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## **FORM 10-Q**

**Verso Corp - VRS**

**Filed: November 14, 2017 (period: September 30, 2017)**

Quarterly report with a continuing view of a company's financial position

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 September 30, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_



**VERSO CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State of Incorporation  
or Organization)

**001-34056**  
(Commission File Number)

**75-3217389**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification Number)

**8540 Gander Creek Drive**  
**Miamisburg, Ohio 45342**  
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)  
**(877) 855-7243**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).  Yes  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 | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Accelerated filer         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Non-accelerated filer   | <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) | Smaller reporting company | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                         |  | Emerging growth company   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court.

Yes  No

As of October 31, 2017, Verso Corporation had 34,086,201 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 369,272 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding.

## Entity Names and Organization

In this report, the term “Verso” refers to Verso Corporation, which is the ultimate parent entity and the issuer of Class A common stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange. In December 2016, Verso Corporation completed a consolidation and reorganization of its subsidiaries, or the “Internal Reorganization.” Prior to the Internal Reorganization, Verso was the sole member of Verso Paper Finance Holdings One LLC, which was the sole member of Verso Paper Finance Holdings LLC, which was the sole member of Verso Paper Holdings LLC. As used in this report, the term “Verso Finance” refers to Verso Paper Finance Holdings LLC; the term “Verso Holdings” refers to Verso Paper Holdings LLC; the term “NewPage” refers to NewPage Holdings Inc., which was an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Verso; the term “NewPage Corp” refers to NewPage Corporation, which was an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of NewPage; and the term for any such entity includes its direct and indirect subsidiaries when referring to the entity’s consolidated financial condition or results. Each of Verso Finance, Verso Holdings, NewPage and NewPage Corp were either merged into other subsidiaries of Verso, converted into limited liability corporations and/or renamed in the Internal Reorganization and do not exist on and after the Internal Reorganization. Unless otherwise noted, references to “the Company,” “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to Verso.

On January 26, 2016, or the “Petition Date,” Verso announced that Verso and substantially all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries, or collectively referred to herein as the “Debtors,” filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code, or the “Bankruptcy Code,” in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, or the “Bankruptcy Court.” The Chapter 11 filings constituted an event of default and automatic acceleration under the agreements governing all of the Predecessor’s (as defined below) debt (excluding the \$23 million loan from Verso Finance Holdings to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund). The Chapter 11 cases, or the “Chapter 11 Cases,” were consolidated for procedural purposes only and administered jointly under the caption “In re: Verso Corporation, et al., Case No. 16-10163.”

On June 23, 2016, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order, confirming the Debtors’ First Modified Third Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code dated as of June 20, 2016, or the “Plan.” On July 15, 2016, or the “Effective Date,” the Plan became effective pursuant to its terms and the Debtors emerged from their Chapter 11 Cases (see Note 2).

In accordance with the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board, or “FASB,” Accounting Standards Codification, or “ASC,” 852, *Reorganizations*, the Debtors adopted fresh-start accounting upon emergence from the Chapter 11 Cases and became a new entity for financial reporting purposes as of July 15, 2016. Accordingly, the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the reporting entity subsequent to emergence from the Chapter 11 Cases, or the “Successor,” are not comparable to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the reporting entity prior to emergence from the Chapter 11 Cases, or the “Predecessor.”

## Forward-Looking Statements

In this quarterly report, all statements that are not purely historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or “Securities Act,” and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or “Exchange Act.” Forward-looking statements may be identified by the words “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “project,” “plan,” “estimate,” “intend” and other similar expressions. They include, for example, statements relating to our business and operating outlook; assessment of market conditions; and the growth potential of the industry in which we operate. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available business, economic, financial and other information and reflect management’s current beliefs, expectations and views with respect to future developments and their potential effects on us. Actual results could vary materially depending on risks and uncertainties that may affect us and our business. The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the impact of our bankruptcy filings and the related Chapter 11 bankruptcy process on our business, financial condition or results of operations; intense competition in the paper manufacturing industry; changes in the costs of raw materials and purchased energy; developments in alternative media, which are expected to adversely affect the demand for some of our key products, and the effectiveness of our responses to these developments; rising postal costs; any additional closure and other restructuring costs; negative publicity, even if unjustified; any failure to comply with environmental or other laws or regulations, even if inadvertent; legal proceedings or disputes; any labor disputes; and the potential risks and uncertainties described in Part I, Item 1A, “Risk Factors” of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, Part I, Item II, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and other sections of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q as well as those discussed in Verso’s other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the “SEC,” from time to time. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statement made in this Quarterly Report to reflect subsequent events or circumstances or actual outcomes.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

VERSO CORPORATION  
UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| (Dollars in millions)   | December 31,<br>2016 | September 30,<br>2017 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                      |                       |
| <b>Current assets:</b>  |                      |                       |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 6                 | \$ 6                  |
| Accounts receivable, net  | 194                  | 216                   |
| Inventories, net  | 445                  | 399                   |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets   | 20                   | 14                    |
| <b>Total current assets</b>   | <b>665</b>           | <b>635</b>            |
| Property, plant and equipment, net  | 1,132                | 1,074                 |
| Intangibles and other assets, net   | 58                   | 53                    |
| <b>Total assets</b>   | <b>\$ 1,855</b>      | <b>\$ 1,762</b>       |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>   |                      |                       |
| <b>Current liabilities:</b>   |                      |                       |
| Accounts payable  | \$ 105               | \$ 157                |
| Accrued liabilities   | 148                  | 120                   |
| Current maturities of long-term debt  | 28                   | 18                    |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>  | <b>281</b>           | <b>295</b>            |
| Long-term debt  | 265                  | 246                   |
| Pension benefit obligation  | 491                  | 470                   |
| Other liabilities   | 48                   | 46                    |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>  | <b>1,085</b>         | <b>1,057</b>          |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 12)   |                      |                       |
| <b>Equity:</b>  |                      |                       |
| Preferred stock -- par value \$0.01 (50,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued)  | —                    | —                     |
| Common stock -- par value \$0.01 (210,000,000 Class A shares authorized with 33,366,784 shares issued and outstanding on December 31, 2016 and 34,095,338 shares issued and 34,086,201 outstanding on September 30, 2017; 40,000,000 Class B shares authorized with 1,023,859 shares issued and outstanding on December 31, 2016 and 369,272 shares issued and outstanding on September 30, 2017) | —                    | —                     |
| Treasury stock -- at cost (no shares on December 31, 2016 and 9,137 shares on September 30, 2017)   | —                    | —                     |
| Paid-in-capital (including Warrants of \$10 million)  | 675                  | 676                   |
| Retained deficit  | (32)                 | (98)                  |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income  | 127                  | 127                   |
| <b>Total equity</b>   | <b>770</b>           | <b>705</b>            |
| <b>Total liabilities and equity</b>   | <b>\$ 1,855</b>      | <b>\$ 1,762</b>       |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**VERSO CORPORATION**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

|   | Predecessor                              | Successor                                      |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|   | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| (Dollars in millions, except per share amounts)                               |  |  |   |
| <b>Net sales</b>  | \$ 97                                    | \$ 578   | \$ 621                                      |
| <b>Costs and expenses:</b>  |  |  |   |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 83                                       | 559  | 552   |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion                                      | 7  | 24   | 27  |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                                  | 8  | 23   | 24  |
| Restructuring charges   | —  | 2  | 4   |
| Other operating (income) expense  | —  | 2  | —   |
| <b>Operating income (loss)</b>  | (1)                                      | (32)   | 14  |
| Interest expense  | 2  | 8  | 10  |
| <b>Income (loss) before reorganization items, net</b>                         | (3)                                      | (40)   | 4   |
| Reorganization items, net   | (1,302)                                  | —  | —   |
| <b>Income (loss) before income taxes</b>                                      | 1,299                                    | (40)   | 4   |
| Income tax expense  | —  | —  | —   |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>  | \$ 1,299                                 | \$ (40)  | \$ 4  |
| <b>Income (loss) per common share:</b>  |  |  |   |
| Basic   | \$ 15.88                                 | \$ (1.16)                                      | \$ 0.12                                     |
| Diluted   | 15.88                                    | (1.16)   | 0.12  |
| <b>Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands):</b>             |  |  |   |
| Basic   | 81,823                                   | 34,391   | 34,456                                      |
| Diluted   | 81,823                                   | 34,391   | 34,460                                      |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**VERSO CORPORATION**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

|   | Predecessor                                 | Successor                                      |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| (Dollars in millions, except per share amounts)                               |   |  |  |
| <b>Net sales</b>  | \$ 1,417                                    | \$ 578   | \$ 1,822                                   |
| <b>Costs and expenses:</b>  |   |  |  |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 1,249                                       | 559  | 1,683                                      |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion                                      | 100   | 24   | 87   |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                                  | 95  | 23   | 81   |
| Restructuring charges   | 151   | 2  | 8  |
| Other operating (income) expense  | (57)  | 2  | —  |
| <b>Operating income (loss)</b>  | (121)                                       | (32)   | (37)                                       |
| Interest expense  | 39  | 8  | 29   |
| <b>Income (loss) before reorganization items, net</b>                         | (160)                                       | (40)   | (66)                                       |
| Reorganization items, net   | (1,338)                                     | —  | —  |
| <b>Income (loss) before income taxes</b>                                      | 1,178                                       | (40)   | (66)                                       |
| Income tax expense  | —   | —  | —  |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>  | \$ 1,178                                    | \$ (40)  | \$ (66)                                    |
| <b>Income (loss) per common share:</b>  |   |  |  |
| Basic   | \$ 14.39                                    | \$ (1.16)                                      | \$ (1.92)                                  |
| Diluted   | 14.39                                       | (1.16)   | (1.92)                                     |
| <b>Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands):</b>             |   |  |  |
| Basic   | 81,847                                      | 34,391   | 34,421                                     |
| Diluted   | 81,847                                      | 34,391   | 34,421                                     |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**VERSO CORPORATION**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)**

| (Dollars in millions)                    | Predecessor                              |          | Successor                                      |   |
|--|--|----------|--|---|
|  | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |          | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|  | <b>Net income (loss)</b>                 | \$ 1,299 | \$ (40)  | \$ 4  |
| <b>Other comprehensive income (loss)</b> | —  | —        | —  |   |
| <b>Comprehensive income (loss)</b>       | \$ 1,299                                 | \$ (40)  | \$ 4   |   |

| (Dollars in millions)   | Predecessor                                 |          | Successor                                      |  |
|---|---|----------|--|--|
|   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |          | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|   | <b>Net income (loss)</b>                    | \$ 1,178 | \$ (40)  | \$ (66)                                    |
| Defined benefit pension plan amortization of net (income) loss and prior service cost | 1   | —        | —  |  |
| <b>Other comprehensive income (loss)</b>  | 1   | —        | —  |  |
| <b>Comprehensive income (loss)</b>  | \$ 1,179                                    | \$ (40)  | \$ (66)  |  |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**VERSO CORPORATION**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)**

|   | Common Stock<br>(Predecessor) |                 | Class A (Successor) |                 | Class B (Successor) |                 | Treasury<br>Shares | Treasury<br>Stock | Paid-in-<br>Capital | Retained<br>Deficit | Accumulated<br>Other<br>Comprehensive<br>Income (Loss) | Total<br>Stockholders'<br>Equity<br>(Deficit) |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|
|   | Common<br>Shares              | Common<br>Stock | Common<br>Shares    | Common<br>Stock | Common<br>Shares    | Common<br>Stock |                    |                   |                     |                     |  |   |
| (Dollars in millions, shares in thousands)  |                               |                 |                     |                 |                     |                 |                    |                   |                     |                     |  |   |
| <b>Balance - December 31, 2015</b>  |                               |                 |                     |                 |                     |                 |                    |                   |                     |                     |  |   |
| - Predecessor   | 82,115                        | \$ 1            |                     |                 |                     |                 | (241)              | \$ (1)            | \$ 321              | \$ (1,402)          | \$ (102)   | \$ (1,183)                                    |
| Net income (loss) for the period January 1, 2016 to July 14, 2016   | —                             | —               |                     |                 |                     |                 | —                  | —                 | —                   | 1,178               | —  | 1,178   |
| Other comprehensive income (loss)   | —                             | —               |                     |                 |                     |                 | —                  | —                 | —                   | —                   | 1  | 1   |
| Treasury shares acquired  | —                             | —               |                     |                 |                     |                 | (52)               | —                 | —                   | —                   | —  | —   |
| Equity award expense  | —                             | —               |                     |                 |                     |                 | —                  | —                 | 4                   | —                   | —  | 4   |
| Cancellation of Predecessor common stock  | (82,115)                      | (1)             |                     |                 |                     |                 | 293                | 1                 | —                   | —                   | —  | —   |
| Elimination of Predecessor additional paid-in-capital, accumulated deficit and accumulated other comprehensive loss | —                             | —               |                     |                 |                     |                 | —                  | —                 | (325)               | 224                 | 101  | —   |
| Issuance of Successor common stock and stock purchase warrants  |                               |                 | 33,367              | —               | 1,024               | —               | —                  | —                 | 675                 | —                   | —  | 675   |
| <b>Balance - July 14, 2016 - Predecessor</b>  | —                             | \$ —            | 33,367              | \$ —            | 1,024               | \$ —            | —                  | \$ —              | \$ 675              | \$ —                | \$ —   | \$ 675  |
| <b>Balance - July 15, 2016 - Successor</b>  |                               |                 | 33,367              | \$ —            | 1,024               | \$ —            | —                  | \$ —              | \$ 675              | \$ —                | \$ —   | \$ 675  |
| Net income (loss) for the period July 15, 2016 to September 30, 2016  |                               |                 | —                   | —               | —                   | —               | —                  | —                 | —                   | (40)                | —  | (40)  |
| <b>Balance - September 30, 2016 - Successor</b>   |                               |                 | 33,367              | \$ —            | 1,024               | \$ —            | —                  | \$ —              | \$ 675              | \$ (40)             | \$ —   | \$ 635  |
| <b>Balance - December 31, 2016 - Successor</b>  |                               |                 | 33,367              | \$ —            | 1,024               | \$ —            | —                  | \$ —              | \$ 675              | \$ (32)             | \$ 127   | \$ 770  |
| Net income (loss)   |                               |                 | —                   | —               | —                   | —               | —                  | —                 | —                   | (66)                | —  | (66)  |
| Treasury shares acquired  |                               |                 | —                   | —               | —                   | —               | (9)                | —                 | —                   | —                   | —  | —   |
| Common stock issued for restricted stock  |                               |                 | 73                  | —               | —                   | —               | —                  | —                 | —                   | —                   | —  | —   |
| Class B stock converted to Class A stock  |                               |                 | 655                 | —               | (655)               | —               | —                  | —                 | —                   | —                   | —  | —   |
| Equity award expense  |                               |                 | —                   | —               | —                   | —               | —                  | —                 | 1                   | —                   | —  | 1   |
| <b>Balance - September 30, 2017 - Successor</b>   |                               |                 | 34,095              | \$ —            | 369                 | \$ —            | (9)                | \$ —              | \$ 676              | \$ (98)             | \$ 127   | \$ 705  |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**VERSO CORPORATION**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

|  | Predecessor                                 | Successor                                      |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| (Dollars in millions)  |   |  |  |
| <b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>   |   |  |  |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 1,178                                    | \$ (40)  | \$ (66)                                    |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: |   |  |  |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion   | 100   | 24   | 87   |
| Noncash restructuring charges  | 137   | —  | —  |
| Reorganization items and fresh-start reporting adjustments, net                                    | (1,390)                                     | —  | —  |
| Periodic pension expense   | 6   | —  | 5  |
| Pension plan contributions   | (16)  | (3)  | (25)                                       |
| Amortization of debt issuance cost and discount  | 1   | 1  | 6  |
| Equity award expense   | 4   | —  | 1  |
| (Gain) loss on disposal of assets  | (57)  | —  | 1  |
| Debtor-in-possession financing costs   | 22  | —  | —  |
| Other, net   | 6   | —  | —  |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:   |   |  |  |
| Accounts receivable, net   | 26  | (14)   | (21)                                       |
| Inventories, net   | (28)  | 60   | 46   |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets  | 10  | 1  | 5  |
| Accounts payable   | 68  | (18)   | 54   |
| Accrued liabilities  | (42)  | (24)   | (29)                                       |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>   | <b>25</b>                                   | <b>(13)</b>                                    | <b>64</b>                                  |
| <b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>   |   |  |  |
| Proceeds from sale of assets   | 63  | —  | —  |
| Transfers (to) from restricted cash, net   | (3)   | 3  | —  |
| Capital expenditures   | (31)  | (21)   | (29)                                       |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>   | <b>29</b>                                   | <b>(18)</b>                                    | <b>(29)</b>                                |
| <b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities:</b>   |   |  |  |
| Borrowings on revolving credit facilities  | 147   | —  | —  |
| Payments on revolving credit facilities  | (446)                                       | —  | —  |
| Borrowings on debtor-in-possession revolving credit facilities                                     | 275   | —  | —  |
| Payments on debtor-in-possession revolving credit facilities                                       | (275)                                       | —  | —  |
| Proceeds from debtor-in-possession term loan   | 175   | —  | —  |
| Repayment of debtor-in-possession term loan  | (175)                                       | —  | —  |
| Borrowings on Exit ABL Facility  | 120   | 26   | 156  |
| Payments on Exit ABL Facility  | —   | (30)   | (151)                                      |
| Proceeds from Exit Term Loan Facility  | 220   | —  | —  |
| Payments on Exit Term Loan Facility  | —   | (4)  | (40)                                       |
| Original issue discount on Exit Term Loan Facility   | (22)  | —  | —  |
| Debtor-in-possession financing costs   | (22)  | —  | —  |
| Debt issuance costs  | (8)   | (1)  | —  |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>   | <b>(11)</b>                                 | <b>(9)</b>                                     | <b>(35)</b>                                |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents  | 43  | (40)   | —  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period   | 4   | 47   | 6  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>  | <b>\$ 47</b>                                | <b>\$ 7</b>                                    | <b>\$ 6</b>                                |
| <b>Noncash investing and financing activities:</b>   |   |  |  |
| Reduction in debt for debt modification  | \$ (1)                                      | \$ —   | \$ —                                       |
| Increase in debt from paid in kind (PIK) interest  | 9   | —  | —  |
| Issuance of Successor common stock and warrants  | 675   | —  | —  |
| Cancellation of debt   | (2,324)                                     | —  | —  |

See notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements



NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**1. SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Nature of Business** — Our core business platform is as a producer of coated freesheet, specialty and coated groundwood papers. Our products are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including catalogs, magazines, commercial printing applications, such as high-end advertising brochures, annual reports and direct-mail advertising, and specialty applications, such as flexible packaging and label and converting. Our market kraft pulp is used to manufacture printing, writing and specialty paper grades and tissue products.

**Basis of Presentation** — On the Petition Date, Verso announced that the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under the Bankruptcy Code. On June 23, 2016, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order, confirming the Plan. On the Effective Date, the Plan became effective pursuant to its terms and the Debtors emerged from their Chapter 11 Cases (see Note 2).

In accordance with the provisions of ASC 852, *Reorganizations*, and in conformity with ASC 805, *Business Combinations*, the Company adopted fresh-start accounting upon emergence from the Chapter 11 Cases and became a new entity for financial reporting purposes as of July 15, 2016. For accounting purposes all emergence-related transactions of the Predecessor including the impact of the issuance of the Successor common stock and warrants and entering into the Exit Credit Facilities (as defined below) were recorded as of July 14, 2016. Accordingly, the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the Successor are not comparable to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the Predecessor. In connection with the adoption of fresh-start accounting, we elected to make certain material accounting policy changes as described below.

This report contains the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements of Verso as of December 31, 2016 (Successor) and September 30, 2017 (Successor) and for the period from July 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), for the period from January 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), for the period July 15, 2016 through September 30, 2016 (Successor) and for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor). The December 31, 2016 (Successor), Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet data was derived from audited financial statements, but it does not include all disclosures required annually by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or “GAAP.” In the opinion of Management, the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements include all adjustments that are necessary for the fair presentation of Verso’s respective financial conditions, results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented. Except as disclosed in the notes to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, such adjustments are of a normal, recurring nature. Variable interest entities, or “VIEs,” for which Verso is the primary beneficiary are consolidated (see Note 11). Intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated in consolidation. The results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented may not necessarily be indicative of full-year results. It is suggested that these financial statements be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of Verso contained in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

**Going Concern** — The Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business.

**Planned Major Maintenance Costs** — Prior to the Effective Date, costs for planned major maintenance shutdowns were deferred and then expensed ratably over the period until the next major planned shutdown. Upon the Effective Date, costs for all repair and maintenance activities are expensed in the month that the related activity is performed under the direct expense method of accounting.

**Successor Cost of products sold/ Selling, general and administrative expenses** — Certain centralized costs attributable to manufacturing overhead, including enterprise-wide human resources management, procurement and information systems support, presented in Selling, general and administrative expenses of the Predecessor are presented in Cost of products sold of the Successor. The amount presented in Cost of products sold, related to these costs, in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor) was \$6 million and \$20 million, respectively, and \$7 million for the period from July 15, 2016 through September 30, 2016 (Successor).

## 2. BANKRUPTCY RELATED DISCLOSURES

### Chapter 11 Filing

On the Petition Date, the Debtors filed the Chapter 11 filings in the Bankruptcy Court. The Chapter 11 filings constituted an event of default and automatic acceleration under the agreements governing all of the Predecessor's debt (excluding the \$23 million loan from Verso Finance Holdings to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund). The Chapter 11 Cases were consolidated for procedural purposes only and administered jointly under the caption "In re: Verso Corporation, et al., Case No. 16-10163." During the pendency of the Chapter 11 Cases, Verso continued to manage its properties and operated our businesses as a "debtor-in-possession" under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and orders of the Bankruptcy Court.

In connection with the Chapter 11 Cases, on January 26, 2016, the Company entered into a Restructuring Support Agreement, or "RSA," with creditors who collectively held at least a majority in principal amount of substantially all tranches of the Company's outstanding debt, or the "Consenting Creditors." The RSA contemplated the implementation of a restructuring through a conversion of approximately \$2.4 billion of our outstanding debt into equity. The RSA incorporated the economic terms agreed to by the parties reflected in a term sheet within the RSA. The restructuring transactions were effectuated through the reorganization Plan as described below.

Verso Finance, Verso Holdings and certain of its subsidiaries entered into the Verso DIP Facility (as defined in Note 7) for an aggregate principal amount of up to \$100 million, and NewPage Corp and certain of its subsidiaries entered into the NewPage DIP ABL Facility (as defined in Note 7) for an aggregate principal amount of up to \$325 million and the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility (as defined in Note 7) for an aggregate principal amount of \$350 million. The NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility consisted of \$175 million of new money term loans and \$175 million of loans that aggregated and replaced existing loans, or "NewPage DIP Roll Up Loans," to refinance loans outstanding under the existing term loan facility of NewPage Corp that were outstanding on the Petition Date.

We operated in the normal course of business during the reorganization process. Unless otherwise authorized by the Bankruptcy Court, the Bankruptcy Code prohibited us from making payments to creditors for goods furnished and services provided prior to the Petition Date. Vendors were, however, paid for goods furnished and services provided after the Petition Date in the ordinary course of business.

### Plan of Reorganization and Emergence from Chapter 11

On March 26, 2016, the Debtors filed the Plan with the Bankruptcy Court together with a disclosure statement in respect of the Plan. The Plan set forth, among other things, the treatment of claims against and equity interests in the Debtors. On June 23, 2016, the Bankruptcy Court entered the Confirmation Order, confirming the Plan. On the Effective Date, the Plan became effective pursuant to its terms and the Debtors emerged from their Chapter 11 Cases.

Key components of the Plan included:

- Entry into an asset-based loan facility and a term loan facility upon emergence from Chapter 11 on July 15, 2016. These Exit Credit Facilities (as defined in Note 7) provided exit financing in an amount sufficient to repay in full all amounts outstanding under the Verso debtor-in-possession credit agreements of Verso Holdings and its subsidiaries, pay fees and expenses related to the facilities and the emergence of Verso and its subsidiaries from bankruptcy.
  - The satisfaction in full, in cash, of claims under the Verso DIP Facility, claims under the NewPage DIP ABL Facility, claims relating to the \$175 million of new money term loans under the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility and claims entitled to administrative expense or priority status under the Bankruptcy Code.
- Issuance of 34,390,643 shares of stock or 100% of Verso's equity (subject to dilution by warrants issued to certain creditors described below, or "Plan Warrants," and equity issuable to our employees under a management incentive plan) to our existing creditors in exchange for the cancellation of all of the Debtors' pre-petition indebtedness (principal and interest) existing as of the date of bankruptcy totaling \$2.6 billion.
  - Holders of first-lien secured debt issued by Verso Holdings, including lenders under Verso Holdings' revolving credit facilities and the holders of Verso Holdings' 11.75% senior secured notes due 2019 (issued in 2012 and 2015), received 17,195,319 shares of Class A common stock, \$0.01 par value, or "Class A Common

Stock,” or 50% of Verso’s equity and Plan Warrants to purchase 1,810,035 shares of Class A Common Stock at an initial exercise price of \$27.86.

- Lenders under the NewPage Corp senior secured term loan and the \$175 million of “rolled up” term loans under the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility, collectively, received 15,139,745 shares of Class A Common Stock and 1,023,859 shares of Class B common stock, \$0.01 par value, or “Class B Common Stock,” or 47% of Verso’s equity.
- Holders of Verso Holdings’ senior debt received 980,133 shares of Class A Common Stock or 2.85% of Verso’s equity.
- Holders of Verso Holdings’ subordinated (unsecured) debt received 51,587 shares of Class A Common Stock or 0.15% of Verso’s equity.
- All general unsecured claims were satisfied in full for an aggregate settlement totaling \$3 million in cash (except with respect to general unsecured claims against Debtors that have only de minimis assets, which have received no distributions under the Plan).
- All shares of Verso’s common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Date were cancelled and discharged.
- The shared services agreement between Verso, NewPage and NewPage Corp was terminated.
- The prior employee incentive plans and other employment agreements were terminated and any awards issued under them were no longer honored, and a new performance incentive plan was adopted by Verso. See “Performance Incentive Plan” below.
- The Management and Transaction Fee Agreement dated as of August 1, 2006 among Verso Paper LLC, Verso Paper Investments LP, Apollo Management V, L.P. and Apollo Management VI, L.P., and all rights and remedies thereunder were terminated, extinguished, waived and released.
- Employee retirement contracts and collective bargaining agreements were honored by Verso upon emergence.

#### **Plan Warrants**

On the Effective Date, and in accordance with the Plan, warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,810,035 shares of Class A Common Stock were issued to holders of first-lien secured debt holders. Each Plan Warrant has a seven year term (commencing on the Effective Date) and has an initial exercise price of \$27.86 per share of Class A Common Stock. The warrant agreement governing the Plan Warrants, or the “Warrant Agreement,” contains customary anti-dilution adjustments in the event of any stock split, reverse stock split, reclassification, stock dividend or other distributions. In addition, the Warrant Agreement provides for anti-dilution adjustments in the event of below market stock issuances at less than 95% of the average closing price of the Class A Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading days immediately prior to the applicable determination date, and for pro rata repurchases of Class A Common Stock.

The fair value of the Plan Warrants was estimated on the Effective Date using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The weighted average assumptions used included a risk free interest rate of 1%, an expected stock price volatility factor of 37% and a dividend rate of 0%. The aggregate fair value of the Plan Warrants was \$10 million on the Effective Date.

#### **Performance Incentive Plan**

On the Effective Date, pursuant to the operation of the Plan, the Verso Corporation Performance Incentive Plan became effective. The maximum number of shares of Class A Common Stock that may be issued or transferred pursuant to awards under this plan is 3,620,067. The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors is the administrator of the Verso Corporation Performance Incentive Plan. There were no stock awards issued on the Effective Date pursuant to the Plan.

## Reporting During Bankruptcy

During the pendency of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, expenses, gains and losses directly associated with reorganization proceedings were reported as Reorganization items, net in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and liabilities subject to compromise in the Chapter 11 Cases were segregated from liabilities of non-filing entities, fully secured liabilities not expected to be compromised and from post-petition liabilities. In addition, effective as of the Petition Date and during the pendency of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, the Company ceased recording contractual interest expense on the outstanding pre-petition debt classified as Liabilities subject to compromise or "LSTC". Upon the Debtors' emergence from our Chapter 11 Cases, the Company settled and extinguished or reinstated liabilities that were subject to compromise.

## Fresh-Start Accounting

Under ASC 852, *Reorganizations*, fresh-start accounting is required upon emergence from Chapter 11 if (i) the value of the assets of the emerging entity immediately before the date of confirmation is less than the total of all post-petition liabilities and allowed claims; and (ii) holders of existing voting shares immediately before confirmation receive less than 50% of the voting shares of the emerging entity. The Company qualified for and adopted fresh-start accounting as of the Effective Date. Adopting fresh-start accounting results in a new reporting entity with no beginning retained earnings or deficits. The cancellation of all existing shares outstanding on the Effective Date and issuance of new shares of the reorganized entity caused a change of control of the Company under ASC 852.

Adoption of fresh-start accounting resulted in Verso becoming a new entity for financial reporting purposes and the recording of the Company's assets and liabilities at their fair value as of the Effective Date in conformity with ASC 805, *Business Combinations*. The fair values of the Company's assets and liabilities as of that date differed materially from the recorded values of its assets and liabilities as reflected in its historical consolidated financial statements. In addition, the Company's adoption of fresh-start accounting materially affected its results of operations following the fresh-start reporting date, as the Company had a new basis in its assets and liabilities. The Company also adopted various new accounting policies in connection with its adoption of fresh-start accounting. Consequently, the Company's financial statements on or after the Effective Date are not comparable with the financial statements prior to that date and the historical financial statements before the Effective Date are not reliable indicators of its financial condition and results of operations for any period after it adopted fresh-start accounting.

## Reorganization Value

Reorganization value is the value attributed to an entity emerging from bankruptcy, as well as the expected net realizable value of those assets that will be disposed before emergence occurs. This value is viewed as the value of the entity before considering liabilities and approximates the amount a willing buyer would pay for the assets of the entity immediately after emergence. Fresh-start accounting requires that the reporting entity allocate the reorganization value to its assets and liabilities in relation to their fair values upon emergence from Chapter 11. The Company's valuation of the reorganized Company dated as of April 27, 2016, which was included in the disclosure statement related to the Plan, purported the estimated enterprise value of the Company to be in a range between \$1.05 billion and \$1.10 billion. The estimated enterprise value, which was approved by the Bankruptcy Court, included the equity value in a range between \$675 million and \$725 million. As part of determining the reorganization value as of July 15, 2016, the Company estimated the equity value of the Successor to be \$675 million and the reorganization value to be approximately \$2 billion. As the Company issued 100% of its equity to existing creditors in exchange for the cancellation of all pre-petition indebtedness upon confirmation of the Plan, the distribution of the Company's equity in settlement of pre-existing indebtedness was the primary objective of the Plan. Accordingly, Verso's equity value represents the primary assumption utilized by the Company in the determination of reorganization value. The Company believes that an equity value at the low-end of the range of \$675 - \$725 million was appropriate due to declines in projected operating performance from the submission of the Plan through the Effective Date.

In order to determine the reorganization value, Verso estimated the enterprise value of the Successor utilizing the discounted cash flow analysis, comparable company analysis, and precedent transaction analysis. The use of each approach provides corroboration for the other approaches.

To estimate the fair value utilizing the discounted cash flow analysis, Verso established an estimate of future cash flows for the period from 2016 to 2025 and discounted the estimated future cash flows to the present value. The expected cash flows for the period 2016 to 2025 were derived from earnings forecasts and assumptions regarding growth and margin projections, as applicable, and expressed as a multiple of EBITDA (defined below). The discount rate of 9.5% was estimated based on an after-tax weighted average cost of capital reflecting the rate of return that would be expected by a market participant.

To estimate the fair value utilizing the comparable company analysis, Verso estimated the value of the Company based on a relative comparison with other publicly traded companies with similar operating and financial characteristics. Under this methodology, valuation multiples, derived from the operating data of publicly-traded benchmark companies such as the projected financial measures of revenue and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, or “EBITDA” were applied to projected operating data of Verso.

