CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORP Form 10-K March 08, 2013 Table of Contents

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended: December 31, 2012

Commission File Number: 001-11590

CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

State of Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of

51-0064146 (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

909 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware 19904

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

302-734-6799

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class
Common Stock par value per share \$0.4867

Name of each exchange on which registered New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

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

8.25% Convertible Debentures Due 2014

(Title of class)

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendments to this Form 10-K. x

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

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer x

Non-accelerated filer " Smaller Reporting Company "

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

The aggregate market value of the common shares held by non-affiliates of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation as of June 30, 2012, the last business day of its most recently completed second fiscal quarter, based on the last trade price on that date, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, was approximately \$401.3 million.

As of February 28, 2013 9,598,674 shares of common stock were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference in Part II and Part III.

CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION

FORM 10-K

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

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GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

KEY TERMS

Acquisition adjustment: The recovery, through rates, and inclusion in rate base, of the premium (amount in excess of net book value) paid for an acquisition as approved by the state Public Service Commission for the regulated operations.

Allowed return: Return on equity or pre-tax, pre-interest rate of return on investment approved by the state Public Service Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the respective regulated operation.

Bulk delivery: Propane delivery to customers based on the level of propane remaining in the tank located at the customer s premises. We invoice and record revenues for the bulk delivery service at the time of delivery, rather than upon the customer s actual usage.

Cost of sales: Includes the purchased cost of natural gas, electricity and propane commodities, pipeline capacity costs needed to transport and store natural gas, transmission costs for electricity, transportation costs to transport propane purchases to our storage facilities and the direct cost of labor spent on revenue-producing activities.

Delmarva natural gas distribution operation: Chesapeake s Delaware and Maryland divisions.

Delmarva Peninsula: A peninsula on the east coast of the United States of America occupied by Delaware and portions of Maryland and Virginia. Chesapeake provides natural gas distribution, transmission and marketing services and propane distribution service to customers on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Electric distribution: Regulated electric distribution utility service. Florida Public Utilities Company provides this service to customers in northeast and northwest Florida. This service is regulated by the Florida Public Service Commission.

Firm service: Regulated utility service that cannot be disrupted to meet the needs of other customers.

Florida natural gas distribution operation: Chesapeake s Florida division and the natural gas operation of Florida Public Utilities Company, including its Indiantown division.

Fuel cost recovery mechanism: A regulatory method of adjusting the utility billing rates to reflect changes in the cost of purchased fuel for the natural gas and electric distribution operations. This allows matching of revenues with natural gas and electric supply and transportation costs and typically provides full recovery of such costs.

Gross margin: A non-GAAP measure, which Chesapeake uses to evaluate the performance of its business segments. Gross margin is calculated by deducting the cost of sales from operating revenues. A more detailed description of gross margin, including how we calculate it, is provided in the Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Interruptible service: Large commercial customers whose regulated utility service can be temporarily interrupted in order for the utility to meet the needs of firm service customers. The interruptible service customers pay lower delivery rates than firm service customers and they must be able to readily substitute an alternate fuel for natural gas.

Margins per gallon: A measure of profitability for propane distribution sales, calculated for each gallon of propane sold by deducting the cost of propane sold from the propane revenue.

Mark-to-market: The process of adjusting the carrying value of a position held in our forward contracts and derivative instruments to reflect their current fair value.

Natural gas distribution: Regulated natural gas distribution utility service. Both Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, through its Delaware, Maryland and Florida divisions, and Florida Public Utilities Company provide this service. This service is regulated by the Public Service Commission of each respective state.

Natural gas marketing: Unregulated natural gas supply and supply management service for the sale of the natural gas commodity directly to residential, commercial and industrial customers through competitively-priced contracts. Peninsula Energy Services Company, Inc. provides this service.

Natural gas transmission: Regulated natural gas transportation service provided by Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company and Peninsula Pipeline Company, Inc. The interstate transportation service provided by Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The intrastate transportation service provided by Peninsula Pipeline Company, Inc. in Florida is regulated by the Florida Public Service Commission.

Normal Weather: The most recent 10 year average of heating and/or cooling degree-days in a particular geographic area.

Propane distribution: Unregulated propane distribution service to residential, commercial, industrial and wholesale customers. This service can be provided through delivery to a propane tank located on the customer s premises or through an underground pipeline system.

Propane wholesale marketing: Unregulated service offering where propane is marketed to major independent oil and petrochemical companies, wholesale resellers and retail propane companies located primarily in the southeastern United States of America. This service typically utilizes forward or other option contracts that are financially settled. Xeron, Inc. provides this service.

Rate Case: A periodic filing with the state Public Service Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to establish equitable rates and balance the interests of all classes of customers and shareholders.

Regulated energy: The largest operating segment of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation. All operations in this segment are regulated as to their rates and service, by the Public Service Commission having jurisdiction in each state in which the Company operates or by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Transportation service: Natural gas service to customers whereby a customer purchases natural gas commodity directly from a supplier but pays the utility to transport the gas over its distribution or transmission system to the customer s facility.

DEFINITIONS

AFUDC: Allowance for funds used during construction

ASC: Accounting Standards Codification

ASU: Accounting Standards Update

BravePoint®, Inc., an advanced information services subsidiary, headquartered in Norcross, Georgia

CDD: Cooling degree-days, which is the measure of the variation in weather based on the extent to which the daily average temperature (from 10:00 am to 10:00 am) is above 65 degrees Fahrenheit

Chesapeake: Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, its divisions and its subsidiaries, as appropriate in the context of the disclosure

Chesapeake Pension Plan: A defined benefit pension plan sponsored by Chesapeake

Chesapeake Postretirement Plan: An unfunded postretirement health care and life insurance plan sponsored by Chesapeake

Chesapeake SERP: An unfunded supplemental executive retirement pension plan sponsored by Chesapeake

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Columbia: Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC

Company: Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, its divisions and its subsidiaries, as appropriate in the context of the disclosure

Crescent: Crescent Propane, Inc.

