

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS LP

Form 10-Q

May 07, 2018

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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018

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.: 0-26823

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 73-1564280
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer Identification No.)
incorporation or organization)

1717 South Boulder Avenue, Suite 400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(918) 295-7600

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer [X] Accelerated Filer [] Non-Accelerated Filer [] Smaller Reporting Company []
(Do not check if smaller reporting company)
Emerging Growth Company []

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. []

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

As of May 7, 2018, 130,903,256 common units are outstanding.

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PART I

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands, except unit data)

(Unaudited)

	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 28,764	\$ 6,756
Trade receivables	157,798	181,671
Other receivables	229	146
Due from affiliates	669	165
Inventories, net	83,944	60,275
Advance royalties, net	2,856	4,510
Prepaid expenses and other assets	19,846	28,117
Total current assets	294,106	281,640
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:		
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	2,983,666	2,934,188
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(1,520,732)	(1,457,532)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	1,462,934	1,476,656
OTHER ASSETS:		
Advance royalties, net	50,800	39,660
Equity method investments	158,669	147,964
Equity securities	110,122	106,398
Goodwill	136,399	136,399
Other long-term assets	30,384	30,654
Total other assets	486,374	461,075
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,243,414	\$ 2,219,371
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 92,745	\$ 96,958
Due to affiliates	—	771
Accrued taxes other than income taxes	20,270	20,336

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Accrued payroll and related expenses	34,530	35,751
Accrued interest	12,499	5,005
Workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis benefits	10,769	10,729
Current capital lease obligations	28,948	28,613
Other current liabilities	16,732	19,071
Current maturities, long-term debt, net	40,000	72,400
Total current liabilities	256,493	289,634
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities, net	386,703	415,937
Pneumoconiosis benefits	72,509	71,875
Accrued pension benefit	42,906	45,317
Workers' compensation	46,861	46,694
Asset retirement obligations	126,287	126,750
Long-term capital lease obligations	50,634	57,091
Other liabilities	20,055	14,587
Total long-term liabilities	745,955	778,251
Total liabilities	1,002,448	1,067,885
PARTNERS' CAPITAL:		
Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. ("ARLP") Partners' Capital:		
Limited Partners - Common Unitholders 130,903,256 and 130,704,217 units outstanding, respectively	1,270,769	1,183,219
General Partner's interest	15,786	14,859
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(50,923)	(51,940)
Total ARLP Partners' Capital	1,235,632	1,146,138
Noncontrolling interest	5,334	5,348
Total Partners' Capital	1,240,966	1,151,486
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL	\$ 2,243,414	\$ 2,219,371

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(In thousands, except unit and per unit data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
SALES AND OPERATING REVENUES:		
Coal sales	\$ 423,610	\$ 438,744
Transportation revenues	19,785	9,596
Other sales and operating revenues	13,727	12,740
Total revenues	457,122	461,080
EXPENSES:		
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	277,238	262,027
Transportation expenses	19,785	9,596
Outside coal purchases	1,374	—
General and administrative	16,651	16,033
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	61,848	65,127
Settlement gain	(80,000)	—
Total operating expenses	296,896	352,783
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	160,226	108,297
Interest expense (net of interest capitalized for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 of \$265 and \$81, respectively)	(10,858)	(7,516)
Interest income	65	24
Equity method investment income	3,736	3,700
Equity securities income	3,724	—
Other (expense) income	(847)	533
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	156,046	105,038
INCOME TAX BENEFIT	(10)	(12)
NET INCOME	156,056	105,050
LESS: NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO NONCONTROLLING INTEREST	(148)	(148)
	\$ 155,908	\$ 104,902

NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. ("NET INCOME OF ARLP")

GENERAL PARTNERS' INTEREST IN NET INCOME OF ARLP	\$ 1,560	\$ 20,146
LIMITED PARTNERS' INTEREST IN NET INCOME OF ARLP	\$ 154,348	\$ 84,756
BASIC AND DILUTED NET INCOME OF ARLP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT (Note 10)	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.10
DISTRIBUTIONS PAID PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT	\$ 0.5100	\$ 0.4375
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNITS OUTSTANDING – BASIC AND DILUTED	130,819,217	74,503,298

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
NET INCOME	\$ 156,056	\$ 105,050
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS):		
Defined benefit pension plan		
Amortization of prior service cost (1)	47	47
Amortization of net actuarial loss (1)	969	773
Total defined benefit pension plan adjustments	1,016	820
Pneumoconiosis benefits		
Amortization of net actuarial loss (gain) (1)	1	(567)
Total pneumoconiosis benefits adjustments	1	(567)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	1,017	253
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	157,073	105,303
Less: Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	(148)	(148)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO ARLP	\$ 156,925	\$ 105,155

(1) Amortization of prior service cost and net actuarial gain or loss is included in the computation of net periodic benefit cost (see Notes 11 and 13 for additional details).

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 224,178	\$ 177,011
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Capital expenditures	(51,525)	(30,346)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(15)	2,144
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	7	453
Contributions to equity method investments	(11,400)	(9,287)
Distributions received from investments in excess of cumulative earnings	736	1,191
Net cash used in investing activities	(62,197)	(35,845)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Borrowings under securitization facility	37,600	—
Payments under securitization facility	(70,000)	—
Borrowings under revolving credit facilities	70,000	—
Payments under revolving credit facilities	(100,000)	(25,000)
Payments on capital lease obligations	(6,974)	(6,678)
Payment of debt issuance costs	—	(6,664)
Contributions to consolidated company from affiliate noncontrolling interest	—	251
Net settlement of withholding taxes on issuance of units in deferred compensation plans	(2,081)	(2,988)
Cash contributions by General Partners	41	905
Distributions paid to Partners	(68,396)	(53,224)
Other	(163)	(190)
Net cash used in financing activities	(139,973)	(93,588)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	22,008	47,578
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	6,756	39,782
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 28,764	\$ 87,360
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 2,995	\$ 4,708

NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITY:

Accounts payable for purchase of property, plant and equipment	\$ 15,621	\$ 10,376
Assets acquired by capital lease	\$ 835	\$ —
Market value of common units issued under deferred compensation plans before tax withholding requirements	\$ 6,142	\$ 8,149

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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ALLIANCE RESOURCE PARTNERS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. ORGANIZATION AND PRESENTATION

Significant Relationships Referenced in Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

- References to "we," "us," "our" or "ARLP Partnership" mean the business and operations of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., the parent company, as well as its consolidated subsidiaries.
- References to "ARLP" mean Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "MGP" mean Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, ARLP's sole general partner and, prior to the Exchange Transaction discussed below, its managing general partner.
- References to "SGP" mean Alliance Resource GP, LLC, ARLP's special general partner prior to the Exchange Transaction discussed below.
- References to "Intermediate Partnership" mean Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., the intermediate partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "Alliance Resource Properties" mean Alliance Resource Properties, LLC, the land-holding company for the mining operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.
- References to "Alliance Coal" mean Alliance Coal, LLC, the holding company for the mining operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.
- References to "AHGP" mean Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "AGP" mean Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.

Organization

ARLP is a Delaware limited partnership listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "ARLP." ARLP was formed in May 1999 to acquire, upon completion of ARLP's initial public offering on August 19, 1999, certain coal production and marketing assets of Alliance Resource Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("ARH"), consisting of substantially all of ARH's operating subsidiaries, but excluding ARH. ARH is owned by

Joseph W. Craft III, the President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of MGP, and Kathleen S. Craft. SGP, a Delaware limited liability company, is owned by ARH. SGP owns 20,641,168 common units of AHGP's 59,863,000 outstanding common units, 7,181 common units of ARLP and, prior to the Exchange Transaction discussed below, owned a 0.01% special general partner interest in both ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership.

We are managed by MGP, a Delaware limited liability company and the sole general partner of ARLP. MGP holds a non-economic general partner interest in ARLP, a 1.0001% managing general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership and a 0.001% managing member interest in Alliance Coal. AHGP is a Delaware limited partnership that was formed to become the owner and controlling member of MGP. AHGP completed its initial public offering on May 15, 2006. AHGP owns directly and indirectly 87,188,338 common units of ARLP's 130,903,256 outstanding common units. AHGP indirectly owns 100% of the members' interest of MGP. ARLP and its consolidated subsidiaries represent virtually all the net assets and operations of AHGP. See discussions below regarding MGP's and AHGP's change of ownership in ARLP effective with the Exchange Transaction on July 28, 2017.

Exchange Transaction

In 2017, the board of directors of our general partner and its conflicts committee unanimously approved a transaction to simplify our partnership structure and on July 28, 2017, MGP contributed to ARLP all of its incentive distribution rights ("IDRs") and its 0.99% managing general partner interest in ARLP in exchange for 56,100,000 ARLP common units and a non-economic general partner interest in ARLP. In conjunction with this transaction and on the same economic basis as MGP, SGP also contributed to ARLP its 0.01% general partner interests in both ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership in exchange for 7,181 ARLP common units (collectively the "Exchange Transaction"). In

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connection with the Exchange Transaction, ARLP amended its partnership agreement to reflect, among other things, cancellation of the IDRs and the economic general partner interest in ARLP and issuance of a non-economic general partner interest to MGP. MGP is the sole general partner of ARLP following the Exchange Transaction, and no control, management or governance changes otherwise occurred.

Simultaneously with the Exchange Transaction discussed above, MGP became a wholly owned subsidiary of MGP II, LLC ("MGP II") which is directly and indirectly 100% owned by AHGP and was created in connection with the Exchange Transaction. As of March 31, 2018, MGP II held the 56,100,000 ARLP common units discussed above.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts and operations of the ARLP Partnership and present the consolidated financial position as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 and the results of operations, comprehensive income and cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 of ARLP, the Intermediate Partnership (a subsidiary of ARLP and a variable interest entity of which ARLP is the primary beneficiary), Alliance Coal (a subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership and a variable interest entity of which the Intermediate Partnership is the primary beneficiary) and other directly and indirectly wholly and majority owned subsidiaries of the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Coal. The Intermediate Partnership, Alliance Coal and their wholly and majority owned subsidiaries represent virtually all the net assets of the ARLP Partnership. MGP's interests in both Alliance Coal and the Intermediate Partnership are reported as part of the general partner interest in the ARLP Partnership. For the periods presented prior to the Exchange Transaction, MGP's managing general partner interest and IDRs in ARLP and the SGP's special general partner interests in ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership are also reported as part of the general partner interest in the ARLP Partnership. All intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. See Note 7 – Variable Interest Entities for more information regarding ARLP's consolidation of the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Coal. See Note 10 – Net Income of ARLP Per Limited Partner Unit for more information regarding allocations to the limited and general partner interests.

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are unaudited. However, in the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the periods presented. Results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full year ending December 31, 2018.

These condensed consolidated financial statements and notes are prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission for interim reporting and do not include all of the information normally included with financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") of the United States. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the ARLP Partnership's condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in our condensed consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investments

Our investments and ownership interests in equity securities without readily determinable fair values in entities in which we do not have a controlling financial interest or significant influence are accounted for using a measurement alternative other than fair value which is historical cost minus impairment, if any, plus or minus changes resulting from observable price changes in orderly transactions for identical or similar investments of the same entity.

Distributions received on those investments are recorded as income unless those distributions are considered a return on investment in which case the historical cost is reduced. We account for our ownership interests in Kodiak Gas Services, LLC ("Kodiak") as equity securities without readily determinable fair values. See Note 8 – Investments for further discussion of this investment.

Our investments and ownership interests in entities in which we do not have a controlling financial interest are accounted for under the equity method of accounting if we have the ability to exercise significant influence over the entity.

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Investments accounted for under the equity method are initially recorded at cost, and the difference between the basis of our investment and the underlying equity in the net assets of the joint venture at the investment date, if any, is amortized over the lives of the related assets that gave rise to the difference.

Our equity method investments include AllDale Minerals, LP ("AllDale I"), and AllDale Minerals II, LP ("AllDale II") (collectively "AllDale Minerals"), both held by our affiliate Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC ("Cavalier Minerals") and AllDale Minerals III, LP ("AllDale III") which is held through our subsidiary, Alliance Minerals, LLC ("Alliance Minerals"). AllDale III and AllDale Minerals are collectively referred to as the "AllDale Partnerships." See Note 8 – Investments for further discussion of these equity method investments.

