7.9%	4.2%	0.1%	3.6%
Energy Services	286.1	252.8	13.2%	3.2%	—	10.0%
Paper Services	122.0	120.8	1.0%	3.0%	—	(2.0)%
Other	(90.1)	(75.2)	(19.8)%	(4.0)%	—	(15.8)%

Direct contribution of the Industrial and Institutional Services division was \$374.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, an improvement of 7.9% over the \$347.1 million reported for the 2006. Organically, direct contribution improved 3.6%, as a result of the 5.6% organic increase in sales. Operating expenses were up 5.4% organically, mostly due to increased salaries, employee incentives, employee benefits, travel, bad debt expenses, and capital charges, which factor in the balance sheet impacts of the division's customer consigned inventory and receivables. In Europe, higher organic operating expenses did not result in organic growth in sales.

The Energy Services division reported direct contribution of \$286.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, a 13.2% increase over the \$252.8 million reported for 2006. On an organic basis, direct contribution rose 10.0%. Higher sales volume and improved margins accounted for the increase despite investments in additional manpower for new business in Eastern Europe and the Middle East that generated sales beginning in 2008. Operating expenses were up 12.2% organically, with the largest increases in salaries, employee incentives, employee benefits, travel, outside services, and capital charges.

The Paper Services division reported direct contribution of \$122.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, a 1.0% increase over the direct contribution of \$120.8 million reported for the year

ended December 31, 2006. Organically, direct contribution was down 2.0%, as improved results in the Americas were more than offset by significant declines in Europe and Asia/Pacific. Operating expenses were up 5.8% organically.

The direct contribution loss of \$90.1 million reported in Other for the year ended December 31, 2007, represented an increase of \$14.9 million from the \$75.2 million direct contribution loss reported in 2006, which was mostly attributable to an unfavorable change in raw material purchase price and manufacturing spending and volume variances. A \$12.3 million business interruption insurance settlement from the 2005 U.S. Gulf hurricanes that we received in the fourth quarter 2007 partly offset these changes.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Operating activities. Historically, our main source of liquidity has been our solid cash flow generated by operating activities. For the year ended December 31, 2008, cash provided by operating activities was \$283.1 million, a decrease of \$40.3 million from 2007. The decline was mostly the result of higher inventory levels, which utilized \$92.8 million of cash in 2008. A \$37.4 million favorable change from 2007 in cash used for accounts receivable offset part of the higher cash usage for inventories.

For the year ended December 31, 2007, cash provided by operating activities was \$323.4 million, an increase of \$38.6 million over 2006. The improvement was mainly the result of the increase in net earnings and a reduction in non-cash deferred income tax benefits included in the income tax provision, partly offset by higher contributions to pension plans. Overall, working capital usage was comparable to 2006. Cash generated in 2007 by reductions in inventories and accounts payable was offset by higher cash requirements for receivables and variable incentive payments in 2007 because actual results for 2006 exceeded targets.

Investing activities. Cash used for investing activities was \$95.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, which was mostly attributable to net property additions of \$133.1 million and business purchases of \$21.7 million. Partly offsetting these uses of cash was \$74.1 million of net proceeds from the sale of the Finishing Technologies business in September 2008.

Cash used for investing activities was \$141.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, most of which was attributable to net property additions of \$114.6 million. Of the remainder, \$27.9 million relates to net cash used to acquire an 87.5% interest in Nalco Mobotec. Comparatively, net property additions of \$93.4 million accounted for most of the \$99.6 million of cash used for investing activities in the year ended December 31, 2006.

Financing activities. Net cash used for financing activities was \$232.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. Share repurchases of \$103.3 million, common stock dividends of \$19.7 million, a net reduction in long-term debt borrowings of \$36.8 million, and a \$65.8 million net reduction in short-term debt accounted for most of that amount.

Upon the expiration of our \$100 million receivables facility in June 2007, we entered into a new three-year receivables facility that provides up to \$160 million in funding.

On July 31, 2007, our Board of Directors authorized a \$300 million share repurchase program, and gave our management discretion in determining the conditions under which shares may be purchased from time to time. The program has no stated expiration date. Under the program, we repurchased 4.6 million of our common shares at a cost of \$108.0 million in 2007 and 4.9 million shares at a cost of \$103.3 million in 2008, with the last repurchase made on November 11, 2008.

Net cash used for financing activities totaled \$105.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, which was mostly attributable to share repurchases of \$108.0 million, common stock dividends of \$15.1 million, term loan repayments of \$48.3 million and a \$12.8 million reduction in bank overdrafts. These uses were partially offset by \$50.0 million borrowed short-term against our revolving credit facility and a \$34.0 million increase in our securitized accounts receivable facility.

Most of the \$179.6 million of cash used for financing activities during the year ended December 31, 2006 was attributable to a net decrease in borrowings. We prepaid the remaining balance of \$31.9 million on the U.S. dollar portion of our term loan A debt, made a scheduled payment on our euro-denominated term loan A debt of \$3.2 million, and prepaid \$170.0 million of our term loan B borrowings.

Our liquidity requirements are significant, primarily due to debt service requirements as well as research and development and capital investment. Our primary source of liquidity will continue to be cash flow generated from operations, but we also have availability under a \$250 million revolving credit facility and a \$160 million receivables facility, in each case subject to certain conditions. We believe that our financial position and financing structure will provide flexibility in worldwide financing activities and permit us to respond to changing conditions in credit markets.

Senior credit facilities. Our revolving credit facility is part of our senior credit facilities that were entered into on November 4, 2003. Our senior credit facilities initially included a \$300 million term loan A facility (including an €88.0 million tranche) maturing on November 4, 2009 and a \$1,300 million term loan B facility maturing on November 4, 2010. Borrowings under the senior credit facilities bear interest at a floating base rate plus an applicable margin. The applicable margin for borrowings under the revolving credit facility and the term loan A facility range from 1.00% to 1.50% with respect to base rate borrowings and 2.00% to 2.50% with respect to LIBOR or Eurocurrency borrowings depending on our leverage ratio as defined by the facilities. The applicable margin for borrowings under the term loan B facility is 0.75% with respect to base rate borrowings and 1.75% with respect to LIBOR or Eurocurrency borrowings. The applicable margin for borrowings under the term loan B facility is not subject to adjustment.

In addition to paying interest on outstanding principal under the senior credit facilities, we are required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders under the revolving credit facility in respect of the unutilized commitments at a rate equal to 0.50%. We also pay customary letter of credit fees.

The term loan A facility was scheduled to amortize each year in quarterly amounts at a rate of 5% per annum in year one, 10% per annum in year two, 15% per annum in year three, 20% per annum in year four and 25% per annum in each of years five and six. In addition to the \$15.3 million of scheduled payments due for the year ended December 31, 2004, we repaid an additional \$82.6 million using cash generated from operations and proceeds from our former accounts receivable securitization facility. An additional \$99.0 million, \$35.1 million, \$24.3 million and \$33.3 million was repaid during the years ended December 31, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively, using cash provided by operations.

The term loan B facility was scheduled to amortize each year in an amount equal to 1% per annum in equal quarterly installments for the first six years and nine months, with the remaining amount payable on November 4, 2010. In addition to the \$13.0 million of scheduled payments due for the year ended December 31, 2004, we repaid an additional \$206.0 million using cash generated from operations and proceeds from our former accounts receivable securitization facility. We repaid an additional \$24.0 million during 2007 using cash from operations, and an additional \$170.0 million was repaid during 2006, using mostly cash provided by operations.

Principal amounts outstanding under the revolving credit facility will be due and payable in full at maturity on November 4, 2009. As of December 31, 2008, we had no borrowings under the revolving credit facility.

The senior credit facilities contain a number of covenants that, among other things, restrict, subject to certain exceptions, our ability and our subsidiaries' ability, including Nalco Company, to sell assets, incur additional indebtedness or issue preferred stock, repay other indebtedness, pay dividends and distributions or repurchase certain capital stock, create liens on assets, make investments, loans or advances, make certain acquisitions, engage in mergers or consolidations, enter into sale and leaseback transactions, engage in certain transactions with affiliates, amend certain material agreements governing our indebtedness, change the business conducted by us and our subsidiaries (including Nalco Company) and enter into hedging agreements. In addition, the senior credit facilities require Nalco Company to maintain the following financial covenants: a maximum total leverage ratio, a minimum interest coverage ratio and a maximum capital expenditures limitation. We were in compliance with all covenants at December 31, 2008.

Senior discount notes, senior notes and senior subordinated notes. As part of the Transactions, in November 2003, Nalco Company issued \$665 million aggregate principal amount of 7¾% U.S. dollar-denominated senior notes due 2011, €200 million aggregate principal amount of 7¾% euro-denominated senior notes due 2011, \$465 million aggregate principal amount of 8⅞% U.S. dollar-denominated senior subordinated notes due 2013 and €200 million aggregate principal amount of 9% euro-denominated senior subordinated notes due 2013.

On January 21, 2004, our subsidiaries, Nalco Finance Holdings LLC and Nalco Finance Holdings Inc., issued \$694.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of 9.0% senior discount notes due 2014. Prior to February 1, 2009, interest will accrue on the notes in the form of an increase in the accreted value of such notes. The accreted value of each note will increase from the date of issuance until February 1, 2009 at a rate of 9.0% per annum, reflecting the accrual of non-cash interest, such that the accreted value will equal the principal amount at maturity on February 1, 2009. Cash interest payments on the notes will be due and payable beginning in 2009. Our primary source of liquidity for such payments will be cash flow generated from the operations of subsidiaries, including Nalco Holdings and Nalco Company. However, the terms of Nalco Company's senior credit agreement limit the amount of dividends and other transfers by Nalco Holdings and our other subsidiaries to the issuers of the senior discount notes. In addition, the terms of certain of the indentures governing the existing senior notes and senior subordinated notes of Nalco Company significantly restrict Nalco Company and our other subsidiaries from paying dividends, making distributions and otherwise transferring assets to the issuers. The ability of Nalco Company to make such payments is governed by a formula based on its consolidated net income. In addition, as a condition to making such payments to the issuers based on such formula, Nalco Holdings must have an Adjusted EBITDA to interest expense ratio of at least 2.0 to 1 after giving effect to any such payments. Notwithstanding such restrictions, such indentures permit an aggregate of \$50.0 million of such payments to be made whether or not there is availability under the formula or the conditions to its use are met.

In December 2004, Nalco Finance Holdings LLC and Nalco Finance Holdings Inc. redeemed a portion of the senior discount notes with an accreted value of \$162.3 million using proceeds from the initial public offering of common stock of Nalco Holding Company. The issuers paid a \$14.6 million premium to redeem the notes. After the partial redemption, the aggregate principal amount at maturity of the notes declined to \$460.8 million from \$694.0 million.

The indentures governing the senior discount notes, the senior notes and senior subordinated notes limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to:

- incur additional indebtedness;
- pay dividends on or make other distributions or repurchase certain capital stock;
- make certain investments;
- enter into certain types of transactions with affiliates;
- limit dividends or other payments by our restricted subsidiaries;

- use assets as security in other transactions; and
- sell certain assets or merge with or into other companies.

Subject to certain exceptions, the indentures governing the senior discount notes, the senior notes and senior subordinated notes permit our restricted subsidiaries and us to incur additional indebtedness, including secured indebtedness.

Covenant compliance. The breach of covenants in our senior credit agreement that are tied to ratios based on Adjusted EBITDA could result in a default under that agreement and the lenders could elect to declare all amounts borrowed due and payable. Any such acceleration would also result in a default under our indentures. Additionally, under our debt agreements, our ability to engage in activities such as incurring additional indebtedness, making investments and paying dividends is also tied to ratios based on Adjusted EBITDA.

Adjusted EBITDA is used to determine our compliance with many of the covenants contained in the indentures governing the notes and in our senior credit agreement. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as EBITDA further adjusted to exclude unusual items and other adjustments permitted in calculating covenant compliance under the indentures and our senior credit facility. We believe that the inclusion of supplementary adjustments to EBITDA applied in presenting Adjusted EBITDA are appropriate to provide additional information to investors to demonstrate compliance with our financing covenants.

Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Net earnings (loss)	\$(342.6)	\$129.0	\$ 98.9
Interest, net	250.5	264.9	262.9
Income tax provision	54.5	69.3	58.9
Depreciation	136.6	132.3	131.0
Amortization	56.8	62.1	70.1
EBITDA	155.8	657.6	621.8
Non-cash charges (1)	568.2	35.6	35.5
Restructuring expenses (2)	33.4	15.3	9.5
Unusual items (3)	(14.5)	27.8	19.2
Other adjustments (4)	(10.6)	(6.5)	(5.9)
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 732.3</u>	<u>\$729.8</u>	<u>\$680.1</u>

(1) Non-cash charges are further detailed on the following table:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Impairment of goodwill	\$544.2	\$ --	\$ --
Asset write-offs	--	--	2.5
Profit sharing and 401(k) expense funded by Suez	20.1	28.6	25.6
Other	3.9	7.0	7.4
Non-cash charges	<u>\$568.2</u>	<u>\$35.6</u>	<u>\$35.5</u>

Impairment of Goodwill

Goodwill impairment of \$544.2 million was recorded in 2008, eliminating all goodwill previously allocated to our Paper Services reporting unit.

Profit Sharing and 401(k) Expense Funded by Suez

In conjunction with the Acquisition, we entered into an agreement with Suez whereby Suez will reimburse us for certain profit-sharing and 401(k) matching contributions made by us to the Profit-Sharing Trust until no later than 2010.

Other

Other non-cash charges include the non-cash impact on earnings of our equity investments and minority interests. Non-cash charges also include the non-cash portion of rent expense under the sublease that we entered into with Suez in conjunction with the Acquisition.

In addition, in 2007, we reduced the estimated residual value on a leveraged lease investment, resulting in a non-cash loss of \$2.3 million.

- (2) Restructuring expenses for 2008, 2007 and 2006 include costs associated with the redesign and optimization of business and work processes. See Note 19 to Item 8 for more information.
- (3) Unusual items are further detailed on the following table:

(dollars in millions)	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Pension settlements and curtailments	\$ 10.6	\$ 0.5	\$ 1.7
Loss (gain) on sales, net of expenses	(33.2)	2.0	6.0
Other unusual items	8.1	25.3	11.5
	<u>\$(14.5)</u>	<u>\$27.8</u>	<u>\$19.2</u>

Pension Settlements and Curtailments

During the year ended December 31, 2008, we experienced an increase in the volume of lump-sum payments to retiring employees.

Loss (Gain) on Sales, Net of Expenses

In 2008, we recognized a \$38.1 million gain on the sale of our Finishing Technologies surface treatment business.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, we recorded a loss of \$2.1 million from the sale-leaseback of our facility in Austria, and we also recognized losses of \$1.2 million from the disposal of equipment at a plant in the U.K.

Other Unusual Items

Other unusual items include the non-cash compensation expenses recognized from grants of stock options or other stock rights to officers, directors and employees. Our share-based compensation plan expenses for the years 2008, 2007 and 2006 were \$6.2 million, \$15.5 million, and \$1.8 million, respectively. Included in 2007 was a \$12.0 million expense for a grant of nonvested common stock as part of an agreement with our former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. William H. Joyce, who retired effective December 30, 2007.

For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, significant other unusual items included consultancy fees in connection with our work process redesign initiatives of \$4.0 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, and consulting and legal fees associated with our legal entity restructure of \$5.2 million in both 2007 and 2006.

- (4) We are required to make adjustments to EBITDA for franchise taxes and 401(k) matching contributions.

Our covenant levels and ratios for the year ended December 31, 2008 are as follows:

	Covenant Level at December 31, 2008	Actual Ratios
Senior credit facility (1)		
Minimum Adjusted EBITDA to cash interest ratio	1.85x	3.68x
Maximum net debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio	5.25x	3.69x
Indentures (2)		
Minimum Adjusted EBITDA to fixed charge ratio required to incur additional debt pursuant to ratio provisions	2.00x	3.09x

- (1) Our senior credit facility requires us to maintain an Adjusted EBITDA to cash interest ratio which started at a minimum of 1.65x and a net debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio which started at a maximum of 6.75x, in each case for the most recent four quarter period. Failure to satisfy these ratio requirements would constitute a default under the senior credit agreement. If our lenders failed to waive any such default, our repayment obligations under the senior credit agreement could be accelerated, which would also constitute a default under our indentures.
- (2) Our ability to incur additional debt and make certain restricted payments under our indentures, subject to specified exceptions, is tied to an Adjusted EBITDA to fixed charge ratio of at least 2.0 to 1, except that we may incur certain debt and make certain restricted payments and certain permitted investments without regard to the ratio, such as up to an aggregate principal amount of \$1,950 million (including \$917.5 million that was outstanding under our term loan facilities as of December 31, 2008) and investments in similar business and other investments equal to 6% of Nalco Holding Company consolidated assets.

Local lines of credit. Certain of our non-U.S. subsidiaries have lines of credit to support local requirements. As of December 31, 2008, the aggregate outstanding balance under these local lines of credit was approximately \$59.3 million. Certain of these lines of credit are equally and ratably secured with obligations under our senior credit facilities.

Receivables facility. In June 2004, Nalco Company entered into a three-year accounts receivable securitization facility with a commercial paper conduit sponsored by JPMorgan Chase Bank, one of the lenders under Nalco Company's senior credit facilities, which provided up to \$100.0 million in funding. When that facility expired in June 2007, Nalco Company entered into a new three-year facility with a commercial paper conduit sponsored by Bank of America, N.A., one of the other lenders under Nalco Company's senior credit facilities. The new facility provides up to \$160.0 million in funding, based on availability of eligible receivables and satisfaction of other customary conditions.

Under the facility, pursuant to a receivables purchase agreement, Nalco Company (the seller) sells trade accounts receivable (the receivables) to Nalco Receivables LLC (the transferor), a wholly owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose limited liability company. Pursuant to a receivables transfer agreement, the transferor then transfers an undivided interest in the purchased receivables to the commercial paper conduit or the related bank sponsor (the transferees) in exchange for cash. The transferor's purchase of receivables from the seller is financed through the simultaneous transfer of this undivided interest in the purchased receivables, together with cash contributed to it by Nalco Company and the advances made by the seller under an intercompany note.

Nalco Company, as the receivables collection agent, services, administers and collects the receivables under the receivables transfer agreement for which it receives a monthly servicing fee at a rate of 1% per annum of the average daily outstanding balance of receivables. Borrowings under the receivables facility bear interest at a floating base rate plus a program fee. The program fee varies based upon our leverage ratio as calculated under the senior credit facilities and is currently 0.175% of the amount funded. In

addition, the transferor is required to pay a facility fee that varies based upon the same ratio and is currently 0.225% of \$163.2 million. These rates are per annum and payments of these fees are made to the lenders on the monthly settlement date.

Availability of funding under the receivables facility depends primarily upon the outstanding trade accounts receivable balance from time to time. Aggregate availability is determined by using a formula that reduces the gross receivables balance by factors that take into account historical default and dilution rates, excessive concentrations and average days outstanding and the costs of the facility. Based on the terms of this facility and on the criteria described above, as of December 31, 2008, approximately \$206.0 million of our accounts receivable balance was considered eligible for financing under the program, of which approximately \$156.0 million would have been available for funding. As of December 31, 2008, we had \$98.0 million of outstanding borrowings under this facility.

This facility is treated as a general financing agreement resulting in the funding and related receivables being shown as liabilities and assets, respectively, on our consolidated balance sheet and the costs associated with the receivables facility being recorded as interest expense.