Delaware City Refinery: An oil refinery located in Delaware City, Delaware and owned by PBF Energy Inc.

Dodd-Frank Act: The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

DSCP: Directors Stock Compensation Plan

Dt: Dekatherm, which is a natural gas unit of measurement that includes a standard measure for heating value

Dts/d: Dekatherms per day

Eastern Shore: Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company, a wholly-owned natural gas transmission subsidiary of Chesapeake

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

ESG: Eastern Shore Gas Company and its affiliates

FASB: Financial Accounting Standards Board

FERC: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, an independent agency of the Federal government that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil

FDEP: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FDOT: Florida Department of Transportation

FGT: Florida Gas Transmission Company

FPU: Florida Public Utilities Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chesapeake as of October 28, 2009, the date we acquired FPU

FPU Medical Plan: A separate unfunded postretirement medical plan for FPU sponsored by Chesapeake

FPU Pension Plan: A separate defined benefit pension plan for FPU sponsored by Chesapeake

FRP: Fuel Retention Percentage

GAAP: Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

GRIP: Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program, which is a surcharge to natural gas customers designed to recover capital and other program-related costs, inclusive of an appropriate return on investment, associated with accelerating the replacement of qualifying distribution mains and services in Florida

GSR: Gas Service Rates

Gulf: Columbia Gulf Transmission Company

Gulf Power: Gulf Power Company

Gulfstream: Gulfstream Natural Gas System, LLC

HDD: Heating degree-days, which is a measure of the variation in weather based on the extent to which the daily average temperature (from 10:00 am to 10:00 am) is below 65 degrees Fahrenheit

IFRS: International Financial Accounting Standards

IGC: Indiantown Gas Company

IRS: Internal Revenue Service

MGP: Manufactured gas plant, which is a site where coal was previously used to manufacture gaseous fuel for industrial, commercial and residential use

MDE: Maryland Department of Environment

Marianna Commission: The City Commission of Marianna, Florida

MWH: Megawatt hour, which is a unit of measurement for electricity

NAM: Natural Attenuation Monitoring

NRG: NRG Energy Center Dover LLC

NYSE: New York Stock Exchange

OTC: Over-the-counter

PESCO: Peninsula Energy Services Company, Inc., a wholly-owned natural gas marketing subsidiary of Chesapeake

Peninsula Pipeline: Peninsula Pipeline Company, Inc., a wholly-owned Florida intrastate pipeline subsidiary of Chesapeake

Peoples Gas: The Peoples Gas System division of Tampa Electric Company

PIP: Performance Incentive Plan

PSC: Public Service Commission, which is the state agency that regulates the rates and services provided by Chesapeake s natural gas and electric distribution operations in Delaware, Maryland and Florida and Peninsula Pipeline in Florida

Rayonier: Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC

Sanford Group: Florida Public Utilities Company and other responsible parties involved with the Sanford environmental site

SEC: Securities and Exchange Commission

Sharp: Sharp Energy, Inc., a wholly-owned propane distribution subsidiary of Chesapeake.

S&P 500 Index: Standard & Poor s 500 Index

TETLP: Texas Eastern Transmission, LP

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TOU: Time-of-use

Transco: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Virginia LP: Virginia LP Gas, Inc.

Xeron: Xeron, Inc., a wholly-owned propane wholesale marketing subsidiary of Chesapeake, based in Houston, Texas

PART I

References in this document to Chesapeake, the Company, we, us and our mean Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, its divisions and/or its wholly-owned subsidiaries, as appropriate in the context of the disclosure.

Safe Harbor for Forward-Looking Statements

We make statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K that do not directly or exclusively relate to historical facts. Such statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. One can typically identify forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking words, such as project, believe, expect, anticipate, intend, plan, estimate, or potential, forecast or other similar words, or future or conditional verbs such as may, will, should, would or could. These statements recour intentions, plans, expectations, assumptions and beliefs about future financial performance, business strategy, projected plans and objectives of the Company. These statements are subject to many risks and uncertainties. In addition to the risk factors described under Item 1A Risk Factors, the following important factors, among others, could cause actual future results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements:

state and federal legislative and regulatory initiatives that affect cost and investment recovery, have an impact on rate structures, and affect the speed at and degree to which competition enters the electric and natural gas industries (including deregulation);

the outcomes of regulatory, tax, environmental and legal matters, including whether pending matters are resolved within current estimates and whether the costs associated with such matters are adequately covered by insurance or recovered in rates;

the loss of customers due to government-mandated sale of our utility distribution facilities;

industrial, commercial and residential growth or contraction in our markets or service territories;

the weather and other natural phenomena, including the economic, operational and other effects of hurricanes, ice storms and other damaging weather events;

the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices and interest rates;

general economic conditions, including any potential effects arising from terrorist attacks and any consequential hostilities or other hostilities or other external factors over which we have no control;

changes in environmental and other laws and regulations to which we are subject and environmental conditions of property that we now or may in the future own or operate;

the results of financing efforts, including our ability to obtain financing on favorable terms, which can be affected by various factors, including credit ratings and general economic conditions;

declines in the value of the pension plan assets and resultant cash funding requirements for our defined benefit pension plans;

the creditworthiness of counterparties with which we are engaged in transactions;

changes in technology affecting our advanced information services business.