We review our equity securities and our equity method investments for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate a loss in the value of the investment may be other-than-temporary.

Revenue Recognition

Revenues from coal supply contracts with customers are recognized at the point in time when control of the coal passes to the customer. We have determined that each ton of coal represents a separate and distinct performance obligation. Our coal supply contracts and other sales and operating revenue contracts vary in length from short-term to long-term contracts and do not typically have significant financing components. Transportation revenues represent the fulfillment costs incurred for the services provided to customers through third-party carriers and for which we are directly reimbursed. Other sales and operating revenues primarily consist of transloading fees, administrative service revenues from our affiliates, mine safety services and products, other coal contract fees and other handling and service fees. Performance obligations under these contracts are typically satisfied upon transfer of control of the goods or services to our customer which is determined by the contract and could be upon shipment or upon delivery.

The estimated transaction price from each of our contracts is based on the total amount of consideration we expect to be entitled to under the contract. Included in the transaction price for certain coal supply contracts is the impact of variable consideration, including quality price adjustments, handling services, government imposition claims, per ton price fluctuations based on certain coal sales price indices and anticipated payments in lieu of shipments. We have constrained the expected value of variable consideration in our estimation of transaction price and only included this consideration to the extent that it is probable that a significant revenue reversal will not occur. The estimated transaction price for each contract is allocated to our performance obligations based on relative standalone selling prices determined at contract inception. Variable consideration is allocated to a specific part of the contract in many instances, such as if the variable consideration is based on production activities for coal delivered during a certain period or the outcome of a customer's ability to accept coal shipments over a certain period.

Contract assets are recorded as trade receivables and reported separately in our consolidated balance sheet from other contract assets as title passes to the customer and our right to consideration becomes unconditional. Payments for coal shipments are typically due within two to four weeks of performance. We typically do not have material contract assets that are stated separately from trade receivables as our performance obligations are satisfied as control of the goods or services passes to the customer thereby granting us an unconditional right to receive consideration. Contract liabilities relate to consideration received in advance of the satisfaction of our performance obligations. Contract liabilities are recognized as revenue at the point in time when control of the good or service passes to the customer.

2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

New Accounting Standards Issued and Adopted

In March 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2017-07, Compensation—Retirement Benefits (Topic 715) ("ASU 2017-07"). ASU 2017-07 requires that an employer disaggregate the service cost component from the other components of net benefit cost. It also provides explicit guidance on how to present the service cost component and the other components of net benefit cost in the income statement and allows only the service cost component of net benefit cost to be eligible for capitalization. ASU 2017-07 is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those annual periods. The adoption of ASU 2017-07 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements. The new presentation requirements in the guidance were applied retrospectively to all periods presented using the amounts of

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other components of net benefit cost previously disclosed in prior period footnotes. The requirement under the guidance to only capitalize the service cost component was applied prospectively.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10), Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities ("ASU 2016-01"). ASU 2016-01 will require entities to measure equity investments at fair value and recognize any changes in fair value in net income. The guidance removes the cost method of accounting for equity investments without a readily determinable fair value, but provides a new measurement alternative where entities may choose to measure those investments at cost, less any impairment, plus or minus any changes resulting from observable price changes in transactions for the same issuer. ASU 2016-01 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. The adoption of ASU 2016-01 did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers ("ASU 2014-09"). ASU 2014-09 is a new revenue recognition standard that provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. ASU 2014-09 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2017. The adoption of the new standard did not have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements, but requires expanded disclosures including presenting, by type and by segment, revenues for all periods presented and expected revenues by year for performance obligations that are unsatisfied or partially unsatisfied as of the date of presentation. The new standard allows for two methods of adoption: a full retrospective adoption method and a modified retrospective method. We elected to use the modified retrospective method of adoption, which allows a cumulative effect adjustment to equity as of the date of adoption. As there was no change in the recognition pattern of our revenues, we did not have a cumulative effect adjustment upon adoption of the new standard. See Note 9 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers for additional information.

New Accounting Standards Issued and Not Yet Adopted

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments–Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments ("ASU 2016-13"). ASU 2016-13 changes the impairment model for most financial assets and certain other instruments to require the use of a new forward-looking "expected loss" model that generally will result in earlier recognition of allowances for losses. The new standard will require disclosure of significantly more information related to these items. ASU 2016-13 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within those fiscal years, with early adoption permitted for the fiscal year beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting ASU 2016-13, but do not anticipate it will have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842) ("ASU 2016-02"). ASU 2016-02 increases transparency and comparability among organizations by requiring lessees to record right-to-use assets and corresponding lease liabilities on the balance sheet and disclosing key information about lease arrangements. The new

guidance will classify leases as either finance or operating (similar to current standard's "capital" or "operating" classification), with classification affecting the pattern of income recognition in the statement of income. ASU 2016-02 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years, with early adoption permitted. The FASB continues to issue clarifications, updates and implementation guidance to ASU 2016-02 which we continue to monitor, such as ASU 2018-01, Leases (Topic 842) ("ASU 2018-01") which provides a land easement practical expedient for transition to Topic 842. This update allows for companies that did not previously recognize land easements as leases to continue this practice for existing leases, but will still require the evaluation of new lease arrangements, including land easements.

We have developed an assessment team to determine the effect of adopting ASU 2016-02. As part of the assessment process, management has provided education and guidance to business units regarding the new standard. We have also started compiling and reviewing our population of leases and assessing our systems and internal controls relating to our accounting for leases. In addition to monitoring FASB activity regarding ASU 2016-02, we are continuing to monitor various non-authoritative groups with respect to implementation issues that could affect our assessment.

3.CONTINGENCIES

On March 9, 2018, we finalized an agreement with a customer and certain of its affiliates to settle breach of contract litigation we initiated in January 2015. The agreement provided for a \$93.0 million cash payment to us, execution

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of a new coal supply agreement with the customer, continued export transloading capacity for our Appalachian mines and the rights to acquire certain coal reserves for \$2.0 million from an affiliate of the customer. We estimated total consideration received in the agreement to be a \$93.0 million cash payment. We accrued \$13.0 million of legal fees and associated incentive compensation costs related to this settlement which resulted in a net gain of \$80.0 million reflected in the Settlement gain line item in our condensed consolidated statements of income.

Various lawsuits, claims and regulatory proceedings incidental to our business are pending against the ARLP Partnership. We record accruals for potential losses related to these matters when, in management's opinion, such losses are probable and reasonably estimable. Based on known facts and circumstances, we believe the ultimate outcome of these outstanding lawsuits, claims and regulatory proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity. However, if the results of these matters were different from management's current opinion and in amounts greater than our accruals, then they could have a material adverse effect.

4. INVENTORIES

Inventories consist of the following:

	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
	(in thousands)	
Coal	\$ 46,784	\$ 22,825
Supplies (net of reserve for obsolescence of \$5,254 and \$5,149, respectively)	37,160	37,450
Total inventories, net	\$ 83,944	\$ 60,275

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The following table summarizes our fair value measurements within the hierarchy:

March 31, 2018		December 31, 2017	
Level 2	Level 3	Level 2	Level 3

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	Level 1 (in thousands)			Level 1		
Measured on a recurring basis:						
Contingent consideration	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6,800	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6,800
Additional disclosures:						
Long-term debt	—	480,280	—	—	541,147	—
Total	\$ —	\$ 480,280	\$ 6,800	\$ —	\$ 541,147	\$ 6,800

The carrying amounts for cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued and other liabilities, due from affiliates and due to affiliates approximate fair value due to the short maturity of those instruments.

The estimated fair value of our long-term debt, including current maturities, is based on interest rates that we believe are currently available to us in active markets for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities (See Note 6 – Long-Term Debt). The fair value of debt, which is based upon these interest rates, is classified as a Level 2 measurement under the fair value hierarchy.

The estimated fair value of our contingent consideration arrangement is based on a probability-weighted discounted cash flow model. The assumptions in the model include a risk-adjusted discount rate, forward coal sales price curves, cost of debt and probabilities of meeting certain contractual threshold coal sales prices. The fair value measurement is based on significant inputs not observable in active markets and thus represents a Level 3 fair value measurement under the fair value hierarchy.

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6.LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	Principal		Unamortized Discount and Debt Issuance Costs	
	March 31, 2018 (in thousands)	December 31, 2017	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Revolving Credit facility	\$ —	\$ 30,000	\$ (6,818)	\$ (7,356)
Senior notes	400,000	400,000	(6,479)	(6,707)
Securitization facility	40,000	72,400	—	—
	440,000	502,400	(13,297)	(14,063)
Less current maturities	(40,000)	(72,400)	—	—
Total long-term debt	\$ 400,000	\$ 430,000	\$ (13,297)	\$ (14,063)

On January 27, 2017, our Intermediate Partnership entered into a Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with various financial institutions. The Credit Agreement provides for a \$494.75 million revolving credit facility, including a sublimit of \$125 million for the issuance of letters of credit and a sublimit of \$15.0 million for swingline borrowings (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), with a termination date of May 23, 2019.

The Credit Agreement was amended on April 3, 2017 to extend the termination date of the Revolving Credit Facility as to \$461.25 million of the \$494.75 million of commitments to May 23, 2021 and effectuate certain other changes.

The Credit Agreement is guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of our Intermediate Partnership, and is secured by substantially all of the Intermediate Partnership's assets. Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest, at the option of the Intermediate Partnership, at either (i) the Base Rate at the greater of three benchmarks or (ii) a Eurodollar Rate, plus margins for (i) or (ii), as applicable, that fluctuate depending upon the ratio of Consolidated Debt to Consolidated Cash Flow (each as defined in the Credit Agreement). The Eurodollar Rate, with applicable margin, under the Credit Facility was 4.07% as of March 31, 2018. At March 31, 2018, we had \$8.1 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$486.7 million available for borrowing under the Revolving Credit Facility. We currently incur an annual commitment fee of 0.35% on the undrawn portion of the Revolving Credit Facility. We utilize the Revolving Credit Facility, as appropriate, for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and investments, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments.

The Credit Agreement contains various restrictions affecting our Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries including, among other things, restrictions on incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, sale of assets, investments, mergers and consolidations and transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions, and the payment of cash distributions by our Intermediate Partnership if such payment would result in a certain fixed charge coverage ratio (as defined in the Credit Agreement). See Note 7 – Variable Interest Entities for further

discussion of restrictions on the cash available for distribution. The Credit Agreement requires the Intermediate Partnership to maintain (a) a debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 2.5 to 1.0 and (b) a cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 3.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 0.75 to 1.0 and 16.0 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended March 31, 2018. We remain in compliance with the covenants of the Credit Agreement as of March 31, 2018.

On April 24, 2017, the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Resource Finance Corporation (as co-issuer), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership ("Alliance Finance"), issued an aggregate principal amount of \$400.0 million of senior unsecured notes due 2025 ("Senior Notes") in a private placement to qualified institutional buyers. The Senior Notes have a term of eight years, maturing on May 1, 2025 (the "Term") and accrue interest at an annual rate of 7.5%. Interest is payable semi-annually in arrears on each May 1 and November 1. The indenture governing the Senior Notes contains customary terms, events of default and covenants relating to, among other things, the incurrence of debt, the payment of distributions or similar restricted payments, undertaking transactions with affiliates and limitations on asset sales. At any time prior to May 1, 2020, the issuers of the Senior Notes may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more equity offerings at a redemption price equal to 107.5% of the principal amount redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. The issuers of the Senior Notes may also redeem all or a part of the notes at any time on or after May 1, 2020, at redemption prices set forth in the indenture governing the Senior Notes. At any time prior to May 1, 2020, the issuers of the Senior Notes may

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redeem the Senior Notes at a redemption price equal to the principal amount of the Senior Notes plus a "make-whole" premium, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date.