Contractual Obligations and Commitments

The following table summarizes our expected cash outflows resulting from our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2008:

(dollars in millions)	Payments Due By Period				
	Total	2009	2010 to 2011	2012 to 2013	2014 and beyond
Contractual Obligations:					
Debt obligations:					
Principal	\$3,162.1	\$ 30.6	\$1,927.8	\$ 742.7	\$461.0
Interest	787.7	198.5	371.2	211.2	6.8
Total debt obligations	\$3,949.8	\$229.1	\$2,299.0	\$ 953.9	\$467.8
Operating lease obligations (1)	277.8	24.0	71.2	34.3	148.3
Purchase obligations (2)	—	—	—	—	—
Other long-term liabilities (3)(4)	382.7	85.1	67.7	84.8	145.1
Total	<u>\$4,610.3</u>	<u>\$338.2</u>	<u>\$2,437.9</u>	<u>\$1,073.0</u>	<u>\$761.2</u>

- (1) Represents future minimum rental payments related to administrative, research, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. Operating leases are also in place for vehicles and office equipment, the amounts of which are not readily available.
- (2) Excluded from the table are open purchase orders for raw materials and supplies used in the normal course of business, supply contracts with customers, distribution agreements, joint venture agreements and other contracts without express funding requirements.
- (3) Does not reflect obligations under the Contribution Agreement relating to our Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, for which Suez has agreed to reimburse us.
- (4) The amounts in long-term liabilities represent our expected minimum pension funding requirements for the principal domestic defined benefit pension plan through 2018. Amounts beyond 2018 are not reasonably estimable.

Our contractual obligations and commitments over the next several years are significant. Our primary source of liquidity will continue to be cash flow generated from operations. In the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008, our cumulative cash flow from operations was \$891.3 million. We have availability under a \$250 million revolving credit facility to assist us, if required, in meeting our working capital needs and other contractual obligations. This multi-year revolving credit facility matures in November 2009. If our cash flow from operations is insufficient to fund our debt service and other

obligations, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, seek additional capital or seek to restructure or refinance our indebtedness. At December 31, 2008, we had no borrowings under the \$250 million revolving credit facility, excluding \$21.1 million of outstanding letters of credit.

We believe that cash flow generated from operations and our borrowing capacity will be adequate to meet our obligations and business requirements, particularly as we improve our working capital management and integrate our supply process within the business. Our ability to fund these items and to reduce debt may be affected by general economic, financial, competitive, legislative and regulatory factors, and the cost of litigation claims, among other things.

The following table summarizes our expected cash outflows resulting from commercial commitments as of December 31, 2008. Commercial commitments include lines of credit, guarantees and other potential cash outflows resulting from a contingent event that requires our performance pursuant to a funding commitment.

(dollars in millions)	Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period				
	Total	2009	2010 to 2011	2012 to 2013	2014 and beyond
Commercial Commitments:					
Standby letters of credit (1)	\$53.9	\$47.8	\$6.1	\$—	\$—
Guarantees	—	—	—	—	—
Other commercial commitments	1.4	1.3	0.1	—	—
Total	<u>\$55.3</u>	<u>\$49.1</u>	<u>\$6.2</u>	<u>\$—</u>	<u>\$—</u>

(1) The final maturity of current instruments is subject to annual renewal.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet financing or unconsolidated special purpose entities.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2006, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, an interpretation of SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. The interpretation clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements by prescribing a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. We adopted the provisions of FIN 48 as of January 1, 2007, as required. The adoption of FIN 48 decreased total assets and total liabilities by \$5.6 million and \$13.5 million, respectively, and increased shareholders' equity by \$7.9 million.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements. This statement indicates, among other things, that a fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell an asset or transfer a liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value based upon an exit price model. Relative to SFAS No. 157, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) 157-2, which delayed the effective date of SFAS No. 157 for one year for certain nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. As required, we adopted SFAS No. 157 on January 1, 2008, for financial assets and liabilities and for nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are remeasured at least annually. There was no material effect on our financial statements upon adoption. We do not expect a material impact on our financial statements from adoption of SFAS No. 157 as it pertains to nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities for our first quarter of 2009.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans — an amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106 and 132(R)*. SFAS No. 158 requires an employer to recognize in its balance sheet an asset for a plan's overfunded status or a liability for a plan's underfunded status, measure a plan's assets and its obligations that determine its funded status as of the end of the employer's fiscal year, and recognize changes in the funded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan in the year in which the changes occur. Those changes are to be reported in comprehensive income and as a separate component of shareholders' equity. SFAS No. 158 does not change the amount of net periodic benefit cost included in net earnings. We adopted the recognition and disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158 as of December 31, 2006, as required. Based on the funded status of our plans as of December 31, 2006, the adoption of the recognition and disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158 decreased total assets by \$2.7 million, decreased total liabilities by \$0.9 million and reduced shareholders' equity by \$1.8 million. In 2008, we adopted the measurement date provisions of SFAS No. 158, as required, and changed our measurement date to our December 31 year-end from the former measurement date of November 30. The adoption of the measurement date provisions of SFAS No. 158 increased total liabilities and reduced shareholders' equity by \$2.7 million.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities — Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115*. SFAS No. 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. This statement also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. At the adoption date, unrealized gains and losses on existing items for which fair value has been elected are reported as a cumulative adjustment in retained earnings. Subsequent to adopting SFAS No. 159, changes in fair value are recognized in earnings. As required, we adopted SFAS No. 159 as of January 1, 2008; however, we elected not to change the measurement attribute for any of the permitted items to fair value upon adoption.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations*, which replaces SFAS No. 141, *Business Combinations*. SFAS No. 141(R) retains the underlying concepts of SFAS No. 141 in that all business combinations are still required to be accounted for under the acquisition method of accounting, but SFAS No. 141(R) changed the method of applying the acquisition method in a number of significant aspects. Acquisition costs will generally be expensed as incurred; noncontrolling interests will be valued at fair value at the acquisition date; in-process research and development will be recorded at fair value as an indefinite-lived intangible asset at the acquisition date; restructuring costs associated with a business combination will generally be expensed subsequent to the acquisition date; and changes in deferred tax asset valuation allowances and income tax uncertainties after the acquisition date generally will affect income tax expense. SFAS No. 141(R) is effective on a prospective basis for all business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual period subsequent to December 15, 2008, with the exception of the accounting for changes in valuation allowances on deferred taxes and acquired tax contingencies related to acquisitions prior to the date of adoption. SFAS No. 141(R) amends SFAS No. 109 such that adjustments made to valuation allowances on deferred taxes and acquired tax contingencies associated with acquisitions that closed prior to the effective date of SFAS No. 141(R) would also apply the provisions of SFAS No. 141(R). Early adoption is not permitted. Adoption of SFAS No. 141(R) is not expected to have a significant impact on our financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements — an amendment of ARB No. 51*. SFAS No. 160 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2008, with earlier adoption prohibited. This statement requires the recognition of a noncontrolling interest (minority interest) as equity in the consolidated financial statements and separate from the parent's equity. The amount of net earnings attributable to the noncontrolling interest will be included in consolidated net income on the face of the income statement. The statement also amends certain of ARB No. 51's consolidation procedures for consistency with the requirements of SFAS No. 141(R). This statement also includes

expanded disclosure requirements regarding the interests of the parent and its noncontrolling interest. We do not expect adoption of SFAS No. 160 to have a significant impact on the reporting of our results of operations.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities — an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133*. SFAS No. 161 amends and expands the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. The statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. We do not expect adoption of SFAS No. 161 to have a significant impact on our financial statements.

In December 2008, the FASB issued FSP 132(R)-1, *Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets*, as an amendment to SFAS No. 132 (revised 2003), to require additional disclosures about assets held in an employer's pension and other postretirement benefit plans. FSP 132(R)-1 is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2009. We are currently evaluating the effects that FSP 132(R)-1 may have on our financial statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are subject to inherent risks attributed to operating in a global economy. We may utilize derivative financial instruments as necessary to manage foreign currency exchange rate risks. We manage foreign currency exchange risk arising from financial activities pursuant to our corporate guidelines. Forward contracts and, occasionally, swaps and options are utilized to protect these cash flows from adverse movements in exchange rates, and we account for these instruments by marking them to market at each balance sheet date. We may also employ hedge accounting as permitted by SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. In addition, we use certain foreign currency debt as a hedge of the foreign currency exposure of a portion of our net investment in foreign operations.

Upon issuance, we designated the €200.0 million aggregate principal amount of 7¾% senior notes due 2011, the €200.0 million aggregate principal amount of 9% senior subordinated notes due 2013, and the €88.0 million term loan as a hedge of our net investment in subsidiary companies whose assets, liabilities, and operations are measured using the euro as their functional currency. Because of the high degree of effectiveness between the hedging instruments and the exposure being hedged, fluctuations in the value of the euro-denominated debt due to exchange rate changes are offset by changes in the net investment. Accordingly, changes in the value of the euro-denominated debt are recognized in foreign currency translation adjustment, a component of accumulated other comprehensive income, to offset changes in the value of our net investment in subsidiary companies whose financial statements are measured using the euro as their functional currency.

We formally assess, on a quarterly basis, whether the euro-denominated debt is effective at offsetting changes in the value of the underlying exposure. For the year ended December 31, 2008, we recorded a \$35.1 million non-cash pretax gain in the accumulated foreign currency translation adjustment account related to this hedge. No hedge ineffectiveness was recorded in income.

We also manage operational (transactional) foreign currency risk, particularly in emerging markets, by closely managing both pricing and raw material sourcing. Risks associated with foreign exchange translation exposures are not hedged.

We have exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Based on our derivative foreign currency instruments outstanding at December 31, 2008 and 2007, a 10% strengthening or weakening in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the currencies in which those derivative foreign currency instruments are denominated would result in a gain or loss in fair values of less than \$2.7 million and \$5.4 million for the respective year.

At December 31, 2008, Nalco Company's 2009 forecasted natural gas utility requirements were approximately 60% hedged utilizing natural gas forward contracts at an average cost of \$9.34 per MMBTU. These contracts had a notional value of \$8.9 million and have delivery dates from January 2009 through December 2009. Based on year-end NYMEX prices, we had a net unrealized loss on our natural gas forward contracts at December 31, 2008 of \$3.2 million. Assuming that year-end natural gas prices were to increase or decrease by 10%, the gain or loss in fair value would be approximately \$0.6 million.

At December 31, 2008, we had \$1.071.1 million of variable rate debt. A 1% increase in the average interest rate would increase future interest expense by approximately \$10.7 million per year.

Our sensitivity analysis of the effects of the changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates do not reflect the effect of such changes on the related hedged transactions or on other operating transactions. The analysis also does not factor in a potential change in the level of variable rate borrowings or derivative instruments outstanding that could take place if these hypothetical conditions prevailed.

We are exposed to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the derivative financial instruments. We limit this exposure by entering into agreements directly with a number of major financial institutions that meet our credit standards and that are expected to satisfy fully their obligations under the contracts. We view derivative financial instruments as a risk management tool and do not use them for speculative or trading purposes.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Index to Financial Statements

**Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Financial Statements**

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Nalco Holding Company

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Nalco Holding Company and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008. Our audits also included the financial statement schedules listed in the Index at Item 15(a)(2). These financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Nalco Holding Company and subsidiaries at December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted the measurement provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*, as of December 31, 2008 and the recognition and disclosure provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 158 as of December 31, 2006. As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, as of January 1, 2007.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Nalco Holding Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 23, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP
Chicago, Illinois
February 23, 2009

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Nalco Holding Company

We have audited Nalco Holding Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Nalco Holding Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Nalco Holding Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Nalco Holding Company and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, and our report dated February 23, 2009, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP
Chicago, Illinois
February 23, 2009

Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(dollars in millions)

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 61.8	\$ 119.9
Trade accounts receivable, less allowances of \$23.8 and \$19.5 in 2008 and 2007, respectively	774.0	805.6
Inventories	411.8	350.4
Deferred income taxes	25.7	25.9
Prepaid expenses, taxes and other current assets	114.4	86.7
Total current assets	1,387.7	1,388.5
Property, plant, and equipment, net	703.7	762.3
Goodwill	1,700.1	2,459.8
Other intangible assets, net	1,076.4	1,121.4
Deferred financing costs	24.4	34.2
Receivable from former shareholder	3.4	37.7
Other noncurrent assets	146.3	174.7
Total assets	\$5,042.0	\$5,978.6
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 299.2	\$ 316.4
Accrued expenses	199.2	159.8
Accrued compensation	110.2	125.9
Short-term debt	93.8	130.4
Income taxes	32.5	36.8
Total current liabilities	734.9	769.3
Long-term debt	3,129.6	3,193.7
Deferred income taxes	258.8	327.5
Accrued pension benefits	322.2	314.4
Other liabilities	178.7	234.7
Minority interest	24.5	21.2
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock	1.4	1.4
Additional paid-in capital	764.5	749.7
Treasury stock	(211.3)	(108.0)
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(268.8)	100.7
Accumulated other comprehensive income	107.5	374.0
Total shareholders' equity	393.3	1,117.8
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$5,042.0	\$5,978.6

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Operations
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts)

	Year ended December 31		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Net sales	\$4,212.4	\$3,912.5	\$3,602.6
Operating costs and expenses:			
Cost of product sold	2,381.1	2,157.9	1,995.3
Selling, administrative and research expenses	1,247.2	1,201.0	1,094.7
Amortization of intangible assets	56.8	62.1	70.1
Restructuring expenses	33.4	15.3	9.5
Gain on divestiture	(38.1)	—	—
Impairment of goodwill	544.2	—	—
Total operating costs and expenses	<u>4,224.6</u>	<u>3,436.3</u>	<u>3,169.6</u>
Operating earnings (loss)	(12.2)	476.2	433.0
Other income (expense), net	(17.4)	(4.8)	(4.4)
Interest income	8.3	9.1	9.1
Interest expense	(258.8)	(274.0)	(272.0)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests	(280.1)	206.5	165.7
Income tax provision	54.5	69.3	58.9
Minority interests	(8.0)	(8.2)	(7.9)
Net earnings (loss)	<u>\$ (342.6)</u>	<u>\$ 129.0</u>	<u>\$ 98.9</u>
Net earnings (loss) per share:			
Basic	<u>\$ (2.44)</u>	<u>\$ 0.90</u>	<u>\$ 0.69</u>
Diluted	<u>\$ (2.44)</u>	<u>\$ 0.88</u>	<u>\$ 0.67</u>
Weighted-average shares outstanding (millions):			
Basic	<u>140.1</u>	<u>143.2</u>	<u>143.0</u>
Diluted	<u>140.1</u>	<u>146.7</u>	<u>146.7</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts)

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Comprehensive Income (Loss)
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount				
Balance at January 1,								
2006	142,737,451	\$1.4	—	\$ —	\$739.1	\$(115.1)	\$ 80.1	
Share-based								
compensation	6,645	—	—	—	1.8	—	—	
Warrant exercise	310,917	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Net earnings	—	—	—	—	—	98.9	—	\$ 98.9
Other comprehensive								
income (loss):								
Minimum pension								
liability adjustment –								
net of tax of \$0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.8
Loss on derivatives – net								
of tax benefit of								
\$0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1.3)	(1.3)
Currency translation								
adjustments – net of								
tax benefit of \$9.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	87.0	87.0
Comprehensive income								<u>\$185.4</u>
Adjustment to adopt SFAS								
No. 158 recognition								
provision – net of tax								
benefit of \$5.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1.8)	
Balance at December 31,								
2006	143,055,013	1.4	—	—	740.9	(16.2)	164.8	
Share-based								
compensation	56,249	—	—	—	8.8	—	—	
Warrant exercise	1,265,806	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Purchases of treasury								
stock	—	—	4,588,500	(108.0)	—	—	—	
Dividends on common								
stock (\$0.14 per share) ..	—	—	—	—	—	(20.0)	—	
Adoption of Interpretation								
No. 48 (FIN 48)	—	—	—	—	—	7.9	—	
Net earnings	—	—	—	—	—	129.0	—	\$129.0
Net actuarial gains – net								
of tax of \$26.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	57.5	57.5
Net prior service credit –								
net of tax of \$6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.8	11.8
Loss on derivatives – net								
of tax benefit of								
\$0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.6)	(0.6)
Currency translation								
adjustments – net of								
tax of \$22.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	140.5	140.5
Comprehensive income								<u>\$338.2</u>
Balance at December 31,								
2007	144,377,068	1.4	4,588,500	(108.0)	749.7	100.7	374.0	

Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity (continued)
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts)

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Comprehensive Income (Loss)
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount				
Share-based compensation	238,647	—	—	—	6.5	—	—	
Reclassification of restricted stock no longer subject to cash settlement	—	—	—	—	8.0	—	—	
Warrant exercise	2,126,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Exercise of stock options	21,665	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	
Increase in redemption value of noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	—	—	(5.1)	—	
Purchases of treasury stock	—	—	4,947,443	(103.3)	—	—	—	
Dividends on common stock (\$0.14 per share) ..	—	—	—	—	—	(19.6)	—	
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	(342.6)	—	\$(342.6)
Other comprehensive income (loss):								
Net actuarial losses – net of tax benefit of \$18.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	(30.7)	(30.7)
Net prior service cost – net of tax benefit of \$1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	(5.2)	(5.2)
Gain on derivatives – net of tax of \$0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.3	1.3
Currency translation adjustments – net of tax of \$12.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	(231.4)	(231.4)
Comprehensive loss								<u>\$(608.6)</u>
Adjustment to adopt SFAS No. 158 measurement provision:								
Service cost, interest cost and expected return on plan assets for December 2007, net of tax benefit of \$1.4	—	—	—	—	—	(2.7)	—	
Amortization of net prior service credit for December 2007, net of tax of \$0.2	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	(0.4)	
Amortization of net gain for December 2007, net of tax of \$0.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	(0.1)	
Balance at December 31, 2008	<u>146,764,030</u>	<u>\$1.4</u>	<u>9,535,943</u>	<u>\$(211.3)</u>	<u>\$764.5</u>	<u>\$(268.8)</u>	<u>\$ 107.5</u>	

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(dollars in millions)

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Operating activities			
Net earnings (loss)	\$(342.6)	\$ 129.0	\$ 98.9
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	136.6	132.3	131.0
Amortization	56.8	62.1	70.1
Gain on divestiture	(38.1)	—	—
Impairment of goodwill	544.2	—	—
Amortization of deferred financing costs and accretion of senior discount notes	48.0	45.1	43.5
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated subsidiaries, net of distributions	1.9	0.9	1.9
Deferred income taxes	(30.7)	0.2	(30.0)
Amortization of unearned employee compensation and accretion of obligation	20.1	28.6	25.6
Defined benefit pension plan expense	45.1	41.4	44.9
Defined benefit pension plan contributions	(86.2)	(86.8)	(70.8)
Other, net	22.2	21.6	21.6
Changes in current assets and liabilities:			
Trade accounts receivable	(18.0)	(55.4)	(40.6)
Inventories	(92.8)	6.2	(15.4)
Accounts payable	(7.0)	7.3	(8.8)
Other	23.6	(9.1)	12.9
Net cash provided by operating activities	283.1	323.4	284.8
Investing activities			
Business purchases	(21.7)	(28.3)	(6.4)
Additions to property, plant, and equipment, net	(133.1)	(114.6)	(93.4)
Net proceeds from divestiture	74.1	—	—
Other investing activities	(14.7)	1.2	0.2
Net cash used for investing activities	(95.4)	(141.7)	(99.6)
Financing activities			
Cash dividends	(19.7)	(15.1)	—
Proceeds from long— term debt	34.0	50.2	—
Payments of long— term debt	(70.8)	(40.1)	(205.6)
Short— term debt, net	(65.8)	13.6	30.8
Deferred financing costs	—	—	(0.8)
Purchases of treasury stock	(103.3)	(108.0)	—
Other financing activities	(7.3)	(5.9)	(4.0)
Net cash used for financing activities	(232.9)	(105.3)	(179.6)
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(12.9)	6.2	0.9
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(58.1)	82.6	6.5
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	119.9	37.3	30.8
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	<u>\$ 61.8</u>	<u>\$ 119.9</u>	<u>\$ 37.3</u>
Supplemental cash flows information			
Cash paid during the period for:			
Interest	\$ 213.7	\$ 227.8	\$ 226.3
Income taxes	84.5	81.4	88.6

See notes to consolidated financial statements

Nalco Holding Company and Subsidiaries
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts)
December 31, 2008

1. Description of Business and Change in Ownership

Description of Business

We are engaged in the worldwide manufacture and sale of highly specialized service chemical programs. This includes production and service related to the sale and application of chemicals and technology used in water treatment, pollution control, energy conservation, oil production and refining, steelmaking, papermaking, mining, and other industrial processes.