the extent of success in connecting natural gas and electric supplies to transmission systems and in expanding natural gas and electric markets;

the effect of accounting pronouncements issued periodically by accounting standard-setting bodies;

conditions of the capital markets and equity markets during the periods covered by the forward-looking statements;

the ability to successfully execute, manage and integrate merger, acquisition or divestiture plans, regulatory or other limitations imposed as a result of a merger, acquisition or divestiture, and the success of the business following a merger, acquisition or divestiture;

the ability to establish and maintain new key supply sources;

the effect of spot, forward and future market prices on our distribution, wholesale marketing and energy trading businesses;

the effect of competition on our businesses;

the ability to construct facilities at or below estimated costs; and

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ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

(a) Overview

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Chesapeake or we) is a Delaware corporation that was formed in 1947. We are a diversified utility company engaged, through our operating divisions and subsidiaries, in various energy and other businesses. The core of our business is regulated energy, which provides stable earnings from utility operations on the Delmarva Peninsula and in Florida. Our unregulated energy and other businesses provide opportunities to achieve returns greater than those of a traditional utility. The following chart shows, in simplified form, our principal business structure:

On October 28, 2009, we completed a merger with Florida Public Utilities Company (FPU), pursuant to which FPU became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chesapeake. The acquisition of FPU significantly increased our overall presence in Florida and expanded our energy diversity by adding electric distribution to our business. As a result of the FPU acquisition, Chesapeake is a utility holding company subject to the regulatory oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

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(b) Operating Segments

We are composed of three operating segments:

Regulated Energy. The regulated energy segment includes natural gas distribution, natural gas transmission and electric distribution operations. All operations in this segment are regulated, as to their rates and service, by the Public Service Commission (PSC) having jurisdiction in each state in which we operate or by the FERC in the case of Eastern Shore Natural Gas (Eastern Shore).

Unregulated Energy. The unregulated energy segment includes propane distribution, propane wholesale marketing and natural gas marketing operations, which are unregulated as to their rates and services.

Other. The Other segment consists primarily of the advanced information services operation, unregulated subsidiaries that own real estate leased to Chesapeake and certain corporate costs not allocated to other operations.

The following table shows the size of each of our operating segments based on operating income for 2012 and net property, plant and equipment as of December 31, 2012:

			Net Property	, Plant
(dollars in thousands)	Operating In	ıcome	& Equipm	ient
Regulated Energy	\$ 46,999	\$ 46,999 83%		90%
Unregulated Energy	8,355	15%	38,582	7%
Other	1,281	2%	17,127	3%
Total	\$ 56,635	100%	\$ 541,781	100%

Additional financial information by business segment is included in Item 8 under the heading Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements Note 5, Segment Information.

(i) Regulated Energy

Overview of Business

The regulated energy segment is our largest segment and consists of natural gas distribution and transmission operations on the Delmarva Peninsula and in Florida and an electric distribution operation in Florida.

Natural gas supplies nearly one-fourth of the energy used in the United States. Due to its efficiency, cleanliness and reliability, natural gas is growing increasingly popular. Supplies of natural gas are abundant, and 98.5 percent of the natural gas used in the United States comes from North America. Natural gas is delivered to customers through a safe and efficient underground pipeline system. As the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, increased use of natural gas can help address various environmental concerns today.

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Natural Gas Distribution

Our Delmarva natural gas distribution operation serves 49,639 residential and 5,320 commercial and industrial customers in central and southern Delaware and on Maryland s eastern shore. For the year ended December 31, 2012, operating revenues and deliveries by customer class for our Delmarva natural gas distribution operation were as follows:

	Operating (in thou		Deliverie (in Dts)	
Residential	\$ 42,452	62%	2,511,444	28%
Commercial	19,250	29%	2,717,673	29%
Industrial	5,648	8%	3,876,693	42%
Subtotal	67,350	99%	9,105,810	99%
Interruptible	229	0%	124,063	1%
Other (1)	657	1%		
Total	\$ 68,236	100%	9,229,873	100%

Operating revenues from Other include unbilled revenue, rental of gas properties, and other miscellaneous charges. Our Florida natural gas distribution operation consists of Chesapeake s Florida division, FPU s natural gas operation, which was acquired in October 2009, and FPU s Indiantown division, which was acquired in August 2010. Each component of our Florida natural gas distribution operation is separately regulated, as to its rates and service, by the Florida PSC. On a combined basis, our Florida natural gas distribution operation serves 62,386 residential customers and 6,670 commercial and industrial customers in 21 counties in Florida. For the year ended December 31, 2012, operating revenues and deliveries by customer class for our Florida natural gas distribution operation were as follows:

	•	ting Revenues thousands)	Deliver	
Residential	\$ 24,:	578 33%	1,532,234	7%
Commercial	31,	331 42%	4,140,437	18%
Industrial	15,	897 20%	17,611,441	74%
Other (1)	3,	561 5%	181,566	1%
Total	\$ 75,	367 100%	23,465,678	100%

Natural Gas Transmission

Eastern Shore operates a 428-mile interstate pipeline system that transports natural gas from various points in Pennsylvania to our Delaware and Maryland natural gas distribution divisions, as well as to other utilities and industrial customers in southern Pennsylvania, Delaware and on the eastern shore of Maryland. Eastern Shore also provides swing transportation service and contract storage services. For the year ended December 31, 2012, operating revenues and deliveries by customer class for Eastern Shore were as follows:

Operating Revenues Deliveries

Operating revenues from Other include unbilled revenue, conservation revenue, fees for billing services provided to third parties, other miscellaneous charges and adjustments for pass-through taxes.