On December 5, 2014, certain direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of our Intermediate Partnership entered into a \$100.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility ("Securitization Facility"). Under the Securitization Facility, certain subsidiaries sell trade receivables on an ongoing basis to our Intermediate Partnership, which then sells the trade receivables to AROP Funding, LLC ("AROP Funding"), a wholly owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose subsidiary of our Intermediate Partnership, which in turn borrows on a revolving basis up to \$100.0 million secured by the trade receivables. After the sale, Alliance Coal, as servicer of the assets, collects the receivables on behalf of AROP Funding. The Securitization Facility bears interest based on a Eurodollar Rate. It was renewed in January 2018 and matures in January 2019. At March 31, 2018, we had \$40.0 million outstanding under the Securitization Facility.

On October 6, 2015, Cavalier Minerals (see Note 7 – Variable Interest Entities) entered into a credit agreement (the "Cavalier Credit Agreement") with Mineral Lending, LLC ("Mineral Lending") for a \$100.0 million line of credit (the "Cavalier Credit Facility"). Mineral Lending is an entity owned by (a) Alliance Resource Holdings II, Inc. ("ARH II," the parent of ARH), (b) an entity owned by an officer of ARH who is also a director of ARH II ("ARH Officer") and (c) foundations established by the President and Chief Executive Officer of MGP and Kathleen S. Craft. There is no commitment fee under the facility. Mineral Lending's obligation to make the line of credit available terminates no later than October 6, 2019. Borrowings under the Cavalier Credit Facility bear interest at a one month LIBOR rate plus 6% with interest payable quarterly, and mature on September 30, 2024, at which time all amounts then outstanding are required to be repaid. The Cavalier Credit Agreement requires repayment of the principal balance beginning in 2018, in quarterly payments of an amount equal to the greater of \$1.3 million initially, escalated to \$2.5 million after two years, or fifty percent of Cavalier Minerals' excess cash flow. To secure payment of the facility, Cavalier Minerals pledged all of its partnership interests, owned or later acquired, in AllDale Minerals. Cavalier Minerals may prepay the Cavalier Credit Facility at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the Cavalier Credit Agreement. As of March 31, 2018, Cavalier Minerals had not drawn on the Cavalier Credit Facility. Alliance Minerals has the right to require Cavalier Minerals to draw the full amount available under the Cavalier Credit Facility and distribute the proceeds to the members of Cavalier Minerals, including Alliance Minerals.

7.VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES

Cavalier Minerals

On November 10, 2014, our subsidiary, Alliance Minerals, and Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC ("Bluegrass Minerals") entered into a limited liability company agreement (the "Cavalier Agreement") to create Cavalier Minerals, which was formed to indirectly acquire oil and gas mineral interests, initially through its 71.7% noncontrolling ownership interest in AllDale I and subsequently through its 72.8% noncontrolling ownership interest in AllDale

II. Bluegrass Minerals is owned and controlled by the ARH Officer discussed in Note 6 – Long-Term Debt and is Cavalier Minerals' managing member. Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals initially committed funding of \$48.0 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, to Cavalier Minerals, and Cavalier Minerals committed funding of \$49.0 million to AllDale I. On October 6, 2015, Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals committed to fund an additional \$96.0 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, to Cavalier Minerals, and Cavalier Minerals committed to fund \$100.0 million to AllDale II. Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals contributed \$143.1 million and \$6.0 million, respectively, to Cavalier Minerals, which sufficiently completed funding to Cavalier Minerals for these commitments.

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In accordance with the Cavalier Agreement, Bluegrass Minerals is entitled to receive an incentive distribution from Cavalier Minerals equal to 25% of all distributions (including in liquidation) after all members have recovered their investment. The incentive distributions are reduced by certain distributions received by Bluegrass Minerals or its owner from AllDale Minerals Management, LLC ("AllDale Minerals Management"), the managing member of AllDale Minerals. Distributions paid to Alliance Minerals and Bluegrass Minerals from Cavalier Minerals for each period presented are as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Alliance Minerals	\$ 3,888	\$ 4,563
Bluegrass Minerals	162	190

Alliance Minerals' ownership interest in Cavalier Minerals is 96%. The remainder of the equity ownership is held by Bluegrass Minerals. We have consolidated Cavalier Minerals' financial results as we concluded that Cavalier Minerals is a variable interest entity ("VIE") and we are the primary beneficiary because neither Bluegrass Minerals nor Alliance Minerals individually has both the power and the benefits related to Cavalier Minerals and we are most closely aligned with Cavalier Minerals through our substantial equity ownership. Bluegrass Minerals' equity ownership of Cavalier Minerals is accounted for as noncontrolling ownership interest in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, earnings attributable to Bluegrass Minerals are recognized as noncontrolling interest in our condensed consolidated statements of income.

WKY CoalPlay

On November 17, 2014, SGP Land, LLC ("SGP Land"), a wholly owned subsidiary of SGP, and two limited liability companies ("Craft Companies") owned by irrevocable trusts established by the President and Chief Executive Officer of MGP, entered into a limited liability company agreement to form WKY CoalPlay, LLC ("WKY CoalPlay"). WKY CoalPlay was formed, in part, to purchase and lease coal reserves. WKY CoalPlay is managed by the ARH Officer discussed in Note 6 – Long-Term Debt, who is also an employee of SGP Land and trustee of the irrevocable trusts owning the Craft Companies. In December 2014 and February 2015, we entered into various coal reserve leases with WKY CoalPlay. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we paid \$10.8 million of advanced royalties to WKY CoalPlay. As of March 31, 2018, we had \$40.7 million of advanced royalties outstanding under the leases, which is reflected in the Advance royalties, net line items in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

We have concluded that WKY CoalPlay is a VIE because of our ability to exercise options to acquire reserves under lease with WKY CoalPlay, which is not within the control of the equity holders and, if it occurs, could potentially limit the expected residual return to the owners of WKY CoalPlay. We do not have any economic or governance rights related to WKY CoalPlay and our options that provide us with a variable interest in WKY CoalPlay's reserve

assets do not give us any rights that constitute power to direct the primary activities that most significantly impact WKY CoalPlay's economic performance. SGP Land has the sole ability to replace the manager of WKY CoalPlay at its discretion and therefore has power to direct the activities of WKY CoalPlay. Consequently, we concluded that SGP Land is the primary beneficiary of WKY CoalPlay.

Alliance Coal and the Intermediate Partnership

Alliance Coal is a limited liability company designed to operate as the operating subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership and holds the interests in the mining operations and Alliance Service, Inc. ("ASI"). The Intermediate Partnership is a limited partnership that holds the non-managing member interest in Alliance Coal and the sole member interests in Alliance Resource Properties, Alliance Minerals and other entities. Together Alliance Coal and the Intermediate Partnership and their subsidiaries represent virtually all the net assets of ARLP. Both the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Coal were designed to operate as the operating subsidiaries of ARLP and to distribute available cash to ARLP so that ARLP can distribute available cash to its partners. We considered MGP's and ARLP's ownership in the Intermediate Partnership and MGP's and the Intermediate Partnership's ownership in Alliance Coal separately for the purposes of determining whether the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Coal are VIEs.

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The Intermediate Partnership holds a 99.999% non-managing interest and MGP holds the 0.001% managing member interest in Alliance Coal. To determine whether Alliance Coal is a VIE, we considered that since Alliance Coal is structured as the equivalent of a limited partnership with the non-managing member 1) not having the ability to remove its managing member and 2) not participating significantly in the operational decisions, Alliance Coal represents a VIE.

We determined that neither the MGP nor the Intermediate Partnership have both the power and the benefits related to Alliance Coal. We then considered which of the two was most closely aligned with Alliance Coal and thus would be designated the primary beneficiary of Alliance Coal for consolidation purposes. We determined that the Intermediate Partnership was most closely aligned with Alliance Coal and is the primary beneficiary. We based our determination of alignment on 1) the purpose and design of Alliance Coal which is to (a) be the operating subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership and (b) distribute all of its available cash to the Intermediate Partnership such that the Intermediate Partnership can pay its partners and debt obligations, 2) AHGP's common control over both the Intermediate Partnership and MGP, as discussed in Note 1 – Organization and Presentation, to achieve the aforementioned purpose and design and 3) the Intermediate Partnership's debt funding for Alliance Coal for capital expenditures, operations and other purposes as needed and related risks and collateral requirements in the debt arrangements.

ARLP holds a 98.9899% limited partnership interest and a 0.01% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership and MGP holds the 1.0001% managing general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership. To determine whether the Intermediate Partnership is a VIE, we considered that since the Intermediate Partnership is structured as a limited partnership with the limited partner 1) not having the ability to remove its managing general partner and 2) not participating significantly in the operational decisions, the Intermediate Partnership represents a VIE.

We determined that neither the MGP nor ARLP have both the power and the benefits related to Intermediate Partnership. We then considered which of the two was most closely aligned with the Intermediate Partnership and thus would be designated the primary beneficiary of the Intermediate Partnership for consolidation purposes. We determined that ARLP was most closely aligned with the Intermediate Partnership and is the primary beneficiary. We based our determination of alignment on 1) the purpose and design of the Intermediate Partnership which is to (a) be the operating subsidiary to ARLP and (b) distribute all of its available cash to ARLP to pay its partners and 2) AHGP's common control over ARLP, MGP and the Intermediate Partnership, as discussed in Note 1 – Organization and Presentation, to achieve the aforementioned purpose and design.

The effect of the partnership agreements of ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership and the operating agreement of Alliance Coal (collectively the "Agreements") is that on a quarterly basis 100% of available cash from our operations must be distributed by ARLP to its partners (apart from certain nominal distributions from the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Coal to MGP). Available cash is determined as defined in the Agreements and represents all cash with the exception of cash reserves (i) for the proper conduct of the business including reserves for future capital expenditures and for anticipated credit needs of the Partnership Group, (ii) to comply with debt obligations or (iii) to provide funds for certain subsequent distributions. MGP, as the managing member of Alliance Coal and the general

partner of the Intermediate Partnership, is responsible for distributing this cash to ARLP so it can meet its distribution requirements. As discussed in Note 6 – Long-Term Debt, the Intermediate Partnership's debt covenants place additional restrictions on distributions to ARLP by limiting cash available for distribution from the Intermediate Partnership based on various debt covenants pertaining to the most recent preceding quarter. MGP does not have the ability, without the consent of the limited partners, to amend the Agreements.

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8.INVESTMENTS

AllDale Minerals

In November 2014, Cavalier Minerals (see Note 7 – Variable Interest Entities) was created to indirectly purchase, through its equity investments in AllDale Minerals, oil and gas mineral interests in various geographic locations within producing basins in the continental U.S. In February 2017, Alliance Minerals, which is included in our Other and Corporate category (see Note 14 – Segment Information), committed to directly (rather than through Cavalier Minerals) invest \$30.0 million in AllDale III which was created for similar investment purposes. We account for our ownership interest in the income or loss of the AllDale Partnerships as equity method investments. We record equity income or loss based on the AllDale Partnerships' individual distribution structures. The changes in our aggregate equity method investment in the AllDale Partnerships for each of the periods presented were as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Beginning balance	\$ 147,964	\$ 138,817
Contributions	11,400	9,287
Equity method investment income	3,736	3,700
Distributions received	(4,431)	(4,752)
Ending balance	\$ 158,669	\$ 147,052

Kodiak

On July 19, 2017, Alliance Minerals purchased \$100 million of Series A-1 Preferred Interests from Kodiak, a privately-held company providing large-scale, high-utilization gas compression assets to customers operating primarily in the Permian Basin. This structured investment provides us with a quarterly cash or payment-in-kind return. Our ownership interests in Kodiak are senior to all other Kodiak equity interests and subordinate only to Kodiak's senior secured debt facility. We account for our ownership interests in Kodiak as equity securities without readily determinable fair values. It is not practicable to estimate the fair value of our investment in Kodiak because of the lack of a quoted market price for our ownership interests, therefore we use a measurement alternative other than fair value to account for our investment. The changes in our investment in Kodiak for the three months ended March 31, 2018 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands)
Beginning balance	\$ 106,398
Payment-in-kind distributions received	3,724
Ending balance	\$ 110,122

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9. REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

The following table illustrates the disaggregation of our revenues by type, including a reconciliation to our segment presentation as presented in Note 14 – Segment Information, for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017.