To estimate the fair value utilizing the precedent transaction analysis method, Verso determined an estimate of value by examining merger and acquisition transactions involving paper companies. The valuation paid in such acquisitions or implied in such mergers were analyzed as ratios of various financial results. These transaction multiples were calculated based on the purchase price (including any debt assumed) paid to acquire companies that are comparable to Verso.

The fair value of the Plan Warrants was estimated on the Effective Date using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following assumptions. The weighted average assumptions used included a risk free interest rate of 1%, an expected stock price volatility factor of 37% and a dividend rate of 0%. The aggregate fair value of the Plan Warrants was determined to be \$10 million on the Effective Date, therefore the residual common stock value was determined to be \$665 million.

The following table reconciles the equity value to the estimated reorganization value as of the Effective Date (dollars in millions):

|   |    |       |
|---|----|-------|
| Value of Successor Stock                    | \$ | 665   |
| Add: Fair value of Plan Warrants            |    | 10    |
| Equity Value                                |    | 675   |
| Add: Fair value of long-term debt           |    | 318   |
| Add: Other non-interest bearing liabilities |    | 1,021 |
| Less: Debt issuance costs                   |    | (8)   |
| Reorganization value of Successor assets    | \$ | 2,006 |

The fair value and carrying value of debt represented \$318 million of borrowings under the Exit Credit Facilities on the Effective Date. The fair value of long-term debt was determined based on a market approach utilizing market yields and was estimated to be approximately 94% of the par value or less \$22 million original issue discount on the Exit Term Loan Facility (as defined in Note 7).

The Company’s reorganization value was allocated to its assets and liabilities in conformity with ASC 805. The valuation of the Company’s assets and liabilities in connection with fresh-start accounting include the following general valuation approaches:

- The income approach was used to estimate value based on the present value of future economic benefits that are expected to be produced;
- The market approach was used to estimate the value through the analysis of recent sales of comparable assets or business entities; and
- The cost approach was used to provide a systematic framework for estimating the value of tangible assets or intangible assets based on the economic principal of substitution.

The significant assumptions related to the valuation of the Company’s assets are included in the footnotes to the Fresh-Start Balance sheet below. Most valuation inputs, related to inventory, property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets are considered to be Level 3 inputs as they are based on significant inputs that are not observable in the market.

#### Reorganization Adjustments

The consolidated financial information below gives effect to the following Reorganization Adjustments, the Plan and the implementation of the transactions contemplated by the Plan. These adjustments give effect to the terms of the Plan and certain underlying assumptions, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Borrowing of \$318 million from the Exit Credit Facilities;
- Issuance of 34,390,643 shares of stock or 100% of Verso’s equity and Plan Warrants to purchase an aggregate of 1,810,035 shares of Class A Common Stock in exchange for the cancellation of all of our pre-petition indebtedness existing as of the Petition Date totaling \$2.6 billion;
- Payment for the satisfaction of general unsecured claims in aggregate settlement totaling \$3 million; and
- Repayment of \$279 million of liabilities under the DIP Facilities (as defined in Note 7).

### **Fresh-Start Balance Sheet**

The following fresh-start balance sheet as of the Effective Date, July 15, 2016, illustrates the financial effects on the Company of the implementation of the Plan and the adoption of fresh-start reporting. This fresh-start balance sheet reflects the effect of the completion of the transactions included in the Plan, including the issuance of successor equity and the settlement of old indebtedness.

Reorganization adjustments, shown in column 2 of the following schedule, represent amounts recorded on the Effective Date for the implementation of the Plan, including the settlement of liabilities subject to compromise and related payments, the issuance of new shares of common stock and new warrants, repayment of the DIP Facilities and cancellation of Predecessor common stock.

Fresh-start adjustments, as shown in column 3 of the following schedule, represent amounts recorded on the Effective Date as a result of the adoption of fresh-start accounting, which resulted in Verso becoming a new entity for financial reporting purposes. The Company's assets and liabilities have been recorded at fair value as of the fresh-start reporting date or Effective Date.

| (Dollars in millions)                | Predecessor |                | Reorganization Adjustments |                | Fresh-Start Adjustments |    | Successor    |     |              |              |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----|--------------|-----|--------------|--------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |             |                |                            |                |                         |    |              |     |              |              |
| <b>Current assets:</b>               |             |                |                            |                |                         |    |              |     |              |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | \$          | 27             | \$                         | 20             | (a)                     | \$ | —            | \$  | 47           |              |
| Accounts receivable, net             |             | 201            |                            | —              |                         |    | (2)          |     | 199          |              |
| Inventories                          |             | 503            |                            | —              |                         |    | (14)         | (l) | 489          |              |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets    |             | 27             |                            | (3)            |                         |    | —            |     | 24           |              |
| <b>Total current assets</b>          |             | <b>758</b>     |                            | <b>17</b>      |                         |    | <b>(16)</b>  |     | <b>759</b>   |              |
| Property, plant, and equipment, net  |             | 1,660          |                            | —              |                         |    | (480)        | (m) | 1,180        |              |
| Intangibles and other assets, net    |             | 97             |                            | —              |                         |    | (30)         | (n) | 67           |              |
| <b>Total assets</b>                  | \$          | <b>2,515</b>   | \$                         | <b>17</b>      |                         | \$ | <b>(526)</b> |     | \$           | <b>2,006</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>        |             |                |                            |                |                         |    |              |     |              |              |
| <b>Current liabilities:</b>          |             |                |                            |                |                         |    |              |     |              |              |
| Accounts payable                     | \$          | 103            | \$                         | 41             | (b)                     | \$ | —            | \$  | 144          |              |
| Accrued liabilities                  |             | 140            |                            | 10             | (c)                     |    | 2            |     | 152          |              |
| Current maturities of long-term debt |             | 461            |                            | (443)          | (d)                     |    | —            |     | 18           |              |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>     |             | <b>704</b>     |                            | <b>(392)</b>   |                         |    | <b>2</b>     |     | <b>314</b>   |              |
| Long-term debt                       |             | —              |                            | 292            | (e)                     |    | —            |     | 292          |              |
| Other liabilities                    |             | 597            |                            | 5              | (f)                     |    | 123          | (o) | 725          |              |
| Liabilities subject to compromise    |             | 2,535          |                            | (2,535)        | (g)                     |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>             |             | <b>3,836</b>   |                            | <b>(2,630)</b> |                         |    | <b>125</b>   |     | <b>1,331</b> |              |
| Commitment and contingencies         |             |                |                            |                |                         |    |              |     |              |              |
| <b>Equity:</b>                       |             |                |                            |                |                         |    |              |     |              |              |
| Predecessor preferred stock          |             | —              |                            | —              |                         |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| Successor preferred stock            |             | —              |                            | —              |                         |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| Predecessor common stock             |             | 1              |                            | (1)            | (h)                     |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| Successor common stock               |             | —              |                            | —              | (i)                     |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| Treasury stock                       |             | (1)            |                            | 1              | (h)                     |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| Predecessor paid-in capital          |             | 322            |                            | (322)          | (h)                     |    | —            |     | —            |              |
| Successor paid-in-capital            |             | —              |                            | 665            | (i)                     |    | —            |     | 665          |              |
| Warrants                             |             | —              |                            | 10             | (j)                     |    | —            |     | 10           |              |
| Retained earnings (deficit)          |             | (1,541)        |                            | 2,294          | (k)                     |    | (753)        | (p) | —            |              |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss |             | (102)          |                            | —              |                         |    | 102          | (p) | —            |              |
| <b>Total equity (deficit)</b>        |             | <b>(1,321)</b> |                            | <b>2,647</b>   |                         |    | <b>(651)</b> |     | <b>675</b>   |              |
| <b>Total liabilities and equity</b>  | \$          | <b>2,515</b>   | \$                         | <b>17</b>      |                         | \$ | <b>(526)</b> |     | \$           | <b>2,006</b> |

## Reorganization Adjustments

(a) Reflects payments and receipts recorded as of the Effective Date as follows (dollars in millions):

| <b>Sources:</b>                                       |              |
|---|--------------|
| Amount borrowed under the Exit Credit Facilities      | \$ 340       |
| Less discount on Exit Term Loan Facility              | (22)         |
| <b>Total Sources</b>                                  | <b>318</b>   |
| <b>Uses:</b>  |              |
| Repayment of DIP facility (principal and interest)    | (279)        |
| Payment of deferred financing costs on exit financing | (8)          |
| Payment of professional fees                          | (8)          |
| Aggregate settlement of unsecured claims              | (3)          |
| <b>Total uses</b>                                     | <b>(298)</b> |
| <b>Net source</b>                                     | <b>\$ 20</b> |

(b) Represents recognition of accounts payable related to the cure of defaults for assumed executory contracts and leases.

(c) Primarily represents recognition of accrued liabilities for success-based professional fees upon the Company's emergence from its Chapter 11 Cases.

(d) Represents the short-term portion of borrowing pursuant to the Exit Term Loan Facility net of the payment of the principal balance of the NewPage DIP Facilities and settlement of the NewPage DIP Roll Up Loan (dollars in millions):

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Short-term portion of Exit Term Loan    | \$ 18           |
| Payment of the NewPage DIP Facilities   | (278)           |
| Settlement of NewPage DIP Roll Up Loans | (183)           |
|   | <u>\$ (443)</u> |

(e) Represents the long-term portion of the Exit Term Loan Facility and Exit ABL Facility net of debt issuance costs as follows (dollars in millions):

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Exit ABL Facility Borrowing       | \$ 120        |
| Exit Term Loan Facility Borrowing | 220           |
| Debt Discount                     | (22)          |
| Debt issuance costs               | (8)           |
| Less: Current Portion             | (18)          |
| Long-term Debt                    | <u>\$ 292</u> |

(f) Primarily represents the reinstatement of certain pre-petition liabilities from LSTC.

(g) LSTC under the Plan reflected the Company's estimate of pre-petition liabilities and other expected allowed claims to be addressed by the Chapter 11 Cases. Debt amounts excluded related unamortized deferred financing costs, discounts/premiums, and deferred gains which were written off to Reorganization items, net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Operations prior to our emergence from bankruptcy. Amounts classified to LSTC did not include pre-petition liabilities that were fully collateralized by letters of credit or cash deposits. Borrowing under the NewPage DIP Roll-Up Notes represented borrowing during the pendency of the Company's bankruptcy and were settled in exchange for stock as described above. Both the LSTC and NewPage DIP Roll-Up Notes were resolved and satisfied as of the Effective Date.

This entry records the settlement of LSTC and the NewPage DIP Roll Up Loans (dollars in millions):

|  |    |                       |
|--|----|-----------------------|
| Settlement of LSTC debt  | \$ | (2,324)               |
| Settlement of LSTC accrued interest  |    | (126)                 |
| Settlement of LSTC accounts payable and accrued liabilities                |    | (85)                  |
| Settlement of LSTC   |    | <u>(2,535)</u>        |
| Settlement of NewPage DIP Roll-Up Loans (principal and interest)           |    | (184)                 |
| Reinstatement of certain liabilities from LSTC                             |    | 49                    |
| Cash paid for the satisfaction of unsecured claims in aggregate settlement |    | 3                     |
| Issuance of New Common Stock   |    | 665                   |
| Issuance of Plan Warrants  |    | 10                    |
| Net gain on settlement of LSTC and DIP Roll-Up Loans                       | \$ | <u><u>(1,992)</u></u> |

(h) Reflects the cancellation of Predecessor equity.

(i) Reflects the issuance of 34,390,643 shares of common stock, or 100% of the Company's equity (subject to dilution by Plan Warrants issued to certain creditors and equity that may be issued to our employees under the management incentive plan) to existing creditors for the cancellation of indebtedness.

(j) Reflects the issuance of Plan Warrants to purchase up to 1,810,035 shares of Class A Common Stock at an initial exercise price of \$27.86 issued to holder of first-lien secured debt holders in exchange for the cancellation of indebtedness.

(k) Reflects the cumulative impact of the reorganization adjustment discussed above (dollars in millions):

|   |    |                     |
|---|----|---------------------|
| Gain on settlement of LSTC                        | \$ | 1,992               |
| Professional fees paid at emergence               |    | (8)                 |
| Success fees accrued at emergence                 |    | (12)                |
| Net gain on reorganization adjustments            |    | <u>1,972</u>        |
| Cancellation of Predecessor equity <sup>(1)</sup> |    | <u>322</u>          |
| Net impact to Retained earnings                   | \$ | <u><u>2,294</u></u> |

(1) Net of recognition of previously unamortized stock compensation cost of the Predecessor.

### Fresh-Start Adjustments

(l) An adjustment of \$14 million was recorded to decrease the book value of inventories to their estimated fair value as follows (dollars in millions):

|                                      |    |                    |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| Replacement parts and other supplies | \$ | (52)               |
| Work-in-process and finished goods   |    | 38                 |
|                                      | \$ | <u><u>(14)</u></u> |

- The fair value of work-in-process was determined based on the estimated selling price once completed less costs to complete the manufacturing effort, costs to sell including disposal and holding period costs, and a reasonable profit margin.
- The fair value of finished goods inventory was determined based on the estimated price to sell including disposal and holding period costs and a reasonable profit margin on the selling and disposal.
- The fair value of replacement parts and other supplies was determined based upon the cost approach. This approach considers the amount required to purchase a new asset of equal utility at current market prices, with adjustments in value for functional and economic obsolescence. Functional obsolescence is the loss in value of usefulness of an asset caused by inefficiencies or inadequacies of the asset itself, when compared to a more efficient or less costly replacement parts that a new technology has developed. Economic obsolescence is the loss in value of usefulness of an asset due to factors external to the asset such as the cost of materials, related demand for the product, increased competition, and environmental regulations.

(m) Represents the adjustment to reduce the net book value of Property, plant, and equipment, net to fair value. The adjustment to the fair value of Property, plant and equipment, net was attributable to an adjustment of \$382 million to machinery and equipment and an adjustment of \$98 million to real estate.

The fair value of the machinery and equipment was determined as follows:

- The cost approach was utilized to determine the fair market value of machinery and equipment. This approach considers the amount required to construct or purchase a new asset of equal utility at current market prices, with adjustments in value for functional and economic obsolescence. Functional obsolescence is the loss in value of usefulness of an asset caused by inefficiencies or inadequacies of the property itself, when compared to a more efficient or less costly replacement property that a new technology has developed. Economic obsolescence is the loss in value of usefulness of an asset due to factors external to the asset such as the cost of materials, related demand for the product, increased competition, and environmental regulations.
- The sales approach was also used to determine the fair market value of machinery and equipment. The principal behind this approach is the value of the asset is equal to the market price of an asset with comparable features such as design, location, size, construction materials, use, capacity, specifications, operational characteristics, technology level, accessories and other features that may impact value or marketability.
- The income approach was also used to determine the fair market value of machinery and equipment. The principal behind this approach is the value of the asset is equal to the earnings potential of the assets such as the net rental savings attributable to owning the asset.

The adjustment related to real estate fair value was determined as follows:

- The market approach was utilized to determine the fair market value of real estate. This approach considers comparable land sale data and land held for sale. Variances in market conditions at the time of sale, property characteristics, and other relevant factors were considered and analyzed when necessary.
- Land and building improvements were valued using the cost approach which considers the replacement cost of the improvement.

(n) An adjustment of \$30 million was recorded to decrease the book value to fair value of Intangible and other assets to estimated fair value as follows (dollars in millions):

|  |    |      |
|--|----|------|
| Successor Trade Names                                | \$ | 16   |
| Successor Customer Relationships                     |    | 26   |
| Write-off of Predecessor intangible and other assets |    | (72) |
|  | \$ | (30) |

(o) Represents an adjustment to the fair value of pension and postretirement obligations totaling \$135 million, off-set by the write-off of \$8 million of tax liabilities resulting from the Reorganization Adjustments, and other adjustments to asset retirement obligations and workers' compensation reserves.