Change in Ownership

On November 4, 2003, Nalco Holding Company's indirect subsidiary, Nalco Holdings LLC (the "Buyer"), a newly formed entity controlled by affiliates of The Blackstone Group, L.P., Apollo Management, L.P., and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (collectively, the "Sponsors"), pursuant to a Stock Purchase Agreement (as amended, the "Stock Purchase Agreement") with Suez S.A. ("Suez") and certain of its affiliates, acquired the net assets of Ondeo Nalco Group (as defined below) for \$4,127.1 million, including direct costs of the acquisition of \$125.6 million, excluding assumed debt of \$30.2 million, and subject to certain closing and post-closing adjustments (the "Acquisition").

The Ondeo Nalco Group (the "Predecessor") included Ondeo Nalco Company and subsidiaries ("ONC") and certain subsidiaries of Nalco International SAS ("NIS") plus Calgon Europe Limited (UK), owned by Degremont (a former related party). Ondeo Industrial Solutions North America, a subsidiary of ONC, was excluded from the Predecessor, as the Buyer did not acquire it.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

All intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated. Investments in companies or partnerships in which we do not have control, but have the ability to exercise significant influence over operating and financial policies, are reported using the equity method.

Use of Estimates

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

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 to conform to the current year presentation.

These reclassifications had no effect on net earnings reported for any period.

Foreign Currency Translation

Local currencies are the functional currencies for most foreign operations. Their balance sheets and income statements are translated at current and average exchange rates, respectively, with any resulting

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

translation adjustments included in the currency translation adjustment account in shareholders' equity. The financial statements of any foreign subsidiaries that operate in highly inflationary environments are translated using a combination of current, average, and historical exchange rates, with the resulting translation impact included in results of operations. Exchange adjustments resulting from transactions executed in different currencies are included in other income (expense) in the statements of operations.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the accounting loss that would be recognized at the reporting date if counterparties failed to perform as contracted. We believe the likelihood of incurring material losses due to concentration of credit risk is remote. The principal financial instruments subject to credit risk are as follows:

Cash and Cash Equivalents

A formal policy exists of placing these instruments in investment grade companies and institutions and limiting the size of an investment with any single entity.

Accounts Receivable

A large number of customers in diverse industries and geographies, as well as the practice of establishing reasonable credit lines, limits credit risk. The allowance for doubtful accounts is adequate to cover potential credit risk losses.

Foreign Exchange Contracts and Derivatives

Formal policies exist, which establish credit limits and investment grade credit criteria of "A" or better for all counterparties.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all cash balances and highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable are carried at their face amounts less an allowance for doubtful accounts. On a periodic basis, we evaluate our accounts receivable and establish the allowance for doubtful accounts based on a combination of specific customer circumstances and credit conditions and based on a history of write-offs and collections. Our policy is generally to not charge interest on trade receivables after the invoice becomes past due. A receivable is considered past due if payments have not been received within agreed upon invoice terms. Write-offs are recorded at the time a customer receivable is deemed uncollectible.

Inventory Valuation

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market. Approximately 64% and 60% of the inventories at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, are valued using the average cost or first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. The remaining inventories are valued using the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method. Reported inventory amounts would have been \$30.5 million and \$11.5 million higher at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, if the FIFO method of accounting had been used for all inventories.

The LIFO method is used only in the United States. Most of the countries outside of the United States where we have subsidiaries do not permit the use of the LIFO method. In those countries where its use is

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

permitted, we have not adopted the LIFO method of inventory valuation because the value of the inventories in those countries is not significant.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

We assess the recoverability of goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite lives annually or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be fully recoverable.

We have defined our reportable segments as our reporting units for our goodwill accounting. We use a two-step process to test goodwill for impairment. First, the reporting unit's fair value is compared to its carrying value. Fair value is estimated using a discounted cash flow approach. If a reporting unit's carrying amount exceeds its fair value, an indication exists that the reporting unit's goodwill may be impaired, and the second step of the impairment test would be performed. The second step of the goodwill impairment test is used to measure the amount of the impairment loss, if any. In the second step, the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill is determined by allocating the reporting unit's fair value to all of its assets and liabilities other than goodwill in a manner similar to a purchase price allocation. The implied fair value of the goodwill that results from the application of this second step is then compared to the carrying amount of the goodwill and an impairment charge would be recorded for the difference if the carrying value exceeds the implied fair value of the goodwill.

We test the carrying value of other intangible assets with indefinite lives by comparing the fair value of the intangible assets to the carrying value. Fair value is estimated using a relief of royalty approach, a discounted cash flow methodology.

We amortize most customer relationships using a declining-balance method over an estimated useful life of 16 years to reflect the pattern in which the economic benefits of that asset are realized. This amortization method considers the expected rate of customer attrition, which was based on historical attrition data that was also used in estimating the fair value of the customer relationship intangible acquired at the Acquisition date.

The straight-line method is used for all other assets subject to amortization. Patents and developed technology are primarily being amortized over an estimated useful life of 10 years.

Deferred Financing Costs

Deferred financing costs are incurred to obtain long-term financing and are amortized using the effective interest method over the term of the related debt. The amortization of deferred financing costs, which is classified in interest expense in the statement of operations, was \$9.7 million, \$10.1 million and \$11.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Asset Retirement Obligations

The fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized in the period in which it is incurred. The liability is adjusted to its present value in subsequent periods as accretion expense is recorded. The corresponding asset retirement costs are capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset and depreciated over the asset's useful life.

The liability for asset retirement obligations was \$4.8 million and \$6.1 million at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, for remediation and demolition activities at certain manufacturing sites where legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets exist and potential settlement dates can be determined. The liability for other asset retirement obligations cannot currently be measured as the retirement dates are not yet determinable. We will recognize the liability when sufficient information exists to estimate potential settlement dates.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Income Taxes

Income taxes are recognized during the period in which transactions enter into the determination of financial statement income, with deferred income taxes being provided for the tax effect of temporary differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities and their tax bases.

Deferred income taxes are provided on the undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries except to the extent such earnings are considered to be permanently reinvested in the subsidiary. In cases where available foreign tax credits will not offset income taxes, appropriate provisions are included in the consolidated statement of operations.

Valuation allowances are determined based on the realizability of the deferred tax assets. Relevant factors to determine the realizability of the assets include future taxable income, the expected timing of the reversal of temporary differences, tax planning strategies and the expiration dates of the various tax attributes. Valuation allowances are established for those assets that are determined to be more likely than not to expire without benefit, or for which income of the proper character is not anticipated.

The effect of a valuation allowance for a deferred tax asset that is expected to originate in the current year is included in the annual effective tax rate for the year. The effect of a change in the beginning-of-the-year balance of a valuation allowance resulting from a change in judgment about the realizability of the related deferred tax asset in future years is recognized in the interim period in which the change occurs.

We record liabilities for income tax uncertainties in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria described in FASB Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, an interpretation of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. The tax benefits and related reserves are measured throughout the year, taking into account new legislation, regulations, case law and audit results. We recognize income tax-related interest and penalties within the income tax provision.

Derivative Instruments

In accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended by SFAS No. 138, *Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain Hedging Activities*, derivatives are recognized as either assets or liabilities in the balance sheets at fair value.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue from sales of products, including amounts billed to customers for shipping and handling costs, is recognized at the time: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, (2) ownership and all risks of loss have been transferred to the buyer, which is generally upon shipment, (3) the price is fixed and determinable, and (4) collectibility is reasonably assured. Revenue from services is recognized when the services are provided to the customer.

Cost of Product Sold

Cost of product sold includes the cost of inventory (materials and conversion costs) sold to customers, shipping and handling costs, and certain warehousing costs. It also includes inbound freight charges, purchasing and receiving costs, packaging, quality assurance costs, internal transfer costs, and other costs of our distribution network. It also includes supply chain administration, safety, health and environmental administration, and the costs of labor for services provided, whether as saleable services or as part of a multiple deliverables arrangement.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Selling, Administrative and Research Expenses

Selling expenses, which include the cost of our sales force and marketing staff and their related expenses, were \$969.1 million, \$909.7 million and \$823.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Administrative expenses primarily represent the cost of support functions, including information technology, finance, human resources and legal, as well as expenses for support facilities, executive management and management incentive plans. Administrative expenses were \$204.1 million, \$225.2 million and \$210.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Research and development expenses represent the cost of our research and development personnel and their related expenses, including research facilities in the United States, the Netherlands and Singapore. Research and development expenses, totaled \$74.0 million, \$66.1 million and \$60.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Research and development costs are charged to expense as incurred.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FIN 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, an interpretation of SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. The interpretation clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements by prescribing a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. We adopted the provisions of FIN 48 as of January 1, 2007, as required. The adoption of FIN 48 decreased total assets and total liabilities by \$5.6 million and \$13.5 million, respectively, and increased shareholders' equity by \$7.9 million.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements. This statement indicates, among other things, that a fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell an asset or transfer a liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value based upon an exit price model. Relative to SFAS No. 157, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) 157-2, which delayed the effective date of SFAS No. 157 for one year for certain nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. As required, we adopted SFAS No. 157 on January 1, 2008, for financial assets and liabilities and for nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are remeasured at least annually. There was no material effect on our financial statements upon adoption. We do not expect a material impact on our financial statements from adoption of SFAS No. 157 as it pertains to nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities for our first quarter of 2009.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans – an amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106 and 132(R)*. SFAS No. 158 requires an employer to recognize in its balance sheet an asset for a plan's overfunded status or a liability for a plan's underfunded status, measure a plan's assets and its obligations that determine its funded status as of the end of the employer's fiscal year, and recognize changes in the funded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan in the year in which the changes occur. Those changes are to be reported in comprehensive income and as a separate component of shareholders' equity. SFAS No. 158 does not change the amount of net periodic benefit cost included in net earnings. We adopted the recognition and disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158 as of December 31, 2006, as required. Based on

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

the funded status of our plans as of our measurement date (November 30, 2006), the adoption of the recognition and disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158 decreased total assets by \$2.7 million, decreased total liabilities by \$0.9 million and reduced shareholders' equity by \$1.8 million. In 2008, we adopted the measurement date provisions of SFAS No. 158, as required, and changed our measurement date to our December 31 year-end from the former measurement date of November 30. The adoption of the measurement date provisions of SFAS No. 158 increased total liabilities and reduced shareholders' equity by \$2.7 million.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities — Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115*. SFAS No. 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. This statement also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. At the adoption date, unrealized gains and losses on existing items for which fair value has been elected are reported as a cumulative adjustment in retained earnings. Subsequent to adopting SFAS No. 159, changes in fair value are recognized in earnings. As required, we adopted SFAS No. 159 as of January 1, 2008; however, we elected not to change the measurement attribute for any of the permitted items to fair value upon adoption.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations*, which replaces SFAS No. 141, *Business Combinations*. SFAS No. 141(R) retains the underlying concepts of SFAS No. 141 in that all business combinations are still required to be accounted for under the acquisition method of accounting, but SFAS No. 141(R) changed the method of applying the acquisition method in a number of significant aspects. Acquisition costs will generally be expensed as incurred; noncontrolling interests will be valued at fair value at the acquisition date; in-process research and development will be recorded at fair value as an indefinite-lived intangible asset at the acquisition date; restructuring costs associated with a business combination will generally be expensed subsequent to the acquisition date; and changes in deferred tax asset valuation allowances and income tax uncertainties after the acquisition date generally will affect income tax expense. SFAS No. 141(R) is effective on a prospective basis for all business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual period subsequent to December 15, 2008, with the exception of the accounting for changes in valuation allowances on deferred taxes and acquired tax contingencies related to acquisitions prior to the date of adoption. SFAS No. 141(R) amends SFAS No. 109 such that adjustments made to valuation allowances on deferred taxes and acquired tax contingencies associated with acquisitions that closed prior to the effective date of SFAS No. 141(R) would also apply the provisions of SFAS No. 141(R). Early adoption is not permitted. Adoption of SFAS No. 141(R) is not expected to have a significant impact on our financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements — an amendment of ARB No. 51*. SFAS No. 160 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2008, with earlier adoption prohibited. This statement requires the recognition of a noncontrolling interest (minority interest) as equity in the consolidated financial statements and separate from the parent's equity. The amount of net earnings attributable to the noncontrolling interest will be included in consolidated net income on the face of the income statement. The statement also amends certain of ARB No. 51's consolidation procedures for consistency with the requirements of SFAS No. 141(R). This statement also includes expanded disclosure requirements regarding the interests of the parent and its noncontrolling interest. We do not expect adoption of SFAS No. 160 to have a significant impact on the reporting of our results of operations.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities — an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133*. SFAS No. 161 amends and expands the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. The statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. We do not expect adoption of SFAS No. 161 to have a significant impact on our financial statements.

In December 2008, the FASB issued FSP 132(R)-1, *Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets*, as an amendment to SFAS No. 132 (revised 2003), to require additional disclosures about assets held in an employer's pension and other postretirement benefit plans. FSP 132(R)-1 is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2009. We are currently evaluating the effects that FSP 132(R)-1 may have on our financial statements.

3. Acquisitions and Divestitures

During 2008, we purchased 100% of the outstanding shares of TIORCO, Inc., a company engaged in the enhanced oil recovery business, for \$8.5 million, net of cash acquired. The purchase agreement included a provision for two contingent payments. The first payment of \$3.1 million was paid during 2008 and was accounted for as additional purchase price. The second payment, which is payable in 2009, could be as much as \$3.1 million and will also be accounted for as additional purchase price. On a preliminary basis, the purchase price, including the first contingent payment, exceeded the fair value of the net tangible assets acquired by \$8.8 million, which was allocated to goodwill.

In August 2008, we purchased the assets of G&L Soap Injection Enterprise, LLC and Six Degrees, LLC, companies engaged in the business of treating gas and oil wells, for \$7.0 million. On a preliminary basis, the purchase price exceeded the fair value of the net tangible assets acquired by \$6.3 million, which was allocated to goodwill and other intangible assets. The purchase agreement included a provision for three contingent payments totaling \$2.0 million that are payable in the years 2010 through 2012. These payments, if earned, will be accounted for as additional purchase price.

Other small business acquisitions were made during 2008 for a combined purchase price of \$3.1 million, net of cash acquired. The purchase price exceeded the fair value of the net tangible assets acquired by \$2.1 million, which was allocated to goodwill.

In September 2008, we completed the sale of our Finishing Technologies surface treatment business to Chemetall Corp., a subsidiary of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. Proceeds from the sale were \$74.1 million, net of selling and other cash expenses of \$0.9 million, and resulted in a gain of \$38.1 million before income taxes. A plant in Jackson, Michigan, dedicated to the Finishing Technologies business, was included in the sale, along with dedicated Finishing Technologies sales, service, marketing, research and supply chain employees. The sale also included products, goodwill, customer relationships and other related assets. On an after-tax basis, the transaction increased diluted earnings per share by 11 cents for the year ended December 31, 2008.

On December 10, 2007 (the Effective Date), we purchased an 87.5% interest in Mobotec USA, Inc. (Mobotec), a leading provider of combustion optimization and emission reduction capabilities, including engineering, equipment and chemistry for industrial and utility boilers. We accounted for the acquisition as a purchase, and the results of Mobotec's operations were included in our consolidated financial statements from the date of acquisition. The purchase price was \$27.9 million, net of \$6.4 million of cash acquired. The purchase price is subject to certain adjustments as defined by the share purchase agreement. The purchase price exceeded the fair value of the net tangible assets acquired by \$39.1 million, which was allocated to goodwill and other intangible assets.

Concurrent with the purchase of the 87.5% interest in Mobotec, we entered into an agreement with the minority shareholder that provides us with two options to purchase the remaining shares of Mobotec.

3. Acquisitions and Divestitures (continued)

Each option provides us with the right to purchase 50% of the remaining shares of Mobotec. The first option and second option can be exercised no earlier than two years and four years, respectively, after the Effective Date. Both options expire five years after the Effective Date. The exercise price for each option is based on Mobotec's EBITDA, as defined in the agreement, for the four calendar quarters that precede the exercise date. The agreement also provides the minority shareholder with two options to sell the remaining shares of Mobotec to us, with terms identical to our purchase options.

In November 2006, we increased the investment in our subsidiary in India from 80% to more than 97%. The purchase price for this additional investment was \$6.4 million, net of a reimbursement of \$8.3 million received from Suez pursuant to the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement. The purchase price exceeded the fair value of the net tangible assets acquired by \$3.9 million, which was allocated to goodwill. We increased our investment by approximately an additional 1% during 2007 for a purchase price of \$0.4 million, of which \$0.2 million was allocated to goodwill.

The pro forma impact as if the aforementioned acquisitions had occurred at the beginning of the respective years is not significant.

4. Securitization of Accounts Receivable

In June 2004, we entered into a three-year accounts receivable securitization facility with a commercial paper conduit sponsored by one of the lenders under our senior credit facilities that provided up to \$100.0 million in funding. When that facility expired in June 2007, we entered into a new three-year facility with a commercial paper conduit sponsored by another lender under our senior credit facilities. The new facility provides up to \$160.0 million in funding, based on availability of eligible receivables and satisfaction of other customary conditions.

Under the facility, Nalco Company (the Seller), a wholly owned subsidiary of Nalco Holdings LLC, transfers all eligible trade accounts receivable (the Receivables) to a bankruptcy-remote, wholly owned, special purpose limited liability company (the Transferor). Pursuant to a Receivables Transfer Agreement, the Transferor then transfers an undivided interest in the Receivables to the commercial paper conduit or the related bank sponsor (the Transferees) in exchange for cash.

The financing fee charged by the Transferees under the facility is based on the amount funded and the conduit's cost of funds for issuing commercial paper plus a margin that varies based on the leverage ratio as calculated under our senior credit facilities. The Transferees also charge a facility fee, which varies based on the same ratio, on 102% of the total funding commitment under the facility. Nalco Company services, administers and collects the Receivables, for which it receives a monthly servicing fee of 1% per annum of the average daily outstanding balance of Receivables.