	Illinois Basin (in thousands)	Appalachia	Other and Corporate	Elimination	Consolidated
Three Months Ended March 31, 2018					
Coal sales	\$ 276,065	\$ 145,289	\$ 7,711	\$ (5,455)	\$ 423,610
Transportation revenues	18,271	1,514	—	—	19,785
Other sales and operating revenues	569	829	16,619	(4,290)	13,727
Total revenues	\$ 294,905	\$ 147,632	\$ 24,330	\$ (9,745)	\$ 457,122
Three Months Ended March 31, 2017					
Coal sales	\$ 266,928	\$ 167,773	\$ 15,248	\$ (11,205)	\$ 438,744
Transportation revenues	7,855	1,741	—	—	9,596
Other sales and operating revenues	772	730	15,351	(4,113)	12,740
Total revenues	\$ 275,555	\$ 170,244	\$ 30,599	\$ (15,318)	\$ 461,080

The following table illustrates the amount of our transaction price for all current coal supply contracts allocated to performance obligations that are unsatisfied or partially unsatisfied as of March 31, 2018 and disaggregated by segment and contract duration.

	2018 (in thousands)	2019	2020	2021 and Thereafter	Total
Illinois Basin coal revenues	\$ 740,763	\$ 312,605	\$ 238,386	\$ 51,790	\$ 1,343,544
Appalachia coal revenues	470,006	284,994	157,843	38,224	951,067
Other and Corporate coal revenues	61,346	22,666	—	—	84,012
Elimination	(47,028)	(17,035)	—	—	(64,063)
Total coal revenues (1)	\$ 1,225,087	\$ 603,230	\$ 396,229	\$ 90,014	\$ 2,314,560

(1) Coal revenues consists of coal sales and transportation revenues.

10.NET INCOME OF ARLP PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT

We utilize the two-class method in calculating basic and diluted earnings per unit ("EPU"). Net income of ARLP is allocated to the general partners and limited partners in accordance with their respective partnership percentages, after giving effect to any special income or expense allocations, including incentive distributions to our general partner, MGP. On July 28, 2017, MGP contributed to ARLP all of its IDRs and its general partner interest in ARLP in exchange for 56,100,000 ARLP common units and a non-economic general partner interest in ARLP. In conjunction with this transaction and on the same economic basis as MGP, SGP also contributed to ARLP its 0.01% general partner interests in both ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership in exchange for 7,181 ARLP common units. In connection with the Exchange Transaction, ARLP amended its partnership agreement to reflect, among other things, cancellation of the IDRs and the economic general partner interest in ARLP and issuance of a non-economic general partner interest to MGP. Under the IDR provisions of our partnership agreement prior to the Exchange Transaction, MGP was entitled to receive 15% of the amount we distributed in excess of \$0.1375 per unit, 25% of the amount we distributed in excess of \$0.15625 per unit, and 50% of the amount we distributed in excess of \$0.1875 per unit. Beginning with distributions declared for the three months ended June 30, 2017, we no longer make distributions with respect to the IDRs.

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Outstanding awards under our Long-Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP") and phantom units in notional accounts under our Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP") and the MGP Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors ("Deferred Compensation Plan") include rights to nonforfeitable distributions or distribution equivalents and are therefore considered participating securities. As such, we allocate undistributed and distributed earnings to these outstanding awards in our calculation of EPU. The following is a reconciliation of net income of ARLP used for calculating basic and diluted earnings per unit and the weighted-average units used in computing EPU for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands, except per unit data)	
Net income of ARLP	\$ 155,908	\$ 104,902
Adjustments:		
MGP's priority distributions (1)	—	(19,216)
General partners' equity ownership (1)	(1,560)	(1,730)
General partners' special allocation of certain general and administrative expenses (2)	—	800
Limited partners' interest in net income of ARLP	154,348	84,756
Less:		
Distributions to participating securities	(1,271)	(966)
Undistributed earnings attributable to participating securities	(1,548)	(1,465)
Net income of ARLP available to limited partners	\$ 151,529	\$ 82,325
Weighted-average limited partner units outstanding – basic and diluted	130,819	74,503
Basic and diluted net income of ARLP per limited partner unit (3)	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.10

(1) Amounts for the three months ended March 31, 2018 reflect the impact of the Exchange Transaction eliminating distributions that would have been paid for the IDRs and the 0.99% general partner interest in ARLP, both of which were held by MGP prior to the Exchange Transaction. MGP maintained its 1.0001% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership and thus continues to receive the Intermediate Partnership quarterly distribution notwithstanding the Exchange Transaction. Because the Exchange Transaction occurred prior to the first quarter of 2018, all of the first quarter earnings less the Intermediate Partnership's general partner interest were allocated to ARLP's limited partners. The Exchange Transaction also converted SGP's nominal general partnership interest to the limited partner interest.

(2) During the three months ended March 31, 2017, an affiliated entity controlled by Mr. Craft made a capital contribution of \$0.8 million to AHGP for the purpose of funding certain general and administrative expenses. Upon AHGP's receipt of the contribution, it contributed the same to its subsidiary MGP, our general partner, which in turn contributed the same amount to our subsidiary, Alliance Coal. As provided under our partnership agreement, we made a special allocation to MGP of certain general and administrative expenses equal to its contribution. Net income of ARLP allocated to the limited partners was not burdened by this expense.

- (3) Diluted EPU gives effect to all potentially dilutive common units outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method. Diluted EPU excludes all potentially dilutive units calculated under the treasury stock method if their effect is anti-dilutive. The combined total of LTIP, SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan units of 1,532 and 1,427 for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively, were considered anti-dilutive under the treasury stock method.

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On a pro forma basis, as if the Exchange Transaction had taken place on January 1, 2017, the reconciliation of net income of ARLP to basic and diluted earnings per unit and the weighted-average units used in computing EPU for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 are as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 2017 (in thousands, except per unit data)	
Net income of ARLP	\$ 155,908	\$ 104,902
Adjustments:		
General partner's equity ownership	(1,560)	(1,050)
General partner's special allocation of certain general and administrative expenses (1)	—	800
Limited partners' interest in net income of ARLP	154,348	104,652
Less:		
Distributions to participating securities	(1,271)	(966)
Undistributed earnings attributable to participating securities	(1,548)	(769)
Net income of ARLP available to limited partners (2)	\$ 151,529	\$ 102,917
Weighted-average limited partner units outstanding – basic and diluted (2)	130,819	130,610
Pro forma basic and diluted net income of ARLP per limited partner unit (3)	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.79

- (1) During the three months ended March 31, 2017, an affiliated entity controlled by Mr. Craft made a capital contribution of \$0.8 million to AHGP for the purpose of funding certain general and administrative expenses. Upon AHGP's receipt of the contribution, it contributed the same to its subsidiary MGP, our general partner, which in turn contributed the same amount to our subsidiary, Alliance Coal. As provided under our partnership agreement, we made a special allocation to MGP of certain general and administrative expenses equal to its contribution. Net income of ARLP allocated to the limited partners was not burdened by this expense.
- (2) The pro forma amounts presented above reflect net income allocations as if distributions had been made for all periods presented based on the limited and general partner interests subsequent to the Exchange Transaction. Accordingly, the Adjustment - General partner's equity ownership line item above no longer includes the (a) IDR distributions to MGP, (b) general partner interest distributions from ARLP to MGP and SGP and (c) general partner distributions from the Intermediate Partnership to SGP. Pro forma amounts above also reflect weighted average units outstanding as if the issuance of 56,107,181 ARLP common units in the Exchange Transaction applied to all periods presented.
- (3) Diluted EPU gives effect to all potentially dilutive common units outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method. Diluted EPU excludes all potentially dilutive units calculated under the treasury stock method if their effect is anti-dilutive. The combined total of LTIP, SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan units of 1,532 and 1,427 for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively, were considered anti-dilutive under the treasury stock method.

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11. WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS

The changes in the workers' compensation liability, including current and long-term liability balances, for each of the periods presented were as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 2017 (in thousands)	
Beginning balance	\$ 54,439	\$ 48,131
Accruals increase	2,641	1,974
Payments	(2,797)	(2,925)
Interest accretion	363	420
Ending balance	\$ 54,646	\$ 47,600

We limit our exposure to traumatic injury claims by purchasing a high deductible insurance policy that starts paying benefits after deductibles for a claim have been met. The deductible level may vary by claim year. Our workers' compensation liability above is presented on a gross basis and does not include our expected receivables on our insurance policy. Our receivables for traumatic injury claims under this policy as of March 31, 2018 are \$9.0 million and are included in Other long-term assets on our condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Certain of our mine operating entities are liable under state statutes and the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended, to pay pneumoconiosis, or black lung, benefits to eligible employees and former employees and their dependents. Components of the net periodic benefit cost for each of the periods presented are as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 2017 (in thousands)	
Service cost	\$ 630	\$ 546
Interest cost (1)	635	629
Net amortization (1)	1	(567)
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 1,266	\$ 608

(1) Interest cost and net amortization is included in the Other income (expense) line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income (see Note 2. New Accounting Standards).

12.COMPENSATION PLANS

Long-Term Incentive Plan

We have the LTIP for certain employees and officers of MGP and its affiliates who perform services for us. The LTIP awards are grants of non-vested "phantom" or notional units, also referred to as "restricted units", which upon satisfaction of time and performance-based vesting requirements, entitle the LTIP participant to receive ARLP common units. Annual grant levels and vesting provisions for designated participants are recommended by the President and Chief Executive Officer of MGP, subject to review and approval of the compensation committee of the MGP board of directors (the "Compensation Committee"). Vesting of all grants outstanding is subject to the satisfaction of certain financial tests, which management currently believes is probable. Grants issued to LTIP participants are expected to cliff vest on January 1st of the third year following issuance of the grants. We account for forfeitures of non-vested LTIP grants as they occur. We expect to settle the non-vested LTIP grants by delivery of ARLP common units, except for the portion of the grants that will satisfy employee tax withholding obligations of LTIP participants. As provided under the distribution equivalent rights ("DERs") provisions of the LTIP and the terms of the LTIP awards, all non-vested grants include contingent rights to receive quarterly distributions in cash or at the discretion of the Compensation Committee, in lieu of cash, phantom units credited to a bookkeeping account with value, equal to the cash distributions we make to unitholders during the vesting period.

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A summary of non-vested LTIP grants as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2018 is as follows:

	Number of units	Weighted average grant date fair value per unit	Intrinsic value (in thousands)
Non-vested grants at January 1, 2018	1,694,026	\$ 19.62	\$ 33,372
Granted	511,305	20.40	
Vested (1)	(290,706)	37.18	
Forfeited	(16,930)	16.19	
Non-vested grants at March 31, 2018	1,897,695	17.17	33,494

(1) During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we issued 191,858 unrestricted common units to the LTIP participants. The remaining vested units were settled in cash to satisfy tax withholding obligations of the LTIP participants.

LTIP expense was \$2.7 million and \$2.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The total obligation associated with the LTIP as of March 31, 2018 was \$13.6 million and is included in the partners' capital Limited partners-common unitholders line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. As of March 31, 2018, there was \$18.9 million in total unrecognized compensation expense related to the non-vested LTIP grants that are expected to vest. That expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.5 years.

After consideration of the January 1, 2018 vesting and subsequent issuance of 191,858 common units, approximately 2.1 million units remain available under the LTIP for issuance in the future, assuming all grants issued in 2018, 2017 and 2016 and currently outstanding are settled with common units without reduction for tax withholding, no future forfeitures occur and DERs continue being paid in cash versus additional phantom units.

Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan and Directors Deferred Compensation Plan

We utilize the SERP to provide deferred compensation benefits for certain officers and key employees. All allocations made to participants under the SERP are made in the form of "phantom" ARLP units and SERP distributions will be settled in the form of ARLP common units. The SERP is administered by the Compensation Committee.

Our directors participate in the Deferred Compensation Plan. Pursuant to the Deferred Compensation Plan, for amounts deferred either automatically or at the election of the director, a notional account is established and credited with notional common units of ARLP, described in the Deferred Compensation Plan as "phantom" units. Distributions from the Deferred Compensation Plan will be settled in the form of ARLP common units.