(p) Reflects the cumulative impact of fresh-start adjustments as discussed above and shown in the table below and the elimination of the Predecessor accumulated other comprehensive income (dollars in millions):

|   |    |       |
|---|----|-------|
| Accounts receivable, net  | \$ | (2)   |
| Inventory   |    | (14)  |
| Write down Property, plant and equipment, net                   |    | (480) |
| Record fair value of Intangibles and other assets               |    | (30)  |
| Accrued liabilities   |    | (2)   |
| Other long-term liabilities                                     |    | 4     |
| Pension   |    | (135) |
| Change in deferred taxes  |    | 8     |
| Total loss recorded as a result of Fresh-Start Accounting       |    | (651) |
| Elimination of Predecessor accumulated other comprehensive loss |    | (102) |
| Net impact on Retained earnings (deficit)                       | \$ | (753) |

### Contractual Interest

Effective January 26, 2016, Verso discontinued recording interest expense on outstanding pre-petition debt classified as LSTC. The table below shows contractual interest amounts for debt classified as LSTC calculated in accordance with the respective agreements without giving effect to any penalties as a result of the default on such agreements, which are amounts due under the contractual terms of the outstanding debt. Interest expense reported in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the period from July 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor) and for the period January 1, 2016 through

July 14, 2016 (Predecessor) does not include \$10 million and \$123 million, respectively and per the table below, in contractual interest on pre-petition debt classified as LSTC, which was stayed by the Bankruptcy Court effective on the Petition Date.

| (Dollars in millions)             | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | January 26, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Verso Holdings                    | \$ 8                                     | \$ 98  |
| NewPage Corp                      | 2  | 25   |
| <b>Total contractual interest</b> | <b>\$ 10</b>                             | <b>\$ 123</b>                                |

#### Reorganization items, net

Expenses and income directly associated with the Chapter 11 Cases are reported separately in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations as Reorganization items, net as required by ASC 852. Reorganization items, net include adjustments to reflect the carrying value of LSTC at their estimated allowed claim amounts, as such adjustments are determined.

The following table presents reorganization items incurred in the period from July 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor) and for the period from January 26, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), as reported in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations:

| (Dollars in millions)   | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | January 26, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |
|---|--|--|
| Net gain on settlement of LSTC and DIP Roll-Up Notes  | \$ (1,992)                               | \$ (1,992)                                   |
| Total loss recorded as a result of Fresh-Start Accounting   | 651                                      | 651  |
| Professional fees   | 20                                       | 52   |
| DIP financing cost  | —  | 22   |
| Write-off of unamortized deferred financing costs, discounts/premiums and deferred gains <sup>(1)</sup> | —  | (81)   |
| Contract modifications and rejections, net  | 16                                       | 14   |
| Other   | 3  | (4)  |
| <b>Total reorganization items, net</b>  | <b>\$ (1,302)</b>                        | <b>\$ (1,338)</b>                            |

(1) Primarily represents \$116 million of non-cash reorganization gain off-set by non-cash reorganization expense of \$35 million. The gains are recognized as the difference between the Petition Date carrying values of certain Verso notes previously recorded as a troubled debt restructuring and their par value (estimated allowed claim) for such debt. The expenses represent the write-off of debt issuance costs and other carrying value adjustments.

For the period from January 26, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), the cash used in reorganization items included \$28 million of professional fees and \$22 million of financing costs in connection with the DIP Facilities. For the period from July 15, 2016 through September 30, 2016 (Successor), cash used in reorganization items included \$18 million for professional fees. The cash outflow is included in Net cash provided by operating activities in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the periods presented.

#### Common Stock Privileges

The 33,366,784 shares of Class A Common Stock and 1,023,859 shares of Class B Common Stock issued in connection with the cancellation of all of the Company's pre-petition indebtedness are identical and entitle the holders thereof the same rights and privileges, except that the Class B Common Stock is not qualified for listing and trading on the New York Stock Exchange. One share of Class B Common Stock is convertible into one fully paid and non-assessable share of Class A Common Stock at the option of the holder thereof at any time upon written notice to the Company.

### 3. RECENT ACCOUNTING DEVELOPMENTS

#### Accounting Guidance Adopted in 2017

**ASC Topic 330, Inventory.** In July 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or “FASB,” issued Accounting Standard Update, or “ASU,” 2015-11, *Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory (Topic 330)*. This ASU provides that entities should measure inventory at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal and transportation. Subsequent measurement is unchanged for inventory measured using LIFO or the retail inventory method. This ASU was effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and interim periods within those years. The Company adopted this guidance on January 1, 2017 on a prospective basis and it did not have an impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**ASC Topic 718, Stock Compensation.** In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-09, *Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*. The guidance requires all income tax effects of awards (previously presented as a component of total stockholders’ equity) to be recognized in the income statement on a prospective basis. The guidance also requires presentation of excess tax benefits as an operating activity on the statement of cash flows rather than as a financing activity. The guidance also allows for an accounting policy election to estimate the number of awards that are expected to vest or account for forfeitures when they occur. This ASU was effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and interim periods within those years. The Company adopted this guidance on January 1, 2017 on a prospective basis, except for the election of an accounting policy to account for forfeitures as they occur, which was adopted on a modified-retrospective basis. The adoption did not have an impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Accounting Guidance Not Yet Adopted

**ASC Topic 718, Stock Compensation.** In May 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-09, *Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Scope of Modification Accounting*, which provides clarity and reduces complexity when an entity has changes to the terms or conditions of a share-based payment award and when an entity should apply modification accounting. The amendments in this update are effective for financial statements issued for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those annual periods. We do not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

**ASC Topic 715, Compensation - Retirement Benefits.** In March 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-07, *Compensation - Retirement Benefits (Topic 715)*, which amends the existing guidance relating to the presentation of net periodic benefit cost for an entity’s sponsored defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. The amendment requires an employer to disaggregate the service cost component from the other components of net benefit cost and provides explicit guidance on how to present the service cost component and other components in the statement of operations. In addition, on a prospective basis, the guidance permits only the service cost component of net benefit cost to be capitalized. The guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The guidance requires a retrospective method to adopt the presentation of service costs in the statement of operations and a prospective transition to adopt the requirement to limit capitalization. Currently the net benefit costs for our defined benefit plans and other postretirement plans are presented within Cost of products sold and Selling, general and administrative expenses. Upon adoption of this guidance, service cost will continue to be presented in Cost of products sold and Selling, general and administrative expenses while the other components of net benefit cost will be presented in non-operating income. See Note 8 for detail of our net benefit cost by component.

**ASC Topic 230, Statement of Cash Flows.** In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-15, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments (a consensus of the Emerging Issues Task Force)*. This ASU adds or clarifies guidance on the classification of certain cash receipts and payments in the statement of cash flows, including debt prepayment or extinguishment costs, the settlement of contingent liabilities arising from a business combination, proceeds from insurance settlements and distributions from certain equity method investees. In November 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-18, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash (a consensus of the Emerging Issues Task Force)*. This ASU adds or clarifies guidance on the classification and presentation of restricted cash in the statement of cash flows. The guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The guidance requires application on a retrospective basis. We are currently evaluating the impact of this guidance.

**ASC Topic 842, Leases.** In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*. ASU 2016-02 supersedes existing lease guidance, including ASC Topic 840, *Leases* and requires lessees to recognize most leases on their balance sheets for the rights and obligations created by those leases. The guidance also requires enhanced disclosures regarding the amount,

timing and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases that will be effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2018. We plan to adopt this guidance on January 1, 2019. The guidance requires the use of a modified retrospective approach and the Company expects to adopt this guidance for leases existing at, or entered into after, the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented in the financial statements. We expect to recognize a liability and corresponding asset associated with in-scope leases, but we are still in the process of determining those amounts and the processes required to account for leasing activity on an ongoing basis.

**ASC Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers.** In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*. This guidance will replace all current GAAP guidance on this topic and eliminate all industry-specific guidance. The new revenue recognition standard provides a unified model to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle is that a company should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration for which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Additionally, the new guidance requires enhanced disclosures regarding revenue. This guidance was initially effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and can be applied either retrospectively to each period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Deferral of the Effective Date*, which defers the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The FASB has continued to clarify this guidance in various updates during 2015 and 2016, all of which have the same effective date as the original guidance. We expect to adopt this accounting standard on a modified retrospective basis in the first quarter of 2018 where the cumulative effect will be recognized as of the date of adoption. While we anticipate changes in certain contracts with respect to rebate agreements and other customer incentives, we do not currently believe ASU 2014-09 will have a material impact on the timing or amount of revenue recognized in our financial statements. We continue to assess the impact of required disclosures around revenue recognition in the notes to the financial statements and any necessary policy and process changes, in preparation for adoption. We will continue to evaluate the impact of this guidance as we progress with our implementation plan.

#### 4. SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT INFORMATION

**Earnings Per Share** — Earnings per share is computed by dividing net income or net loss attributable to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing net income or net loss by the weighted average number of shares outstanding, after giving effect to potentially dilutive common share equivalents outstanding during the period. Potentially dilutive common share equivalents are not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share if they are anti-dilutive.

The following table provides a reconciliation of basic and diluted income (loss) per common share:

|  | Predecessor                              | Successor                                      |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders (in millions) | \$ 1,299                                 | \$ (40)  | \$ 4  |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands)        | 81,541                                   | 34,391   | 34,456                                      |
| Weighted average restricted shares (in thousands)                | 282                                      | —  | —   |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic               | 81,823                                   | 34,391   | 34,456                                      |
| Dilutive shares from stock awards (in thousands)                 | —  | —  | 4   |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted             | 81,823                                   | 34,391   | 34,460                                      |
| Basic income (loss) per share                                    | \$ 15.88                                 | \$ (1.16)                                      | \$ 0.12                                     |
| Diluted income (loss) per share                                  | \$ 15.88                                 | \$ (1.16)                                      | \$ 0.12                                     |

|   | Predecessor                                 | Successor                                      |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders (in millions)    | \$ 1,178                                    | \$ (40)  | \$ (66)                                    |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands)           | 81,450                                      | 34,391   | 34,421                                     |
| Weighted average restricted shares (in thousands)                   | 397   | —  | —  |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic (in thousands)   | 81,847                                      | 34,391   | 34,421                                     |
| Dilutive shares from stock awards (in thousands)                    | —   | —  | —  |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted (in thousands) | 81,847                                      | 34,391   | 34,421                                     |
| Basic income (loss) per share                                       | \$ 14.39                                    | \$ (1.16)                                      | \$ (1.92)                                  |
| Diluted income (loss) per share                                     | \$ 14.39                                    | \$ (1.16)                                      | \$ (1.92)                                  |

As a result of the net loss from continuing operations presented for the Successor, 0.3 million restricted stock units and 1.8 million Plan Warrants of the Successor have been excluded from the calculations of diluted earnings per share as their inclusion would be anti-dilutive. In accordance with ASC Topic 260, *Earnings Per Share*, unvested restricted stock awards issued by the Predecessor contained nonforfeitable rights to dividends and qualified as participating securities. No dividends were declared or paid in the periods presented.

**Inventories and Replacement Parts and Other Supplies** — Inventory values include all costs directly associated with manufacturing products: materials, labor and manufacturing overhead, and these values are presented at the lower of cost or market. Costs of raw materials, work-in-progress and finished goods are determined using the first-in, first-out method. Replacement parts and other supplies are stated using the average cost method.

The following table summarizes inventories, net by major category:

| (Dollars in millions)                | December 31,<br>2016 | September 30,<br>2017 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Raw materials                        | \$ 95                | \$ 80                 |
| Work-in-process                      | 62                   | 54                    |
| Finished goods                       | 264                  | 238                   |
| Replacement parts and other supplies | 24                   | 27                    |
| <b>Inventories, net</b>              | <b>\$ 445</b>        | <b>\$ 399</b>         |

**Asset Retirement Obligations** — In accordance with ASC Topic 410, *Asset Retirement and Environmental Obligations*, a liability and an asset are recorded equal to the present value of the estimated costs associated with the retirement of long-lived assets where a legal or contractual obligation exists. The liability is accreted over time and the asset is depreciated over its useful life. Our asset retirement obligations under this standard relate primarily to closure and post-closure costs for landfills. Revisions to the liability could occur due to changes in the estimated costs or timing of closure or possible new federal or state regulations affecting the closure.

As of December 31, 2016 (Successor) and September 30, 2017 (Successor), \$2 million of restricted cash was included in Intangibles and other assets, net in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets related to asset retirement obligations in the state of Michigan. These cash deposits are required by the state and may only be used for the future closure of a landfill. We are also required to maintain certain financial assurance (in the form of letters of credit and other similar instruments) at certain mills, for the expected cost of landfill closure and post-closure care.

The following table presents activity related to our asset retirement obligations. Long-term obligations are included in Other liabilities and current portions are included in Accrued liabilities in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| (Dollars in millions)  | Predecessor                                 | Successor                                      |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| Asset retirement obligations, beginning balance                            | \$ 16                                       | \$ 13  | \$ 14                                      |
| Accretion expense  | —   | —  | 1  |
| Settlement of existing liabilities   | —   | —  | —  |
| Adjustments to existing liabilities  | (3)   | —  | —  |
| Asset retirement obligations, ending balance                               | 13  | 13   | 15   |
| Less: Current portion  | —   | —  | (1)  |
| <b>Non-current portion of asset retirement obligations, ending balance</b> | <b>\$ 13</b>                                | <b>\$ 13</b>                                   | <b>\$ 14</b>                               |

In addition to the above obligations, we may be required to remove certain materials from our facilities or to remediate them in accordance with current regulations that govern the handling of certain hazardous or potentially hazardous materials. At this time, any such obligations have an indeterminate settlement date, and we believe that adequate information does not exist to reasonably estimate any such potential obligations. Accordingly, no liability for such remediation was recorded.

**Property, Plant and Equipment** — Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation. Interest costs capitalized, depreciation expense and capital expenditures unpaid for the periods presented are as follows:

| (Dollars in millions) | Predecessor                              |    | Successor                                      |   |
|-----------------------|--|----|--|---|
|                       | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |    | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|                       | Depreciation expense                     | \$ | 7  | \$ 22                                       |

| (Dollars in millions) | Predecessor                                 |    | Successor                                      |  |
|-----------------------|---|----|--|--|
|                       | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |    | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|                       | Interest costs capitalized                  | \$ | 1  | \$ —                                       |
| Depreciation expense  |   | 97 | 22   | 82   |

Capital expenditures unpaid as of July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), September 30, 2016 (Successor) and September 30, 2017 (Successor) were \$8 million, \$9 million and \$3 million, respectively.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments** — The carrying amounts for cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate fair value due to the short maturity of these instruments. We determine the fair value of our debt based on market information and a review of prices and terms available for similar obligations. See Note 2 and Note 7 for additional information regarding the fair value.

We use fair value measurements for the initial recording of certain assets and liabilities, periodic remeasurement of certain assets and liabilities and disclosures. Fair value is generally defined as the exit price at which an asset or liability could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing, unrelated parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

The fair value framework requires the categorization of assets and liabilities into three levels based upon the assumptions used to value the assets or liabilities. Level 1 provides the most reliable measure of fair value, whereas Level 3 generally requires significant management judgment. The three levels are defined as follows:

- Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date.
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than those included in Level 1. For example, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs reflecting management’s own assumption about the inputs used in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date.

## 5. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSITIONS

**Sale of hydroelectric generation facilities** — On January 6, 2016, Verso Maine Power Holdings LLC, or “VMPH,” and Verso Androscoggin Power LLC, or “VAP,” two indirect, wholly owned subsidiaries of Verso, entered into a purchase agreement with Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, LLC, or “Eagle Creek,” pursuant to which VMPH sold all the outstanding limited liability company interests of VAP to Eagle Creek for a purchase price of approximately \$62 million in cash. VAP owned four hydroelectric generation facilities associated with Verso’s Androscoggin pulp and paper mill located in Jay, Maine. The purchase agreement contains customary representations and warranties by, and customary covenants among, the parties. The parties contemporaneously entered into the purchase agreement and consummated the transaction. For the period from January 1, 2016 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), we recognized a gain on sale of fixed assets of approximately \$55 million which is included in Other operating (income) expense in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

## 6. INTANGIBLES AND OTHER ASSETS

The following table summarizes intangibles and other assets:

| (Dollars in millions)   | December 31,<br>2016 | September 30,<br>2017 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Intangible assets:</b>   |                      |                       |
| Customer relationships, net of accumulated amortization of \$1 million on December 31, 2016 and \$3 million on September 30, 2017 | \$ 25                | \$ 23                 |
| Trademarks, net of accumulated amortization of \$1 million on December 31, 2016 and \$4 million on September 30, 2017             | 15                   | 12                    |
| <b>Other assets:</b>  |                      |                       |
| Restricted cash   | 3                    | 3                     |
| Other   | 15                   | 15                    |
| Total other assets  | 18                   | 18                    |
| Intangibles and other assets, net   | \$ 58                | \$ 53                 |

The following table summarizes amortization expense related to intangible assets for the periods presented:

| (Dollars in millions) | Predecessor                              | Successor                                      |   |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
|                       | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|                       | Customer Relationships                   | \$ —   | \$ 1  |
| Trademarks            | —  | 1  | 1   |

| (Dollars in millions) | Predecessor                                 | Successor                                      |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
|                       | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|                       | Customer Relationships                      | \$ 2   | \$ 1                                       |
| Trademarks            | —   | 1  | 3  |

The estimated future amortization expense for our intangible assets over the next five years is as follows:

| (Dollars in millions) |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Remainder of 2017     | \$ 1 |
| 2018                  | 6    |
| 2019                  | 6    |
| 2020                  | 6    |
| 2021                  | 4    |

## 7. DEBT

The following table summarizes debt:

| (Dollars in millions)                               | Original<br>Maturity | December 31, 2016 | September 30, 2017 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Exit ABL Facility                                   | 7/14/2021            | \$ 112            | \$ 117             |
| Exit Term Loan Facility                             | 10/14/2021           | 211               | 171                |
| Unamortized (discount) and debt issuance costs, net |                      | (30)              | (24)               |
| Less: Current portion                               |                      | (28)              | (18)               |
| <b>Total long-term debt</b>                         |                      | <b>\$ 265</b>     | <b>\$ 246</b>      |

We determine the fair value of our long-term debt based on market information and a review of prices and terms available for similar obligations. Our debt is classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 4). As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the fair value of Verso's total debt outstanding was \$290 million.