Availability of funding under the facility depends primarily upon the outstanding Receivables balance from time to time. The facility may be terminated for, among other reasons, material breaches of representations and warranties, bankruptcies of the Seller or the Transferor, a judgment or order for the payment of money rendered against the Transferor, cross-defaults to our other debt, or breach of specified financial covenants. We are currently in compliance with these covenants.

The facility is accounted for as a secured borrowing, resulting in the funding and related Receivables being shown as liabilities and assets, respectively, on our consolidated balance sheet and the costs associated with the facility being recorded as interest expense. We had outstanding borrowings of \$98.0 million at December 31, 2008 and \$134.0 million at December 31, 2007 under the new facility.

5. Inventories

Inventories consist of the following:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Finished products	\$301.6	\$268.9
Raw materials and work-in-process	110.2	81.5
	<u>\$411.8</u>	<u>\$350.4</u>

As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, our finished products inventories included \$56.0 million and \$50.4 million, respectively, of consignment inventories at customer sites to better serve and meet the needs of our customers.

6. Goodwill

Changes in the carrying value of goodwill from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008 are summarized below:

	Industrial & Institutional Services	Energy Services	Paper Services	Total
Balance as of January 1, 2007	\$1,226.8	\$540.5	\$ 532.6	\$2,299.9
Acquisitions	34.2	—	—	34.2
Other	2.5	0.3	0.2	3.0
Effect of foreign currency translation	69.5	23.0	30.2	122.7
Balance as of December 31, 2007	1,333.0	563.8	563.0	2,459.8
Acquisitions	4.5	12.3	—	16.8
Divestiture	(28.3)	—	—	(28.3)
Impairment charge	—	—	(544.2)	(544.2)
Purchase price allocations	(20.5)	—	—	(20.5)
Other	(8.1)	(4.6)	(4.1)	(16.8)
Effect of foreign currency translation	(103.8)	(48.2)	(14.7)	(166.7)
Balance as of December 31, 2008	<u>\$1,176.8</u>	<u>\$523.3</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$1,700.1</u>

We performed our annual impairment test during the fourth quarter 2008. As a result of a significant decline in our stock price in the fourth quarter 2008, and a sharp deterioration in conditions within the paper industry and the general economy during that quarter, our impairment test indicated the potential for impairment in our Paper Services reporting unit.

We performed the second step of the goodwill impairment test and determined that an impairment of goodwill existed. Accordingly, we recorded a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$544.2 million in the fourth quarter 2008, reducing the goodwill balance of our Paper Services reporting unit to zero.

7. Other Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are summarized as follows:

	December 31, 2008		December 31, 2007	
	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Intangible assets subject to amortization:				
Customer relationships	\$ 488.2	\$(315.8)	\$ 532.9	\$(302.9)
Patents and developed technology	126.3	(55.0)	102.3	(42.5)
Other	4.9	(2.2)	2.5	(0.9)
Intangibles not subject to amortization:				
Trademarks and trade names	830.0	—	830.0	—
	<u>\$1,449.4</u>	<u>\$(373.0)</u>	<u>\$1,467.7</u>	<u>\$(346.3)</u>

7. Other Intangible Assets (continued)

Estimated annual amortization expense for the years 2009 through 2013 is as follows:

Year ending December 31	
2009	\$46.0
2010	40.6
2011	35.7
2012	32.0
2013	26.9

8. Contribution Agreement With Profit-Sharing Trust and Reimbursement Agreement with Suez

The Predecessor previously had an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), which gave most U.S. employees an additional opportunity to share in the ownership of the Predecessor's stock. Preferred shares were allocated to eligible employees based on a percentage of pretax earnings.

At the inception of the ESOP, the Predecessor and a trustee entered into a trust agreement, constituting the ESOP Trust, to fund benefits under the Predecessor's ESOP. As part of its acquisition of Nalco Chemical Company in November 1999, Suez purchased from the trustee all of the issued and outstanding Series B ESOP Convertible Preferred Stock at a price of \$1,060 per share. The trustee credited proceeds from the sale of allocated shares to participants' accounts. Under the terms of an agreement (the Contribution Agreement), the Predecessor and the ESOP trustee agreed that the trustee would use proceeds from the sale of shares held in the loan suspense account to repay the outstanding principal and accrued interest on the ESOP loans. It was also agreed that all proceeds remaining after the repayment of the loans and accrued interest would be allocated to participants' accounts. In return, the Predecessor agreed to make contributions to the Profit Sharing, Investment and Pay Deferral Plan Trust (the Trust) on or before December 31, 2010, having a present value equal to \$124.6 million, the outstanding principal and accrued interest paid on the ESOP loans. The plan was amended effective January 1, 2003 to also permit matching contributions under the Company's 401(k) plan to count as contributions to the Trust. The Contribution Agreement provides for specified minimum annual contributions to be made to the Trust, with interest accruing on the outstanding contribution balance at an annual rate of 8.5% compounded monthly. The contribution commitment becomes due and payable in its entirety if one or more events that are specified in the Contribution Agreement occur.

Pursuant to the Stock Purchase Agreement, we entered into an agreement (the Reimbursement Agreement) with Suez on November 4, 2003, whereby Suez shall reimburse us for all contributions we make to the Trust in order to satisfy our obligations under the Contribution Agreement. As part of the allocation of the Acquisition purchase price, we recorded a receivable from Suez of \$112.7 million, equivalent to our recorded liability to the Trust, and recorded a \$115.0 million unearned employee profit sharing asset, which is being amortized to reflect profit sharing and 401(k) matching contribution expenses in the period earned by employees. Interest accretes on the Suez receivable at the same rate that it accretes on our obligation to the Trust. The receivable does not have specific due dates, but under the terms of the Reimbursement Agreement, Suez is required to reimburse us immediately after we make any contributions to the Trust. The receivable is not secured by any Suez asset. However, under the terms of a sublease agreement with Leo Holding Company (Leo), a subsidiary of Suez, whereby we sublease our corporate headquarters and research facility from Leo, if Suez fails to pay any of the payments it is required to make under the Reimbursement Agreement, we have the right to set off such overdue amounts against the rent due under the sublease agreement (see Note 13). Conversely, under the terms of the Reimbursement Agreement, if we fail to pay when due any sublease rent (as defined in the sublease agreement), Suez shall have the right to reduce its reimbursement obligations to us pursuant to the Reimbursement Agreement by an amount equal to such shortfall.

The receivable from Suez, the related payable to the Trust, and the unamortized employee profit sharing asset were \$33.3 million, \$33.3 million, and \$22.1 million, respectively, at December 31, 2008. Because

8. Contribution Agreement With Profit-Sharing Trust and Reimbursement Agreement with Suez (continued)

Suez reimburses us for all payments that we make toward satisfying our obligations under the Contribution Agreement, expenses related to the Contribution Agreement are non-cash in nature. Once our remaining Contribution Agreement obligations have been fully satisfied, which will be no later than 2010, subsequent profit sharing and 401(k) matching contribution expenses will require the use of cash.

Contributions to the Trust and expenses recorded related to the Contribution Agreement are as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Contributions to the Trust	<u>\$27.0</u>	<u>\$24.9</u>	<u>\$16.9</u>
Expense recorded:			
Amortization of unearned employee profit sharing	\$17.4	\$24.5	\$20.5
Accretion of obligation to Trust	<u>2.7</u>	<u>4.1</u>	<u>5.1</u>
Total included in operating expenses	<u>\$20.1</u>	<u>\$28.6</u>	<u>\$25.6</u>

Payments received from Suez and income recorded related to the reimbursement arrangement are as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Payments received from Suez	<u>\$27.0</u>	<u>\$24.9</u>	<u>\$16.9</u>
Income recorded:			
Accretion of receivable from Suez	<u>\$ 2.7</u>	<u>\$ 4.1</u>	<u>\$ 5.1</u>

9. Property, Plant, and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment (including major improvements) are recorded at cost. Depreciation of buildings and equipment is calculated over their estimated useful lives generally using the straight-line method.

The estimated useful lives of the major classes of depreciable assets acquired since the date of the Acquisition are as follows: buildings – 33 to 40 years; software – 5 years; equipment – 3 to 15 years.

No interest was capitalized during 2008 or 2007. Interest capitalized during 2006 was \$0.5 million.

Property, plant, and equipment consist of the following:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Land	\$ 73.0	\$ 81.1
Buildings	194.9	191.8
Software	154.2	145.7
Equipment	<u>920.8</u>	<u>894.3</u>
	1,342.9	1,312.9
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(639.2)</u>	<u>(550.6)</u>
Property, plant, and equipment, net	<u>\$ 703.7</u>	<u>\$ 762.3</u>

10. Income Tax

The provision for income taxes was calculated based upon the following components of earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests:

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
United States	\$(120.8)	\$ 41.3	\$(25.1)
Foreign	(159.3)	165.2	190.8
Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests	<u>\$(280.1)</u>	<u>\$206.5</u>	<u>\$165.7</u>

The components of the income tax provision are as follows:

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Current:			
United States	\$ 2.1	\$ —	\$ (0.3)
State and local	4.1	0.5	0.8
Foreign	79.0	68.6	88.4
Total current	85.2	69.1	88.9
Deferred:			
United States	(36.1)	17.8	(9.8)
State and local	0.1	0.6	(1.4)
Foreign	5.3	(18.2)	(18.8)
Total deferred	(30.7)	0.2	(30.0)
Income tax provision	<u>\$ 54.5</u>	<u>\$ 69.3</u>	<u>\$ 58.9</u>

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the financial statement basis and the tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted statutory tax rates applicable to future years. Net deferred income tax assets (liabilities) are as follows:

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2007</u>
Retirement benefits	\$ 61.1	\$ 60.8
Pension	78.4	80.6
United States net operating loss carryforwards	8.5	67.9
Foreign tax loss carryforwards	47.0	58.1
United States foreign tax credits	70.0	35.4
Other deferred tax assets	108.2	112.8
Total deferred tax assets	373.2	415.6
Valuation allowance	(49.6)	(88.1)
Net deferred tax assets	<u>\$ 323.6</u>	<u>\$ 327.5</u>
Property	\$ (95.9)	\$(113.2)
Intangible assets	(432.0)	(465.9)
Other deferred tax liabilities	(23.0)	(29.3)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(550.9)	(608.4)
Net deferred tax assets	323.6	327.5
Total deferred income taxes	<u>\$(227.3)</u>	<u>\$(280.9)</u>
Included in:		
Deferred income taxes – current asset	\$ 25.7	\$ 25.9
Other noncurrent assets	11.7	31.3
Income taxes	(5.9)	(10.6)
Deferred income taxes – noncurrent liability	(258.8)	(327.5)
	<u>\$(227.3)</u>	<u>\$(280.9)</u>

10. Income Tax (continued)

These deferred tax assets and liabilities are classified in the balance sheet based on the balance sheet classification of the related assets and liabilities.

Nalco Holding Company and its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, various states and foreign jurisdictions, as required. With few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or foreign income tax examinations by tax authorities for periods prior to 2002. To the extent that we are subject to additional tax assessments greater than \$150,000 that relate to tax periods before November 4, 2003, we are indemnified by our former shareholder, Suez, and therefore have recorded a receivable for the related indemnity claim.

SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, is interpreted by FIN 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, which clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements by prescribing a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return.

A reconciliation of the 2008 beginning and ending amounts of unrecognized tax benefits recorded in accordance with FIN 48 follows:

	<u>Unrecognized Tax Benefit</u>	<u>Suez Portion</u>	<u>Nalco Portion</u>
Balance at January 1, 2008	\$ 5.2	\$1.6	\$ 3.6
Additions related to current year	0.3	—	0.3
Additions related to prior years	6.6	0.2	6.4
Reduction for positions taken in prior years	(5.1)	—	(5.1)
Settlements	(1.0)	—	(1.0)
Balance at December 31, 2008	<u>\$ 6.0</u>	<u>\$1.8</u>	<u>\$ 4.2</u>
Unrecognized tax position	\$ 5.1	\$1.3	\$ 3.8
Interest	0.9	0.5	0.4
Penalties	—	—	—
Balance at December 31, 2008	<u>\$ 6.0</u>	<u>\$1.8</u>	<u>\$ 4.2</u>

As of December 31, 2008, full recognition of the \$6.0 million of tax benefits not previously recognized would have resulted in a reduction of the Suez receivable of \$1.8 million and a favorable impact to the income tax provision of \$4.2 million.

The effective rate of the provision for income taxes differs from the United States statutory federal tax rate due to the following items:

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
United States statutory federal tax rate	\$(98.0)	\$ 72.3	\$ 58.0
State income taxes, net of federal benefits	5.5	1.4	(0.6)
Nondeductible goodwill	163.3	—	—
Foreign tax rate differential	(27.4)	(25.1)	(13.0)
Withholding taxes	7.0	7.8	8.1
United States tax on foreign earnings	4.6	11.4	3.8
Credits and incentives	(4.6)	(1.6)	(1.7)
Changes in valuation allowances	(15.6)	1.6	(2.4)
Uncertain tax positions	1.6	(5.9)	3.1
Nondeductible items	18.1	10.3	6.2
Other	—	(2.9)	(2.6)
Income tax provision	<u>\$ 54.5</u>	<u>\$ 69.3</u>	<u>\$ 58.9</u>

10. Income Tax (continued)

No provision has been made for United States or foreign income taxes related to approximately \$271.8 million of undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries at December 31, 2008, as we consider these earnings to be permanently reinvested. It is not practicable to estimate the additional income taxes and applicable withholding tax that would be payable on the remittance of such undistributed earnings.

The Internal Revenue Service (the Service) had previously concluded its examination of the consolidated federal income tax returns of our subsidiary, Nalco Company and Nalco Company's subsidiaries for the years 2003 and 2004. The Service had originally proposed to disallow deductions totaling \$116.2 million relating to debt issuance costs and consulting fees, some of which amortize through 2011. We believed the expenditures to be valid tax deductions. During 2008, the Service offered to reduce the disallowance to \$5.8 million and close the audit. We have accepted the offer, which caused the recognition of \$2.2 million of additional federal and state tax expense in the year. Formal notification of the final resolution has not yet been received from the Service, but is expected in early 2009.

At the end of 2007, we were carrying forward United States federal net operating losses of approximately \$144.9 million (\$50.7 million tax effect) expiring between 2024 and 2027. These losses were partly the result of deducting rather than crediting certain foreign taxes. The additional tax benefit of crediting the foreign taxes was reported in our balance sheet at December 31, 2007 as a deferred tax asset of \$35.4 million, offset by a full valuation allowance. Because of a change in our U.S. tax position, we will amend the previous U.S. tax returns to realize the tax benefits of crediting foreign taxes and will also credit the current year foreign taxes. Conversion of the previous foreign tax deductions to credits reduced the net operating loss carryforward, and the remaining net operating loss carryforward was fully consumed in 2008.

The U.S. foreign tax credit carryforward has increased to \$70.0 million. The credits have a ten-year carryforward period, and will expire between 2014 and 2019 if not utilized. Because the credits are expected to be utilized before the expiration of the carryforward period, no valuation allowance is recorded. The release of the prior year valuation allowance reduced our tax expense in 2008 by \$35.4 million.

We have approximately \$83.4 million (\$23.3 million tax effect) of U.K. capital loss carryforwards that do not expire. The losses can only be used to offset future capital gains in the U.K. A full valuation allowance has been established pending the recognition of taxable U.K. capital gains.

We also have other net deferred tax assets in the U.K. of approximately \$66.1 million (\$18.5 million tax effect), including ordinary tax loss carryforwards of \$30.2 million (\$8.5 million tax effect) that do not expire. We have recorded a valuation allowance on substantially all of these deferred tax assets.

We have a net operating loss carryforward in Brazil of approximately \$15.1 million (\$5.1 million tax effect) that does not expire. A full valuation allowance has been established, as we do not foresee future taxable income to utilize the carryforward in this entity.

We have net operating loss carryforwards in The Netherlands of approximately \$28.0 million (\$7.1 million tax effect) that will expire between 2013 and 2018 if not utilized. A valuation allowance has been established on \$9.9 million (\$2.5 million tax effect) associated with periods that are limited such that we do not expect to utilize the loss carryforward.

We have valuation allowances on certain other foreign net deferred tax assets, including operating loss carryforwards, with approximately \$2.5 million tax effect.

11. Debt

Debt consists of the following:

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2007</u>
Short-term		
Checks outstanding and bank overdrafts	\$ 24.7	\$ 14.1
Notes payable to banks	38.5	6.1
Current maturities of long-term debt	30.6	32.4
Unsecured notes, due May 2008	—	27.8
Revolving credit facility	—	50.0
	<u>\$ 93.8</u>	<u>\$ 130.4</u>
Long-term		
Securitized trade accounts receivable facility	\$ 98.0	\$ 134.0
Term loan A, due November 2009	30.5	64.8
Term loan B, due November 2010	887.0	887.0
Senior notes, due November 2011	942.6	959.6
Senior subordinated notes, due November 2013	742.6	759.6
Senior discount notes, due February 2014	458.9	420.6
Other	0.6	0.5
	<u>3,160.2</u>	<u>3,226.1</u>
Less: Current portion	<u>30.6</u>	<u>32.4</u>
	<u>\$3,129.6</u>	<u>\$3,193.7</u>

The weighted-average interest rate on short-term debt was 5.1% and 6.7% at December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively.

In January 2004, Nalco Holding Company's 100% owned subsidiaries, Nalco Finance Holdings LLC and Nalco Finance Holdings Inc. (together, the Issuers), issued \$694.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of 9.0% senior discount notes due 2014.

Prior to February 1, 2009, interest will accrue on the senior discount notes in the form of an increase in the accreted value of such notes. Thereafter, cash interest on the senior discount notes will accrue and be payable semiannually in arrears on February 1 and August 1 of each year, commencing on August 1, 2009, at a rate of 9.0% per annum. The accreted value of each note will increase from the date of issuance until February 1, 2009 at a rate of 9.0% per annum, reflecting the accrual of non-cash interest, such that the accreted value will equal the principal amount at maturity on February 1, 2009.

In December 2004, the Issuers redeemed a portion of the senior discount notes with an accreted value of \$162.3 million using proceeds from the initial public offering of common stock of Nalco Holding Company. The Issuers paid a \$14.6 million premium to redeem the notes, and incurred a \$13.7 million loss on the extinguishment of these notes.

After the partial redemption, the aggregate principal amount at maturity of the notes declined to \$460.8 million from \$694.0 million.

At December 31, 2008, the senior discount notes had an accreted value of approximately \$992.82 per \$1,000 principal amount at maturity of notes, resulting in a total accreted value of \$457.5 million. The \$1.4 million difference between the carrying value of the notes and the total accreted value represents a premium, which is being amortized over the term of the notes.

Nalco Holding Company and the Issuers do not generate any revenue, and Nalco Finance Holdings Inc. was incorporated solely to accommodate the issuance of the notes by Nalco Finance Holdings LLC. All

11. Debt (continued)

of Nalco Holding Company's consolidated assets are owned, and all of its consolidated net sales are earned, by its direct and indirect subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2008, Nalco Holding Company's subsidiaries had \$551.2 million of restricted net assets.

The terms of the senior credit facilities of Nalco Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nalco Holdings LLC, limit the amount of dividends and other transfers by Nalco Holdings LLC and its subsidiaries to the Issuers or Nalco Holding Company. Further, the terms of the indentures governing the senior notes and senior subordinated notes of Nalco Company significantly restrict Nalco Company and the Issuers' other subsidiaries from paying dividends or otherwise transferring assets to the Issuers or Nalco Holding Company. The ability of Nalco Company to make such payments is governed by a formula based on its consolidated net income, as well as meeting certain other conditions. Notwithstanding such restrictions, such indentures permit an aggregate of \$50.0 million of such payments to be made whether or not there is availability under the formula or the conditions to its use are met.