For both the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan, when quarterly cash distributions are made with respect to ARLP common units, an amount equal to such quarterly distribution is credited to each participant's notional account as additional phantom units. All grants of phantom units under the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan vest immediately.

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A summary of SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan activity as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2018 is as follows:

	Number of units	Weighted average grant date fair value per unit	Intrinsic value (in thousands)
Phantom units outstanding as of January 1, 2018	561,784	\$ 28.64	\$ 11,067
Granted	18,676	18.53	
Issued (1)	(10,364)	27.92	
Phantom units outstanding as of March 31, 2018	570,096	28.32	10,062

(1) During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we issued 7,181 ARLP common units to a participant under the SERP. Units issued to this participant were net of units settled in cash to satisfy tax withholding obligations.

Total SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan expense was \$0.4 million and \$0.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. As of March 31, 2018, the total obligation associated with the SERP and Deferred Compensation Plan was \$16.1 million and is included in the partners' capital Limited partners-common unitholders line item in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

13.COMPONENTS OF PENSION PLAN NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COSTS

Eligible employees at certain of our mining operations participate in a defined benefit plan (the "Pension Plan") that we sponsor. The Pension Plan is currently closed to new applicants and participants in the Pension Plan are no longer receiving benefit accruals for service. The benefit formula for the Pension Plan is a fixed dollar unit based on years of service. Components of the net periodic benefit cost for each of the periods presented are as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Interest cost	\$ 1,116	\$ 1,135
Expected return on plan assets	(1,436)	(1,252)

Amortization of prior service cost	47	47
Amortization of net loss	969	773
Net periodic benefit cost (1)	\$ 696	\$ 703

(1) Net periodic benefit cost for the Pension Plan is included in the Other income (expense) line item within our condensed consolidated statements of income (see Note 2. New Accounting Standards).

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we made contribution payments of \$0.7 million to the Pension Plan for the 2017 plan year and \$1.5 million for the 2018 plan year. On April 13, 2018, we made a contribution payment of \$0.7 million for the 2018 plan year.

14.SEGMENT INFORMATION

We operate in the eastern U.S. as a producer and marketer of coal to major utilities and industrial users. We aggregate multiple operating segments into two reportable segments, Illinois Basin and Appalachia, and we have an "all other" category referred to as Other and Corporate. Our reportable segments correspond to major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Similar economic characteristics for our operating segments within each of these two reportable segments generally include coal quality, geology, coal marketing opportunities, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues.

The Illinois Basin reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including currently operating mining complexes (a) Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex, (b) Gibson County Coal, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Gibson North (currently idled) and Gibson South mines, (c) Warrior Coal, LLC's mining

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complex, (d) River View Coal, LLC's mining complex and (e) Hamilton County Coal, LLC's mining complex. The Gibson North mine was idled in the fourth quarter of 2015 in response to market conditions but is expected to resume production in May 2018.

The Illinois Basin reportable segment also includes White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex ("Pattiki"), Hopkins County Coal, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Elk Creek mine, the Pleasant View surface mineable reserves and the Fies underground project, Sebree Mining, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Onton mine, Steamport, LLC and certain reserves, CR Services, LLC, CR Machine Shop, LLC, certain properties and equipment of Alliance Resource Properties, ARP Sebree, LLC, ARP Sebree South, LLC and UC Coal, LLC and its subsidiaries, UC Mining, LLC and UC Processing, LLC (collectively "UC Coal"). The Pattiki mine ceased production in December 2016. The Elk Creek mine depleted its reserves in March 2016 and ceased production on April 1, 2016. Our Onton mine has been idled since the fourth quarter of 2015 in response to market conditions. UC Coal equipment assets acquired in 2015 continue to be deployed as needed at various Illinois Basin operating mines.

The Appalachia reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including the Mettiki mining complex, the Tunnel Ridge, LLC mining complex and the MC Mining, LLC mining complex. The Mettiki mining complex includes Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mine and Mettiki Coal, LLC's preparation plant.

Other and Corporate includes marketing and administrative activities, ASI and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC and its subsidiaries Matrix Design International, LLC and Matrix Design Africa (PTY) LTD ("Matrix Design"), Alliance Design Group, LLC ("Alliance Design") (collectively, the Matrix Design entities and Alliance Design are referred to as the "Matrix Group"), ASI's ownership of aircraft, the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC ("Mt. Vernon") dock activities, Alliance Coal's coal brokerage activity, Mid-America Carbonates, LLC ("MAC"), certain of Alliance Resource Properties' land and mineral interest activities, Pontiki Coal, LLC's prior workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis liabilities, Wildcat Insurance, LLC ("Wildcat Insurance"), which assists the ARLP Partnership with its insurance requirements, Alliance Minerals, and its affiliate, Cavalier Minerals (Note 7 – Variable Interest Entities), both of which hold equity investments in various AllDale Partnerships (Note 8 – Investments), our investment in Kodiak (Note 8 – Investments) and AROP Funding and Alliance Finance (both discussed in Note 6 – Long-Term Debt).

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Reportable segment results as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 are presented below.

	Illinois Basin (in thousands)	Appalachia	Other and Corporate	Elimination (1)	Consolidated
Three Months Ended March 31, 2018					
Revenues - Outside	\$ 289,518	\$ 147,565	\$ 20,039	\$ —	\$ 457,122
Revenues - Intercompany	5,387	67	4,291	(9,745)	—
Total revenues (2)	294,905	147,632	24,330	(9,745)	457,122
Segment Adjusted EBITDA					
Expense (3)	181,803	92,498	12,798	(7,640)	279,459
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)	94,830	53,621	18,992	(2,105)	165,338
Total assets	1,425,798	463,857	522,307	(168,548)	2,243,414
Capital expenditures	37,448	13,376	701	—	51,525
Three Months Ended March 31, 2017					
Revenues - Outside	\$ 264,350	\$ 170,244	\$ 26,486	\$ —	\$ 461,080
Revenues - Intercompany	11,205	—	4,113	(15,318)	—
Total revenues (2)	275,555	170,244	30,599	(15,318)	461,080
Segment Adjusted EBITDA					
Expense (3)	161,437	95,317	17,838	(13,098)	261,494
Segment Adjusted EBITDA (4)	106,263	73,187	16,461	(2,221)	193,690
Total assets	1,426,551	479,375	416,379	(117,989)	2,204,316
Capital expenditures	17,189	12,780	377	—	30,346

(1) The elimination column represents the elimination of intercompany transactions and is primarily comprised of sales from the Matrix Group and MAC to our mining operations, coal sales and purchases between operations within different segments, sales of receivables to AROP Funding and insurance premiums paid to Wildcat Insurance.

(2) Revenues included in the Other and Corporate column are primarily attributable to the Matrix Group revenues, Mt. Vernon transloading revenues, administrative service revenues from affiliates, MAC revenues, Wildcat Insurance revenues and brokerage coal sales.

(3) Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense includes operating expenses, coal purchases and other income. Transportation expenses are excluded as these expenses are passed through to our customers and consequently we do not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues. We review Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton for cost trends.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense to Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization):

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 279,459	\$ 261,494
Outside coal purchases	(1,374)	—
Other (expense) income	(847)	533
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	\$ 277,238	\$ 262,027

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- (4) Segment Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, general and administrative expenses and settlement gain. Management therefore is able to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating profitability as it relates to our revenues and operating expenses, which are primarily controlled by our segments. Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA is reconciled to net income as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 165,338	\$ 193,690
General and administrative	(16,651)	(16,033)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(61,848)	(65,127)
Settlement gain	80,000	—
Interest expense, net	(10,793)	(7,492)
Income tax benefit	10	12
Net income	\$ 156,056	\$ 105,050

15.SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On April 27, 2018, we declared a quarterly distribution for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 of \$0.515 per unit on all common units outstanding, totaling approximately \$68.1 million, including distributions of \$0.7 million to MGP with respect to its general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership, payable on May 15, 2018 to all unitholders of record as of May 8, 2018.

Simplification Transactions

On February 22, 2018, our Board of Directors and the board of directors of AHGP's general partner approved a simplification agreement (the "Simplification Agreement"), pursuant to which, among other things, through a series of transactions (the "Simplification Transactions"), (i) AHGP would become a wholly owned subsidiary of ARLP, (ii) all of the issued and outstanding AHGP common units would be canceled and converted into the right to receive the ARLP common units held by AHGP and its subsidiaries, (iii) in exchange for a number of ARLP common units calculated pursuant to the Simplification Agreement, MGP's 1.0001% general partner interest in our Intermediate Partnership and MGP's 0.001% managing member interest in our subsidiary, Alliance Coal, would be contributed to us, and (iv) MGP will remain the sole general partner of ARLP, and thus no control, management, or governance changes with respect to our business is expected to occur.

The consummation of the Simplification Transactions requires the SEC declare the effectiveness of a registration statement on Form S-4 under the Securities Act of 1933 to register the distribution of the ARLP common units currently held by AHGP and its subsidiaries to AHGP's unitholders upon closing of the Simplification Transactions. ARLP filed a preliminary Form S-4 on March 29, 2018, which was declared effective on April 26, 2018. The consummation of the Simplification Transactions also requires the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of a majority of the outstanding AHGP common units. AHGP mailed consent solicitation statements to AHGP unitholders of record as of April 25, 2018. Certain AHGP unitholders, which collectively owned a majority of the outstanding AHGP common units as of the consent record date, have delivered written consents approving the Simplification Agreement pursuant to a support agreement. The Simplification Transactions are expected to close during the second quarter of 2018 subsequent to the filing of this Form 10-Q.

The Simplification Transactions will be accounted for prospectively as an exchange of equity interests between entities under common control when ARLP common units are issued to SGP in exchange for the contribution of the limited partner interests in AHGP, which, as previously discussed, owns indirectly a 1.0001% general partner interest in the Intermediate Partnership and the 0.001% managing member interest in Alliance Coal. Since ARLP and AHGP are under common control both before and after the Simplification Transactions, no fair value adjustment will be made to the assets or liabilities of AHGP and no gain or loss will be recognized on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

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ITEM 2.MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Significant relationships referenced in this management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations include the following:

- References to "we," "us," "our" or "ARLP Partnership" mean the business and operations of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., the parent company, as well as its consolidated subsidiaries.
- References to "ARLP" mean Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "MGP" mean Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, ARLP's sole general partner.
- References to "SGP" mean Alliance Resource GP, LLC, ARLP's special general partner prior to the Exchange Transaction discussed below.
- References to "Intermediate Partnership" mean Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P., the intermediate partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
- References to "Alliance Resource Properties" mean Alliance Resource Properties, LLC, the land-holding company for the mining operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.
- References to "Alliance Coal" mean Alliance Coal, LLC, the holding company for the mining operations of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.
- References to "AHGP" mean Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., individually as the parent company, and not on a consolidated basis.
- References to "AGP" mean Alliance GP, LLC, the general partner of Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.

Summary

We are a diversified producer and marketer of coal primarily to major United States ("U.S.") utilities and industrial users. We began mining operations in 1971 and, since then, have grown through acquisitions and internal development to become the second largest coal producer in the eastern U.S. As is customary in the coal industry, we have entered into long-term coal supply agreements with many of our customers. We operate eight underground mining complexes in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia, as well as a coal loading terminal on the Ohio River at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. In addition, we own equity interests in various oil and gas mineral interests and gas compression services in various geographic locations within producing basins in the continental U.S.

We have two reportable segments: Illinois Basin and Appalachia, and an "all other" category referred to as Other and Corporate. Our reportable segments correspond to major coal producing regions in the eastern U.S. Factors similarly affecting financial performance of our operating segments within each of these two reportable segments generally include coal quality, geology, coal marketing opportunities, mining and transportation methods and regulatory issues.

· Illinois Basin reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including currently operating mining complexes (a) Webster County Coal, LLC's Dotiki mining complex ("Dotiki"), (b) Gibson County Coal, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Gibson North (currently idled) and Gibson South mines, (c) Warrior Coal, LLC's mining complex ("Warrior"), (d) River View Coal, LLC's mining complex ("River View") and (e) Hamilton County Coal, LLC's mining complex ("Hamilton"). The Gibson North mine was idled in the fourth quarter of 2015 in response to market conditions but is expected to resume production in May 2018.