During the three months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor), we elected to make a \$20 million voluntary principal prepayment on the Exit Term Loan Facility (as defined below), from available liquidity including amounts under our Exit ABL Facility (as defined below), and applied that payment against the final maturity amount due in October 2021.

On October 19, 2017, we elected to make an additional \$20 million voluntary principal prepayment on the Exit Term Loan Facility, from available liquidity including amounts under our Exit ABL Facility, and applied that payment against the final maturity amount due in October 2021.

Amounts included in interest expense and amounts of cash interest payments related to long-term debt for the periods presented, are as follows:

| (Dollars in millions)                                       | Predecessor                              |  | Successor                                   |      |
|---|--|--|---|------|
|   | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |      |
|   | Interest expense                         | \$ 2   | \$ 7  | \$ 7 |
| Cash interest paid  | 4  | 5  | 8   |      |
| Debt issuance cost and discount amortization <sup>(1)</sup> | —  | 1  | 3   |      |

| (Dollars in millions)                                       | Predecessor                                 |  | Successor                                  |       |
|---|---|--|--|-------|
|   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |       |
|   | Interest expense                            | \$ 39  | \$ 7                                       | \$ 23 |
| Cash interest paid  | 12  | 5  | 23   |       |
| Debt issuance cost and discount amortization <sup>(1)</sup> | 1   | 1  | 6  |       |

(1) Amortization of debt issuance cost and original issue discount are included in interest expense on the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations.

### Exit Credit Facilities

On the Effective Date, pursuant to the terms of Plan, Verso Holdings entered into a \$375 million asset-based revolving credit facility, or the "Exit ABL Facility," and a \$220 million senior secured term loan (with loan proceeds of \$198 million after the deduction of the original issue discount), or the "Exit Term Loan Facility," and collectively termed the "Exit Credit Facilities."

Verso Holdings borrowed \$340 million under the Exit Credit Facilities on the Effective Date, with available loan proceeds of \$318 million, consisting of (i) the borrowing of \$120 million under the Exit ABL Facility and (ii) the net borrowing of \$198 million (\$220 million par value less \$22 million of original issue discount) under the Exit Term Loan Facility. The proceeds of the borrowings on the Effective Date under the Exit Credit Facilities were used (i) to repay outstanding indebtedness under the

debtor-in-possession financing credit agreements, (ii) to pay outstanding allowed administrative expenses and allowed claims in accordance with the Plan and (iii) to pay fees, costs and expenses related to and contemplated by the Exit Credit Facilities and emergence by Verso and its subsidiaries from bankruptcy. The proceeds of the borrowings under the Exit ABL Facility after the Effective Date will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes, including permitted acquisitions.

The Exit ABL Facility will mature on July 14, 2021. The outstanding borrowings under the Exit ABL Facility bear interest at a per annum rate equal to, at the option of Verso Holdings, either (i) a customary London interbank offered rate, or "LIBOR," plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.25% to 2.00% or (ii) a customary base rate plus an applicable margin ranging from 0.25% to 1.00%, determined based upon the average excess availability under the Exit ABL Facility. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding borrowings was 3.28%. Verso Holdings is also required to pay a commitment fee for the unused portion of the Exit ABL Facility, which ranges from 0.25% to 0.375% per annum, based upon the average revolver usage under the Exit ABL Facility. Verso Holdings has the right to prepay loans under the Exit ABL Facility at any time without a prepayment penalty, other than customary "breakage" costs with respect to eurocurrency loans. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the outstanding balance of the Exit ABL Facility was \$117 million, with \$55 million issued in letters of credit and \$175 million available for future borrowings. The Company incurred \$3 million of debt issuance costs associated with the Exit ABL Facility and recorded this amount as a direct deduction of the debt liability, which is being amortized over the life of the Exit ABL Facility.

The Exit Term Loan Facility will mature on October 14, 2021. The outstanding borrowings under the Exit Term Loan Facility bear interest at a rate equal to, at the option of Verso Holdings, either (i) a LIBOR (subject to a floor of 1%) plus 11% or (ii) a customary base rate plus 10%. With respect to LIBOR denominated loans under the Exit Credit Facilities, Verso Holdings may elect an interest period of one, two, three or six months or such other period subject to the terms of the Exit Credit Facilities. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the Exit Term Loan's interest rate was 12.32% per annum. The term loans provided under the Exit Term Loan Facility are subject to quarterly principal amortization payments in an amount equal to the greater of (a) 2.00% of the initial principal amount of the term loans or (b) the excess cash flow in respect of such quarter as further described under the Exit Term Loan Facility; however, if the liquidity, as defined in the Exit Term Loan Facility, of Verso Holdings is less than \$75 million at any time during the 90-day period following the due date of such quarterly amortization payment or excess cash flow payment date, then the portion of such amortization amount that results in such liquidity being less than \$75 million will not be payable by Verso Holdings, as further described in the Exit Term Loan Facility.

Per the above described quarterly principal amortization, installments due are at least \$4 million (subject to increase depending on excess cash flow) for each quarter ending in 2016 through 2021 with the remaining balance due on October 14, 2021. As the result of the excess cash flow requirement, we were obligated to fund an additional principal amortization of \$7 million in the first quarter of 2017, which is reflected in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor). Any voluntary prepayment by Verso Holdings of the term loans under the Exit Term Loan Facility will be subject to customary "breakage" costs with respect to eurocurrency loans and a 2% prepayment premium until July 14, 2018, and a 1% prepayment premium after July 15, 2018, but before July 14, 2020, and thereafter no prepayment premium will apply to any voluntary prepayment of term loans. Such prepayment premium may also apply to certain repricing amendments of the Exit Term Loan Facility as further described therein. The Company incurred \$8 million of debt issuance costs associated with the Exit Term Loan Facility and recorded this amount as a direct deduction of the debt liability, which is being amortized over the life of the Exit Term Loan Facility.

All obligations under the Exit Credit Facilities are unconditionally guaranteed by Verso Finance and certain of the subsidiaries of Verso Holdings, and are secured by liens on certain assets of Verso Finance and liens on substantially all of the assets of Verso Holdings and the other guarantor subsidiaries. The security interest with respect to the Exit ABL Facility consists of a first-priority lien on the current assets of Verso Holdings and the guarantor subsidiaries, including accounts receivables, inventory, deposit accounts, securities accounts and commodities accounts, and a second-priority lien on all other collateral. The security interest, with respect to the Exit Term Loan Facility, consists of a first-priority lien on all other collateral and second-priority lien on collateral securing the Exit ABL Facility.

The Exit Credit Facilities contain financial covenants requiring the Company, among other things, to maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio in certain circumstances and a maximum total net leverage ratio. The Exit Credit Facilities also contain restrictions, among other things and subject to certain exceptions, on the Company's ability to incur debt or liens, pay dividends, repurchase equity interest, prepay indebtedness, sell or dispose of assets and make investments in or merge with another company.

## DIP Financing

In connection with the Chapter 11 Filings, Verso Finance, Verso Holdings and certain of its subsidiaries entered into an asset-based credit facility in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$100 million, or the "Verso DIP Facility," and NewPage Corp and certain of its subsidiaries entered into an asset-based credit facility in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$325 million, or the "NewPage DIP ABL Facility," and a term loan credit facility in an aggregate principal amount of \$350 million, or the "NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility," together with the NewPage DIP ABL Facility, the "NewPage DIP Facilities," and NewPage DIP Facilities together with the Verso DIP Facility, the "DIP Facilities." The NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility consisted of \$175 million of new money term loans and \$175 million of loans that aggregated and replaced existing loans outstanding on the Petition Date (i.e., such loans were deemed to become loans under the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility), or "NewPage DIP Roll Up Loans." On January 28, 2016, up to \$550 million in loans under the DIP Facilities became available for borrowing following the entry of an order by the Bankruptcy Court approving the DIP Facilities on an interim basis on January 27, 2016. The Bankruptcy Court entered orders approving the DIP Facilities on a final basis on March 2, 2016.

Borrowings under the Verso DIP Facility bore interest at a rate equal to an applicable margin plus, at Verso Holdings' and NewPage Corp's option, either (a) a base rate determined by reference to the highest of (1) the U.S. federal funds rate plus 0.50%, (2) the prime rate of the administrative agent, and (3) the adjusted LIBOR (as defined below) for a one-month interest period plus 1.00%, or (b) a eurocurrency rate, or "LIBOR" determined by reference to the costs of funds for eurocurrency deposits in dollars in the London interbank market for the interest period relevant to such borrowing, adjusted for certain additional costs. The applicable margin for advances under both the Verso DIP Facility and the NewPage DIP ABL was 1.50% for base rate advances and 2.50% for LIBOR advances. The applicable margin for advances under the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility was 8.50% for base rate advances and 9.50% for LIBOR advances. Interest that accrued on any "rolled-up" term loans under the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility was capitalized, compounded and added to the unpaid principal amount of such "rolled-up" loans on the applicable interest payment date. Verso Holdings and NewPage Corp paid commitment fees for the unused amount of commitments at an annual rate equal to 0.75% and 0.375%, respectively. The Company incurred \$22 million of debt issuance costs associated with the DIP Facility which was recorded as interest expense on the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations during the period from January 1 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor).

The DIP Facilities matured on the Effective Date of the Plan. On the maturity date, the Verso DIP Facility had no balance outstanding and the NewPage DIP ABL Facility had a \$103 million outstanding balance which was repaid in full using the Exit Credit Facilities entered into on the Effective Date. The NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility of \$175 million of new money term loans was also repaid in full, while the \$175 million of "rolled up" loans and its capitalized interests of \$9 million, totaling to \$184 million, were converted into Verso equity (see Note 2).

## Pre-petition Debt

The filing of the Chapter 11 Cases by the Debtors on January 26, 2016, constituted an event of default and automatic acceleration under the agreements governing all of our debt (excluding the \$23 million loan from Verso Finance to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund). As of the date of the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, approximately \$2.5 billion of debt and interest were outstanding under the Predecessor's pre-petition credit agreements, excluding related unamortized deferred financing costs, discounts/premiums and deferred gains, which were written off to Reorganization items, net upon filing the Chapter 11 Cases. All of the Predecessor's pre-petition debt and interest were cancelled in exchange for the issuance of 34,390,643 of stock or 100% of the Company's equity.

## 8. RETIREMENT AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

Verso has three defined benefit pension plans covering approximately 80% of our employees. The pension plans provide defined benefits based on years of service multiplied by a flat monetary benefit or based on a percentage of compensation as defined by the respective plan document. As of December 31, 2015, all of our defined benefit pension plans were frozen to new entrants. The majority of our pension plan participants are in the union hourly plan and continue to earn service accruals toward their pension benefits but no longer receive multiplier increases. We also offer a cash balance defined benefit pension plan for certain salaried employees in which participants continue to earn annual interest credits, but no longer earn cash balance benefit credits and a pension plan for certain non-union hourly employees for which benefit accruals are frozen.

The following tables summarize the components of net periodic pension cost of our pension plans for the periods presented:

| (Dollars in millions)          | Predecessor                              |     | Successor                                      |   |      |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|--|---|------|
|                                | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |     | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |      |
|                                | Service cost                             | \$  | 1  | \$ 3  | \$ 4 |
|                                | Interest cost                            |     | 2  | 13  | 17   |
| Expected return on plan assets |  | (3) | (16)   | (19)  |      |
| Net periodic pension cost      | \$                                       | —   | \$ —   | \$ 2  |      |

| (Dollars in millions)          | Predecessor                                 |      | Successor                                      |  |       |
|--------------------------------|---|------|--|--|-------|
|                                | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |      | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |       |
|                                | Service cost                                | \$   | 9  | \$ 3                                       | \$ 12 |
|                                | Interest cost                               |      | 36   | 13   | 49    |
| Expected return on plan assets |   | (40) | (16)   | (56)                                       |       |
| Amortization of actuarial loss |   | 1    | —  | —  |       |
| Net periodic pension cost      | \$  | 6    | \$ —   | \$ 5                                       |       |

The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service cost that are amortized from Accumulated other comprehensive loss and into Net periodic pension cost are classified as Cost of products sold in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

We make contributions that are sufficient to fund our actuarially-determined costs, generally equal to the minimum amounts required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. For the periods from July 1 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor) and January 1 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), we made contributions of \$6 million and \$16 million, respectively. For the period from July 15 through September 30, 2016 (Successor), we made contributions of \$3 million. For the three months and nine months ended and September 30, 2017 (Successor), we made contributions to the pension plans of \$13 million and \$25 million, respectively. We expect to make cash contributions of \$7 million to the pension plans in the remainder of 2017.

Our other postretirement benefits obligations provide other retirement and post-employment benefits for certain employees, which may include healthcare benefits for certain retirees prior to their reaching age 65, healthcare benefits for certain retirees on and after their reaching age 65, long-term disability benefits, continued group life insurance and extended health and dental benefits. These benefits are provided through various employer- and/or employee-funded postretirement benefit plans. The service and interest costs related to these obligations were not material for the periods from July 1 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), January 1 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), July 15 through September 30, 2016 (Successor) nor the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor).

As described in Note 2, employee retirement contracts and collective bargaining agreements were honored by the Company after emergence from the Chapter 11 Cases on the Effective Date.

## 9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

**Management Agreement** — In connection with the acquisition of our business from International Paper Company on August 1, 2006, we entered into a management agreement with certain affiliates of Apollo Global Management, LLC, or “Apollo,” our then majority owner, relating to the provision of certain financial and strategic advisory services and consulting services, which was scheduled to expire on August 1, 2018. Under the management agreement, Apollo, upon providing notice to us, had the right to act, in return for additional fees to be mutually agreed by the parties to the management agreement, as our financial advisor or investment banker for any merger, acquisition, disposition, financing or similar transaction if we decided to engage someone to fill such role. If Apollo exercised its right to act as our financial advisor or investment banker for any such transaction, and if we were unable to agree with Apollo on its compensation for serving in such role, then at the closing of any merger, acquisition, disposition, financing or similar transaction, we agreed to pay Apollo a fee equal to 1% of the aggregate enterprise value (including the aggregate value of equity securities, warrants, rights and options acquired or retained; indebtedness acquired, assumed or refinanced; and any other consideration or compensation paid in connection with such transaction). We also agreed to indemnify Apollo, its affiliates and their directors, officers and representatives for losses relating to the services contemplated by the management agreement and the engagement of affiliates of Apollo pursuant to, and the performance by them of the services contemplated by, the management agreement. Apollo did not exercise its right to act as our financial advisor or investment banker for any such transaction in the periods presented and thus, we made no payment to Apollo under the management agreement during those periods. On the Effective Date, in connection with our emergence from bankruptcy, such management agreement was terminated and all rights and remedies thereunder were terminated, extinguished, waived and released.

**Transactions with Affiliates** — Prior to the Effective Date, we transacted business with affiliates of Apollo from time to time. Our product sales to Apollo affiliates were \$1 million and \$15 million for the period from July 1 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor) and the period from January 1 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), respectively. Our product purchases from Apollo affiliates were negligible for the Predecessor. As of the Effective date, Apollo is no longer a related party. Upon the Effective Date, several of our significant shareholders became our debt holders. For the period from July 15 through September 30, 2016 (Successor), and the three months and the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor), we did not transact any material business with affiliates.

## 10. RESTRUCTURING CHARGES

**Corporate Restructuring** — In November 2016, Verso announced the closure of its Memphis office headquarters and relocation of its Corporate headquarters to Miamisburg, Ohio. The following table details the charges incurred related to the Memphis office closure as included in Restructuring charges on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Successor:

| (Dollars in millions)             | Three Months                | Nine Months                 |                             | Cumulative<br>Incurred |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
|                                   | Ended<br>September 30, 2017 | Ended<br>September 30, 2017 | Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |                        |
| Severance and benefit costs       | \$ —                        | \$ 1                        | \$ 3                        |                        |
| Write-off of purchase obligations | 2                           | 2                           | 2                           |                        |
| Other costs                       | —                           | 1                           | 1                           |                        |
| Total restructuring costs         | \$ 2                        | \$ 4                        | \$ 6                        |                        |

The following details the changes in our restructuring reserve liabilities related to Corporate restructuring activities including the Memphis corporate headquarters closure and the NewPage acquisition which are included in Accrued liabilities on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets for the Successor:

| (Dollars in millions)          | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |     |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|
| Beginning balance of reserve   | \$   | 3   |
| Severance and benefit costs    |  | 1   |
| Severance and benefit payments |  | (4) |
| Purchase obligations           |  | 2   |
| Other costs                    |  | 1   |
| Payments on other costs        |  | (1) |
| Ending balance of reserve      | \$   | 2   |

**Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reductions** — On August 20, 2015, Verso announced plans to make production capacity reductions at two of our mills by shutting down the No. 1 pulp dryer and No. 2 paper machine at our Androscoggin Mill in Jay, Maine, and by indefinitely idling our Wickliffe Mill in Wickliffe, Kentucky. Together, these actions reduced our production capacity by approximately 430,000 tons of coated paper and approximately 130,000 tons of dried market pulp. On April 5, 2016, we announced our decision to permanently close the Wickliffe Mill and the associated Property, plant and equipment were written down to salvage value. On November 1, 2016, we announced the temporary idling of the No. 3 paper machine at our Androscoggin Mill and on July 19, 2017, we announced plans to permanently shut down the No. 3 paper machine and associated equipment, reducing annual coated paper production capacity by approximately 200,000 tons. In connection with the temporary idling of the No. 3 paper machine at our Androscoggin Mill, we determined a reduction in the useful life of the machine was necessary and accordingly recognized \$43 million of accelerated depreciation during the fourth quarter of 2016 (Successor). During the first quarter of 2017 (Successor), an additional \$6 million of accelerated depreciation was recognized, which is included in Depreciation, amortization and depletion in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. As a result of the acceleration of depreciation, no impairment charge was required to be recorded with the temporary idling or closure of the No. 3 paper machine and associated equipment at the Androscoggin Mill.

The permanent shut down of the No. 3 paper machine and associated equipment has resulted in the elimination of jobs, impacting approximately 120 employees at the Androscoggin Mill. During the fourth quarter of 2016 (Successor), Verso incurred a charge to earnings of \$4 million in severance and benefit costs, which were paid in the third quarter of 2017 (Successor). Verso also recorded a non-cash charge of \$1 million for the write-off of spare parts and inventory produced on the No. 3 paper machine during the fourth quarter of 2016 (Successor). Verso does not expect to incur any additional charges as a result of the permanent closure of the No. 3 paper machine and associated equipment.

The following table details the charges incurred related primarily to the Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reductions and primarily attributable to the paper segment as included in Restructuring charges on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Predecessor:

| (Dollars in millions)                             | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |     | Cumulative<br>Incurred |
|---|--|---|---|-----|------------------------|
| Property and equipment write down                 | \$                                       | — | \$  | 127 | \$ 127                 |
| Severance and benefit costs                       |  | — |   | 10  | 26                     |
| Write-off of spare parts and inventory            |  | — |   | 9   | 12                     |
| Write-off of purchase obligations and commitments |  | — |   | 2   | 3                      |
| Other costs                                       |  | — |   | 3   | 4                      |
| Total restructuring costs                         | \$                                       | — | \$  | 151 | \$ 172                 |

The following table details the charges incurred related primarily to the Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reductions as included in Restructuring charges on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Successor:

| (Dollars in millions)                             | July 15, 2016                 | Three Months                | Nine Months                 | Cumulative<br>Incurred |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Ended<br>September 30, 2017 | Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |                        |
| Severance and benefit costs                       | \$ —                          | \$ —                        | \$ —                        | \$ 5                   |
| Write-off of purchase obligations and commitments | 1                             | —                           | 1                           | 2                      |
| Other costs                                       | 1                             | 2                           | 3                           | 6                      |
| Total restructuring costs                         | \$ 2                          | \$ 2                        | \$ 4                        | \$ 13                  |

The following details the changes in our restructuring reserve liabilities related to the Androscoggin/Wickliffe Capacity Reductions during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor), which are included in Accrued liabilities on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| (Dollars in millions)            | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | Beginning balance of reserve               |
| Severance and benefit payments   | (5)  |
| Purchase obligations             | 1  |
| Payments on purchase obligations | (1)  |
| Other costs                      | 3  |
| Payments on other costs          | (3)  |
| Ending balance of reserve        | \$ 1                                       |

## 11. NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT ENTITIES

In 2010, we entered into a financing transaction with Chase Community Equity, LLC, or “Chase,” related to a \$43 million renewable energy project at our mill in Quinnesec, Michigan, in which Chase made a capital contribution and Verso Finance made a loan to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund, LLC, or the “Investment Fund,” under a qualified New Markets Tax Credit, or “NMTC,” program, provided for in the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000.

By virtue of its contribution, Chase is entitled to substantially all of the benefits derived from the NMTCs. This transaction also includes a put/call provision whereby we may be obligated or entitled to repurchase Chase’s interest. We believe that Chase will exercise the put option in December 2017 at the end of the recapture period. The value attributed to the put/call is de minimis. The NMTC is subject to 100% recapture for a period of 7 years as provided in the Internal Revenue Code. We are required to be in compliance with various regulations and contractual provisions that apply to the NMTC arrangement. Non-compliance with applicable requirements could result in projected tax benefits not being realized and, therefore, could require us to indemnify Chase for any loss or recapture of NMTCs related to the financing until such time as our obligation to deliver tax benefits is relieved. We do not anticipate any credit recaptures will be required in connection with this arrangement.

We have determined that the Investment Fund is a VIE of which we are the primary beneficiary, and have consolidated it in accordance with the accounting standard for consolidation. Chase’s contribution, net of syndication fees, is included in Other liabilities in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The impact of the VIE was \$8 million of Other liabilities for the Successor as of December 31, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Direct costs incurred in structuring the financing arrangement are deferred and will be recognized as expense over the term of the loans. Incremental costs to maintain the structure during the compliance period are recognized as incurred.

## 12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

**Represented Employees** — Approximately 70% of our hourly workforce is represented by unions. All represented employees were covered by the Master Labor Agreement 2012–2016, dated as of December 21, 2012, covering wages and benefits; certain

represented mills also had local agreements covering general work rules, until the expiration of the Master Labor Agreement in December 2016. The parties continue to have dialogue toward reaching a new agreement. In the interim, each of the represented sites has local agreements which govern wages and benefits, along with terms and conditions of employment on the local level. In the event the Master Labor Agreement is not renegotiated, management will bargain site-by-site as local agreements reach their respective expiration dates.

**General Litigation** — We are involved from time to time in legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business. We do not believe that any liability that may result from these proceedings will have a material, adverse effect on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

### 13. INFORMATION BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT

We have two operating segments, paper and pulp, however, subsequent to the Effective Date, we have determined that the operating loss of the pulp segment is immaterial for disclosure purposes. Our paper products are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including catalogs, magazines and commercial printing applications such as high-end advertising brochures, annual reports and direct-mail advertising. Our market kraft pulp is used to manufacture printing, writing and specialty paper grades and tissue products. Our assets are utilized across segments in our integrated mill system and are not identified by segment or reviewed by management on a segment basis. We operate primarily in one geographic segment, North America.

The following table summarizes the industry segment data for the periods from July 1 through July 14, 2016 and January 1 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor):

| (Dollars in millions)                           | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |            | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |              |
|---|--|------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Net Sales</b>                                |  |            |   |              |
| Paper   | \$                                       | 92         | \$  | 1,349        |
| Pulp  |  | 6          |   | 91           |
| Intercompany eliminations                       |  | (1)        |   | (23)         |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>\$</b>                                | <b>97</b>  | <b>\$</b>                                   | <b>1,417</b> |
| <b>Operating income (loss)<sup>(1)</sup></b>    |  |            |   |              |
| Paper   | \$                                       | (1)        | \$  | (104)        |
| Pulp  |  | —          |   | (17)         |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>\$</b>                                | <b>(1)</b> | <b>\$</b>                                   | <b>(121)</b> |
| <b>Depreciation, amortization and depletion</b> |  |            |   |              |
| Paper   | \$                                       | 7          | \$  | 92           |
| Pulp  |  | —          |   | 8            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>\$</b>                                | <b>7</b>   | <b>\$</b>                                   | <b>100</b>   |
| <b>Capital expenditures</b>                     |  |            |   |              |
| Paper   | \$                                       | 2          | \$  | 26           |
| Pulp  |  | —          |   | 5            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>\$</b>                                | <b>2</b>   | <b>\$</b>                                   | <b>31</b>    |

(1) Operating losses in the period from January 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016, include \$135 million of Restructuring charges attributable to the paper segment and \$16 million of Restructuring charges related to the pulp segment.

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

### Overview

We are the leading North American producer of coated papers, which are used primarily in commercial print, magazines, catalogs, high-end advertising brochures and annual reports, among other media and marketing publications. We produce a wide range of products, ranging from coated freesheet and coated groundwood, to specialty papers, to inkjet and digital paper, supercalendered papers and uncoated freesheet. We also produce and sell market kraft pulp, which is used to manufacture printing and writing paper grades and tissue products.

Headquartered in Miamisburg, Ohio (formerly Memphis, Tennessee), Verso operates seven mills located in Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin with a total annual production capacity of approximately 2,955,000 tons of paper and approximately 290,000 tons of pulp.

### Background

#### *Emergence from Chapter 11*

On January 26, 2016, or the "Petition Date," we and substantially all of our direct and indirect subsidiaries, collectively, the "Debtors," filed voluntary petitions for relief, or the "Chapter 11 Filings," under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code, or the "Bankruptcy Code," in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, or the "Bankruptcy Court." The Chapter 11 cases, or the "Chapter 11 Cases," were consolidated for procedural purposes only and administered jointly under the caption "In re: Verso Corporation, et al., Case No. 16-10163." During the pendency of the Chapter 11 Cases, we continued to manage our properties and operate our businesses as a "debtor-in-possession" under the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and orders of the Bankruptcy Court.

In connection with the Chapter 11 Cases, Verso Finance, Verso Holdings and certain of its subsidiaries entered into the Verso DIP Facility for an aggregate principal amount of up to \$100 million, and NewPage Corp and certain of its subsidiaries entered into the NewPage DIP ABL Facility for an aggregate principal amount of up to \$325 million and the NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility for an aggregate principal amount of \$350 million (see Note 7). The NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility consisted of \$175 million of new money term loans and \$175 million of roll up loans refinancing loans outstanding under the existing term loan facility of NewPage Corp outstanding on the Petition Date. The Verso DIP Facility, NewPage DIP ABL Facility and NewPage DIP Term Loan Facility are collectively referred to as the "DIP Facilities".

On March 26, 2016, the Debtors filed a proposed joint plan of reorganization, (as amended, the "Plan,") with the Bankruptcy Court together with a disclosure statement in respect of the Plan. The Plan set forth, among other things, the treatment of claims against and equity interests in the Debtors. On June 23, 2016, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order, or the "Confirmation Order," confirming the Plan. On July 15, 2016, or the "Effective Date," the Plan became effective pursuant to its terms and the Debtors emerged from their Chapter 11 Cases.

On the Effective Date, by operation of the Plan, among other things:

- Verso issued 33,366,784 shares of its new Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or "Class A Common Stock," 1,023,859 shares of its new Class B common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or "Class B Common Stock," and warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,810,035 shares of Class A Common Stock, or "Plan Warrants," in exchange for the elimination of \$2.6 billion of the Debtor's outstanding indebtedness (principal and accrued interest);
- All general unsecured claims were satisfied in full for an aggregate settlement totaling \$3 million in cash (except with respect to general unsecured claims against Debtors that have only de minimis assets, which will receive no distributions under the Plan);
- All shares of Verso's common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Date were cancelled and discharged;
- The shared services agreement between Verso, NewPage and NewPage Corp was terminated;

- The prior employee incentive plans and other employment agreements were terminated and any awards issued under them were no longer honored, and a new performance incentive plan was adopted by Verso;
- The Management and Transaction Fee Agreement dated as of August 1, 2006 among Verso Paper LLC, Verso Paper Investments LP, Apollo Management V, L.P. and Apollo Management VI, L.P., and all rights and remedies thereunder were terminated, extinguished, waived and released; and
- Employee retirement contracts and collective bargaining agreements were honored by Verso upon emergence.

Pursuant to the Plan, on the Effective Date, the Company entered into a \$375 million asset-based revolving credit facility or the “Exit ABL Facility”, and a senior secured term loan agreement or the “Exit Term Loan Facility” that provides for term loan commitments of \$220 million or collectively the “Exit Credit Facilities.” Further, Verso Holdings borrowed \$340 million under the Exit Credit Facilities on the Effective Date, with available loan proceeds of \$318 million, consisting of (i) the borrowing of \$120 million under the Exit ABL Facility and (ii) the borrowing of \$198 million (\$220 million net of original issue discount) under the Exit Term Loan Facility. The proceeds of the borrowings on the Effective Date under the Exit Credit Facilities were used (i) to repay outstanding indebtedness under the DIP Facilities, (ii) to pay outstanding allowed administrative expenses and allowed claims in accordance with the Plan, and (iii) to pay fees, costs and expenses related to and contemplated by the Exit Credit Facilities and emergence by Verso and its subsidiaries from bankruptcy.

#### *Financial Reporting Under Reorganization*

See Note 2 of our Unaudited Condensed Consolidating Financial Statements for further discussion of financial reporting implications related to our Chapter 11 Cases, and emergence therefrom.

#### *Capacity Reductions*

On August 20, 2015, Verso announced plans to make production capacity reductions at two of our mills by shutting down the No. 1 pulp dryer and No. 2 paper machine at our Androscoggin Mill in Jay, Maine, and by indefinitely idling our Wickliffe Mill in Wickliffe, Kentucky. Together, these actions reduced our production capacity by approximately 430,000 tons of coated paper and approximately 130,000 tons of dried market pulp. On April 5, 2016, we announced our decision to permanently close the Wickliffe Mill and the associated Property, plant and equipment were written down to salvage value. On November 1, 2016, we announced the temporary idling of the No. 3 paper machine at our Androscoggin Mill, reducing annual coated paper production capacity by approximately 200,000 tons. On July 19, 2017, we announced plans to permanently shut down the No. 3 paper machine and associated equipment.

#### **Presentation of Predecessor and Successor**

We adopted fresh-start reporting as of the Effective Date. As a result of the application of fresh-start reporting, our financial statements for periods prior to the Effective Date are not comparable to those for periods subsequent to the Effective Date. References in this report to “Successor” refer to the Company on or after the Effective Date. References to “Predecessor” refer to the Company prior to the Effective Date. Operating results for the Successor and Predecessor periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for a full year. References such as the “Company,” “we,” “our” and “us” refer to Verso, whether Predecessor and/or Successor, as appropriate.

Management’s discussion and analysis of the results of operations and of liquidity compare the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 to the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2016. Presentation of the combined financial information of the Predecessor and Successor for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2016 is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, or “GAAP.” However, we believe that for purposes of discussion and analysis in this Form 10-Q, the combined financial results are useful for management and investors to assess the Company’s ongoing financial and operational performance and trends.

#### **Results of Operations**

The following tables set forth the historical results of operations of Verso for the periods indicated below. The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this quarterly report.

Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2016

|   | Predecessor                              | Successor                                      |   |                          |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------|
|   | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 | Three Month<br>\$ Change |
| (Dollars in millions)   |  |  |   |                          |
| <b>Net sales</b>  | \$ 97                                    | \$ 578   | \$ 621                                      | \$ (54)                  |
| <b>Costs and expenses:</b>  |  |  |   |                          |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 83                                       | 559  | 552   | (90)                     |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion                                      | 7  | 24   | 27  | (4)                      |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                                  | 8  | 23   | 24  | (7)                      |
| Restructuring charges   | —  | 2  | 4   | 2                        |
| Other operating (income) expense  | —  | 2  | —   | (2)                      |
| <b>Operating income (loss)</b>  | (1)                                      | (32)   | 14  | 47                       |
| Interest expense  | 2  | 8  | 10  | —                        |
| <b>Income (loss) before reorganization items, net</b>                         | (3)                                      | (40)   | 4   | 47                       |
| Reorganization items, net   | (1,302)                                  | —  | —   | 1,302                    |
| <b>Income (loss) before income taxes</b>                                      | 1,299                                    | (40)   | 4   | (1,255)                  |
| Income tax expense  | —  | —  | —   | —                        |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>  | \$ 1,299                                 | \$ (40)  | \$ 4  | \$ (1,255)               |

*Net Sales.* Net sales for the three months ended September 30, 2017 decreased by \$54 million compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016. This decrease was attributable to an 8% decrease in total sales volume, from 817 thousand tons during the three months ended September 30, 2016 to 748 thousand tons for the same period of the current year, partially offset by a 1% increase in price, from \$826 per ton during the three months ended September 30, 2016 to \$830 per ton for the same period of the current year. The decrease in sales volume resulted in a \$57 million decrease in revenue, while the increased pricing and improvement in product mix, resulted in a \$3 million increase in revenue. The decrease in volume was driven by general softening of demand for coated papers and capacity reductions at the Androscoggin Mill.

*Cost of sales.* Cost of products sold, excluding depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses, decreased \$90 million, or 14%, in the three months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016. Our gross margin, excluding depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses, was 11.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2017, compared to 4.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2016, reflecting an incremental increase of \$36 million in gross margin. Gross margin for the three months ended September 30, 2016 was negatively impacted by work-in-process and inventory fair value adjustments associated with fresh-start accounting of \$41 million. Without these fresh-start accounting adjustments, gross margin percentage would have been relatively flat for the three months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016. Gross margin for the three months ended September 30, 2017 was positively impacted by reductions in manufacturing overhead costs, lower maintenance costs, timing of major maintenance activities which were performed more during the third quarter in 2016 versus the second quarter in 2017, capacity reductions at the Androscoggin Mill and increased sales price, offset by lower sales volume, higher freight rates and the effects of taking downtime at our mills.

*Depreciation, amortization and depletion.* Depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2017 decreased \$4 million, or 13%, from the three months ended September 30, 2016. The reduction in depreciation, amortization and depletion is attributable to the capacity reductions at our Androscoggin Mill and the reduction in the carrying value of our property, plant and equipment as a result of the adoption of fresh-start accounting.

*Selling, general and administrative expenses.* Selling, general and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2017 decreased \$7 million, or 23%, compared to the same period of the prior year primarily attributable to cost reduction initiatives implemented across the Company. As a percentage of sales, Selling, general and administrative expenses were 3.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 4.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2016.

*Reorganization items, net.* Reorganization items, net, which represent expenses and income associated with the Chapter 11 Cases, resulted in a net gain of \$1,302 million for the period from January 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor). This amount was driven primarily by a gain on settlement of liabilities subject to compromise, or “LSTC,” and the DIP Facilities of \$1,992 million offset by a loss of \$651 million due to the revaluation of our assets and liabilities as part of the application of fresh-start accounting as of the Effective Date. We also incurred \$20 million of professional fees paid for legal, consulting and other bankruptcy-related costs and services.

#### Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016

|   | Predecessor                                 | Successor                                      |  |                         |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------------|
|   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 | Nine Month<br>\$ Change |
| (Dollars in millions)   |   |  |  |                         |
| <b>Net sales</b>  | \$ 1,417                                    | \$ 578   | \$ 1,822                                   | \$ (173)                |
| <b>Costs and expenses:</b>  |   |  |  |                         |
| Cost of products sold (exclusive of depreciation, amortization and depletion) | 1,249                                       | 559  | 1,683                                      | (125)                   |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion                                      | 100   | 24   | 87   | (37)                    |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                                  | 95  | 23   | 81   | (37)                    |
| Restructuring charges   | 151   | 2  | 8  | (145)                   |
| Other operating (income) expense  | (57)  | 2  | —  | 55                      |
| <b>Operating income (loss)</b>  | (121)                                       | (32)   | (37)                                       | 116                     |
| Interest expense  | 39  | 8  | 29   | (18)                    |
| <b>Income (loss) before reorganization items, net</b>                         | (160)                                       | (40)   | (66)                                       | 134                     |
| Reorganization items, net   | (1,338)                                     | —  | —  | 1,338                   |
| <b>Income (loss) before income taxes</b>                                      | 1,178                                       | (40)   | (66)                                       | (1,204)                 |
| Income tax expense  | —   | —  | —  | —                       |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>  | \$ 1,178                                    | \$ (40)  | \$ (66)                                    | \$ (1,204)              |

*Net Sales.* Net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 decreased by \$173 million compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016. This decrease was attributable to a 7% reduction in volume from 2,379 thousand tons during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 to 2,210 thousand tons during the same period of the current year and a 2% reduction in price, from \$838 per ton during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 to \$824 per ton for the same period of the current year. The decrease in sales volume resulted in \$142 million of reduced revenue, while the reduced pricing, partially offset by improvement in product mix, resulted in an additional \$31 million decrease in revenue. The decrease in volume and pricing were driven by general softening of demand for coated papers and our capacity reductions at our Androscoffin Mill.

*Cost of sales.* Cost of products sold, excluding depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses, decreased \$125 million, or 7%, in the nine months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016. Our gross margin, excluding depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses, was 7.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, compared to 9.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, reflecting an incremental decrease of \$48 million in gross margin. Gross margin for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 was negatively impacted by work-in-process and inventory fair value adjustments associated with fresh-start accounting of \$41 million. Gross margin for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was negatively impacted by lower sales volume, lower sales prices, inflation in chemicals and energy costs and inventory reduction initiatives, partially offset by lower wood costs and reductions in manufacturing overhead costs.

*Depreciation, amortization and depletion.* Depreciation, amortization and depletion expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 decreased \$37 million, or 30%, from the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The reduction in depreciation, amortization and depletion is attributable to the capacity reductions at our Androscoffin Mill, the closure of the Wickliffe Mill and the reduction in the carrying value of our property, plant and equipment as a result of the adoption of fresh-start accounting. These reductions were partially offset by \$6 million of accelerated depreciation recognized in the first quarter of 2017 in connection with the temporary idling of the No. 3 paper machine at our Androscoffin Mill.

*Selling, general and administrative expenses.* Selling, general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 decreased \$37 million, or 31%, compared to the same period of the prior year primarily attributable to cost reduction initiatives implemented across the Company and a change in accounting policy adopted in connection with fresh-start accounting related to certain centralized manufacturing overhead costs of \$13 million previously presented in Selling, general and administrative expenses of the Predecessor that are now presented in Cost of products sold of the Successor. In addition, Selling, general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 included \$6 million in costs incurred in connection with pre-reorganization advisory and legal services related to planning for the Chapter 11 Cases. As a percentage of sales, Selling, general and administrative expenses were 4.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 5.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2016.

*Restructuring charges.* Restructuring charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 decreased \$145 million from the same period of the prior year. Restructuring charges during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 are primarily associated with the announced closure and relocation of the Memphis office headquarters and closure of the Wickliffe Mill. Restructuring charges during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 consisted primarily of non-cash fixed asset write-down charges from the closure of the Wickliffe Mill.

*Other operating (income) expense.* Other operating income of \$55 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 was primarily attributable to the sale of hydroelectric facilities in January 2016.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 decreased \$18 million, or 38%, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016. For the nine months ended September 30, 2016, we ceased recording interest expense as of the Petition Date on outstanding pre-petition debt classified as Liabilities subject to compromise. Such interest on pre-petition debt was stayed by the Bankruptcy Court effective on the Petition Date. During the pendency of the bankruptcy, we incurred interest expense on the DIP Facilities. For periods subsequent to the Effective Date, we incurred interest expense on the outstanding balance of the Exit Credit Facilities.

*Reorganization items, net.* Reorganization items, net, which represent expenses and income associated with the Chapter 11 Cases, resulted in a net gain of \$1,338 million for the period from January 1, 2016 through July 14, 2016 (Predecessor). This amount was driven primarily by a gain on settlement of LSTC and the DIP Facilities of \$1,992 million offset by a loss of \$651 million due to the revaluation of our assets and liabilities as part of the application of fresh-start accounting as of the Effective Date. Additionally we recognized a gain of \$81 million associated with the write-off of unamortized deferred financing costs related to pre-Petition Date debt. We also incurred \$52 million of professional fees paid for legal, consulting and other bankruptcy-related costs and services.

#### **Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA**

EBITDA consists of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA reflects adjustments to EBITDA to eliminate the impact of certain items that we do not consider to be indicative of our performance. We use EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA as a way of evaluating our performance relative to that of our peers and to assess compliance with our credit facilities. We believe that Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP operating performance measure commonly used in our industry that provides investors and analysts with a measure of ongoing operating results unaffected by differences in capital structures, capital investment cycles and ages of related assets among otherwise comparable companies.

We believe that the supplemental adjustments applied in calculating Adjusted EBITDA are reasonable and appropriate to provide additional information to investors.

Because EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are not measurements determined in accordance with GAAP and are susceptible to varying calculations, EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, as presented, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies. You should consider our EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA in addition to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, our operating or net income or cash flows from operating activities, which are determined in accordance with GAAP.

The following table reconciles net income (loss) to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA for the periods presented:

|   | Predecessor                                 |  | Successor                                       |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | July 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14,<br>2016 | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14,<br>2016 | July 15, 2016<br>Ended<br>September 30,<br>2016 | Three Months<br>Ended<br>September 30,<br>2017 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30,<br>2017 |
| (Dollars in millions)                             |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>                          | \$ 1,299                                    | \$ 1,178                                       | \$ (40)   | \$ 4   | \$ (66)                                       |
| Income tax expense                                | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   |
| Interest expense, net                             | 2   | 39   | 8   | 10   | 29  |
| Depreciation, amortization and depletion          | 7   | 100  | 24  | 27   | 87  |
| <b>EBITDA</b>                                     | \$ 1,308                                    | \$ 1,317                                       | \$ (8)  | \$ 41  | \$ 50   |
| Adjustments to EBITDA:                            |   |  |   |  |   |
| Reorganization items, net <sup>(1)</sup>          | (1,302)                                     | (1,338)  | —   | —  | —   |
| Restructuring charges <sup>(2)</sup>              | —   | 151  | 2   | 4  | 8   |
| Fresh-start accounting adjustments <sup>(3)</sup> | 3   | 3  | 44  | —  | —   |
| (Gain) loss on disposal of assets <sup>(4)</sup>  | —   | (57)   | —   | —  | 1   |
| Pre- and post-reorganization costs <sup>(5)</sup> | —   | 6  | 2   | 1  | 1   |
| Other severance costs <sup>(6)</sup>              | —   | 2  | 1   | —  | 5   |
| Other items, net <sup>(7)</sup>                   | —   | 11   | —   | 1  | 4   |
| <b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>                            | \$ 9  | \$ 95  | \$ 41   | \$ 47  | \$ 69   |

(1) Net gains associated with the Chapter 11 Cases.

(2) For 2017, charges are primarily associated with the announced closure and relocation of the Memphis office headquarters and closure of the Wickliffe Mill. For 2016, charges are primarily associated with the closure of the Wickliffe Mill, of which \$137 million is non-cash.

(3) Non-cash charges related to the one-time impacts of adopting fresh-start accounting.

(4) Realized gain on the sale of assets was primarily attributable to the sale of hydroelectric facilities in January 2016.

(5) Costs incurred in connection with advisory and legal services related to planning for and emerging from the Chapter 11 Cases.

(6) Severance and related benefit costs not associated with restructuring activities.

(7) For 2017, costs incurred in connection with the re-engineering of information systems, non-cash equity award expense, costs associated with the temporary idling of the No. 3 paper machine at the Androscoggin Mill, and miscellaneous other non-recurring adjustments. For 2016, costs associated with the indefinite idling of the Wickliffe Mill, non-cash equity award expense, unrealized losses (gains) on energy-related derivative contracts, and miscellaneous other non-recurring adjustments.

## Seasonality

We are exposed to fluctuations in quarterly net sales volumes and expenses due to seasonal factors. These seasonal factors are common in the coated paper industry. Our third quarter is generally our strongest quarter for volume and revenue, reflecting an increase in printing related to end-of-year magazines, increased end-of-year direct mailings, and holiday season catalogs. Our working capital and accounts receivable generally peak in the third quarter, while inventory generally peaks in the second quarter in anticipation of the third quarter season. We expect our seasonality trends to continue for the foreseeable future.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our historical negative cash flows from operations caused an inability to support our significant interest payments and debt maturities and a need to refinance and/or extend the maturities of our outstanding debt. On January 26, 2016, Verso and substantially all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for relief under the Bankruptcy Code in the Bankruptcy Court. The Chapter 11 Filings constituted an event of default and automatic acceleration under the agreements governing all of our pre-petition debt (excluding the \$23 million loan from Verso Finance Holdings to Chase NMTC Verso Investment Fund).

Verso emerged from its Chapter 11 Cases on July 15, 2016. Pursuant to the Plan, on July 15, 2016, we entered into a \$375 million Exit ABL Facility and a \$220 million Exit Term Loan Facility. We borrowed \$340 million under the Exit Credit Facilities on July 15, 2016, with available loan proceeds of \$318 million, consisting of \$120 million of borrowings under the asset-based revolving credit facility and \$198 million (\$220 million net of original issue discount) of borrowings under the term

loan agreement. On July 15, 2016, we paid in full, amounts outstanding on the DIP Facilities with proceeds from the Exit Credit Facilities. As of September 30, 2017, the outstanding balance of the Exit ABL Facility was \$117 million, with \$55 million in letters of credit issued, and \$175 million available for future borrowings.

During the three months ended September 30, 2017, we elected to make a \$20 million voluntary principal prepayment on the Exit Term Loan Facility, from available liquidity including amounts under our Exit ABL Facility, and applied that payment against the final maturity amount due in October 2021.

On October 19, 2017, we elected to make an additional \$20 million voluntary principal prepayment on the Exit Term Loan Facility, from available liquidity including amounts under our Exit ABL Facility, and applied that payment against the final maturity amount due in October 2021.

Our cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities, as reflected in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, are summarized in the following table.

|   | Predecessor                                 |  | Successor                                      |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|   | January 1, 2016<br>Through<br>July 14, 2016 |  | July 15, 2016<br>Through<br>September 30, 2016 | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30, 2017 |
| (Dollars in millions)                   |   |  |  |  |
| Net cash provided by (used in):         |   |  |  |  |
| Operating activities                    | \$ 25                                       |  | \$ (13)  | \$ 64                                      |
| Investing activities                    | 29  |  | (18)   | (29)                                       |
| Financing activities                    | (11)  |  | (9)  | (35)                                       |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | \$ 43                                       |  | \$ (40)  | \$ —                                       |

*Operating activities.* In the first nine months of 2017, net cash provided by operating activities of \$64 million, primarily reflects a net loss of \$66 million offset by cash provided from working capital of \$55 million, primarily attributable to an increase in accounts payable and reductions in inventory levels, and non-cash depreciation, amortization and depletion of \$87 million.

In the period from July 15 to September 30, 2016 (Successor), net cash used in operating activities of \$13 million primarily reflects a net loss of \$40 million offset by non-cash depreciation, amortization and depletion of \$24 million. In the period from January 1 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), net cash provided by operating activities of \$25 million was driven by net income of \$1,178 million, net cash provided from working capital of \$34 million, non-cash depreciation, amortization and depletion, gain on sale of assets and non-cash restructuring charges of \$180 million, and the adjustment for debtor-in-possession financing costs of \$22 million, offset by non-cash reorganization items of \$1,390 million.

*Investing activities.* In the first nine months of 2017, net cash used in investing activities consists of \$29 million of capital expenditures.

In the period from July 15 to September 30, 2016 (Successor), net cash used in investing activities of \$18 million consists primarily of \$21 million cash used for capital expenditures offset by a \$3 million transfer from restricted cash. In the period from January 1 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), net cash provided by investing activities of \$29 million consists primarily of \$63 million of proceeds from the sale of certain hydroelectric generation facilities and related assets, partially offset by \$31 million of capital expenditures.

*Financing activities.* In the first nine months of 2017, net cash used in financing activities of \$35 million, resulted primarily from \$41 million of repayments related to the Exit Term Loan Facility partially offset by net borrowings of \$6 million on our Exit ABL Facility.

In the period from July 15 to September 30, 2016 (Successor), net cash used in financing activities of \$9 million resulted primarily from net payments of \$4 million on the Exit ABL Facility and \$4 million of payments on the Exit Term Loan Facility. In the period from January 1 to July 14, 2016 (Predecessor), net cash used in financing activities of \$11 million resulted primarily from net payments on pre-petition revolving credit facilities of \$299 million and \$22 million of debtor-in-possession financing costs, offset by proceeds from the Exit ABL Facility of \$120 million and proceeds net of debt issuance cost and original issue discount of the Exit Term Loan Facility of \$190 million.

*Exit Credit Facilities.* On the Effective Date, pursuant to the terms of Plan, Verso Holdings entered into a \$375 million Exit ABL Facility and an Exit Term Loan Facility that provides for term loan commitments of \$220 million with loan proceeds of \$198 million after the deduction of the original issue discount of \$22 million.

Verso Holdings borrowed \$340 million under the Exit Credit Facilities on the Effective Date, with available loan proceeds of \$318 million, consisting of (i) the borrowing of \$120 million under the Exit ABL Facility and (ii) the net borrowing of \$198 million (\$220 million par value less \$22 million of original issue discount) under the Exit Term Loan Facility. The proceeds of the borrowings on the Effective Date under the Exit Credit Facilities were used (i) to repay outstanding indebtedness under the debtor-in-possession financing credit agreements, (ii) to pay outstanding allowed administrative expenses and allowed claims in accordance with the Plan, and (iii) to pay fees, costs and expenses related to and contemplated by the Exit Credit Facilities and emergence by Verso and its subsidiaries from bankruptcy. The proceeds of the borrowings under the Exit ABL Facility after the Effective Date will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes, including permitted acquisitions.

The Exit ABL Facility will mature on July 14, 2021. The outstanding borrowings under the Exit ABL Facility bear interest at a per annum rate equal to, at the option of Verso Holdings, either (i) a customary London interbank offered rate, or "LIBOR," plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.25% to 2.00% or (ii) a customary base rate plus an applicable margin ranging from 0.25% to 1.00%, determined based upon the average excess availability under the Exit ABL Facility. Verso Holdings is also required to pay a commitment fee for the unused portion of the Exit ABL Facility, which ranges from 0.25% to 0.375% per annum, based upon the average revolver usage under the Exit ABL Facility. Verso Holdings has the right to prepay loans under the Exit ABL Facility at any time without a prepayment penalty, other than customary "breakage" costs with respect to eurocurrency loans. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the outstanding balance of the Exit ABL Facility was \$117 million, with \$55 million in letters of credit issued, and \$175 million available for future borrowings. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding Exit ABL Facility borrowings was 3.28%. We incurred \$3 million of debt issuance costs associated with the Exit ABL Facility and recorded this amount as a direct deduction of the debt liability, which is being amortized over the life of the Exit ABL Facility.

The Exit Term Loan Facility will mature on October 14, 2021. The outstanding borrowings under the Exit Term Loan Facility bear interest at a rate equal to, at the option of Verso Holdings, either (i) LIBOR (subject to a floor of 1%) plus 11% or (ii) a customary base rate plus 10%. With respect to LIBOR denominated loans under the Exit Credit Facilities, Verso Holdings may elect an interest period of one, two, three or six months or such other period subject to the terms of the Exit Credit Facilities. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), the Exit Term Loan's interest rate was 12.32% per annum. The term loans provided under the Exit Term Loan Facility are subject to quarterly principal amortization payments in an amount equal to the greater of (a) 2.00% of the initial principal amount of the term loans or (b) the excess cash flow in respect of such quarter as further described under the Exit Term Loan Facility; however, if the liquidity, as defined in the Exit Term Loan Facility, of Verso Holdings is less than \$75 million at any time during the 90-day period following the due date of such quarterly amortization payment or excess cash flow payment date, then the portion of such amortization amount that results in such liquidity being less than \$75 million will not be payable by Verso Holdings, as further described in the Exit Term Loan Facility.

Per the described quarterly principal amortization, installments due are \$4 million (subject to increase depending on excess cash flow) for each quarter ending in 2016 through 2021 with the remaining balance due on October 14, 2021. As the result of the excess cash flow requirement, we were obligated to fund an additional principal amortization of \$7 million in the first quarter of 2017, which is reflected in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor). During the three months ended September 30, 2017, we made a \$20 million voluntary principal prepayment on the Exit Term Loan Facility. As of September 30, 2017 (Successor), we had an aggregate principal amount of \$171 million outstanding under the Exit Term Loan Facility. On October 19, 2017, we made an additional \$20 million voluntary principal prepayment on the Exit Term Loan Facility. Any voluntary prepayment by Verso Holdings of the term loans under the Exit Term Loan Facility will be subject to customary "breakage" costs with respect to eurocurrency loans and a 2% prepayment premium until July 14, 2018, and a 1% prepayment premium after July 15, 2018, but before July 14, 2020, and thereafter no prepayment premium will apply to any voluntary prepayment of term loans. Such prepayment premium may also apply to certain repricing amendments of the Exit Term Loan Facility as further described therein. We incurred \$8 million of debt issuance costs associated with the Exit Term Loan Facility and recorded this amount as a direct deduction of the debt liability, which is being amortized over the life of the Exit Term Loan Facility.

All obligations under the Exit Credit Facilities are unconditionally guaranteed by Verso Finance and certain of the subsidiaries of Verso Holdings, and are secured by liens on certain assets of Verso Finance and liens on substantially all of the assets of Verso Holdings and the other guarantor subsidiaries. The security interest with respect to the Exit ABL Facility consists of a first-priority lien on the current assets of Verso Holdings and the guarantor subsidiaries, including accounts receivables, inventory, deposit accounts, securities accounts and commodities accounts, and a second-priority lien on all other collateral.

The security interest, with respect to the Exit Term Loan Facility, consists of a first-priority lien on all other collateral and second-priority lien on collateral securing the Exit ABL Facility.

The Exit Credit Facilities contain financial covenants requiring us, among other things, to maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio in certain circumstances and a maximum total net leverage ratio. The Exit Credit Facilities also contain restrictions, among other things and subject to certain exceptions, on our ability to incur debt or liens, pay dividends, repurchase equity interest, prepay indebtedness, sell or dispose of assets, and make investments in or merge with another company.

If Verso Holdings were to violate any of the covenants under the Exit ABL Facility or the Exit Term Loan Facility and were unable to obtain a waiver, it would be considered a default after the expiration of any applicable grace period. If Verso Holdings were in default under any Exit Credit Facility, then the lenders thereunder may exercise remedies under such Exit Credit Facility in accordance with the terms thereof. In addition, if Verso Holdings were in default under the Exit ABL Facility, no additional borrowings under the Exit ABL Facility would be available until the default was waived or cured. The Exit Credit Facilities provide for customary events of default, including a cross-event of default provision in respect of any other existing debt instrument having an aggregate principal amount that exceeds \$25 million.

As of September 30, 2017, we were in compliance with the covenants in our Exit Credit Facilities.

## **Outlook**

During the three months ended September 30, 2017, we continued our focus on cash flow, reducing our debt, managing our inventory and working with suppliers on improving terms in response to our challenging environment. Our efforts led to another \$20 million voluntary prepayment on our term loan in October 2017. In addition, we were able to reduce our outstanding letters of credit by \$13 million in October 2017. We believe our focus on cash flow management and debt reduction will position us for improved financial results. Furthermore, as previously announced, our board of directors formed a Strategic Alternatives Committee in September 2017 in an effort to identify and evaluate potential strategic transaction alternatives. With the assistance of Houlihan Lokey Capital, Inc., the Company's financial advisor, the Strategic Alternatives Committee continues to evaluate a range of potential strategic opportunities. While our industry continues to be challenged from a demand standpoint, several competitor closures have been announced and we have begun to realize previously announced price increases.

## **Critical Accounting Policies**

Our accounting policies are fundamental to understanding management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations. Our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in conformity with GAAP and follow general practices within the industry in which we operate. The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make certain judgments and assumptions in determining accounting estimates. Accounting estimates are considered critical if the estimate requires management to make assumptions about matters that were highly uncertain at the time the accounting estimate was made, and different estimates reasonably could have been used in the current period, or changes in the accounting estimate are reasonably likely to occur from period to period, that would have a material impact on the presentation of our financial condition, changes in financial condition or results of operations.

For a discussion of our critical accounting policies and estimates, see "Critical Accounting Policies" included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations." We have made no significant changes to our critical accounting policies and estimates from those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

## **Recent Accounting Developments**

See Note 3, "Recent Accounting Developments" in the Notes to our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

### ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to market risk from fluctuations in our paper prices, interest rates, energy prices and commodity prices for our inputs.

#### Paper Prices

Our sales, which we report net of rebates, allowances and discounts, are a function of the number of tons of paper that we sell and the price at which we sell our paper. Paper prices historically have been a function of macroeconomic factors that influence supply and demand. Price has historically been substantially more variable than volume and can change significantly over relatively short time periods. Prices are also subject to volatility due to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies, especially the Euro, which can lead to lower average sales price realization.

We are primarily focused on serving the following end-user segments: general commercial print, catalogs and magazines. Coated paper demand is primarily driven by advertising and print media usage. Advertising spending and magazine and catalog circulation tend to correlate with gross domestic product in the United States, as they rise with a strong economy and contract with a weak economy, which impacts media spend which further impacts magazine and catalog subscriptions.

Many of our customers provide us with forecasts of their paper needs, which allows us to plan our production runs in advance, optimizing production over our integrated mill system and thereby reducing costs and increasing overall efficiency. Generally, our sales agreements do not extend beyond the calendar year, and they typically provide for semiannual price adjustments based on market price movements.

We reach our end-users through several channels, including printers, brokers, paper merchants and direct sales to end-users. We sell and market our products to approximately 300 customers. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Successor), our largest customer, Veritiv Corporation, accounted for approximately 19% of our total net sales.

#### Interest Rates

In January 2016, we and substantially all of our direct and indirect subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for relief under the Bankruptcy Code in the Bankruptcy Court. In connection with our Chapter 11 Cases, we entered into the DIP Facilities, which accrued interest at a variable rate. Upon the Effective Date, we entered into the Exit Credit Facilities. Borrowings under the Exit Credit Facilities accrue interest at a variable rate.

Our Exit ABL Facility and Exit Term Loan Facility each bear interest at a variable rate based on LIBOR or a customary base rate, in each case plus an applicable margin. Our Exit Term Loan Facility has a LIBOR floor of 1%. Assuming the principal amount outstanding under the Exit ABL Facility remains unchanged as of September 30, 2017 (Successor), and the Exit Term Loan Facility interest remains at or above the LIBOR floor, a 100 basis point increase in quoted interest rates on our outstanding floating-rate debt as of September 30, 2017 (Successor), would have increased our annual interest expense by \$3 million. While we may enter into agreements limiting our exposure to higher interest rates, any such agreements may not offer complete protection from this risk.

#### Commodity Prices

We are subject to changes in our cost of sales caused by movements underlying commodity prices. The principal components of our cost of sales are chemicals, wood, energy, labor, maintenance and depreciation, amortization and depletion. Costs for commodities, including chemicals, wood and energy, are the most variable component of our cost of sales because their prices can fluctuate substantially, sometimes within a relatively short period of time. In addition, our aggregate commodity purchases fluctuate based on the volume of paper that we produce.

*Wood Fiber.* We source our wood fiber from a broad group of timberland and sawmill owners located in our regions. Our costs to purchase wood are affected directly by market costs of wood in our regional markets and indirectly by the effect of higher fuel costs on logging and transportation of timber to our facilities. While we have fiber supply agreements in place that ensure a substantial portion of our wood requirements, purchases under these agreements are typically at market rates.

*Chemicals.* Chemicals utilized in the manufacturing of coated papers include latex, clay, starch, calcium carbonate, caustic soda, sodium chlorate and titanium dioxide. We purchase these chemicals from a variety of suppliers and are not dependent on any single supplier to satisfy our chemical needs. Occasionally imbalances in supply and demand create volatility in prices for certain chemicals.

*Energy.* We continue to produce a significant portion of our energy needs for our paper mills from sources such as waste wood, waste water, hydroelectric facilities, liquid biomass from our pulping process, and internal energy cogeneration facilities. Our external energy purchases vary across each of our mills and include fuel oil, natural gas, coal and electricity. Our overall energy expenditures are mitigated by our internal energy production capacity and ability to switch between certain energy sources. We also consider the use of derivative contracts as part of our risk management strategy to manage our exposure to market fluctuations in energy prices.

#### **ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

##### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in reports that we file and submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any disclosure controls and procedures, including the possibility of human error or the circumvention or overriding of the controls and procedures, and even effective disclosure controls and procedures can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives.

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2017. Based upon this evaluation, and subject to the foregoing, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of September 30, 2017.

##### **Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2017, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### **PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are involved from time to time in legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business. We do not believe that any liability that may result from these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

For a detailed discussion of risk factors affecting us, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

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

Not applicable.

#### **ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

Not applicable.

#### **ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

## ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

## ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are included with this report:

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description of Exhibit</u>   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3.1                   | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Verso Corporation. <sup>(1)</sup>  |
| 3.2                   | Amended and Restated Bylaws of Verso Corporation. <sup>(2)</sup>  |
| 4.1                   | Form of specimen Class A Common Stock certificate. <sup>(3)</sup>   |
| 4.2                   | Form of specimen Class B Common Stock certificate. <sup>(4)</sup>   |
| 4.3                   | Form of specimen Plan Warrant certificate. <sup>(5)</sup>   |
| 31.1                  | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934.</u></a>  |
| 31.2                  | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934.</u></a>  |
| 32.1                  | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Principal Executive Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code.</u></a> |
| 32.2                  | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Principal Financial Officer of Verso Corporation pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code.</u></a> |
| 101.INS               | XBRL Instance Document.   |
| 101.SCH               | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.   |
| 101.CAL               | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.   |
| 101.DEF               | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.  |
| 101.LAB               | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.   |
| 101.PRE               | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase.  |

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- (1) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Verso Corporation's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on July 15, 2016.  
(2) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Verso Corporation's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on July 15, 2016.  
(3) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Verso Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 19, 2016.  
(4) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Verso Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 19, 2016.  
(5) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Verso Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 19, 2016.



**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a) UNDER SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

I, B. Christopher DiSantis, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Verso Corporation (the “registrant”);
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant’s most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant’s auditors and the audit committee of the registrant’s board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 13, 2017

/s/ B. Christopher DiSantis

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B. Christopher DiSantis  
President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal  
Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a) UNDER SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

I, Allen J. Campbell, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Verso Corporation (the “registrant”);
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant’s most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant’s auditors and the audit committee of the registrant’s board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 13, 2017

/s/ Allen J. Campbell

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Allen J. Campbell  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(b) UNDER SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AND  
SECTION 1350 OF CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 18 OF UNITED STATES CODE**

In connection with the quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Verso Corporation (the "Company") for the quarter ended September 30, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, B. Christopher DiSantis, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: November 13, 2017

/s/ B. Christopher DiSantis

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B. Christopher DiSantis  
President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

A signed original of this statement has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the SEC or its staff upon request.

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(b) UNDER SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AND  
SECTION 1350 OF CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 18 OF UNITED STATES CODE**

In connection with the quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Verso Corporation (the "Company") for the quarter ended September 30, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Allen J. Campbell, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: November 13, 2017

/s/ Allen J. Campbell

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Allen J. Campbell  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

A signed original of this statement has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the SEC or its staff upon request.