The Issuers' subsidiaries will be permitted under the terms of the senior credit facilities and other indebtedness to incur additional indebtedness that may severely restrict or prohibit the making of distributions, the payment of the dividends or the making of loans by such subsidiaries to the Issuers or Nalco Holding Company.

In connection with the Acquisition, Nalco Company issued senior notes and senior subordinated notes in a private offering and entered into senior secured credit facilities.

On November 4, 2003, Nalco Company issued senior notes and senior subordinated notes (Notes). The senior notes were issued in the principal amount of \$665.0 million and €200.0 million and bear interest at 7.75%. The senior subordinated notes were issued in the principal amount of \$465.0 million and €200.0 million and bear interest at 8.875% and 9.0%, respectively. Interest is payable semi-annually on May 15 and November 15. The Notes do not have required principal payments prior to maturity. Nalco Holding Company's and Nalco Company's direct and indirect domestic subsidiaries that guarantee its obligations under the senior credit facilities guarantee the Notes.

At its option, Nalco Company had the right to redeem some or all of the senior notes and senior subordinated notes, beginning November 15, 2007 and November 15, 2008, respectively, at the redemption prices set forth below (expressed as percentages of principal amount), plus accrued interest, if any, if redeemed during the twelve-month period commencing on November 15 of the years set forth below:

<i>Senior notes</i>		<i>Senior subordinated notes</i>		
Period	Redemption Price	Period	U.S. dollar Redemption Price	Euro Redemption Price
2008	101.938%	2008	104.438%	104.500%
2009 and thereafter	100.000%	2009	102.958%	103.000%
		2010	101.479%	101.500%
		2011 and thereafter	100.000%	100.000%

Nalco Company had the right to redeem some or all of the senior subordinated notes prior to November 15, 2008, at a price equal to the principal amount of the notes, plus a specified "make-whole" premium.

On November 4, 2003, Nalco Company entered into senior secured credit facilities which provided for a revolving credit facility and three term loans: a \$200.0 million term loan A, a €88.0 million term loan A, and a \$1,300.0 million term loan B. The senior secured credit facilities are unconditionally guaranteed by Nalco Holdings LLC, Nalco Company, and certain domestic subsidiaries of Nalco Holdings LLC (collectively, the Guarantors). The repayment of these facilities is secured by substantially all the assets

11. Debt (continued)

of the Guarantors, including, but not limited to, a pledge of their capital stock and 65% of the capital stock of each non-U.S. subsidiary owned by the Guarantors. The revolving credit facility, which expires in November 2009, provides for borrowings up to \$250 million, a portion of which may be made available to Nalco Company's non-U.S. subsidiary borrowers in euros. The revolving credit facility also includes borrowing capacity available for letters of credit. The facility bears interest at a rate equal to an applicable margin plus, at our option, either (a) a base rate determined by reference to the greater of (1) the prime rate, (2) the three-month certificate of deposit rate plus 0.5%, and (3) the federal funds rate plus 0.5% or (b) LIBOR or EURIBOR plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.0% to 2.5%, depending on the type of borrowing and our leverage ratio, as defined in the credit agreement.

Interest is generally due quarterly in arrears, and is also due upon expiration of any particular loan. In addition, there is an annual loan commitment fee of 0.5% on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility. We are also required to pay a participation fee in respect of the undrawn portion of the letters of credit, at a rate per annum equal to LIBOR or EURIBOR plus an applicable margin, a fronting fee at a rate of 0.25% per annum of the daily average amount, as well as customary letter of credit fees. As of December 31, 2008, we had \$21.1 million in outstanding letters of credit, none of which had been drawn against.

Term loan A bears interest at the same rate as the revolving credit facility. The applicable margin for borrowings under the term loan B facility is 0.75% with respect to base rate borrowings and 1.75% with respect to LIBOR or Eurocurrency borrowings. Unlike the term loan A and the revolving credit facility, term loan B is not subject to adjustment based on our leverage ratio (as defined in the credit agreement).

We made \$33.3 million of scheduled payments in 2008 under term loan facilities using cash generated from operations. Using cash generated from operations during 2007, we made scheduled payments under our term loan facilities of \$24.3 million, and we prepaid an additional \$24.0 million of term loan borrowings. We made scheduled payments of \$3.2 million and prepaid \$201.9 million of term loan borrowings during 2006 using mostly cash generated from operations.

At December 31, 2008, we had \$917.5 million outstanding under the senior secured credit facilities with a weighted-average interest rate of 4.15%. The amounts outstanding, as well as the base rates and applicable margins, at December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007 were as follows:

	2008			2007		
	Amount	Weighted Average Base Rate	Applicable Margin	Amount	Weighted Average Base Rate	Applicable Margin
Revolving credit facility	\$ —	—	—	\$ 50.0	4.86%	2.00%
Term loan A (euro)	€ 22.0	3.00%	2.00%	€ 44.0	4.71%	2.00%
Term loan B	\$887.0	2.37%	1.75%	\$887.0	5.17%	1.75%

The \$0.6 million in other long-term debt at December 31, 2008 was borrowed by one foreign subsidiary and is a non-interest bearing note.

The senior secured credit facilities, senior notes, and senior subordinated notes contain a number of covenants that, among other things, restrict, subject to certain exceptions, our ability to sell assets; incur additional indebtedness or issue preferred stock; repay other indebtedness; pay dividends or repurchase stock; create liens on assets; make investments, loans or advances; make acquisitions, mergers or consolidations; enter into sale and leaseback transactions; engage in certain transactions with affiliates; amend certain material agreements governing our indebtedness; change our business; and enter into hedging contracts. In addition, we must maintain financial covenants including a maximum total leverage ratio, minimum interest coverage ratio, and maximum capital expenditure limitation. As of December 31, 2008, we were in compliance with all of these covenants.

11. Debt (continued)

The following table presents the projected annual maturities of long-term debt for years after 2008:

Year ending December 31	
2009	\$ 30.6
2010	985.1
2011	942.7
2012	—
2013	742.7
Thereafter	<u>461.0</u>
	<u>\$3,162.1</u>

The \$1.9 million difference between the total projected annual maturities of long-term debt of \$3,162.1 million and the carrying value of \$3,160.2 million is mostly attributable to the \$3.3 million difference between the \$460.8 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of the senior discount notes and their accreted value of \$457.5 million. Partly offsetting that difference is the \$1.4 million unamortized premium attributable to those notes.

12. Leases

We lease administrative, research, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities and data processing and other equipment under non-cancelable leases that expire at various dates through 2027. Rent expense totaled \$43.1 million, \$39.4 million and \$36.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Future minimum rental payments for operating leases related to facilities, with initial or remaining terms greater than one year, are as follows:

Year ending December 31	
2009	\$ 24.0
2010	28.6
2011	42.6
2012	18.3
2013	16.0
Thereafter	<u>148.3</u>
	<u>\$277.8</u>

The amounts in the table above include future minimum rental payments for our corporate headquarters and research facility of \$9.0 million in 2009, \$17.1 million in 2010, \$35.1 million in 2011, \$12.7 million in 2012, \$12.7 million in 2013, and \$124.7 million from 2014 through 2023.

13. Sale-Leaseback Transaction

In December 2002, the Predecessor entered into an agreement whereby it sold and leased back its corporate headquarters and research facility in Naperville, IL. As a result of the sale, the Predecessor received proceeds of \$144.8 million, net of \$5.2 million of transaction costs. The related lease was for an initial term of 25 years, and required the Predecessor to make total minimum payments of \$264.2 million over the initial lease term. The lease agreement provided for two fixed rate renewal periods of 5 years each and two fair value renewal periods of 5 years each.

The Predecessor's payment obligations, along with certain other items under the lease agreement, were fully guaranteed by Suez. Because of the guarantee, the Predecessor was precluded from accounting for this transaction as a sale and leaseback of the property and instead accounted for it as a financing, with an effective interest rate of 5.5%. The Predecessor provided a cross guarantee to Suez of any payments made by Suez under its guarantee.

13. Sale-Leaseback Transaction (continued)

Under the terms of an agreement executed November 4, 2003 between Leo Holding Company (Leo), a subsidiary of Suez, and us, we assigned our rights and obligations under the lease agreement to Leo. Simultaneously, Suez was released from its guarantee, and we entered into an agreement with Leo whereby we sublease our corporate headquarters and research facility from Leo. The terms of the sublease agreement are generally identical to those of the lease agreement that was assigned to Leo. As a result of these transactions, the leased property, the remaining obligation under the lease assigned to Leo, and the related deferred income taxes were removed from our balance sheet as part of the allocation of the Acquisition purchase price. We account for the sublease as an operating lease.

On November 4, 2003, we entered into a Reimbursement Agreement with Suez whereby Suez shall reimburse us for all contributions we make to the Profit Sharing, Investment and Pay Deferral Plan Trust (see Note 8). Under the terms of the sublease agreement, if Suez fails to pay any of the payments required to be made under the Reimbursement Agreement, we shall have the right to set off such overdue amounts against the rent due under the sublease agreement.

14. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans

We have several noncontributory, defined benefit pension plans covering most employees in the U.S. and those with certain foreign subsidiaries. The principal domestic plan represents approximately 56% of the benefit obligation and 51% of the total fair value of plan assets at December 31, 2008. We also provide a supplementary, nonqualified, unfunded plan for U.S. employees whose pension benefits exceed ERISA limitations. In addition, we have defined benefit postretirement plans that provide medical, dental, and life insurance benefits for substantially all U.S. retirees and eligible dependents. We retain the right to change or terminate these benefits.

At the end of 2002, the domestic pension plan was amended such that beginning January 2003, pension benefits no longer accrue for those participants in the pension plan hired or rehired after October 1999 and for those participants hired before November 1999, but with less than five years of vesting service at the end of 2002. However, these participants will continue to earn vesting service. For those participants hired before November 1999 and with more than five years of vesting service, the pension plan was amended to reduce future benefit accruals and to increase the reduction factors for early retirement.

Also during 2002, eligibility for participation in the defined benefit postretirement medical and dental plans was changed from age 55 with at least ten years of service to age 55 with at least ten years of service after age 45. Also, employees with less than five years of service at the end of 2003 will only be provided access to coverage at retirement; we will not contribute to the cost of the coverage. The plans were also amended such that retirees and their dependents are required to pay 50% of plan costs in 2005 and beyond.

Beginning in 2005, a November 30 measurement date was used for the defined benefit plans for pension and other postretirement benefits. A December 31 measurement date had been used in prior years, and was reinstated for 2008 and onward in accordance with the measurement provisions of SFAS No. 158.

On December 31, 2006, we adopted the recognition and disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158, which required us to recognize the funded status of our pension and other postretirement benefit plans in our consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2006, with a corresponding adjustment to accumulated other comprehensive income, net of income taxes. The adjustment to accumulated other comprehensive income at adoption represented the net unrecognized prior service costs and credits and the net unrecognized actuarial gains and losses which were previously netted against the funded status of the plans in our consolidated balance sheet pursuant to the provisions of SFAS No. 87 and SFAS No. 106. Prior service costs and credits and actuarial gains and losses that arise in subsequent periods and that are not recognized as net pension and other postretirement benefit expense in the same periods are recognized as a component of other comprehensive income. The amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income are recognized as a component of net pension and other postretirement benefit expense in accordance with our accounting policy for amortizing such amounts.

14. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans (continued)

The following tables detail the changes in the funded status of defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans:

	Pension Benefits	
	2008	2007
Change in benefit obligation		
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 829.6	\$ 866.4
Service cost	25.6	28.6
Interest cost	47.5	45.3
Participant contributions	2.2	1.9
Plan amendments	—	(22.9)
Settlements and curtailments	(0.4)	—
Actuarial (gain) loss	(78.6)	(61.6)
Benefits paid	(76.6)	(47.9)
Change in measurement date	6.0	—
Other	(0.4)	—
Foreign currency exchange rate changes	(73.4)	19.8
Benefit obligation at end of year	<u>681.5</u>	<u>829.6</u>
Change in plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	516.1	432.2
Actual return on plan assets	(119.1)	33.4
Employer contributions	86.2	86.8
Participant contributions	2.2	1.9
Settlements	(0.5)	(0.4)
Benefits paid	(76.6)	(47.9)
Change in measurement date	3.0	—
Foreign currency exchange rate changes	(51.6)	10.1
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>359.7</u>	<u>516.1</u>
Funded status at measurement date	(321.8)	(313.5)
Employer contributions subsequent to measurement date	—	0.6
Funded status at December 31	<u>\$(321.8)</u>	<u>\$(312.9)</u>

14. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans (continued)

	Other Postretirement Benefits	
	2008	2007
Change in benefit obligation		
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 150.8	\$ 163.8
Service cost	4.3	5.4
Interest cost	8.9	8.4
Participant contributions	7.1	6.6
Medicare subsidy	0.6	0.6
Actuarial (gain) loss	(19.4)	(22.2)
Change in measurement date	1.1	—
Other	(0.4)	0.4
Benefits paid	(12.6)	(12.2)
Benefit obligation at end of year	<u>140.4</u>	<u>150.8</u>
Change in plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	—	—
Employer contributions	5.5	5.6
Participant contributions	7.1	6.6
Benefits paid	(12.6)	(12.2)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Funded status at measurement date	(140.4)	(150.8)
Employer contributions subsequent to measurement date	—	0.8
Funded status at December 31	<u><u>\$(140.4)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(150.0)</u></u>

Amounts recognized in the balance sheets consist of:

	Pension Benefits		Other Postretirement Benefits	
	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Other assets	\$ 4.7	\$ 4.9	\$ —	\$ —
Accrued compensation	(4.3)	(3.4)	(7.5)	(8.3)
Accrued pension/postretirement benefits	(322.2)	(314.4)	(132.9)	(141.7)
Net amount recognized	<u><u>\$(321.8)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(312.9)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(140.4)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(150.0)</u></u>

The following amounts that have not yet been recognized in net pension expense and net other postretirement benefit expense are included in accumulated other comprehensive income at December 31, 2008:

	Net Prior Service (Credit)	Net Actuarial Loss (Gain)
Pension benefits	\$(19.4)	\$ 31.5
Other postretirement benefits	(4.6)	(43.9)

The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans was \$548.9 million and \$666.5 million at December 31, 2008 and November 30, 2007, respectively.

14. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans (continued)

The projected benefit obligation, accumulated benefit obligation, and fair value of plan assets for all defined benefit pension plans with projected benefit obligations in excess of plan assets were as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$667.4	\$815.2
Accumulated benefit obligation	538.7	656.5
Fair value of plan assets	340.9	496.8

The projected benefit obligation, accumulated benefit obligation, and fair value of plan assets for all defined benefit pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets were as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$647.3	\$772.2
Accumulated benefit obligation	523.2	622.9
Fair value of plan assets	323.9	459.9

Net pension expense for all defined benefit pension plans was comprised of:

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Service cost	\$ 25.6	\$ 28.6	\$ 29.5
Interest cost	47.5	45.3	42.7
Expected return on plan assets	(36.7)	(33.8)	(29.6)
Amortization of prior service cost (credit)	(2.2)	0.1	0.1
Amortization of net actuarial loss	0.3	0.7	0.5
Settlements and curtailments	10.6	0.5	1.7
Net benefit expense	<u>\$ 45.1</u>	<u>\$ 41.4</u>	<u>\$ 44.9</u>

Net other postretirement benefit expense was comprised of:

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Service cost	\$ 4.3	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.6
Interest cost	8.9	8.4	8.2
Amortization of prior service credit	(4.7)	(4.7)	(4.0)
Amortization of net actuarial gain	(2.6)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Net benefit expense	<u>\$ 5.9</u>	<u>\$ 8.8</u>	<u>\$ 9.5</u>

The following amounts included in accumulated other comprehensive income at December 31, 2008 are expected to be recognized in net pension expense and net other postretirement benefit expense during the year ended December 31, 2009:

	<u>Net Prior Service (Credit)</u>	<u>Net Actuarial (Gain)</u>
Net pension expense	\$(2.2)	\$(2.1)
Net other postretirement benefit expense	(3.3)	(3.4)

The weighted-average assumptions used for the U.S. defined benefit plans as of the measurement date for each of the last two years were as follows:

	<u>Pension Benefits</u>		<u>Other Postretirement Benefits</u>	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Discount rates	6.85%	6.25%	6.80%	6.45%
Rates of increase in compensation levels	4.44%	4.44%	4.37%	4.37%

14. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans (continued)

The weighted-average assumptions used for the foreign defined benefit pension plans as of the measurement date for each of the last two years were as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Discount rates	6.08%	5.78%
Rates of increase in compensation levels	3.48%	3.88%

The weighted-average assumptions used to determine net pension and other postretirement benefit expense for the U.S. defined benefit plans were as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Discount rates:			
Pension benefits	6.25%	5.65%	5.75%
Other postretirement benefits	6.45%	5.65%	5.75%
Rates of increase in compensation levels:			
Pension benefits	4.44%	3.94%	3.94%
Other postretirement benefits	4.37%	3.87%	3.87%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	8.25%	8.50%	8.50%

The weighted-average assumptions used to determine net pension expense for the foreign defined benefit pension plans were as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Discount rates	5.78%	4.80%	4.80%
Rates of increase in compensation levels	3.88%	3.62%	3.40%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	6.44%	6.43%	6.48%

The assets in the principal domestic pension plan are invested to obtain a reasonable long-term rate of return at an acceptable level of investment risk. Risk tolerance is established through careful consideration of plan liabilities, plan funded status, and corporate financial condition. Investment risk is measured and monitored on an ongoing basis through periodic investment portfolio reviews, liability measurements and asset/liability studies. A similar approach to assessing investment risk and obtaining reasonable investment returns is employed for the foreign pension plans.

The assets in the principal domestic pension plan are diversified across equity, fixed income and alternative investments such as hedge funds and private equity. The investment portfolio has target allocations of approximately 49% equity, 32% fixed income and 19% alternative investments. Other assets such as real estate may be used judiciously to enhance portfolio returns and diversification. The foreign pension plans have comparable asset allocation to the principal domestic plan, with some variances for local practices.

The expected long-term rate of return is established using historical market data for each asset class as well as the target allocation. Historical markets are analyzed and long-term historical relationships between equity and fixed income investments are preserved consistent with the widely accepted capital market principle that assets with higher volatility will generate a greater return over the long run. Active management is employed in most asset classes, which also contributes to the return assumption. The total weighted-average return on each asset class supports the long-term expected rate of return assumption.

14. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans (continued)

The percentages of each major class of plan assets held by the principal domestic defined benefit pension plan as of the measurement date for each of the last two years and target allocations were as follows:

	Actual		Target Allocations	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Equity securities	52.8%	57.8%	49.0%	49.0%
Fixed income securities	32.3%	29.9	32.0%	32.0
Alternative investments	14.9%	11.7	19.0%	19.0
Cash	—	0.6	—	—
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

The assumed health care cost trend rates used as of the measurement date for each of the last two years were as follows:

	2008	2007
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year		
Pre-age 65	9.0%	9.5%
Post-age 65	10.0%	10.5%
Ultimate trend rate		
Pre-age 65	5.5%	6.0%
Post-age 65	5.5%	6.0%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate		
Pre-age 65	2015	2014
Post-age 65	2018	2015

A one-percentage-point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects:

	One-Percentage-Point	
	Increase	Decrease
Effect on total of service and interest cost components	\$0.4	\$(0.5)
Effect on postretirement benefit obligation	4.7	(5.5)

We expect to contribute \$102.1 million (restated) to our pension plans and \$7.5 million to our other postretirement benefit plans in 2009.