The Illinois Basin reportable segment also includes White County Coal, LLC's Pattiki mining complex ("Pattiki"), Hopkins County Coal, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Elk Creek mine ("Elk Creek"), the Pleasant View surface mineable reserves and the Fies underground project, Sebree Mining, LLC's mining complex, which includes the Onton mine, Steamport, LLC and certain reserves, CR Services, LLC, CR Machine Shop, LLC, certain properties and equipment of Alliance Resource Properties, ARP Sebree, LLC, ARP Sebree South, LLC and UC Coal, LLC and its subsidiaries, UC Mining, LLC and UC Processing, LLC (collectively "UC Coal"). The Pattiki mine ceased production in December 2016. The Elk Creek mine depleted its reserves in March 2016 and ceased production on April 1, 2016. Our Onton mine has been idled since the fourth quarter of 2015 in response to market conditions. UC Coal equipment assets acquired in 2015 continue to be deployed as needed at various Illinois Basin operating mines.

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- Appalachia reportable segment is comprised of multiple operating segments, including the Mettiki mining complex ("Mettiki"), the Tunnel Ridge, LLC mining complex ("Tunnel Ridge"), and the MC Mining, LLC mining complex ("MC Mining"). Mettiki includes Mettiki Coal (WV), LLC's Mountain View mine and Mettiki Coal, LLC's preparation plant.
- Other and Corporate includes marketing and administrative activities, Alliance Service, Inc. ("ASI") and its subsidiary, Matrix Design Group, LLC ("Matrix Design") and its subsidiaries Matrix Design International, LLC and Matrix Design Africa (PTY) LTD, Alliance Design Group, LLC, ASI's ownership of aircraft, the Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal, LLC ("Mt. Vernon") dock activities, Alliance Coal's coal brokerage activity, Mid-America Carbonates, LLC's manufacturing and sales (primarily to our mines) of rock dust, certain of Alliance Resource Properties' land and mineral interest activities, Pontiki Coal, LLC's legacy workers' compensation and pneumoconiosis liabilities, Wildcat Insurance, LLC, which assists the ARLP Partnership with its insurance requirements, Alliance Minerals, LLC ("Alliance Minerals"), which holds direct equity investments in AllDale Minerals III, LP ("AllDale III") and Alliance Minerals' affiliate, Cavalier Minerals JV, LLC ("Cavalier Minerals"), which holds equity investments in AllDale Minerals, LP and AllDale Minerals II, LP (collectively with AllDale III, the "AllDale Partnerships"), Alliance Minerals' investment in Kodiak Gas Services, LLC ("Kodiak"), AROP Funding, LLC ("AROP Funding") and Alliance Resource Finance Corporation ("Alliance Finance"). Please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 6. Long-term Debt," "– Note 7. Variable Interest Entities," and "– Note 8. Investments" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for more information on AROP Funding, Alliance Finance, Alliance Minerals, Cavalier Minerals, the AllDale Partnerships and Kodiak.

Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2017

We reported net income attributable to ARLP of \$155.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018 ("2018 Quarter") compared to \$104.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2017 ("2017 Quarter"). The increase of \$51.0 million was principally due to an \$80.0 million net gain on settlement of litigation, distributions of additional preferred interests received from our recent investment in gas compression services and lower depreciation, depletion and amortization, partially offset by lower revenues and increased operating expenses. Total revenues decreased to \$457.1 million in the 2018 Quarter compared to \$461.1 million in the 2017 Quarter, as coal sales revenues declined due to lower coal sales volumes resulting from weather-related transportation disruptions, along with lower coal sale prices.

On July 28, 2017, MGP contributed to ARLP all of its incentive distribution rights ("IDRs") and its managing general partner interest in ARLP in exchange for 56,100,000 ARLP common units and a non-economic general partner interest in ARLP. In conjunction with this transaction and on the same economic basis as MGP, SGP also contributed to ARLP its 0.01% general partner interests in both ARLP and the Intermediate Partnership in exchange for 7,181 ARLP common units (collectively the "Exchange Transaction"). In connection with the Exchange Transaction, ARLP amended its partnership agreement to reflect, among other things, cancellation of the IDRs and the economic general partner interest in ARLP and issuance of a non-economic general partner interest to MGP. Please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 1. Organization and Presentation" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for more information on the Exchange Transaction.

In the 2018 Quarter, as a result of the Exchange Transaction, net income was not allocated to the IDRs and the related general partner interests exchanged; however, additional net income, in a corresponding amount, was allocated to limited partner interests. We reported earnings per basic and diluted limited partner unit of \$1.16 in the 2018 Quarter compared to \$1.10 in the 2017 Quarter. On a pro forma basis, as if the Exchange Transaction had taken place on January 1, 2017, basic and diluted net income of ARLP per limited partner unit in the 2017 Quarter would have been \$0.79 ("Pro Forma EPU"). Please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 10. Net Income of ARLP Per Limited Partner Unit" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for more information on the impact of the Exchange Transaction on earnings per basic and diluted limited partner unit, including a table providing a reconciliation of Pro Forma EPU amounts to net income of ARLP.

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	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2018 (in thousands)	2017	2018 (per ton sold)	2017
Tons sold	9,398	9,610	N/A	N/A
Tons produced	10,482	10,218	N/A	N/A
Coal sales	\$ 423,610	\$ 438,744	\$ 45.07	\$ 45.65
Operating expenses and outside coal purchases	\$ 278,612	\$ 262,027	\$ 29.65	\$ 27.27

Coal sales. Coal sales decreased \$15.1 million or 3.4% to \$423.6 million for the 2018 Quarter from \$438.7 million for the 2017 Quarter. The decrease was attributable to a volume variance of \$9.7 million resulting from reduced tons sold and a price variance of \$5.4 million due to lower average coal sales prices. Lower sales volumes in the 2018 Quarter reflect weather-related transportation disruptions, particularly at our Tunnel Ridge and Hamilton mines, partially offset by increased sales performance at our Warrior and River View mines compared to the 2017 Quarter. As anticipated, average coal sales prices decreased \$0.58 per ton sold in the 2018 Quarter to \$45.07 compared to \$45.65 per ton sold in the 2017 Quarter, primarily as a result of the expiration of higher-priced legacy contracts offset in part by higher price realizations at our Hamilton, MC Mining and Tunnel Ridge mines. Coal production volumes increased 2.6% to 10.5 million tons in the 2018 Quarter compared to 10.2 million tons in the 2017 Quarter.

Operating expenses and outside coal purchases. Operating expenses and outside coal purchases increased 6.3% to \$278.6 million for the 2018 Quarter from \$262.0 million for the 2017 Quarter and operating expenses and outside coal purchases per ton increased \$2.38 per ton sold to \$29.65 compared to \$27.27 per ton sold in the 2017 Quarter, primarily due to an increased sales mix of higher-cost production in the 2018 Quarter resulting from weather-related transportation disruptions at our Tunnel Ridge and Hamilton longwall operations and reduced recoveries at several mines. The most significant operating expense variances by category are discussed below:

- Material and supplies expenses per ton produced increased 15.6% to \$10.18 per ton in the 2018 Quarter from \$8.81 per ton in the 2017 Quarter. The increase of \$1.37 per ton produced resulted primarily from increases of \$0.45 per ton for contract labor used in the mining process, \$0.37 per ton for roof support, \$0.27 per ton for power and fuel used in the mining process and \$0.13 per ton for other outside services; and
- Production taxes and royalty expenses incurred as a percentage of coal sales prices and volumes increased \$0.22 per produced ton sold in the 2018 Quarter compared to the 2017 Quarter primarily as a result of reduced sales of lower priced Tunnel Ridge shipments in the 2018 Quarter due to transportation disruptions discussed above.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense decreased to \$61.8 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$65.1 million in the 2017 Quarter. The decrease of \$3.3 million resulted primarily from the previously mentioned decrease in sales volumes at the Tunnel Ridge mine in the 2018 Quarter.

Settlement gain. During the 2018 Quarter, we finalized an agreement with a customer and certain of its affiliates to settle litigation we initiated in 2015. The agreement provided for a \$93.0 million cash payment to us in the 2018 Quarter, future conditional coal supply commitments, continued export transloading capacity for our Appalachian mines and the rights to acquire certain coal reserves near our Tunnel Ridge operation. A settlement gain of \$80.0 million was recorded in the 2018 Quarter reflecting the cash payment received net of \$13.0 million of legal fees and associated incentive compensation.

Interest expense. Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, increased to \$10.9 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$7.5 million in the 2017 Quarter primarily due to interest incurred under our Senior Notes issued in April 2017 offset in part by reduced borrowings under our revolving credit facility and the payment of our Series B Senior Notes in the 2017 Quarter. Total debt was \$440 million and \$525 million as of March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Interest payable under our Senior Notes, revolving credit facility and Series B Senior Notes is discussed below under "–Debt Obligations."

Equity securities income. Distributions of additional preferred interests received from our recent Kodiak investment contributed \$3.7 million of equity securities income during the 2018 Quarter. Please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 8. Investments" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for more information on Kodiak.

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Transportation revenues and expenses. Transportation revenues and expenses were \$19.8 million and \$9.6 million for the 2018 and 2017 Quarters, respectively. The increase of \$10.2 million was primarily attributable to increased tonnage for which we arrange third-party transportation at certain mines and an increase in average third-party transportation rates in the 2018 Quarter both primarily due to increased export shipments. The cost of third-party transportation services are passed through to our customers.

Segment Adjusted EBITDA. Our 2018 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$28.4 million, or 14.6%, to \$165.3 million from the 2017 Quarter Segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$193.7 million. Segment Adjusted EBITDA, tons sold, coal sales, other sales and operating revenues and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense by segment are:

	Three Months Ended		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017		
	(in thousands)			
Segment Adjusted EBITDA				
Illinois Basin	\$ 94,830	\$ 106,263	\$ (11,433)	(10.8) %
Appalachia	53,621	73,187	(19,566)	(26.7) %
Other and Corporate	18,992	16,461	2,531	15.4 %
Elimination	(2,105)	(2,221)	116	5.2 %
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA (1)	\$ 165,338	\$ 193,690	\$ (28,352)	(14.6) %
Tons sold				
Illinois Basin	7,008	6,665	343	5.1 %
Appalachia	2,390	2,930	(540)	(18.4) %
Other and Corporate	181	342	(161)	(47.1) %
Elimination	(181)	(327)	146	44.6 %
Total tons sold	9,398	9,610	(212)	(2.2) %
Coal sales				
Illinois Basin	\$ 276,065	\$ 266,928	\$ 9,137	3.4 %
Appalachia	145,289	167,773	(22,484)	(13.4) %
Other and Corporate	7,711	15,248	(7,537)	(49.4) %
Elimination	(5,455)	(11,205)	5,750	51.3 %
Total coal sales	\$ 423,610	\$ 438,744	\$ (15,134)	(3.4) %
Other sales and operating revenues				
Illinois Basin	\$ 569	\$ 772	\$ (203)	(26.3) %
Appalachia	829	730	99	13.6 %
Other and Corporate	16,619	15,351	1,268	8.3 %
Elimination	(4,290)	(4,113)	(177)	(4.3) %
Total other sales and operating revenues	\$ 13,727	\$ 12,740	\$ 987	7.7 %
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense				
Illinois Basin	\$ 181,803	\$ 161,437	\$ 20,366	12.6 %

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Appalachia	92,498	95,317	(2,819)	(3.0)	%
Other and Corporate	12,798	17,838	(5,040)	(28.3)	%
Elimination	(7,640)	(13,098)	5,458	41.7	%
Total Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (1)	\$ 279,459	\$ 261,494	\$ 17,965	6.9	%

(1) For a definition of Segment Adjusted EBITDA and Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense and related reconciliations to comparable generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") financial measures, please see below under "—Reconciliation of non-GAAP "Segment Adjusted EBITDA" to GAAP "net income" and reconciliation of non-GAAP "Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense" to GAAP "Operating Expenses."