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	(in thousan	eds)	(in Dts)	
Local distribution companies	\$ 22,365	66%	7,765,044	23%
Industrial	8,548	25%	23,337,949	68%
Commercial	2,947	9%	2,986,146	9%
Other (1)	46	0%		
Subtotal	33,906	100%	34,089,139	100%
Less: affiliated local distribution companies	(14,125)		(4,082,037)	
Total non-affiliated	\$ 19,781		30,007,102	

Operating revenues from Other sources are from rental of gas properties and reserve for rate case refund. Peninsula Pipeline Company, Inc. (Peninsula Pipeline) provides natural gas transportation service to FPU s natural gas operation and an unaffiliated customer. Peninsula Pipeline transports natural gas to FPU in Nassau County, Florida, utilizing the 16-mile pipeline from the Duval/Nassau County line to Amelia Island in Nassau County, Florida, which Peninsula Pipeline jointly owns with the Peoples Gas System division of Tampa Electric Company (Peoples Gas), as well as other pipelines solely owned by Peninsula Pipeline. Peninsula Pipeline commenced service to FPU in Nassau County, Florida in April 2012 and generated \$1.6 million in operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2012.

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Peninsula Pipeline also provides natural gas transportation service to an unaffiliated customer under a 20-year agreement. This service, which began in January 2009, is provided at a fixed monthly charge through Peninsula Pipeline s eight-mile pipeline located in Suwanee County, Florida. For the year ended December 31, 2012, Peninsula Pipeline generated \$264,000 in operating revenues under the contract.

Electric Distribution

Our Florida electric distribution operation distributes electricity to 31,066 customers in four counties in northeast and northwest Florida. For the year ended December 31, 2012, operating revenues and deliveries by customer class for the FPU electric distribution operation were as follows:

	Operating Re		Deliveri (in MWH	
Residential	\$ 40,814	49%	292,980	44%
Commercial	38,079	46%	310,008	46%
Industrial	7,513	9%	58,640	9%
Subtotal	86,406	104%	661,628	99%
Other (1)	(3,845)	-4%	9,370	1%
Total	\$ 82,561	100%	670,998	100%

Operating revenues from Other include unbilled revenue, conservation revenue, other miscellaneous charges and adjustments for pass-through taxes.

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Supplies, Transmission and Storage

We believe that the availability of supply and transmission of natural gas and electricity is adequate under existing arrangements to meet the anticipated needs of customers.

Natural Gas Distribution- Delmarva Peninsula

Our Delaware and Maryland natural gas distribution divisions have both firm and interruptible transportation service contracts with five interstate open access pipeline companies, including our Eastern Shore pipeline. These divisions are directly interconnected with the Eastern Shore pipeline, and have contracts with interstate pipelines upstream of Eastern Shore, including Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company LLC (Transco), Columbia Gas Transmission LLC (Columbia), Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Gulf) and Texas Eastern Transmission, LP (TETLP). The Transco, Columbia and TETLP pipelines are directly interconnected with the Eastern Shore pipeline. The Gulf pipeline is directly interconnected with Columbia and indirectly interconnected with the Eastern Shore pipeline. None of the upstream pipelines is owned or operated by Chesapeake or any of its operating divisions and subsidiaries.

On April 8, 2010, our Delaware and Maryland divisions entered into a Precedent Agreement with TETLP in conjunction with TETLP s new expansion project. On February 23, 2012, in accordance with the terms outlined in the Precedent Agreement, our Delaware and Maryland divisions entered into two separate firm transportation service agreements with TETLP for 30,000 Dekatherms per day (Dts/d) and 10,000 Dts/d, respectively, commencing in November 2012. In November 2013, the maximum daily quantity under these agreements increases to 34,100 Dts/d and 15,900 Dts/d for our Delaware and Maryland divisions, respectively. These new firm transportation service agreements provide us with an additional direct interconnection with Eastern Shore s transmission system and access to new sources of supply from other natural gas production regions, including the Appalachian production region, thereby providing increased reliability and diversity of supply. They also provide our Delaware and Maryland divisions with needed upstream transportation capacity to meet current and projected customer requirements.

The Delaware and Maryland divisions use their firm transportation resources to meet a significant percentage of their projected demand requirements. They purchase firm natural gas supplies to meet those projected requirements with purchases of baseload, daily spot and storage service. This gas is transported by the upstream pipelines and delivered to their interconnections with the Eastern Shore pipeline. The Delaware and Maryland divisions also have the capability to use propane-air peak-shaving equipment to supplement or displace natural gas purchases.

The following table shows the firm transportation and storage capacity for peak-day deliverability that the Delaware and Maryland divisions currently have under contract with Eastern Shore and pipelines upstream of the Eastern Shore pipeline, including the respective contract expiration dates.

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Delaware

	Firm transportation capacity maximum peak-day daily deliverability	Firm storage capacity maximum peak-day daily withdrawal	
Pipeline	(in Dts)	(in Dts)	Expiration
Transco	21,423	6,230	Various dates between 2013 and 2028
Columbia	10,960	8,224	Various dates between 2014 and 2020
Gulf	880		Expires in 2014
TETLP	30,000		Expires in 2027
Eastern Shore	70,654	4,146	Various dates between 2013 and 2027

Maryland

	Firm transportation capacity maximum peak-day daily	Firm storage capacity maximum peak-day	
TO: 11	deliverability	daily withdrawal	T
Pipeline	(in Dts)	(in Dts)	Expiration
Transco	6,128	2,970	Various dates between 2013 and 2015
Columbia	4,200	3,663	Various dates between 2014 and 2019
Gulf	590		Expires in 2014
TETLP	10,000		Expires in 2027
Eastern Shore	27,398	2,307	Various dates between 2013 and 2027

Natural Gas Distribution Florida

Chesapeake s Florida natural gas distribution division has firm transportation service contracts with Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT) and Gulfstream Natural Gas System, LLC (Gulfstream). Pursuant to a program approved by the Florida PSC, all of the capacity under these agreements has been released to various third parties and Peninsula Energy Services Company, Inc. (PESCO), our natural gas marketing subsidiary. Under the terms of these capacity release agreements, Chesapeake is contingently liable to FGT and Gulfstream, should any party that acquired the capacity through release fail to pay for the service.

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Contracts by Chesapeake s Florida natural gas distribution division include two contracts with FGT, which expire on July 31, 2015 and 2020, and one contract with Gulfstream, which expires in 2022. These contracts are summarized in the following table:

		Daily Firm Transportation Capacity			
	Tı				
Pipeline	Month(s)	(in Dts)	Expiration		
FGT	January to December	1,000	July 2015		
FGT	November to April	17,639	July 2020		
FGT	May to September	15,092	July 2020		
FGT	October	16,579	July 2020		
Gulfstream	January to December	10,000	May 2022		

FPU has two firm transportation contracts with FGT, which expire in February 2015 and July 2020, respectively. FPU also has a third contract with FGT expiring in 2013, which contains reductions in the contracted transportation capacity between 2016 and 2023. FPU s firm transportation contract with Florida City Gas expires in 2013. In 2012, FPU entered into a 15-year firm transportation agreement with Peninsula Pipeline to provide natural gas service into Nassau and Okeechobee counties in Florida. These contracts are summarized in the following table:

D. 11 E.

		Daily Firm Transportation	
		Capacity	
Pipeline	Month(s)	(in Dts)	Expiration
Florida City Gas	January to December	300	December 2013
FGT	January to April	10,564	February 2015
FGT	May to October	4,478	February 2015
FGT	November to December	10,564	February 2015
FGT	January to March	29,421	July 2020
FGT	April	24,808	July 2020
FGT	May to September	9,943	July 2020
FGT	October	10,485	July 2020
FGT	November to December	29,421	July 2020
FGT	January to December	1,822	Various dates between 2016 and 2023
Peninsula Pipeline	January to December	7,500	December 2027

FPU uses gas marketers and producers to procure all of its gas supplies for its natural gas distribution operation. FPU also uses Peoples Gas to provide wholesale gas sales service in areas distant from its interconnections with FGT.

Natural Gas Transmission

Eastern Shore has three contracts with Transco for a total of 7,292 dekatherms (Dts) of firm peak day storage entitlements and total storage capacity of 288,003 Dts. One of the contracts expires in 2013 and the other two expire in 2023. Eastern Shore is in the process of negotiating a 10-year extension of the contract which expires in 2013. Eastern Shore has retained these firm storage services in order to provide swing transportation service and firm storage service to customers that have requested such services.

Electric Distribution

Our electric distribution operation purchases its wholesale electricity primarily from two suppliers, JEA (formerly known as Jacksonville Electric Authority) and Gulf Power Company (Gulf Power), under all requirements contracts expiring in December 2017 and 2019, respectively. The JEA contract provides generation and transmission service to northeast Florida. The Gulf Power contract provides generation and transmission service to northwest Florida. Our electric distribution operation also has a renewable energy purchase agreement with Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC (Rayonier). The Rayonier contract, which expires in 2023, commits FPU to purchase between 1.7 megawatt hour (MWH) and 3.0 MWH of electricity annually.

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Competition

See discussion of competition in Item 7 under the heading Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Competition.

Rates and Regulation

Our natural gas and electric distribution operations are subject to regulation by the Delaware, Maryland or Florida PSC with respect to various aspects of their business, including rates for sales and transportation to all customers in each respective regulatory jurisdiction. All of our firm distribution sales rates are subject to fuel cost recovery mechanisms, which match revenues with natural gas and electric supply and transportation costs and normally allow full recovery of such costs. Adjustments under these mechanisms, which are limited to such costs, require periodic filings and hearings with the state PSC having jurisdiction.

Eastern Shore is subject to regulation as an interstate pipeline by the FERC, which regulates the terms and conditions of service and the rates Eastern Shore can charge for its transportation and storage services. Peninsula Pipeline is subject to regulation by the Florida PSC.

The following table shows the regulatory jurisdictions under which our regulated energy businesses currently operate, including the effective dates of the most recent full rate proceedings and the rates of return that were authorized therein:

Regulated Business	Regulatory Jurisdiction	Effective Date of the Currrent Rates	Allowed Return
Chesapeake Delaware Division	Delaware PSC	9/3/2008	10.25% (1)
Chesapeake Maryland Division	Maryland PSC	12/1/2007	10.75% (1)
Chesapeake Florida Division	Florida PSC	1/14/2010	10.80% $^{(1)}$
FPU Natural Gas	Florida PSC	1/14/2010 (3)	10.85% (1)
FPU Indiantown Division	Florida PSC	6/17/2004	11.50% (1)
FPU Electric	Florida PSC	5/22/2008	11.00% ⁽¹⁾
Eastern Shore	FERC	7/29/2011	13.90% (2)

⁽¹⁾ Allowed return on equity

Management monitors the achieved rates of return of each of our regulated energy operations in order to ensure timely filing of rate cases.

Regulatory Proceedings

See discussion of regulatory activities in Item 8 under the heading Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements Note 17, Rates and Other Regulatory Activities.

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⁽²⁾ Allowed overall pre-tax, pre-interest rate of return

⁽³⁾ Effective date of the order approving the settlement agreement, which adjusted rates originally approved on June 4, 2009. Peninsula Pipeline provides services based on negotiated rates, which are approved by the Florida PSC.