The following estimated future benefit payments are expected to be paid in the years indicated:

Year	Pension Benefits	Other Postretirement Benefits		
		Gross	Medicare Subsidy	Net
2009	\$ 48.1	\$ 8.3	\$0.8	\$ 7.5
2010	44.5	9.1	0.9	8.2
2011	39.4	9.6	1.1	8.5
2012	41.7	10.2	1.2	9.0
2013	44.8	10.8	1.3	9.5
2014-2018	252.2	60.6	9.3	51.3

15. Equity Compensation Plans

The Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Plan") was adopted to aid us in recruiting and retaining key employees, directors and consultants and to motivate them to exert their best efforts on our behalf. The Plan, which permits the grant of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted

15. Equity Compensation Plans (continued)

stock and other stock-based awards for up to 7.5 million shares of common stock, is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee may delegate its duties and powers in whole or in part as it determines.

In connection with his employment as our President and Chief Executive Officer in 2008, J. Erik Fyrwald was granted 200,000 shares of restricted stock and 190,000 stock options outside the Plan. Of the restricted stock awards, 100,000 shares vest on each of the third and fourth anniversaries after the grant date. Of the stock option awards, which have a contractual term of ten years, 75,000 options vest on each of the third and fourth anniversaries after the grant date. The remaining 40,000 options vest ratably beginning on December 31, 2008, and on December 31 of the following three years.

Stock option awards granted under the Plan have a contractual term of ten years, and usually vest ratably over four years after the grant date. The exercise price of option awards is equal to the market price of Nalco Holding Company common stock on the date granted.

The fair value of option awards was estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and the following assumptions:

	2008	2007	2006
Expected life (years)	6.125 - 6.75	6.25	6.25
Risk-free interest rate	2.83% - 3.42%	4.69%	4.96%
Expected volatility	38.3% - 55.6%	25.5%	34.2%
Expected dividend yield	0.61% - 0.98%	0.58%	0.73%

Because Nalco Holding Company has been a public company only since November 2004, there is limited historical data on the volatility of its common stock. As a result, the expected volatility of the option awards was estimated using an implied volatility from traded options on Nalco Holding Company common stock. Since historical information concerning option exercise behavior by our employees is very limited and such information is not readily available from a peer group of companies, the expected life was estimated using the "simplified method" permitted by Staff Accounting Bulletin Nos. 107 and 110 issued by the SEC.

The following table summarizes the status of option awards as of December 31, 2008, and changes during the year then ended:

	Number of Shares	Weighted- Average Exercise Price	Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Term	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2008	278,506	\$19.12		
Granted	633,827	19.37		
Exercised	(21,665)	17.25		
Forfeited	(56,994)	19.54		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	<u>833,674</u>	19.32	8.9	\$—
Exercisable at December 31, 2008	<u>229,364</u>	19.51	8.0	\$—

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of options granted during 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$8.20, \$8.15 and \$6.48, respectively.

Restricted stock awards are granted to non-management directors and certain key employees. Awards granted to non-management directors vest approximately two years after the grant date. Awards granted to key employees vest over periods ranging from approximately one to five years following the grant

15. Equity Compensation Plans (continued)

date. The fair value of restricted stock awards is determined based on the market price of Nalco Holding Company common stock on the date of grant. The weighted-average grant-date fair value of restricted stock awards granted during 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$21.15, \$25.53 and \$17.83, respectively.

The following table summarizes the status of restricted stock awards as of December 31, 2008, and changes during the year then ended:

	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Weighted- Average Grant-Date Fair Value</u>
Restricted stock awards at January 1, 2008	78,661	\$21.65
Granted	414,619	21.15
Vested	(52,397)	20.60
Forfeited	<u>(2,707)</u>	24.01
Restricted stock awards at December 31, 2008	<u>438,176</u>	21.29

We recognize compensation expense related to option and restricted stock awards on a straight-line basis over the vesting periods. As of December 31, 2008, there was \$11.7 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested option and restricted stock awards. We expect to recognize that cost over a weighted-average period of 2.7 years. The fair value of restricted stock awards that vested during 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$0.9 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.1 million, respectively. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during 2008 was \$0.5 million. Cash received from the exercise of stock options was \$0.4 million. No option awards were exercised in 2007 or 2006.

Performance share awards provide for the issuance of common stock to certain key employees if specified performance targets are achieved. For most performance share awards, the number of common shares that will be issued is dependent upon vesting and actual performance of the Company relative to certain financial targets approved by our Board of Directors, and could range from 0% to 150% of the performance shares granted. For certain performance share awards, the number of shares that will be issued could range from 0% to 200% of the performance shares granted. The performance shares vest approximately three years following the grant date. The fair value of performance share grants is determined based on the market price of Nalco Holding Company common stock on the date of grant, and the amount of compensation expense recognized reflects estimated forfeiture rates and management's assessment of the probability that performance goals will be achieved. We recognize compensation expense related to performance share grants ratably over the vesting periods.

The following table summarizes the status of performance share awards as of December 31, 2008, and changes during the year then ended:

	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value</u>
Performance share awards at January 1, 2008	274,396	\$21.37
Granted	440,560	21.08
Vested	(87,948)	16.86
Forfeited	<u>(119,171)</u>	22.56
Performance share awards at December 31, 2008	<u>507,837</u>	21.63

There was \$7.7 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to performance share awards as of December 31, 2008, which we expect to recognize over a weighted-average period of 2.1 years. The fair value of performance share awards that vested during 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$1.0 million, \$1.1 million and \$0.4 million, respectively.

15. Equity Compensation Plans (continued)

During 2004, Nalco LLC, wholly owned by the Sponsors and our direct parent company at the time, established the Nalco LLC 2004 Unit Plan (the "Unit Plan") for purposes of (i) attracting and retaining exceptional officers and other key employees, non-employee directors and consultants and (ii) enabling such individuals to acquire an equity interest in Nalco LLC and to participate in its and our long-term growth and financial success.

During 2004, Nalco LLC granted certain of our officers and key employees rights to purchase a designated number of one or more classes of equity interests ("Units") in Nalco LLC. Those officers and key employees who elected to purchase such Units did so at the Units' fair value, discounted for any vesting provisions, as determined by a valuation consultant, since Nalco LLC is a private company and there is no public market for its shares.

The Units subject to the Unit Plan included class A, class B, class C, and class D Units. The class A Units were fully vested at the time of purchase by an employee and have economic characteristics that are similar to those of shares of common stock in a private corporation. The class B, class C, and class D Units were subject to vesting provisions, meaning that in order for such Units to be entitled to distributions or other benefits, an employee would have to continue to provide services for a certain period of time. The Unit Plan was modified in 2006 to reduce the vesting period for class C and class D Units and to eliminate provisions that accelerated the vesting of those Units if specified EBITDA performance targets were achieved. The modifications did not result in incremental compensation expense.

Though Nalco LLC established the Unit Plan, we account for the Unit Plan since its economic substance is substantially the same for our employees and us. As of December 31, 2008, there was no unrecognized compensation cost related to the Unit Plan.

Compensation cost charged to earnings for all equity compensation plans discussed above was \$5.9 million, \$3.5 million and \$1.8 million for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The total income tax benefit recognized in the consolidated statement of operations was \$2.2 million, \$1.3 million and \$0.7 million for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

We also recognized non-cash charges to earnings of \$0.6 million and \$5.3 million during 2008 and 2007, respectively, that resulted from modifying the terms of some Unit Plan awards for certain exiting employees. Most of these charges have been reported as part of restructuring expenses in the consolidated statement of operations. Due to the tax attributes of the Unit Plan, no tax benefit was recognized for the expense that resulted from modifying the terms of the awards.

In November 2007, it was announced that Dr. William H. Joyce, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, had stated his intention to retire on December 30, 2007. At the same time, it was also announced that we had entered into an amended Employment and Consulting Agreement with Dr. Joyce concerning his remaining service as CEO through the remainder of 2007, his consulting services through March 2008, and certain compensation matters. As part of the agreement, Dr. Joyce received a grant of nonvested common stock valued at \$12.0 million. Vesting of the stock is subject to certain performance and other conditions. During 2008, 349,677 shares vested at a fair value of \$5.6 million.

Because Dr. Joyce was not required to provide substantive services to us subsequent to 2007 and vesting of the stock was considered probable, we charged the entire \$12.0 million of compensation expense to earnings and recognized an income tax benefit of \$4.6 million in 2007. Because the grant included a provision requiring cash settlement in the event of the death of Dr. Joyce, the \$12.0 million was classified with other liabilities in the balance sheet until such time that cash settlement was no longer possible. We reclassified \$8.0 million from other liabilities to additional paid-in capital during 2008 for that portion of the grant no longer subject to cash settlement. At December 31, 2008, \$4.0 million remained in other liabilities, which will be reclassified to additional paid-in capital during the first quarter 2009.

16. Shareholders' Equity

Shareholders' equity consists of the following:

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2007</u>
Preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share; authorized 100,000,000 shares; none issued	\$ —	\$ —
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share; authorized 500,000,000 shares; 146,764,030 shares and 144,377,068 shares issued at December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively	1.4	1.4
Additional paid-in capital	764.5	749.7
Treasury stock, at cost; 9,535,943 shares and 4,588,500 shares at December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively	(211.3)	(108.0)
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(268.8)	100.7
Accumulated other comprehensive income:		
Net prior service credit	14.8	20.4
Net actuarial gain	15.3	46.1
Derivatives	(0.6)	(1.9)
Currency translation adjustments	78.0	309.4
	<u>107.5</u>	<u>374.0</u>
	<u>\$ 393.3</u>	<u>\$ 1,117.8</u>

In November 2004, a warrant to purchase, for \$0.01 per share, up to 6,191,854 shares of Nalco Holding Company common stock was issued as part of a dividend to Nalco LLC, our sole stockholder on the record date of the dividend. The warrant enables Nalco LLC to deliver shares to members of our management who have the right to put, or sell, their vested class B, class C and class D Units to Nalco LLC. Subject to limited exceptions, the warrant became exercisable upon the occurrence of the same specified events applicable to the vesting of the Nalco LLC class B Units, class C Units and class D Units (except that there is no service requirement comparable to that applicable to the individual holders of the class B, class C and class D Units). The warrant terminates and becomes void as of the date it becomes exercised in full. Nalco LLC exercised warrants to acquire 2,126,650 and 1,265,806 shares of Nalco Holding Company common stock during 2008 and 2007, respectively. At December 31, 2008, up to 1,414,399 shares of Nalco Holding Company common stock could be purchased by Nalco LLC under the warrant. The amount includes 789,109 shares of common stock that would be required to be deposited into an escrow account under the terms of the warrant. Nalco Holding Company would beneficially own such shares, which would be used solely for the purpose of delivering shares of common stock pursuant to incentive compensation plans.

On July 31, 2007, our Board of Directors authorized a \$300 million share repurchase program, and gave our management discretion in determining the conditions under which shares may be purchased from time to time. The program has no stated expiration date. We repurchased 4,947,443 shares at a cost of \$103.3 million during 2008 and 4,588,500 shares at a cost of \$108.0 million during 2007.

17. Financial Instruments and Risk Management

We use derivative instruments to manage our foreign exchange and energy cost exposures. All derivative instruments are recognized in the consolidated balance sheets at fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are not hedges are recognized in income as they occur. If the derivative instruments are designated as hedges, depending on their nature, the effective portions of changes in their fair values are either offset in income against the changes in the fair values of the items being hedged, or reflected initially as a separate component of shareholders' equity and subsequently recognized in income when the hedged items are recognized in income. The ineffective portions of changes in the fair values of derivative instruments designated as hedges are immediately recognized in income. Derivative instruments are not held or issued for trading or speculative purposes.

17. Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)

We are exposed to credit-related losses in the event of nonperformance by counterparties to derivative financial instruments, but we do not expect any counterparties to fail to meet their obligations given their high credit ratings.

Foreign Exchange Risk Management

We have used various types of foreign exchange contracts, including currency swaps and forward exchange contracts, to manage foreign exchange risk. In addition, we use certain foreign currency debt as a hedge of the foreign currency exposure of a portion of our net investment in foreign operations.

Upon issuance, we designated the €200.0 million senior notes, the €200.0 million senior subordinated notes, and the €88.0 million term loan as a hedge of our net investment in subsidiary companies whose assets, liabilities, and operations are measured using the euro as their functional currency. Because of the high degree of effectiveness between the hedging instruments and the exposure being hedged, fluctuations in the value of the euro-denominated debt due to exchange rate changes are offset by changes in the net investment. Accordingly, changes in the value of the euro-denominated debt are recognized in foreign currency translation adjustment, a component of accumulated other comprehensive income, to offset changes in the value of our net investment in subsidiary companies whose financial statements are measured using the euro as their functional currency.

We formally assess, on a quarterly basis, whether the euro-denominated debt is effective at offsetting changes in the value of the underlying exposure. No hedge ineffectiveness was recorded in income during 2008, 2007 and 2006. Gains and losses from the net investment hedge reported as a component of other comprehensive income in the foreign currency translation adjustment account were as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Gain (loss) before tax	\$35.1	\$(71.0)	\$(63.3)
Income tax (benefit)	13.6	(27.0)	(24.1)
Net gain (loss)	<u>\$21.5</u>	<u>\$(44.0)</u>	<u>\$(39.2)</u>

Certain of our forward exchange contracts at December 31, 2008 were designated as cash flow hedges of the variability of the cash flows from forecasted 2009 royalty payments due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

The fair value of all forward exchange contracts was a net asset of \$0.6 million at December 31, 2008, and a net liability of \$3.0 million at December 31, 2007. We expect to reclassify \$2.1 million of pretax gains on cash flow hedges of anticipated foreign currency transactions from accumulated other comprehensive income to earnings during 2009, when the hedged transaction affects earnings. Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income are recorded with foreign currency exchange adjustments in other income (expense).

Energy Cost Risk Management

We use derivative instruments such as commodity forward contracts to manage our exposure to fluctuations in the cost of natural gas used in our business. These instruments are designated as cash flow hedges, with changes in their fair values included in other comprehensive income to the extent the hedges are effective. Amounts included in other comprehensive income are reclassified into cost of product sold in the period during which the hedged transaction is recognized in earnings. Hedge ineffectiveness was immaterial in 2008, 2007 and 2006. The fair value of these contracts was a net liability of \$3.1 million and \$0.4 million at December 31, 2008 and 2007. Contracts outstanding at December 31, 2008 were short-term in nature, with the maximum hedge period not exceeding one year. We expect to reclassify \$3.1 million of pretax losses on cash flow hedges of anticipated 2009 natural gas purchases from accumulated other comprehensive income to earnings during 2009.

18. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

We adopted SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, on January 1, 2008, for financial assets and liabilities and for nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are remeasured at least annually. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. SFAS No. 157 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes observable and unobservable inputs used to measure fair value into three broad levels:

- Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to Level 1 inputs.
- Level 2 – Observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets.
- Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for which there is little or no market data available. The fair value hierarchy gives the lowest priority to Level 3 inputs.

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis was as follows:

	<u>Balance December 31, 2008</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Assets:				
Foreign exchange forward contracts	\$2.5	\$—	\$2.5	\$—
Liabilities:				
Foreign exchange forward contracts	\$1.9	\$—	\$1.9	\$—
Natural gas forward contracts	3.1	—	3.1	—
	<u>\$5.0</u>	<u>\$—</u>	<u>\$5.0</u>	<u>\$—</u>

Foreign exchange forward contracts are valued using quoted forward foreign exchange prices at the reporting date. Natural gas forward contracts are valued using NYMEX futures prices for natural gas at the reporting date.

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, trade accounts receivable, accounts payable and short-term debt approximate their fair values at December 31, 2008 and 2007, because of the short-term maturities and nature of these balances.

The estimated fair value of long-term debt at December 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$2,773.9 million and \$3,219.7 million, respectively, and the related carrying value was \$3,129.6 million and \$3,193.7 million, respectively. The fair value of our senior notes, senior subordinated notes and senior discount notes was estimated based on their quoted market prices. The carrying value of amounts outstanding under our senior secured credit facilities is considered to approximate fair value because interest accrues at rates which fluctuate with interest rate trends. The carrying value of other long-term debt outstanding also approximates fair value due to the variable nature of their interest rates. The fair value of the 6.25% fixed rate unsecured notes at December 31, 2007 was based on its quoted market price.

19. Restructuring Expenses

We continuously redesign and optimize our business and work processes, and restructure our organization accordingly. Restructuring expenses, representing mostly employee severance and related costs, were \$33.4 million, \$15.3 million and \$9.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The increase in restructuring expenses in 2008 was mainly the result of a reduction in force of more than 400 positions begun during the fourth quarter as part of an organizational realignment.

20. Summary of Other Income (Expense)

The components of other income (expense), net in the statements of operations include the following:

	Year ended December 31		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Franchise taxes	\$ 0.1	\$(3.0)	\$(2.5)
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated subsidiaries	0.3	1.4	3.5
Foreign currency exchange adjustments	(10.7)	(1.1)	(3.6)
Other income (expense), net	<u>(7.1)</u>	<u>(2.1)</u>	<u>(1.8)</u>
	<u><u>\$(17.4)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(4.8)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(4.4)</u></u>

21. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock or resulted in the issuance of common stock.

Basic and diluted earnings per share were calculated as follows:

<u>(in millions)</u>	Year ended December 31		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Numerator for basic and diluted earnings per share:			
Net earnings	<u>\$(342.6)</u>	<u>\$129.0</u>	<u>\$ 98.9</u>
Denominator for basic earnings per share – weighted average common shares outstanding	140.1	143.2	143.0
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Stock purchase warrant	—	3.4	3.7
Share-based compensation plans	<u>—</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>—</u>
Denominator for diluted earnings per share	<u>140.1</u>	<u>146.7</u>	<u>146.7</u>

The denominator for diluted earnings per share in 2008 excludes 0.8 million shares pursuant to the stock purchase warrant and share-based compensation plans because the impact of including those shares would be anti-dilutive.

22. Segment Information

We provide integrated water treatment and process improvement services for industrial and institutional applications, using technologically advanced solutions, combining chemical products and equipment, and consistent, reliable on-site service and expertise.

These solutions and services enable our customers to improve production yields, lower manufacturing costs, extend asset lives and maintain environmental standards at costs that represent a small share of their overall production expense.

We are organized based on the end markets we serve. The organization is comprised of the following reportable segments:

Industrial and Institutional Services — This segment serves the global water treatment and process chemical needs of the industrial, institutional, and municipal markets.

Energy Services — This segment serves the process chemicals and water treatment needs of the global petroleum and petrochemical industries in both upstream and downstream applications.

22. Segment Information (continued)

Paper Services — This segment serves the process chemicals and water treatment needs of the global pulp and paper industry.

Other — This segment includes the Integrated Channels Group, revenue recognition adjustments, supply chain activities, standard cost variances, and certain other operating expenses not allocated to a segment.

In 2008, we began reporting the results of our subsidiary in India and the Katayama Nalco joint venture related to the Industrial and Institutional Services segment, the Energy Services segment, and the Paper Services segment with those segments. These results had previously been reported in the Other segment. In addition, certain petrochemical and emerging markets customers that had previously been reported in the Industrial and Institutional Services segment are now included in Energy Services. Amounts for prior periods have been restated to conform with this change in the composition of our segments.