Illinois Basin – Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 10.8% to \$94.8 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$106.3 million in the 2017 Quarter. The decrease of \$11.5 million was primarily attributable to increased operating expenses

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partially offset by higher coal sales, which increased 3.4% to \$276.1 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$266.9 million in the 2017 Quarter. The increase of \$9.2 million in coal sales reflects higher coal sales volumes of 7.0 million tons sold in the 2018 Quarter compared to 6.7 million tons sold in the 2017 Quarter, primarily due to increased sales volumes at our Warrior and River View mines, partially offset by lower average coal sales prices of \$39.39 in the 2018 Quarter compared to \$40.05 in the 2017 Quarter. Reduced coal sales price realizations in the 2018 Quarter reflect the expiration of higher-priced legacy contracts. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense increased 12.6% to \$181.8 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$161.4 million in the 2017 Quarter due to increased sales volumes and higher expenses per ton. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton increased \$1.72 per ton sold to \$25.94 from \$24.22 per ton sold in the 2017 Quarter, primarily due to lower recoveries at our Gibson South, River View and Dotiki mines, increased roof support and contract labor costs per ton at all of our Illinois Basin mines and reduced sales of lower cost per ton Hamilton shipments in the 2018 Quarter due to transportation disruptions discussed above.

Appalachia – Segment Adjusted EBITDA decreased 26.7% to \$53.6 million for the 2018 Quarter from \$73.2 million in the 2017 Quarter. The decrease of \$19.6 million was primarily attributable to lower coal sales, which decreased 13.4% to \$145.3 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$167.8 million in the 2017 Quarter, partially offset by decreased operating expenses. The decrease of \$22.5 million in coal sales primarily reflects reduced sales volumes of 2.4 million tons sold in the 2018 Quarter compared to 2.9 million tons sold in the 2017 Quarter, resulting from weather-related transportation disruptions at our Tunnel Ridge mine, offset in part by higher price realizations from our MC Mining and Tunnel Ridge mines. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense decreased 3.0% to \$92.5 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$95.3 million in the 2017 Quarter due to decreased sales volumes. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense per ton increased \$6.17 per ton sold to \$38.70 compared to \$32.53 per ton sold in the 2017 Quarter, primarily due to higher selling expenses and lower recoveries at our MC Mining and Tunnel Ridge mines as well as an increased sales mix of higher-cost coal production from our MC Mining and Mettiki mines in the 2018 Quarter and certain cost increases described above under "–Operating expenses and outside coal purchases."

Other and Corporate – Segment Adjusted EBITDA increased by \$2.5 million to \$19.0 million in the 2018 Quarter compared to \$16.5 million in the 2017 Quarter. The increase was primarily attributable to equity securities income from Kodiak in the 2018 Quarter, partially offset by reduced coal brokerage activity.

Reconciliation of non-GAAP "Segment Adjusted EBITDA" to GAAP "net income" and reconciliation of non-GAAP "Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense" to GAAP "Operating Expenses"

Segment Adjusted EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure) is defined as net income (prior to the allocation of noncontrolling interest) before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, general and administrative expenses and settlement gain. Segment Adjusted EBITDA is a key component of consolidated EBITDA, which is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and by external users of our financial statements such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others. We believe that the presentation of EBITDA provides useful information to investors regarding our performance and results of operations because EBITDA, when used in conjunction with related GAAP financial measures, (i) provides additional information about our core operating performance and ability to generate and distribute cash flow, (ii) provides investors with the financial analytical framework upon which we base financial, operational, compensation and planning decisions and

(iii) presents a measurement that investors, rating agencies and debt holders have indicated is useful in assessing us and our results of operations.

Segment Adjusted EBITDA is also used as a supplemental financial measure by our management for reasons similar to those stated in the previous explanation of EBITDA. In addition, the exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating profitability as it relates to our revenues and operating expenses, which are primarily controlled by our segments.

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The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA to net income, the most comparable GAAP financial measure:

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 165,338	\$ 193,690
General and administrative	(16,651)	(16,033)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(61,848)	(65,127)
Settlement gain	80,000	—
Interest expense, net	(10,793)	(7,492)
Income tax benefit	10	12
Net income	\$ 156,056	\$ 105,050

Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense (a non-GAAP financial measure) includes operating expenses, coal purchases and other income. Transportation expenses are excluded as these expenses are passed through to our customers and, consequently, we do not realize any gain or loss on transportation revenues. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense is used as a supplemental financial measure by our management to assess the operating performance of our segments. Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense is a key component of Segment Adjusted EBITDA in addition to coal sales and other sales and operating revenues. The exclusion of corporate general and administrative expenses from Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense allows management to focus solely on the evaluation of segment operating performance as it primarily relates to our operating expenses.

The following is a reconciliation of consolidated Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense to operating expense, the most comparable GAAP financial measure:

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
Segment Adjusted EBITDA Expense	\$ 279,459	\$ 261,494
Outside coal purchases	(1,374)	—
Other (expense) income	(847)	533
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, depletion and amortization)	\$ 277,238	\$ 262,027

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Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity

We have historically satisfied our working capital requirements and funded our capital expenditures, investments and debt service obligations with cash generated from operations, cash provided by the issuance of debt or equity, borrowings under credit and securitization facilities and sale-leaseback transactions. We believe that existing cash balances, future cash flows from operations and investments, borrowings under credit facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity will be sufficient to meet our working capital requirements, capital expenditures and additional investments, debt payments, commitments and distribution payments. Nevertheless, our ability to satisfy our working capital requirements, to fund planned capital expenditures and investments, to service our debt obligations or to pay distributions will depend upon our future operating performance and access to and cost of financing sources, which will be affected by prevailing economic conditions generally and in the coal industry specifically, as well as other financial and business factors, some of which are beyond our control. Based on our recent operating results, current cash position, current unitholder distributions, anticipated future cash flows and sources of financing that we expect to have available, we do not anticipate any constraints to our liquidity at this time. However, to the extent operating cash flow or access to and cost of financing sources are materially different than expected, future liquidity may be adversely affected. Please read "Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Mine Development Project

We are evaluating an investment in a new coal mine in east Kentucky as reserves deplete at our MC Mining operations in 2020. We anticipate the new mine will enable us to access an additional 15 million tons of coal reserves with an expected mine life of approximately 12 years assuming current levels of production at our MC Mining mine continue at the new mine. We estimate the capital required to complete the project would be between \$50 million and \$66 million, which we expect to fund with cash from operations or borrowings under our credit facilities. If we decide to move forward with this investment, we anticipate beginning the project in the second quarter of 2018 with expected completion in 2020.

Cash Flows

Cash provided by operating activities was \$224.2 million for the 2018 Quarter compared to \$177.0 million for the 2017 Quarter. The increase in cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to an increase in net income adjusted for non-cash items and favorable working capital changes related to payroll and related benefits accruals and

prepaid expenses and other assets. These increases were offset in part by unfavorable working capital changes related to trade receivables and accounts payable in the 2018 Quarter compared to the 2017 Quarter.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$62.2 million for the 2018 Quarter compared to \$35.8 million for the 2017 Quarter. The increase in cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to increased capital expenditures for mine infrastructure and equipment at various mines in the 2018 Quarter compared to the 2017 Quarter.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$140.0 million for the 2018 Quarter compared to \$93.6 million for the 2017 Quarter. The increase in cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to increased overall net payments on the securitization and revolving credit facilities and an increase in distributions paid to partners in the 2018 Quarter compared to the 2017 Quarter. These increases were partially offset by the payment of debt issuance costs in the 2017 Quarter.

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures increased to \$51.5 million in the 2018 Quarter from \$30.3 million in the 2017 Quarter. See our discussion of "Cash Flows" above concerning the increase in capital expenditures.

Our anticipated total capital expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2018 are estimated in a range of \$220.0 million to \$240.0 million, which includes expenditures for maintenance capital at various mines. In addition to these capital expenditures, in 2018 we anticipate funding investments of approximately \$30.0 million related to our commitment to acquire oil and gas mineral interests as discussed in "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 8.

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Investments" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Management anticipates funding remaining 2018 capital requirements with cash and cash equivalents (\$28.8 million as of March 31, 2018), cash flows from operations and investments, borrowings under revolving credit and securitization facilities and cash provided from the issuance of debt or equity. We will continue to have significant capital requirements over the long-term, which may require us to incur debt or seek additional equity capital. The availability and cost of additional capital will depend upon prevailing market conditions, the market price of our common units and several other factors over which we have limited control, as well as our financial condition and results of operations.

Debt Obligations

Credit Agreement. On January 27, 2017, our Intermediate Partnership entered into a Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with various financial institutions. The Credit Agreement provides for a \$494.75 million revolving credit facility, including a sublimit of \$125 million for the issuance of letters of credit and a sublimit of \$15.0 million for swingline borrowings (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), with a termination date of May 23, 2019. The Credit Agreement was amended on April 3, 2017 to extend the termination date of the Revolving Credit Facility as to \$461.25 million of the \$494.75 million of commitments to May 23, 2021 and effectuate certain other changes.

The Credit Agreement is guaranteed by all of the material direct and indirect subsidiaries of our Intermediate Partnership, and is secured by substantially all of the Intermediate Partnership's assets. Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest, at the option of the Intermediate Partnership, at either (i) the Base Rate at the greater of three benchmarks or (ii) a Eurodollar Rate, plus margins for (i) or (ii), as applicable, that fluctuate depending upon the ratio of Consolidated Debt to Consolidated Cash Flow (each as defined in the Credit Agreement). The Eurodollar Rate, with applicable margin, under the Credit Facility was 4.07% as of March 31, 2018. At March 31, 2018, we had \$8.1 million of letters of credit outstanding with \$486.7 million available for borrowing under the Revolving Credit Facility. We currently incur an annual commitment fee of 0.35% on the undrawn portion of the Revolving Credit Facility. We utilize the Revolving Credit Facility, as appropriate, for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and investments, scheduled debt payments and distribution payments.

The Credit Agreement contains various restrictions affecting our Intermediate Partnership and its subsidiaries including, among other things, restrictions on incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, sale of assets, investments, mergers and consolidations and transactions with affiliates, in each case subject to various exceptions, and the payment of cash distributions by our Intermediate Partnership if such payment would result in a certain fixed charge coverage ratio (as defined in the Credit Agreement). See "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 7. Variable Interest Entities" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for further discussion of restrictions on the cash available for distribution. The Credit Agreement requires the Intermediate Partnership to maintain (a) a debt to cash flow ratio of not more than 2.5 to 1.0 and (b) a cash flow to interest expense ratio of not less than 3.0 to 1.0, in each case, during the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. The debt to cash flow ratio and cash flow to interest expense ratio were 0.75 to 1.0 and 16.0 to 1.0, respectively, for the trailing twelve months ended March 31, 2018. We remain in compliance with the covenants of the Credit Agreement as of March 31, 2018.

Senior Notes. On April 24, 2017, the Intermediate Partnership and Alliance Finance (as co-issuer), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Intermediate Partnership, issued an aggregate principal amount of \$400.0 million of senior unsecured notes due 2025 ("Senior Notes") in a private placement to qualified institutional buyers. The Senior Notes have a term of eight years, maturing on May 1, 2025 (the "Term") and accrue interest at an annual rate of 7.5%. Interest is payable semi-annually in arrears on each May 1 and November 1. The indenture governing the Senior Notes contains customary terms, events of default and covenants relating to, among other things, the incurrence of debt, the payment of distributions or similar restricted payments, undertaking transactions with affiliates and limitations on asset sales. At any time prior to May 1, 2020, the issuers of the Senior Notes may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more equity offerings at a redemption price equal to 107.5% of the principal amount redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. The issuers of the Senior Notes may also redeem all or a part of the notes at any time on or after May 1, 2020, at redemption prices set forth in the indenture governing the Senior Notes. At any time prior to May 1, 2020, the issuers of the Senior Notes may redeem the Senior Notes at a redemption price equal to the principal amount of the Senior Notes plus a "make-whole" premium, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date.