Seasonality of Natural Gas and Electric Distribution Revenues

Revenues from our residential and commercial natural gas distribution activities are affected by seasonal variations in weather conditions, which directly influence the volume of natural gas and electricity sold and delivered. Specifically, customer demand substantially increases during the winter months, when natural gas and electricity are used for heating. For electricity, customer demand also increases during the summer months, when electricity is used for cooling. Accordingly, the volumes sold for these purposes are directly affected by the severity of summer and winter weather and can vary substantially from year to year. Sustained warmer-than-normal temperatures during the heating season will tend to reduce use of natural gas and electricity, while sustained colder-than-normal temperatures will tend to increase consumption. Sustained cooler-than-normal temperatures during the cooling season will negatively affect electricity consumption. We measure the relative impact of weather by using an accepted degree-day methodology. Degree-day data is used to estimate amounts of energy required to maintain comfortable indoor temperature levels based on each day s average temperature. A degree-day is the measure of the variation in the weather based on the extent to which the average daily temperature (from 10:00 am to 10:00 am) falls above or below 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Each degree of temperature below 65 degrees Fahrenheit is counted as one heating degree-day. Each degree of temperature above 65 degree Fahrenheit is counted as one cooling degree-day. Normal heating degree-days are based on the most recent 10-year average.

For the electric distribution operations in northeast and northwest Florida, hot summers and cold winters produce year-round electric sales that normally do not have large seasonal fluctuations.

In an effort to stabilize the level of net revenues collected from customers in Maryland regardless of weather conditions, we implemented a weather normalization adjustment for our residential heating and smaller commercial heating customers. A weather normalization adjustment is a billing adjustment mechanism that is designed to eliminate the effect of deviations from average seasonal temperatures on utility net revenues.

Delaware, like many other states, has been looking at ways to enable implementation of energy efficiency and is considering revenue decoupling, which is a mechanism for separating the revenue needed to recover the fixed cost of delivery from the variable cost that fluctuates with the amount of natural gas consumed. Although the Delaware PSC has been investigating whether to implement a revenue decoupling mechanism for the natural gas distribution utilities in the state, it is uncertain as to whether the Delaware PSC will require our Delaware natural gas distribution division to file a request for decoupling or whether our Delaware division will file such request on its own.

(ii) Unregulated Energy

Overview of Business

Our unregulated energy segment provides propane distribution, propane wholesale marketing and natural gas marketing services to customers.

Propane Distribution

Propane is a form of liquefied petroleum gas, which is typically extracted from natural gas or separated during the crude oil refining process. Although propane is a gas at normal pressure, it is easily compressed into liquid form for storage and transportation. Propane is a clean-burning fuel, gaining increased recognition for its environmental superiority, safety, efficiency, transportability and ease of use relative to alternative forms of fossil fuels. Propane is sold primarily in suburban and rural areas which are not served by natural gas distributors.

Our propane distribution operations sell propane primarily to residential, commercial/industrial and wholesale customers. Approximately 77 percent of operating revenues in 2012 were generated by the sales to retail residential, commercial and industrial customers. Sharp Energy Inc. (Sharp), our propane distribution subsidiary, serves 34,837 customers throughout Delaware, the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, and southeastern Pennsylvania. Our Florida propane distribution subsidiaries provide propane distribution service to 14,475 customers in various counties in Florida. For the year ended December 31, 2012, operating revenues and total gallons sold by our Delmarva and Florida propane distribution operations were as follows:

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Service Area	. 9	Operating Revenues (in thousands) \$ 60,985 76%		8	
Delmarva	\$ 60,985			84%	
Florida	18,931	24%	5,997	16%	
Total	\$ 79,916	100%	37,438	100%	

Propane Wholesale Marketing

Xeron, Inc. (Xeron), our propane wholesale marketing subsidiary, markets propane to major independent oil and petrochemical companies, wholesale resellers and retail propane companies located primarily in the southeastern United States. Xeron enters into forward contracts with various counterparties to commit to purchase or sell an agreed-upon quantity of propane at an agreed-upon price at a specified future date, which typically ranges from one to six months from the execution of the contract. At the expiration of the forward contracts, Xeron typically settles its purchases and sales financially without taking the physical delivery of propane. Xeron also enters into futures and other option contracts that are traded on the InterContinentalExchange, Inc. The level and profitability of the propane wholesale marketing activity is affected by both propane wholesale price volatility and liquidity in the wholesale market. In 2012, Xeron had operating revenues totaling approximately \$2.5 million, net of the associated cost of propane sold. For further discussion of Xeron s wholesale marketing activities, market risks and controls that monitor Xeron s risks, see Item 7 under the heading Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Market Risk.

Xeron does not own physical storage facilities or equipment to transport propane; however, it contracts for storage and pipeline capacity to facilitate the sale of propane on a wholesale basis.

Natural Gas Marketing

Our natural gas marketing subsidiary, PESCO, provides natural gas supply and supply management services to 3,189 customers in Florida and 28 customers on the Delmarva Peninsula. It competes with regulated utilities and other unregulated third-party marketers to sell natural gas supplies directly to commercial and industrial customers through competitively-priced contracts. PESCO does not own or operate any natural gas transmission or distribution assets. The gas that PESCO sells is delivered to retail customers through affiliated and non-affiliated local distribution company systems and transmission pipelines. PESCO bills its customers through the billing services of the regulated utilities that deliver the gas, or directly, through its own billing capabilities. For the year ended December 31, 2012, PESCO s operating revenues and deliveries were as follows:

Service Area	1	Operating Revenues (in thousands)		Deliveries (in Dts)	
Florida	\$ 42,019	86%	14,766,667	91%	
Delmarva	7,020	14%	1,544,849	9%	
Subtotal	49,039	100%	16,311,516	100%	
Less: sale to affiliate	(3,029)		(856,615)		
Total unaffiliated	\$ 46,010		15,454,901		

PESCO currently has contracts with natural gas production companies for the purchase of firm natural gas supplies. These contracts provide a maximum firm daily entitlement of 35,000 Dts and expire in May 2013. PESCO is currently in the process of obtaining and reviewing proposals from suppliers and anticipates executing agreements prior to the end of the term of the existing contracts.

Supplies, Transportation and Storage

Our propane distribution operations purchase propane primarily from suppliers, including major oil companies, independent producers of natural gas liquids and from Xeron. In current markets, supplies of propane from these and other sources are readily available for purchase.

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Our propane distribution operations use trucks and railroad cars to transport propane from refineries, natural gas processing plants or pipeline terminals to our bulk storage facilities. We own bulk propane storage facilities with an aggregate capacity of approximately 3.4 million gallons at various locations in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. From these storage facilities, propane is delivered by bobtail trucks, owned and operated by us, to tanks located at the customers premises.

Competition

See discussion of competition in Item 7 under the heading Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Competition.

Rates and Regulation

Propane distribution, propane wholesale marketing and natural gas marketing activities are not subject to any federal or state pricing regulation. Transport operations are subject to regulations concerning the transportation of hazardous materials promulgated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration within the United States Department of Transportation and enforced by the various states in which such operations take place. Propane distribution operations are also subject to state safety regulations relating to hook-up and placement of propane tanks.

Seasonality of Propane Revenues

Revenues from our propane distribution sales activities are affected by seasonal variations in weather conditions. Weather conditions directly influence the volume of propane sold and delivered to customers; specifically, customers—demand substantially increases during the winter months when propane is used for heating. Accordingly, the propane volumes sold for this purpose are directly affected by the severity of winter weather and can vary substantially from year to year. Sustained warmer-than-normal temperatures will tend to reduce propane use, while sustained colder-than-normal temperatures will tend to increase consumption.

Many of our propane distribution customers are bulk delivery customers. We make deliveries of propane to the bulk delivery customers as needed, based on the level of propane remaining in the tank located at the customer s premises. We invoice and record revenues for our bulk delivery service customers at the time of delivery, rather than upon customers actual usage, since the customers own the propane gas in the tank on their premises. The timing of deliveries to the bulk delivery customers can vary significantly from year to year depending on weather variation.

(iii) Other

The Other segment consists primarily of our advanced information services subsidiary, other unregulated subsidiaries that own real estate leased to Chesapeake and its subsidiaries and certain unallocated corporate costs, which are not directly attributable to a specific business unit.

Advanced Information Services

Our advanced information services subsidiary, BravePoint®, Inc. (BravePoint), is headquartered in Norcross, Georgia, and provides domestic and a limited number of international clients with information technology services and solutions for both enterprise and e-business applications.

Other Subsidiaries

Skipjack, Inc. and Eastern Shore Real Estate, Inc. own and lease office buildings in Delaware and Maryland to affiliates of Chesapeake. Chesapeake Investment Company is an affiliated investment company incorporated in Delaware.

(c) Additional Information about the Business

(i) Capital Budget

A discussion of capital expenditures by business segment and capital expenditures for environmental remediation facilities is included in Item 7 under the heading Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources.

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(ii) Employees

As of December 31, 2012, we had a total of 738 employees, 127 of whom are union employees represented by three labor unions: the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the International Chemical Workers Union and United Food and Commercial Workers Union, all of whose collective bargaining agreements expire in 2013.

(iii) Financial Information about Geographic Areas

All of our material operations, customers and assets are located in the United States.

(d) Available Information

As a public company, we file annual, quarterly and other reports, as well as our annual proxy statement and other information, with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549-5546; the public may obtain information from the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding the Company. The address of the SEC s Internet website is www.sec.gov. We make available, free of charge, on our Internet website, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. The address of our Internet website is www.chpk.com. The content of this website is not part of this report.

We have a Business Code of Ethics and Conduct applicable to all employees, officers and directors and a Code of Ethics for Financial Officers. Copies of the Business Code of Ethics and Conduct and the Code of Ethics for Financial Officers are available on our Internet website. We also adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines and Charters for the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors, each of which satisfies the regulatory requirements established by the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The Board of Directors has also adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines on Director Independence, which conform to the NYSE listing standards on director independence. These documents are available on our Internet website or may be obtained by writing to: Corporate Secretary; c/o Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, 909 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, DE 19904.

If we make any amendment to, or grant a waiver of, any provision of the Business Code of Ethics and Conduct or the Code of Ethics for Financial Officers applicable to our principal executive officer, president, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, the amendment or waiver will be disclosed within four business days in a press release, by website disclosure, or by filing a current report on Form 8-K with the SEC.

Our Chief Executive Officer certified to the NYSE on May 31, 2012, that as of that date, he was unaware of any violation by Chesapeake of the NYSE s corporate governance listing standards.

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ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

The following is a discussion of the primary factors that may affect the operations or financial performance of our regulated and unregulated businesses. Refer to the section entitled Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations under Item 7 of this report for an additional discussion of these and other related factors that affect our operations and/or financial performance.

Financial Risks

Instability and volatility in the financial markets could have a negative impact on our ability to access capital at competitive rates.

Our business strategy includes the continued pursuit of growth, both organically and through acquisitions. To the extent that we do not generate sufficient cash flow from operations, we may incur additional indebtedness to finance our growth. Specifically, we rely on access to both short-term and long-term capital markets as a significant source of liquidity for capital requirements not satisfied by the cash flows from our operations. We are committed to maintaining a sound capital structure and strong credit ratings to provide the financial flexibility needed to access the capital markets when required. However, if we are not able to access capital at competitive rates, our ability to implement our strategic plan, undertake improvements and make other investments required for our future growth may be limited.

A downgrade in our credit rating could adversely affect our access to capital markets and our cost of capital.

Our ability to obtain adequate and cost-effective capital depends on our credit ratings, which are greatly affected by our financial performance and the liquidity of financial markets. A downgrade in our current credit ratings could adversely affect our access to capital markets, as well as our cost of capital.

If we fail to comply with our debt covenant obligations, we could experience adverse financial consequences that could affect our liquidity and ability to borrow funds.

Our long-term debt obligations and committed short-term lines of credit contain financial covenants related to debt-to-capital ratios and interest-coverage ratios. Failure to comply with any of these covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the acceleration of outstanding debt obligations or the inability to borrow under certain credit agreements. Any such acceleration would cause a material adverse change in our financial condition.

An increase in interest rates may adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows.

An increase in interest rates, without the recovery of the higher cost of debt in the sales and/or transportation rates we charge our utility customers, could adversely affect future earnings. An increase in short-term interest rates would negatively affect our results of operations, which depend on short-term lines of credit to finance accounts receivable and storage gas inventories, as well as to temporarily finance capital expenditures.

Inflation may impact our results of operations, cash flows and financial position.

Inflation affects the cost of supply, labor, products and services required for operations, maintenance and capital improvements. To help cope with the effects of inflation on our capital investments and returns, we seek rate increases from regulatory commissions for regulated operations and closely monitor the returns of our unregulated operations. There can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain adequate and timely rate increases to offset the effects of inflation. To compensate for fluctuations in propane gas prices, we adjust our propane selling prices to the extent allowed by the market. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be able to increase propane sales prices sufficiently to compensate fully for such fluctuations in the cost of propane gas to us.

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Our energy marketing subsidiaries are exposed to market risks, beyond our control, which could adversely affect our financial results and capital requirements.

Our energy marketing subsidiaries are subject to market risks beyond their control, including market liquidity and commodity price volatility. Although we maintain risk management policies, we may not be able to offset completely the price risk associated with volatile commodity prices, which could lead to volatility in earnings. Physical trading also has price risk on any net open positions at the end of each trading day, as well as volatility resulting from: (i) intra-day fluctuations of natural gas and/or propane prices, and (ii) daily price movements between the time natural gas and/or propane is purchased or sold for future delivery and the time the related purchase or sale is hedged. The determination of our net open position at the end of any trading day requires us to make assumptions as to future circumstances, including the use of natural gas and/or propane by its customers in relation to its anticipated market positions. Because the price risk associated with any net open position at the end of such day may increase if the assumptions are not realized, we review these assumptions daily. Net open positions may increase volatility in our financial condition or results of operations if market prices move in a significantly favorable or unfavorable manner, because the timing of the recognition of profits or losses on the economic hedges for financial accounting purposes usually does not match up with the timing of the economic profits or losses on the item being hedged. This volatility may occur, with a resulting increase or decrease in earnings or losses, even though the expected profit margin is essentially unchanged from the date the transactions were consummated.

Our energy marketing subsidiaries are exposed to credit risk of their counterparties.

Our energy marketing subsidiaries extend credit to counterparties and continually monitor and manage collections aggressively. Each of these subsidiaries is exposed to the risk that it may not be able to collect amounts owed to it. If the counterparty to such a transaction fails to perform, and any underlying collateral is inadequate, we could experience financial losses.

Our energy marketing subsidiaries are dependent upon the availability of credit to successfully operate their businesses.

Our energy marketing subsidiaries are dependent upon the availability of credit to buy propane and natural gas for resale or to trade. If financial market conditions decline generally, or the financial condition of these subsidiaries or of our Company declines, then the cost of credit available to these subsidiaries could increase. If credit is not available, or if credit is more costly, our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition may be adversely affected.

Current market conditions have adversely impacted the return on plan assets for our pension plans, which may require significant additional funding.

We have pension plans that have been closed to new employees. The costs of providing benefits and related funding requirements of these plans are subject to changes in the market value of the assets that fund the plans and the discount rates used to estimate the pension benefit obligations. As a result of the extreme volatility and disruption in the domestic and international equity, bond and interest rate markets in recent years, the asset values and benefit obligations of Chesapeake's and FPU's pension plans have fluctuated significantly since 2008. The funded status of the plans and the related costs reflected in our financial statements are affected by various factors that are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty, particularly in the current economic environment. Future losses of asset values and further declines in discount rates may necessitate accelerated funding of the plans in the future to meet minimum federal government requirements as well as higher pension expense to be recorded in future years. Adverse changes on the asset values and benefit obligations of our pension plans may require us to record higher pension expense and fund obligations earlier than originally planned, which would have an adverse impact on our cash flows from operations, decrease borrowing capacity and increase interest expense.

Operational Risks

Fluctuations in weather may cause a significant variance in our earnings.

Our natural gas and propane distribution operations are sensitive to fluctuations in weather conditions, which directly influence the volume of natural gas and propane we sell and deliver to our customers. A significant portion of our natural gas and propane distribution revenues is derived from the sales and deliveries of natural gas and propane to residential and commercial heating customers during the five-month peak heating season (November through March). If the weather is warmer than normal, we sell and deliver less natural gas and propane to customers, and earn less revenue, which could adversely affect our results of operations, cash flows and financial c