We evaluate the performance of our segments based on “direct contribution”, which is defined as net sales, less cost of products sold (excluding variances to standard costs), selling and service expenses, marketing expenses, research expenses and “capital charges” directly attributable to each segment. Each segment is assessed an internal non-GAAP “capital charge” based on trade accounts receivable, inventories and equipment specifically identifiable to the segment. The capital charges included in each segment’s direct contribution are eliminated to arrive at our consolidated direct contribution. There are no intersegment revenues.

Net sales by reportable segment were as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Industrial and Institutional Services	\$1,813.4	\$1,753.2	\$1,593.9
Energy Services	1,506.4	1,279.2	1,147.8
Paper Services	776.9	779.0	753.9
Other	115.7	101.1	107.0
Net sales	<u>\$4,212.4</u>	<u>\$3,912.5</u>	<u>\$3,602.6</u>

22. Segment Information (continued)

The following table presents direct contribution by reportable segment and reconciles the total segment direct contribution to earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests:

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
Segment direct contribution:			
Industrial and Institutional Services	\$ 372.6	\$ 374.6	\$ 347.1
Energy Services	308.2	286.1	252.8
Paper Services	93.3	122.0	120.8
Other	(81.7)	(90.1)	(75.2)
Capital charge elimination	95.8	86.2	77.1
Total segment direct contribution	788.2	778.8	722.6
Expenses not allocated to segments:			
Administrative expenses	204.1	225.2	210.0
Amortization of intangible assets	56.8	62.1	70.1
Restructuring expenses	33.4	15.3	9.5
Gain on divestiture	(38.1)	—	—
Impairment of goodwill	544.2	—	—
Operating earnings (loss)	(12.2)	476.2	433.0
Other income (expense), net	(17.4)	(4.8)	(4.4)
Interest income	8.3	9.1	9.1
Interest expense	(258.8)	(274.0)	(272.0)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests	<u>\$ (280.1)</u>	<u>\$ 206.5</u>	<u>\$ 165.7</u>

Administrative expenses primarily represent the cost of support functions, including information technology, finance, human resources and legal, as well as expenses for support facilities, executive management and management incentive plans.

We have a single supply chain organization that serves all the reportable segments. As such, asset and capital expenditure information by reportable segment has not been reported and is not available, since we do not produce such information internally. In addition, although depreciation expense is a component of each reportable segment's direct contribution, it is not discretely identifiable.

Net sales by geographic region were as follows:

	Year ended December 31		
	2008	2007	2006
United States	\$1,884.1	\$1,759.6	\$1,626.3
Other Americas	559.5	488.1	441.8
Europe/Middle East/Africa	1,154.8	1,103.2	1,036.0
Asia/Pacific	614.0	561.6	498.5
	<u>\$4,212.4</u>	<u>\$3,912.5</u>	<u>\$3,602.6</u>

Long-lived assets by geographic region were as follows:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
United States	\$2,162.6	\$2,515.2
Other Americas	284.1	434.4
Europe/Middle East/Africa	887.9	1,248.8
Asia/Pacific	319.7	391.7
	<u>\$3,654.3</u>	<u>\$4,590.1</u>

22. Segment Information (continued)

Net sales by geographic area were determined based on origin of sale. Geographic data on long-lived assets is based on physical location of those assets. There were no sales from a single foreign country or customer that were material to our consolidated net sales.

23. Contingencies and Litigation

Various claims, lawsuits and administrative proceedings are pending or threatened against us, arising from the ordinary course of business with respect to commercial, contract, intellectual property, product liability, employee, environmental and other matters. Historically, these matters have not had a material impact on our consolidated financial position. However, we cannot predict the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation.

We have been named as a potentially responsible party (PRP) by the Environmental Protection Agency or state enforcement agencies at seven waste sites where some financial contribution is or may be required. These agencies have also identified many other parties who may be responsible for clean up costs at these waste disposal sites. We are also remediating a small ground contamination that we discovered at our plant in Pilar, Argentina. Our financial contribution to remediate these sites is not expected to be material. There has been no significant financial impact on us up to the present, nor is it anticipated that there will be in the future, as a result of these matters. We have made and will continue to make provisions for these costs if our liability becomes probable and when costs can be reasonably estimated.

Our undiscounted reserves for known environmental clean up costs were \$1.1 million at December 31, 2008. These environmental reserves represent our current estimate of our proportional clean-up costs and are based upon negotiation and agreement with enforcement agencies, our previous experience with respect to clean-up activities, a detailed review by us of known conditions, and information about other PRPs. They are not reduced by any possible recoveries from insurance companies or other PRPs not specifically identified. Although we cannot determine whether or not a material effect on future operations is reasonably likely to occur, given the evolving nature of environmental regulations, we believe that the recorded reserve levels are appropriate estimates of the potential liability. Although settlement will require future cash outlays, it is not expected that such outlays will materially impact our liquidity position.

Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2008, relating to environmental compliance and clean up activities, were not significant.

We have been named as a defendant in lawsuits based on claimed involvement in the supply of allegedly defective or hazardous materials and the claimed presence of hazardous substances at our plants. We have also been named as a defendant in lawsuits where our products have not caused injuries, but the claimants seek amounts so they might be monitored in the future for potential injuries arising from our products. The plaintiffs in these cases seek damages for alleged personal injury or potential injury resulting from exposure to our products or other chemicals. These matters have had a *de minimis* impact on our business historically, and we do not anticipate these matters will present any material risk to our business in the future. Notwithstanding, we cannot predict the outcome of any such lawsuits or the involvement we might have in these matters in the future.

On November 27, 2006, the U.K. Health and Safety Executive (“HSE”) issued a criminal summons charging our U.K. subsidiary with a violation of the Health and Safety at Work Act. The summons was re-issued in the Crown Court of Worcester on July 23, 2007. The charge relates to a *Legionella* outbreak that is claimed to have originated at cooling towers owned by one of the subsidiary’s customers. The *Legionella* outbreak is believed to have resulted in two fatalities and multiple injuries. The customer, H. P. Bulmer Limited, was also charged. Our subsidiary submitted a guilty plea to a portion of the charge, exposing non-employees to a health risk, on September 3, 2007. Similarly, our subsidiary’s customer

23. Contingencies and Litigation (continued)

submitted a guilty plea. On July 1, 2008, the Crown Court issued a penalty of £300,000 (\$0.6 million) and court costs of £50,000 (\$0.1 million) against our subsidiary relating to this violation. An identical penalty was issued against the subsidiary's customer.

In the ordinary course of our business, we are also a party to a number of lawsuits and are subject to various claims relating to trademarks, employee matters, contracts, customer claims, negligence, transactions, chemicals and other matters, the outcome of which, in our opinion, should not have a material effect on our consolidated financial position.

However, we cannot predict the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation. Were an unfavorable ruling to occur, there exists the possibility of a material adverse impact on the results of operations for the period in which the ruling occurs. We maintain accruals where the outcome of the matter is probable and can be reasonably estimated.

24. Quarterly Results of Operations (Unaudited)

	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Second Quarter</u>	<u>Third Quarter (1)</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter (2)</u>
2008				
Net sales	\$999.7	\$1,066.3	\$1,115.5	\$1,030.9
Cost of product sold	564.4	594.9	642.8	579.0
Restructuring expenses	1.0	1.4	10.4	20.6
Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests ...	44.1	54.9	102.7	(481.8)
Net earnings (loss)	29.2	44.2	57.4	(473.4)
Net earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.41	\$ (3.45)
Diluted	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.41	\$ (3.45)
	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Second Quarter</u>	<u>Third Quarter</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter (3)</u>
2007				
Net sales	\$909.3	\$ 970.9	\$ 998.2	\$1,034.1
Cost of product sold	504.4	537.5	549.2	566.8
Restructuring expenses	—	2.3	7.2	5.8
Earnings before income taxes and minority interests	36.2	57.2	62.5	50.6
Net earnings	19.6	41.8	36.5	31.1
Net earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.22
Diluted	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.22

- (1) Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests includes the impact of a \$38.1 million gain on divestiture of the Finishing Technologies surface treatment unit.
- (2) Earnings (loss) before income taxes and minority interests includes the impact of a \$544.2 million charge for the impairment of goodwill.
- (3) Cost of product sold was reduced by a \$12.3 million insurance settlement for lost profitability caused by hurricanes during 2005. Earnings before income taxes and minority interests include the net impact of the \$12.3 million insurance settlement and a \$12.0 million charge resulting from a grant of nonvested common stock to Dr. William H. Joyce, our former Chairman and CEO, who retired on December 30, 2007.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

- (a) Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.

Our principal executive officer and chief financial officer, after evaluating the effectiveness of our “disclosure controls and procedures” (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of the end of the period, has concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective and designed to ensure that material information relating to Nalco Holding Company and its consolidated subsidiaries would be made known to him by others within those entities as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

- (b) Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the principal executive officer and chief financial officer, an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting was conducted as of December 31, 2008 based on the framework in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on that evaluation, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2008.

The Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is included in Item 8.

- (c) Changes in internal controls over financial reporting.

There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the fourth quarter of 2008 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

There was no information required to be disclosed in a report on Form 8-K during the fourth quarter of 2008 that was not previously reported.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information regarding our executive officers is included in Item 1 of Part I of this report.

Information with respect to our directors, included under the headings “What is the composition of the Board of Directors and how often are members elected?”, “Who are this year’s nominees?”, “Class III Directors — Terms Expiring in 2010”, and “Class I Directors — Terms Expiring in 2011” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

Information with respect to the Audit Committee and Audit Committee financial experts, included under the heading “What are the committees of the board?” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding Section 16(a) compliance, included under the heading “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding our code of ethics, included under the heading “Code of Ethical Business Conduct and Officer Code of Ethics” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information with respect to compensation of our executive officers and directors, included under the heading “COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information with respect to security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management, included under the heading “STOCK OWNERSHIP INFORMATION” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

Information with respect to the number of shares of our common stock that could be issued under equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2008, included in the table titled “EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information regarding certain relationships and related transactions, and director independence, included under the headings “How does the Board determine which directors are considered independent?” and “Are there any other material business relationships with entities associated with any of the Company’s Directors or Executive Officers or any other “related persons”?” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Information with respect to principal accounting fees and services, included under the heading “What fees did the Company pay to Ernst & Young LLP for audit and other services for fiscal years 2008 and 2007?” in the Proxy Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) (1) Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements of Nalco Holding Company and subsidiaries are filed as part of this report under Item 8 – Financial Statements and Supplementary Data:

Consolidated Balance Sheets – December 31, 2008 and 2007

Consolidated Statements of Operations – Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity – Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows – Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(a) (2) Financial statement schedules:

Schedule I – Condensed Financial Information

Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

All other financial statement schedules are not required under the relevant instructions or are inapplicable and therefore have been omitted.

Schedule I – Condensed Financial Information

Nalco Holding Company (Parent Company Only)

**Condensed Balance Sheets
December 31, 2008 and 2007
(dollars in millions)**

	<u>December 31, 2008</u>	<u>December 31, 2007</u>
Investment in subsidiaries	\$ 398.1	\$1,085.0
Deferred tax asset	—	51.1
Total Assets	<u>\$ 398.1</u>	<u>\$1,136.1</u>
Dividends payable	\$ 4.8	\$ 4.9
Interest payable to subsidiaries	—	0.2
Notes payable to subsidiaries	—	13.2
Total shareholders' equity	<u>393.3</u>	<u>1,117.8</u>
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	<u>\$ 398.1</u>	<u>\$1,136.1</u>

See accompanying note to condensed financial statements.

Schedule I – Condensed Financial Information – Continued

Nalco Holding Company (Parent Company Only)

**Condensed Statements of Operations
Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006
(dollars in millions)**

	<u>Years ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Net Sales	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Operating costs and expenses:			
Selling, administrative, and research expenses	—	—	—
Total operating costs and expenses	—	—	—
Operating earnings (loss)	—	—	—
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	(355.5)	117.1	88.3
Other expenses	—	(0.1)	(0.1)
Interest expense to subsidiaries	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.2)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes	(355.8)	116.5	88.0
Income tax provision (benefit)	(13.2)	(12.5)	(10.9)
Net earnings (loss)	<u>\$(342.6)</u>	<u>\$129.0</u>	<u>\$ 98.9</u>

See accompanying note to condensed financial statements.

Schedule I – Condensed Financial Information – Continued

Nalco Holding Company (Parent Company Only)

Condensed Statements of Cash Flows
Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006
(dollars in millions)

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Operating activities			
Net earnings	\$(342.6)	\$ 129.0	\$ 98.9
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	355.5	(117.1)	(88.3)
Dividends from subsidiaries	136.7	113.1	–
Deferred income taxes	(13.2)	(12.5)	(10.9)
Other	(0.2)	0.2	–
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>136.2</u>	<u>112.7</u>	<u>(0.3)</u>
Investing activities			
Advances from subsidiaries	<u>(13.2)</u>	<u>10.4</u>	<u>0.3</u>
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	<u>(13.2)</u>	<u>10.4</u>	<u>0.3</u>
Financing activities			
Cash dividends	(19.7)	(15.1)	–
Purchases of treasury stock	<u>(103.3)</u>	<u>(108.0)</u>	<u>–</u>
Net cash used for financing activities	<u>(123.0)</u>	<u>(123.1)</u>	<u>–</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	–	–	–
Cash at beginning of period	–	–	–
Cash at the end of period	<u>\$ –</u>	<u>\$ –</u>	<u>\$ –</u>

See accompanying note to condensed financial statements.

Schedule I – Condensed Financial Information – Continued

Nalco Holding Company (Parent Company Only)

Note to Condensed Financial Statements December 31, 2008

1. Basis of Presentation

Under the terms of agreements governing indebtedness of certain subsidiaries of Nalco Holding Company (the “Company”), such subsidiaries are significantly restricted from making dividend payments, loans or advances to the Company. These restrictions have resulted in the restricted net assets (as defined in Rule 4-08(e)(3) of Regulation S-X) of the Company’s subsidiaries exceeding 25% of the consolidated net assets of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The unaudited financial statements for Nalco Holding Company (Parent Company Only) summarize the results of operations and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, and the financial position as of December 31, 2008 and 2007. In these statements, the Company’s investment in subsidiaries is stated at cost plus equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiaries since the date of acquisition, November 4, 2003. The Company’s share of net income of its unconsolidated subsidiaries is included in consolidated income using the equity method. The Nalco Holding Company parent-company-only financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements of Nalco Holding Company and subsidiaries.

Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts
Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

(dollars in millions)	Balance at Beginning of Period	Additions		Other Changes Increase (Decrease)		Balance at End of Period
		Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charged to Other Accounts	Currency Translation Adjustments	Other	
Year Ended December 31, 2008						
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$19.5	\$ 9.3	\$ —	\$ (1.4)	\$(3.6) ⁽¹⁾	\$23.8
Deferred tax asset						
valuation allowance	88.1	(19.7)	(7.9) ⁽²⁾	(10.9)	—	49.6
Year Ended December 31, 2007						
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$19.0	\$ 4.3	\$ —	\$ 1.0	\$(4.8) ⁽¹⁾	\$19.5
Deferred tax asset						
valuation allowance	75.2	1.6	9.0 ⁽³⁾	2.3	—	88.1
Year Ended December 31, 2006						
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$16.6	\$ 5.1	\$ —	\$ 1.1	\$(3.8) ⁽¹⁾	\$19.0
Deferred tax asset						
valuation allowance	51.4	(2.4)	22.1 ⁽³⁾	4.1	—	75.2

(1) Account write-offs net of recoveries.

(2) Reduced allowance resulting from the Acquisition charged to goodwill of \$8.1 million and reclassification from deferred tax assets of \$0.2 million.

(3) Reclassification from deferred tax assets.

(a)(3) Exhibits required to be filed by Item 601 of Regulation S-K:

**Exhibit
Number**

- 2.1 Stock Purchase Agreement among Nalco Holdings LLC (formerly known as Blackstone/ Neptune Acquisition Company L.L.C.), Leo Holding Company and Nalco International SAS, dated as of August 31, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 2.1 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 3.1 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 3.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 18, 2004 (File No. 001-32342).
- 3.2 Amended and Restated By-laws of Nalco Holding Company, which are incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on May 7, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 4.1 Form of Certificate of Common Stock, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.1 of Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 of Nalco Holding Company filed on October 13, 2004 (File No. 333-118583).
- 4.2 Indenture, dated as of May 1, 1998, between Nalco Chemical Company and The Chase Manhattan Bank, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.1 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 4.3 First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 3, 1999, by and between Nalco Chemical Company and The Chase Manhattan Bank, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.2 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 4.4 Senior Notes Indenture, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Company, the Guarantors named therein and The Bank of New York, as Trustee, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.3 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 4.5 Senior Notes Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 12, 2003, among Nalco Company, the guarantors named therein and The Bank of New York, as Trustee, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.4 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 4.6 Senior Subordinated Notes Indenture, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Company, the Guarantors named therein and The Bank of New York, as Trustee, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.5 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 4.7 Senior Subordinated Notes Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 12, 2003, among Nalco Company, the guarantors named therein and The Bank of New York, as Trustee, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.6 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 4.8 Indenture, dated as of January 21, 2004 among Nalco Finance Holdings LLC, Nalco Finance Holdings Inc. and The Bank of New York, as Trustee, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 4.7 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).

- 10.1 Credit Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Holdings LLC, Nalco Company, as U.S. Borrower, the Foreign Subsidiary Borrowers from time to time party thereto, the Lenders party thereto, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC, as Global Coordinators, Citicorp North America, Inc., as Administrative Agent, Bank of America, N.A., as Documentation Agent, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Co-Syndication Agents, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Book Managers, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.1 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 10.2 U.S. Guarantee and Collateral Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Holdings LLC, Nalco Company, each domestic subsidiary of Nalco Holdings LLC named therein and Citicorp North America, Inc., as Collateral Agent, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.2 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 10.3 Guarantee Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2003, between Suez and Blackstone/ Neptune Acquisition Company L.L.C., which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.3 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 10.4 Reimbursement Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003 between Suez and Nalco Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.5 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 10.5 Sublease Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003 between Leo Holding Company, as sublandlord and Ondeo Nalco Company, as subtenant, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.6 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 10.6† Employment agreement, effective as of November 1, 2003, between Nalco Company and Bradley J. Bell, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.11 of the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Nalco Company filed on May 17, 2004 (File No. 333-115560).
- 10.7† Nalco LLC 2004 Unit Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.24 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2004 (File No. 333-118583).
- 10.8 Nalco LLC Limited Liability Company Operating Agreement, dated May 17, 2004, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.25 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2004 (File No. 333-118583).
- 10.9 Warrant Agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.4 on Form 8-K of the Nalco Holding Company filed on November 18, 2004 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.10 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of November 16, 2004, among Nalco Holding Company, Nalco LLC and the other parties named therein, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.1 on Form 8-K of the Nalco Holding Company filed on November 18, 2004 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.11 Stockholders Agreement, dated as of November 16, 2004, between Nalco Holding Company and Nalco LLC, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.3 on Form 8-K of the Nalco Holding Company filed on November 18, 2004 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.12† Amended and Restated Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference from Annex A on Form Defr14a of Nalco Holding Company filed on April 18, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).

- 10.13† Management Members Agreement (class B, class C and class D Units), dated as of June 11, 2004, between Nalco LLC and Bradley J. Bell, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.36 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2004 (File No. 333-118583).
- 10.14† Form of Nalco Holding Company Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for the 2008 Grant, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 11, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.15† Management Incentive Plan of Nalco Company (as amended and restated May 4, 2006), which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on May 8, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.16† Long Term Cash Incentive Plan of Nalco Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on March 1, 2005 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.17† Form of Nalco Company Death Benefit Agreement and Addendum to Death Benefit Agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on May 11, 2005 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.18 Amendment No. 3, dated as of October 19, 2005, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Holdings LLC, Nalco Company, as U.S. Borrower, the Foreign Subsidiary Borrowers from time to time party thereto, the Lenders party thereto, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC, as Global Coordinators, Citicorp North America, Inc., as Administrative Agent, Bank of America, N.A., as Documentation Agent, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Co-Syndication Agents, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Book Managers, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.2 on the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 14, 2005 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.19 Amendment No. 1, dated as of December 30, 2005, to the Nalco LLC Limited Liability Company Operating Agreement, dated May 17, 2004, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.51 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.20† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2006 Grant), effective February 15, 2006, between Nalco Holding Company and Rodney F. Chase, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.55 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.21† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2006 Grant), effective February 15, 2006, between Nalco Holding Company and Richard B. Marchese, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.56 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.22† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2006 Grant), effective February 15, 2006, between Nalco Holding Company and Paul H. O'Neill, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.57 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.23† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2006 Grant), effective February 15, 2006, between Nalco Holding Company and Douglas A. Pertz, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.58 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).

- 10.24† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2006 Grant), effective February 15, 2006, between Nalco Holding Company and Daniel S. Sanders, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.59 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.25 Amendment No. 4, dated as of February 22, 2006, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Holdings LLC, Nalco Company, as U.S. Borrower, the Foreign Subsidiary Borrowers from time to time party thereto, the Lenders party thereto, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC, as Global Coordinators, Citicorp North America, Inc., as Administrative Agent, Bank of America, N.A., as Documentation Agent, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Co-Syndication Agents, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Book Managers, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.62 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 2, 2006 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.26† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2007 Grant), effective February 15, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and Rodney F. Chase, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 20, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.27† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2007 Grant), effective February 15, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and Richard B. Marchese, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 20, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.28† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2007 Grant), effective February 15, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and Paul H. O'Neill, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 20, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.29† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2007 Grant), effective February 15, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and Douglas A. Pertz, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 20, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.30† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (2007 Grant), effective February 15, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and Daniel S. Sanders, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 20, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.31† Amendment No. 1 to the Nalco Company Supplemental Profit Sharing Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 9, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.32† Amendment No. 1 to the Nalco Company Supplemental Retirement Income Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 9, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.33 Receivables Transfer Agreement of Nalco Company dated June 22, 2007, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on June 26, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).

- 10.34 Amendment No. 5, dated as of December 15, 2006, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of November 4, 2003, among Nalco Holdings LLC, Nalco Company, as U.S. Borrower, the Foreign Subsidiary Borrowers from time to time party thereto, the Lenders party thereto, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC, as Global Coordinators, Citicorp North America, Inc., as Administrative Agent, Bank of America, N.A., as Documentation Agent, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Co-Syndication Agents, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P. and UBS Securities LLC, as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Book Managers, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.81 of the Annual Report Form 10-K Nalco Holding Company filed on March 1, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.35 Amended and Restated Receivables Purchase Agreement of Nalco Company dated June 22, 2007, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on June 26, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.36† Nalco Holding Company Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective March 7, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and David Johnson, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 19, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.37† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective January 10, 2006, between Nalco Holding Company and David Johnson, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.68 on Form 10-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 28, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.38† Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective June 7, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and David Johnson, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.69 on Form 10-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 28, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.39† Form of Nalco Company Death Benefit Agreement and Addendum to Death Benefit Agreement, effective December 2, 2007, between Nalco Company and David Johnson, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.70 on Form 10-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 28, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.40† Employment Letter Agreement dated as of February 21, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and J. Erik Fyrwald, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 28, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.41† Severance Agreement effective as of February 28, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and J. Erik Fyrwald, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 28, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.42† Non-Plan Stock Option Agreement effective as of March 7, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and J. Erik Fyrwald, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on March 12, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.43† Non-Plan Restricted Stock Agreement effective as of March 7, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and J. Erik Fyrwald, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on March 12, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.44† Employment Letter Agreement dated as of July 17, 2008, between David E. Flitman and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on July 22, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).

- 10.45 Asset Purchase Agreement dated as of July 24, 2008, between Chemetall Corp. and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 10.1 on Form 10-Q of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 1, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.46† Employment Letter Agreement dated August 22, 2008, between Eric G. Melin and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.47† Death Benefit Agreement effective August 22, 2008, between Eric G. Melin and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.48† Employment Agreement effective August 22, 2008, between Eric G. Melin and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.3 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.49† Severance Agreement effective August 22, 2008, between Eric G. Melin and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.4 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on August 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.50† Sign-On Restricted Share Award Agreement effective September 9, 2008, between David E. Flitman and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on September 11, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.51† Severance Agreement effective September 9, 2008, between David E. Flitman and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on September 11, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.52† Sign-On Restricted Share Award Agreement effective October 8, 2008, between Eric G. Melin and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on October 14, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.53† Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement effective October 8, 2008, between Eric G. Melin and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on October 14, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.54† Restricted Share Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between Bradley J. Bell and Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.55† Form of Severance Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between Bradley J. Bell and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.56† Form of Severance Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between David Johnson and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).

- 10.57† Form of Severance Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between Stephen M. Taylor and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.58† Form of Change of Control Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between J. Erik Fyrwald and Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.3 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.59† Form of Change of Control Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between David E. Flitman and Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.3 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.60† Form of 2009 Restricted Stock Unit Agreement granted to non-employee directors under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on January 12, 2009 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.61† Form of Change of Control Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between Bradley J. Bell and Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.3 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.62† Form of Change of Control Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between David Johnson and Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.3 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.63† Form of Change of Control Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between Stephen M. Taylor and Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.3 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.64† Form of Severance Agreement effective January 1, 2009, between Stephen M. Taylor and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on November 26, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.65† Form of Nalco Company Death Benefit Agreement and Addendum to Death Benefit Agreement effective December 2, 2007, between Stephen M. Taylor and Nalco Company, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on May 11, 2005 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.66*† Nalco Holding Company Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for the 2007 Grant effective June 7, 2007, between Nalco Holding Company and Stephen M. Taylor.
- 10.67*† Nalco Holding Company Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for the 2008 Grant effective March 7, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and Stephen M. Taylor.
- 10.68† Nalco Holding Company Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for the 2008 Grant effective March 7, 2008, between Nalco Holding Company and David Johnson, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.1 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on February 19, 2008 (File No. 001-32342).
- 10.69*† Expatriate Agreement effective April 4, 2007 between David Johnson and Nalco Company, a subsidiary of Nalco Holding Company.

- 14 Code of Ethical Business Conduct, which is incorporated herein by reference from Exhibit 99.2 on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company filed on May 7, 2007 (File No. 001-32342).
- 21.1* Active Subsidiaries of Nalco Holding Company
- 23.1* Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
- 31.1* Certification of the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2* Certification of the Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1* Certification of J. Erik Fyrwald, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Bradley J. Bell, our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Filed herewith

† Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan.

Shareholders may obtain copies of Exhibits without charge upon written request to the Corporate Secretary, Nalco Holding Company, 1601 West Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

NALCO HOLDING COMPANY
(Registrant)

By: /s/ BRADLEY J. BELL
Bradley J. Bell
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: March 10, 2009

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated on February 25, 2009.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>/s/ J. ERIK FYRWALD</u> J. Erik Fyrwald	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
<u>/s/ BRADLEY J. BELL</u> Bradley J. Bell	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ CARL M. CASALE</u> Carl M. Casale	Director
<u>/s/ RODNEY F. CHASE</u> Rodney F. Chase	Director
<u>/s/ RICHARD B. MARCHESE</u> Richard B. Marchese	Director
<u>/s/ PAUL J. NORRIS</u> Paul J. Norris	Director
<u>/s/ DOUGLAS A. PERTZ</u> Douglas A. Pertz	Director
<u>/s/ DANIEL S. SANDERS</u> Daniel S. Sanders	Director

Exhibit 21.1**Active Subsidiaries of Nalco Holding Company**

Derypol SA	Spain
Katayama Nalco Inc.	Japan
Malaysian Energy Chem & Services Sdn Bhd	Malaysia
Nalco Anadolu Kimya Sanayii Ve Ticaret AS	Turkey
Nalco Argentina S.R.L.	Argentina
Nalco Australia Pty. Ltd.	Australia
Nalco Belgium NV/SA	Belgium
Nalco Brasil Ltda	Brazil
Nalco Canada Co.	Canada
Nalco Company	Delaware
Nalco Company OOO	Russia
Nalco de Colombia Ltda	Colombia
Nalco de Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V.	Mexico
Nalco Deutschland GmbH	Germany
Nalco Egypt, Ltd.	Egypt
Nalco Egypt Trading	Egypt
Nalco Energy Services Equatorial Guinea LLC	Delaware
Nalco Espanola, S.A.	Spain
Nalco Europe B.V.	Netherlands
Nalco Finance Holdings LLC	Delaware
Nalco Finland OY	Finland
Nalco France	France
Nalco Gulf Limited	Jersey
Nalco Hellas S.A.	Greece
Nalco Hong Kong Limited	Hong Kong
Nalco Hungary KFT	Hungary
Nalco Industrial Services Chile Limitada	Chile
Nalco Industrial Services Malaysia SDN BHD	Malaysia
Nalco Industrial Services (Nanjing) Co.	People's Republic of China
Nalco Industrial Services (Su Zhou) Co.	People's Republic of China
Nalco Industrial Services (Thailand) Co. Limited	Thailand
Nalco Italiana SrL	Italy
Nalco Korea, Ltd.	Korea
Nalco Limited	United Kingdom
Nalco Mobotec, Inc.	Delaware
Nalco Netherlands B.V.	Netherlands
Nalco New Zealand Limited	New Zealand
Nalco Norge A/S	Norway
Nalco Oesterreich Ges m.b.H	Austria
Nalco Pacific Private, Ltd.	Singapore
Nalco Receivables LLC	Delaware
Nalco Saudi Co. Ltd	Saudi Arabia
Nalco (Shanghai) Trading Co. Ltd.	People's Republic of China
Nalco Taiwan Co., Ltd.	Taiwan
Nalco Venezuela SCA	Venezuela
NLC Nalco India Limited	India
PT Nalco Indonesia	Indonesia

The names of the Company's other subsidiaries are omitted because, considered in the aggregate as a single subsidiary, such subsidiaries would not constitute a significant subsidiary as of December 31, 2008.

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-122582) pertaining to the Nalco Holding Company 2004 Stock Incentive Plan and the Registration Statements (Form S-1 No. 333-126642, Form S-1 No. 333-118583 and Form S-3 No. 333-130715) of Nalco Holding Company and in the related Prospectus of our reports dated February 23, 2009, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedules of Nalco Holding Company, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Nalco Holding Company, included in this Annual Report (Form 10-K/A) for the year ended December 31, 2008.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP
Chicago, Illinois
March 10, 2009

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE
SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, J. Erik Fyrwald, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K/A of Nalco Holding Company;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstance under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly represent in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 10, 2009

/s/ J. ERIK FYRWALD

Name: J. Erik Fyrwald

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE
SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Bradley J. Bell, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K/A of Nalco Holding Company;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstance under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly represent in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 10, 2009

/s/ BRADLEY J. BELL

Name: Bradley J. Bell

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

J. Erik Fyrwald, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nalco Holding Company (“Nalco”) and Bradley J. Bell, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Nalco, in conjunction with the filing of Nalco’s 10-K/A financial report (the “Report”) with the Securities and Exchange Commission, covering the period ending December 31, 2008, hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U. S. C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as follows:

- a. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and
- b. The information in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Nalco.

/s/ J. ERIK FYRWALD

J. Erik Fyrwald
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Date: March 10, 2009

/s/ BRADLEY J. BELL

Bradley J. Bell
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
Date: March 10, 2009

A signed original of this written statement required by §906 has been provided to Nalco Holding Company and will be retained by Nalco Holding Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

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Nalco Overview

Water Services

Market Position

\$7.5 billion global market⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

#1 Market Position

18% Market Share⁽³⁾

Net Sales⁽⁴⁾

\$1,813 million

Our customers, across a broad range of industries, use our water treatment programs to extend the useful life of their assets, minimize downtime of their facilities, conserve water and energy, cut waste and reduce their total cost of operations. Our diverse process treatment programs include applications in mining and mineral processing, investment casting, personal and household care ingredients, odor control, food processing additives and membrane systems.

Products and Services

cooling water treatment and automation (scale control, microbial fouling control, corrosion control), boiler water treatment and automation (pre-treatment, condensate control, internal treatment), indoor air treatment, air emission control and combustion efficiency, raw and wastewater treatment, water reuse and recycle, and various water-based process applications

End Markets

Aerospace, Automotive, Buildings, Chemicals, Food and Beverage, Healthcare, Hotels, Institutions, Manufacturing, Marine, Microelectronics, Mining and Mineral Processing, Pharmaceuticals, Primary Metals, Utilities

Energy Services

Market Position

\$4.8 billion global market

#1 Market Position

32% Market Share⁽³⁾

Net Sales⁽⁴⁾

\$1,506 million

Our upstream process applications improve oil and gas recovery and production, extend production equipment life and decrease operating costs. Our downstream process applications increase refinery and petrochemical plant efficiency and the useful life of customer assets while improving refined and petrochemical product quality and yields. We offer solutions that mitigate the cost and delay of capital investment and help customers minimize emissions and meet environmental requirements.

Products and Services

corrosion inhibitors, scale control additives, biocides, cleaners, hydrate control, H₂S scavengers, oil spill dispersants, asphaltene and paraffin control, foamers and anti-foams, flow assurance, oil/water separation, heavy crude desalting, monomer inhibitors, anti-oxidants, fuel and lubricant additives, air emission control and combustion efficiency, and traditional water treatment including boiler, cooling water, raw water and wastewater applications

End Markets

Additives for Drilling, Stimulation and Fracturing Programs, Oil and Gas Production, Refinery and Petrochemical Processing

Paper Services

Market Position

\$8.5 billion global market

#3 Market Position

9% Market Share⁽³⁾

Net Sales⁽⁴⁾

\$777 million

Our SMART Solutions[®] program is a comprehensive, grade-based approach addressing the unique needs of the various segments of the pulp and paper industry. We integrate the entire papermaking process through mechanical, operational and chemical means to improve finished product performance and optimize operational efficiency.

Products and Services

flocculants, coagulants, microparticles, dewatering aids, enzymes, digester yield enhancers, functional additives, biocontrol, data management and analysis, modeling, mechanical and operational adjustments to paper machines, air emission control and combustion efficiency, water and waste treatment

End Markets

Containerboard, Newsprint, Packaging, Tissue and Towel, Graphic

(1) Approximate market size based on internal estimates and industry publications and surveys.

(2) Represents the water treatment and services markets, which accounted for approximately 72% of our Industrial and Institutional Services segment's net sales in 2008.

(3) Market share calculations include end-market allocations from an all-inclusive Emerging Market business unit within I&IS.

(4) Divisional net sales exclude approximately \$116 million of sales reflected in our Other segment, including our sales through an Integrated Channels group.

Shareholder Information

Board of Directors

J. ERIK FYRWALD
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

CARL M. CASALE
Executive Vice President, Strategy and Operations of Monsanto Company

RODNEY F. CHASE
former Deputy Group Chief Executive of BP

RICHARD B. MARCHESI
former Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Georgia Gulf Corporation

PAUL J. NORRIS
former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of W.R. Grace and Company

DOUGLAS A. PERTZ
President and Chief Executive Officer of Clipper Windpower Plc

DANIEL S. SANDERS
former President of ExxonMobil Chemical Company

Corporate Headquarters

Nalco Holding Company
1601 West Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563-1198
1.630.305.1000

Stock Exchange Listing

Nalco Holding Company common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol NLC.

Forward-Looking Statement

If you are interested in Nalco Holding Company stock, management recommends that, at a minimum, you read the Company's current annual report and 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) over the past year. The Company's recent proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders also contains important information. These and other materials that have been filed with the SEC are accessible through the Company's Web site at www.nalco.com/investors and are also available at the SEC's Web site at www.sec.gov.

Investors are cautioned that all statements in this document that relate to the future are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 and involve risks and uncertainties, and are based on assumptions that the Company believes in good faith are reasonable but which may be materially different from actual results. Forward-looking statements give the investor our expectations or forecasts of future events. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate only to historical or current facts. They may use the words "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "project," "intend," "plan," "believe," and other words of similar meaning in connection with future events or future operating or financial performance.

Forward-looking statements may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may cause the actual results to differ materially from those projected, stated or implied depending on many factors, including, without limitation, those risk factors identified in Item 1A and the Management Discussion and Analysis section of our current 10-K. Other factors besides those listed in the 10-K may also adversely affect the Company and may be material to the Company. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the Company will meet future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. This statement is included to provide safe harbor for forward-looking statements, which are not generally required to be publicly revised as circumstances change, and which the Company does not intend to update.

Investor Relations

Financial analysts and investors should direct inquiries to:
Mike Bushman
Division Vice President,
Communications and Investor Relations
Nalco Holding Company
1601 West Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563-1198
1.630.305.1025
mbushman@nalco.com

Transfer Agent

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
P.O. Box 43023
Providence, RI 02940-3023
1.877.282.1168 (U.S.)
1.781.575.2723 (outside U.S.)
www.computershare.com

Independent Auditors

Ernst & Young LLP
Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-6301
1.312.879.2000
www.ey.com

Form 10-K

Copies of the Company's annual report on Form 10-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other public financial information are available free of charge upon written request to our Investor Relations contact. These filings are also available through the Investor Relations section of our Web site: www.nalco.com/investors.

Web Site

The Nalco Web site, www.nalco.com, includes information about our Company including investor relations, corporate governance, ethics information and news releases.

Ethics

Our Code of Ethical Business Conduct is available through the Corporate Governance section of our Web site: www.nalco.com. You may report any concerns to an objective third party. You have the option of remaining anonymous. By phone: From the U.S. and Canada you can call toll free 1.888.749.1949. From other countries call the appropriate number from a list available on our Web site. You can also make a report on the Web at www.tnwinc.com/webreport/.

Executive Certifications

Nalco Holding Company has included as Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 to its 2008 annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission certificates of Nalco's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer certifying the quality of the Company's public disclosure. Nalco's Chief Executive Officer has also submitted to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) a certificate certifying that he is not aware of any violations by Nalco of the NYSE corporate governance listing standards.

Production Note

Nalco provided numerous process and functional additives for the production of the papers on which this report is printed. These additives deliver improved productivity including increased paper machine efficiency, water and energy conservation and quality improvements such as brightness and printability.



NALCO OPERATIONS

Global Headquarters:

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Naperville, Illinois 60563-1198 USA
Tel: 1.630.305.1000

Energy Services Headquarters:

7705 Highway 90-A
Sugar Land, Texas 77478 USA
Tel: 1.281.263.7000

European Headquarters:

Nalco Europe B.V.
Ir.G.Tjalmaweg 1
2342 BV Oegstgeest
The Netherlands
Tel: 31.71.524.1100

Latin American Headquarters:

Nalco Brasil LTDA
Av. das Nações Unidas 17.891
6º Andar
04795-100—São Paulo SP Brazil
Tel: 55.11.5644.6500

Pacific Headquarters:

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Tel: 65.6505.6868

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