Accounts Receivable Securitization. On December 5, 2014, certain direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of our Intermediate Partnership entered into a \$100.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility ("Securitization

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Facility"). Under the Securitization Facility, certain subsidiaries sell trade receivables on an ongoing basis to our Intermediate Partnership, which then sells the trade receivables to AROP Funding, a wholly owned bankruptcy-remote special purpose subsidiary of our Intermediate Partnership, which in turn borrows on a revolving basis up to \$100.0 million secured by the trade receivables. After the sale, Alliance Coal, as servicer of the assets, collects the receivables on behalf of AROP Funding. The Securitization Facility bears interest based on a Eurodollar Rate. It was renewed in January 2018 and matures in January 2019. At March 31, 2018, we had \$40.0 million outstanding under the Securitization Facility.

Cavalier Credit Agreement. On October 6, 2015, Cavalier Minerals entered into a credit agreement (the "Cavalier Credit Agreement") with Mineral Lending, LLC ("Mineral Lending") for a \$100.0 million line of credit (the "Cavalier Credit Facility"). There is no commitment fee under the facility. Mineral Lending's obligation to make the line of credit available terminates no later than October 6, 2019. Borrowings under the Cavalier Credit Facility bear interest at a one month LIBOR rate plus 6% with interest payable quarterly, and mature on September 30, 2024, at which time all amounts then outstanding are required to be repaid. The Cavalier Credit Agreement requires repayment of the principal balance beginning in 2018, in quarterly payments of an amount equal to the greater of \$1.3 million initially, escalated to \$2.5 million after two years, or fifty percent of Cavalier Minerals' excess cash flow. To secure payment of the facility, Cavalier Minerals pledged all of its partnership interests, owned or later acquired, in AllDale Minerals, LP and AllDale Minerals II, LP. Cavalier Minerals may prepay the Cavalier Credit Facility at any time in whole or in part subject to terms and conditions described in the Cavalier Credit Agreement. As of March 31, 2018, Cavalier Minerals had not drawn on the Cavalier Credit Facility. Alliance Minerals has the right to require Cavalier Minerals to draw the full amount available under the Cavalier Credit Facility and distribute the proceeds to the members of Cavalier Minerals, including Alliance Minerals.

Other. In addition to the letters of credit available under the Credit Facility discussed above, we also have an agreement with one bank to provide additional letters of credit of \$5.0 million to maintain surety bonds to secure our obligations for workers' compensation benefits. At March 31, 2018, we had \$5.0 million in letters of credit outstanding under the agreement.

Related-Party Transactions

We have continuing related-party transactions with MGP, MGP II, AHGP and SGP and its affiliates. These related-party transactions relate principally to the provision of administrative services to AHGP and Alliance Resource Holdings II, Inc. and their respective affiliates, mineral leases with SGP and its affiliates, and agreements relating to the use of aircraft. For more information regarding MGP II, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 1. Organization and Presentation" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. We also have transactions with (a) WKY CoalPlay, LLC ("WKY CoalPlay") regarding three mineral leases, (b) Kodiak to support its gas compression services and (c) Bluegrass Minerals Management, LLC ("Bluegrass Minerals") and, through Alliance Minerals and Cavalier Minerals, the AllDale Partnerships to support the acquisition of oil and gas mineral interests. For more information regarding WKY CoalPlay, Kodiak, the AllDale Partnerships and Bluegrass Minerals, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 7. Variable Interest Entities" and "– Note 8. Investments" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Please read our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended

December 31, 2017, "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data – Note 18. Related-Party Transactions" for additional information concerning related-party transactions. For information regarding the proposed Simplification Transactions between us, AHGP and certain other entities, please read "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 15. Subsequent Events" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

New Accounting Standards

See "Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited) – Note 2. New Accounting Standards" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for a discussion of new accounting standards.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Commodity Price Risk

We have significant long-term coal supply agreements. Most of the long-term coal supply agreements are subject to price adjustment provisions, which periodically permit an increase or decrease in the contract price typically to reflect changes in specified indices or changes in production costs resulting from regulatory changes, or both.

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We have exposure to price risk for supplies that are used directly or indirectly in the normal course of coal production such as steel, electricity and other supplies. We manage our risk for these items through strategic sourcing contracts for normal quantities required by our operations. We do not utilize any commodity price-hedges or other derivatives related to these risks.

Credit Risk

Most of our sales tonnage is consumed by electric utilities. Therefore, our credit risk is primarily with domestic electric power generators. Our policy is to independently evaluate each customer's creditworthiness prior to entering into transactions and to constantly monitor outstanding accounts receivable against established credit limits. When deemed appropriate by our credit management department, we will take steps to reduce our credit exposure to customers that do not meet our credit standards or whose credit has deteriorated. These steps may include obtaining letters of credit or cash collateral, requiring prepayment for shipments or establishing customer trust accounts held for our benefit in the event of a failure to pay.

Exchange Rate Risk

Almost all of our transactions are denominated in U.S. Dollars, and as a result, we do not have material exposure to currency exchange-rate risks.

Interest Rate Risk

Borrowings under the Credit Agreement, Securitization Facility and Cavalier Credit Agreement are at variable rates and, as a result, we have interest rate exposure. Historically, our earnings have not been materially affected by changes in interest rates. We do not utilize any interest rate derivative instruments related to our outstanding debt. We had \$40.0 million in borrowings under the Securitization Facility at March 31, 2018. A one percentage point increase in the interest rates related to the Securitization Facility would result in an annualized increase in interest expense of \$0.4 million, based on borrowing levels at March 31, 2018. With respect to our fixed-rate borrowings, a one percentage point increase in interest rates would result in a decrease of approximately \$25.7 million in the estimated fair value of these borrowings.

As of March 31, 2018, the estimated fair value of our long-term debt was approximately \$480.3 million. The fair values of long-term debt are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based upon our current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements as of March 31, 2018. There were no other changes in our quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk as set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the

year ended December 31, 2017.

ITEM 4.CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

We maintain controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure. As required by Rule 13a-15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), we have evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) or Rule 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act) as of March 31, 2018. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these controls and procedures are effective as of March 31, 2018.

During the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018, there have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) identified in connection with this evaluation that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements and information in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may constitute "forward-looking statements." These statements are based on our beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, us. When used in this document, the words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "may," "project," "will," and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, all statements relating to our future outlook, anticipated capital expenditures, future cash flows and borrowings and sources of funding are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to numerous assumptions that we believe are reasonable, but are open to a wide range of uncertainties and business risks, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in these statements. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ from those in the forward-looking statements are:

- changes in coal prices, which could affect our operating results and cash flows;
- changes in competition in coal markets and our ability to respond to such changes;
- legislation, regulations, and court decisions and interpretations thereof, including those relating to the environment and the release of greenhouse gases, mining, miner health and safety and health care;
- deregulation of the electric utility industry or the effects of any adverse change in the coal industry, electric utility industry, or general economic conditions;
- risks associated with the expansion of our operations and properties;
- dependence on significant customer contracts, including renewing existing contracts upon expiration;
- adjustments made in price, volume or terms to existing coal supply agreements;
- changing global economic conditions or in industries in which our customers operate;
- liquidity constraints, including those resulting from any future unavailability of financing;
- customer bankruptcies, cancellations or breaches to existing contracts, or other failures to perform;
- customer delays, failure to take coal under contracts or defaults in making payments;
- fluctuations in coal demand, prices and availability;
- changes in oil and gas prices, which could affect our investments in oil and gas mineral interests and gas compression services;
- our productivity levels and margins earned on our coal sales;
- the coal industry's share of electricity generation, including as a result of environmental concerns related to coal mining and combustion and the cost and perceived benefits of other sources of electricity, such as natural gas, nuclear energy and renewable fuels;
- changes in raw material costs;
- changes in the availability of skilled labor;
- our ability to maintain satisfactory relations with our employees;
- increases in labor costs including costs of health insurance and taxes resulting from the Affordable Care Act, adverse changes in work rules, or cash payments or projections associated with post-mine reclamation and workers' compensation claims;
- increases in transportation costs and risk of transportation delays or interruptions;
- operational interruptions due to geologic, permitting, labor, weather-related or other factors;
- risks associated with major mine-related accidents, such as mine fires, or interruptions;
- results of litigation, including claims not yet asserted;

- difficulty maintaining our surety bonds for mine reclamation as well as workers' compensation and black lung benefits;
- difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding post-mine reclamation as well as pension, black lung benefits and other post-retirement benefit liabilities;
- uncertainties in estimating and replacing our coal reserves;
- a loss or reduction of benefits from certain tax deductions and credits;
- difficulty obtaining commercial property insurance, and risks associated with our participation (excluding any applicable deductible) in the commercial insurance property program;
- difficulty in making accurate assumptions and projections regarding future revenues and costs associated with equity investments in companies we do not control; and
- other factors, including those discussed in "Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Item 3. Legal Proceedings" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

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If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may differ materially from those described in any forward-looking statement. When considering forward-looking statements, you should also keep in mind the risk factors described in "Risk Factors" below. These risk factors could also cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. We disclaim any obligation to update the above list or to announce publicly the result of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements to reflect future events or developments.

You should consider the information above when reading or considering any forward-looking statements contained in:

- this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q;
- other reports filed by us with the SEC;
- our press releases;
- our website <http://www.arlp.com>; and
- written or oral statements made by us or any of our officers or other authorized persons acting on our behalf.

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PART II

OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1.LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The information in Note 3. Contingencies to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in "Part I. Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q herein is hereby incorporated by reference. See also "Item 3. Legal Proceedings" of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

ITEM 1A.RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are not our only risks. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial based on current knowledge and factual circumstances, if such knowledge or facts change, also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results in the future. We do not believe there have been any material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

ITEM 2.UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

None.

ITEM 3.DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4.MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Information concerning mine safety violations or other regulatory matters required by Section 1503(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and Item 104 of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.104) is included in Exhibit 95.1 to this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

ITEM 5.OTHER INFORMATION

None.

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ITEM 6.EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Form	Incorporated by Reference		Filing Date	Filed Herewith*
			SEC File No. and Film No.	Exhibit		
2.1	<u>Simplification Agreement, dated as of February 22, 2018, by and among Alliance Holdings GP, L.P., Alliance GP, LLC, Wildcat GP Merger Sub, LLC, MGP II, LLC, ARM GP Holdings, Inc., New AHGP, LLC, Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC and Alliance Resource GP, LLC.</u>	8-K	000-26823 18634680	2.1	02/23/2018	
3.1	<u>Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.</u>	8-K	000-26823 17990766	3.2	07/28/2017	
3.2	<u>Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.</u>	10-K	000-26823 583595	3.2	03/29/2000	
3.3	<u>Amended and Restated Certificate of Limited Partnership of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.</u>	8-K	000-26823 17990766	3.6	07/28/2017	
3.4	<u>Certificate of Limited Partnership of Alliance Resource Operating Partners, L.P.</u>	S-1/A	333-78845 99669102	3.8	07/23/1999	
3.5	<u>Certificate of Formation of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC</u>	S-1/A	333-78845 99669102	3.7	07/23/1999	
3.6	<u>Second Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC</u>	8-K	000-26823 17990766	3.3	07/28/2017	
3.7	<u>Certificate of Formation of MGP II, LLC</u>	8-K	000-26823 17990766	3.5	07/28/2017	
3.8	<u>Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of MGP II, LLC</u>	8-K	000-26823 17990766	3.4	07/28/2017	

31.1 Certification of Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2018, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference			Filed Herewith*
		Form	File No. and Film No.	Exhibit Filing Date	
31.2	<u>Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2018, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>				
32.1	<u>Certification of Joseph W. Craft III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2018, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>				
32.2	<u>Certification of Brian L. Cantrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Alliance Resource Management GP, LLC, the managing general partner of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., dated May 7, 2018, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>				
95.1	<u>Federal Mine Safety and Health Act Information</u>				
101	Interactive Data File (Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 filed in XBRL).				

* Or furnished, in the case of Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 7, 2018.

ALLIANCE RESOURCE
PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Alliance Resource
Management GP, LLC
its general partner

/s/ Joseph W. Craft, III
Joseph W. Craft, III
President, Chief
Executive Officer
and Director, duly
authorized to sign on
behalf
of the registrant.

/s/ Brian L. Cantrell
Brian L. Cantrell
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer