Big Rivers Electric Corporation

Financial Statements as of December 31, 2009
and 2008, and for Each of the Three Years
in the Period Ended December 31, 2009, and
Independent Auditors' Report

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Big Rivers Electric Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Big Rivers Electric Corporation (the "Company") as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of operations, equities (deficit), and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Big Rivers Electric Corporation as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated March 26, 2010, on our consideration of Big Rivers Electric Corporation's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

March 26, 2010

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION

BALANCE SHEETS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(Dollars in thousands)

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
UTILITY PLANT — Net	$ 1,078,274	$ 912,699
RESTRICTED INVESTMENTS — Member rate mitigation	243,225	-
OTHER DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS — At cost	5,342	4,693
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	60,290	38,903
Accounts receivable	47,493	20,464
Fuel inventory	37,830	-
Non-fuel inventory	20,412	756
Prepaid expenses	3,233	450
Total current assets	169,258	60,573
DEFERRED LOSS FROM TERMINATION OF SALE-LEASEBACK	-	76,001
DEFERRED CHARGES AND OTHER	9,384	20,470
TOTAL	$ 1,505,483	$ 1,074,436
EQUITIES (DEFICIT) AND LIABILITIES		
CAPITALIZATION:		
Equities (deficit)	$ 379,392	$ (154,602)
Long-term debt	834,367	987,349
Total capitalization	1,213,759	832,747
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Current maturities of long-term obligations	14,185	51,771
Purchased power payable	3,362	9,336
Accounts payable	30,657	5,832
Accrued expenses	9,864	3,134
Accrued interest	9,097	8,018
Total current liabilities	67,165	78,091
DEFERRED CREDITS AND OTHER:		
Deferred lease revenue	-	10,955
Residual value payments obligation	-	145,145
Regulatory liabilities — member rate mitigation	207,348	-
Other	17,211	7,498
Total deferred credits and other	224,559	163,598
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (see Note 14)		
TOTAL	$ 1,505,483	$ 1,074,436

See notes to financial statements.

BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009, 2008, AND 2007
(Dollars in thousands)

	2009	2008	2007
POWER CONTRACTS REVENUE	$ 341,333	$ 214,758	$ 271,605
LEASE REVENUE	32,027	58,423	58,265
Total operating revenue	373,360	273,181	329,870
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Operations:			
Fuel for electric generation	80,655	-	-
Power purchased and interchanged	116,883	114,643	169,768
Production, excluding fuel	22,381	-	-
Transmission and other	35,444	28,600	27,196
Maintenance	29,820	4,258	4,240
Depreciation and amortization	32,485	31,041	30,632
Total operating expenses	317,668	178,542	231,836
ELECTRIC OPERATING MARGIN	55,692	94,639	98,034
INTEREST EXPENSE AND OTHER:			
Interest	59,898	65,719	60,932
Interest on obligations related to long-term lease	-	6,991	9,919
Amortization of loss from termination of long-term lease	2,172	811	-
Income tax expense	1,025	5,934	-
Other — net	112	123	103
Total interest expense and other	63,207	79,578	70,954
OPERATING MARGIN	(7,515)	15,061	27,080
NONOPERATING MARGIN:			
Interest income on restricted investments under long-term lease	-	8,742	12,481
Gain on unwind transaction (see Note 2)	537,978	-	-
Interest income and other	867	4,013	7,616
Total nonoperating margin	538,845	12,755	20,097
NET MARGIN	$ 531,330	$ 27,816	$ 47,177

See notes to financial statements.

BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF EQUITIES (DEFICIT)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009, 2008, AND 2007
(Dollars in thousands)

			Other Equities		
	Total Equities (Deficit)	Accumulated Margin (Deficit)	Donated Capital and Memberships	Consumers' Contributions to Debt Service	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income
BALANCE — December 31, 2006	$ (217,371)	$ (221,816)	$764	$ 3,681	$ -
Net margin/total comprehensive income	47,177	47,177	-	-	-
FAS 158 adoption	(3,943)	-	-	-	(3,943)
BALANCE — December 31, 2007	(174,137)	(174,639)	764	3,681	(3,943)
Comprehensive income:					
Net margin	27,816	27,816	-	-	-
FAS 158 funded status adjustment	(8,281)				(8,281)
Total comprehensive income	19,535				
BALANCE — December 31, 2008	(154,602)	(146,823)	764	3,681	(12,224)
Comprehensive income:					
Net margin	531,330	531,330	-	-	-
FAS 158 funded status adjustment	2,664				2,664
Total comprehensive income	533,994				
BALANCE — December 31, 2009	$ 379,392	$ 384,507	$764	$ 3,681	$ (9,560)

See notes to financial statements.

BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009, 2008, AND 2007
(Dollars in thousands)

	2009	2008	2007
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net margin	$ 531,330	$ 27,816	$ 47,177
Adjustments to reconcile net margin to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	37,084	34,320	33,866
Increase in restricted investments under long-term lease	-	(2,502)	(6,242)
Decrease in deferred AMT Income Taxes	-	5,035	-
Amortization of deferred loss (gain) on sale-leaseback — net	2,172	(1,187)	(2,900)
Deferred lease revenue	(3,768)	(4,582)	(1,779)
Residual value payments obligation gain	(3,881)	(6,748)	(6,591)
Increase in RUS Series B Note	6,136	5,841	5,572
Increase in RUS Series A Note	-	-	15,761
Increase in obligations under long-term lease	-	2,749	6,580
Noncash gain on unwind transaction	(269,441)	-	-
Cash received for Member Rate Mitigation	217,856	-	-
Noncash Member Rate Mitigation revenue	(12,033)	-	-
Changes in certain assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(26,049)	6,218	(8,934)
Inventories	(3,497)	12	43
Prepaid expenses	(2,783)	(319)	3,477
Deferred charges	(1,538)	1,871	(2,429)
Purchased power payable	(5,973)	(3,702)	3,818
Accounts payable	24,825	899	1,566
Accrued expenses	7,881	327	1,033
Other — net	6,852	(4,940)	(5,465)
Net cash provided by operating activities	505,173	61,108	84,553
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Capital expenditures	(58,388)	(22,760)	(18,682)
Proceeds from disposition of investments related to sale-leaseback	-	222,739	-
Proceeds from restricted investments	8,982	-	-
Purchases of restricted investments and other deposits and investments	(252,798)	(401)	(424)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(302,204)	199,578	(19,106)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Principal payments on long-term obligations	(168,956)	(40,838)	(12,676)
Principal payments on short-term notes payable	(12,380)	-	-
Payments upon termination of sale-leaseback	-	(329,859)	-
Debt issuance cost on bond refunding	(246)	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(181,582)	(370,697)	(12,676)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	21,387	(110,011)	52,771
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	38,903	148,914	96,143
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	$ 60,290	$ 38,903	$148,914
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:			
Cash paid for interest	$ 51,078	$ 74,819	$ 45,600
Cash paid for income taxes	$ 626	$ 1,220	$ 420

See notes to financial statements.

1. ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Information — Big Rivers Electric Corporation ("Big Rivers" or the "Company"), an electric generation and transmission cooperative, supplies wholesale power to its three member distribution cooperatives (Kenergy Corp., Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation, and Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation) under all requirements contracts, excluding the power needs of two large aluminum smelters (the "Aluminum Smelters"). Additionally, Big Rivers sells power under separate contracts to Kenergy Corp. for the Aluminum Smelters load and markets power to nonmember utilities and power marketers. The members provide electric power and energy to industrial, residential, and commercial customers located in portions of 22 western Kentucky counties. The wholesale power contracts with the members remain in effect until December 31, 2043. Rates to Big Rivers' members are established by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (KPSC) and are subject to approval by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The financial statements of Big Rivers include the provisions of FASB ASC 980, *Certain Types of Regulation*, which was adopted by the Company in 2003, and gives recognition to the ratemaking and accounting practices of the KPSC and RUS.

In 1999, Big Rivers Leasing Corporation (BRLC) was formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Big Rivers. BRLC's principal assets were the restricted investments acquired in connection with the 2000 sale-leaseback transaction discussed in Note 4. The sale-leaseback transaction was terminated on September 30, 2008 and BRLC was dissolved on July 16, 2009, in conjunction with the Unwind Transaction.

Principles of Consolidation — The financial statements of Big Rivers include the accounts of Big Rivers and its wholly owned subsidiary, BRLC. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated.

Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. The estimates and assumptions used in the accompanying financial statements are based upon management's evaluation of the relevant facts and circumstances as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

System of Accounts — Big Rivers' maintains its accounting records in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts as prescribed by the RUS Bulletin 1767B-1, as adopted by the KPSC. These regulatory agencies retain authority and periodically issue orders on various accounting and ratemaking matters. Adjustments to RUS accounting have been made to make the financial statements consistent with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

Revenue Recognition — Revenues generated from the Company's wholesale power contracts are based on month-end meter readings and are recognized as earned. Prior to its termination, in accordance with FASB ASC 840, *Leases*, Big Rivers' revenue from the Lease Agreement was recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. The major components of this lease revenue include the annual lease payments and the Monthly Margin Payments (described in Note 2).

Utility Plant and Depreciation — Utility plant is recorded at original cost, which includes the cost of contracted services, materials, labor, overhead, and an allowance for borrowed funds used during construction. Replacements of depreciable property units, except minor replacements, are charged to utility plant.

Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction is included on projects with an estimated total cost of $250 or more before consideration of such allowance. The interest capitalized is determined by applying the effective rate of Big Rivers' weighted-average debt to the accumulated expenditures for qualifying projects included in construction in progress.

Prior to July 17, 2009, the Effective Date of the Unwind Transaction (see Note 2), and in accordance with the terms of the Lease Agreement, the Company generally recorded capital additions for Incremental Capital Costs and Nonincremental Capital Costs expenditures funded by E.ON U.S. (formerly LG&E Energy Corporation) as utility plant to which the Company maintained title. A corresponding obligation to E.ON U.S. was recorded for the estimated portion of these additions attributable to the Residual Value Payments (see Note 2). A portion of this obligation was amortized to lease revenue over the useful life of those assets during the remaining lease term. For the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company recorded $5,557 and $10,728, respectively, for such additions in utility plant. The Company recorded $3,881, $6,748, and $6,591 in 2009, 2008, and 2007, respectively, as related lease revenue in the accompanying financial statements. All amounts recorded for 2009 reflect the period prior to the Effective Date of the Unwind Transaction. Under the terms of the Unwind Transaction, E.ON U.S. waived their right to the Residual Value Payment, and the Company recognized a gain.

In accordance with the Lease Agreement, and in addition to the capital costs funded by E.ON U.S. (see Note 2) that were recorded by the Company as utility plant and lease revenue, E.ON U.S also incurred certain Nonincremental Capital Costs and Major Capital Improvements (as defined in the Lease Agreement) for which they waived rights to a Residual Value Payment by Big Rivers upon lease termination. Such amounts were not recorded as utility plant or lease revenue by the Company during the lease. In connection with the Unwind Transaction the Company recognized a gain of $19,679 for the Nonincremental Capital assets for which E.ON had waived rights to.

E.ON U.S. constructed a scrubber (Major Capital Improvement) at Big Rivers' Coleman plant. The scrubber achieved commercial acceptance in January 2007. The Company acquired the Coleman scrubber at no cost under the terms of the Unwind Transaction, recognizing a gain of $98,500 in 2009.

Depreciation of utility plant in service is recorded using the straight-line method over the estimated remaining service lives, as approved by the RUS and KPSC. The annual composite depreciation rates used to compute depreciation expense were as follows:

Electric plant-leased	1.60%–2.47%
Transmission plant	1.76%–3.24%
General plant	1.11%–5.62%

For 2009, 2008, and 2007, the average composite depreciation rates were 1.85%, 1.85%, and 1.85%, respectively. At the time plant is disposed of, the original cost plus cost of removal less salvage value of such plant is charged to accumulated depreciation, as required by the RUS.

Impairment Review of Long-Lived Assets — Long-lived assets are reviewed as facts and circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired. This review is performed in accordance with FASB ASC 360, *Property, Plant, and Equipment* as it relates to impairment of long-lived assets. FASB ASC 360 establishes one accounting model for all impaired long-lived assets and long-lived assets to be disposed of by sale or otherwise. FASB ASC 360 requires the evaluation of impairment by comparing an asset's carrying value to the estimated future cash flows the asset is expected to generate over its remaining life. If this evaluation were to conclude that the carrying value of the asset is impaired, an impairment charge would be recorded based on the difference between the asset's carrying amount and its fair value (less costs to sell for assets to be disposed of by sale) as a charge to operations or discontinued operations.

Restricted Investments — Investments are restricted under KPSC order to establish certain reserve funds for member rate mitigation in conjunction with the Unwind Transaction. These investments have been classified as held-to-maturity and are carried at amortized cost (see Note 10).

Cash and Cash Equivalents — Big Rivers considers all short-term, highly-liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Income Taxes — As a taxable cooperative, Big Rivers is entitled to exclude the amount of patronage allocations to members from taxable income. Income and expenses related to nonmember operations are taxable to Big Rivers. Big Rivers files a Federal income tax return and a Kentucky income tax return.

Patronage Capital — As provided in the bylaws, Big Rivers accounts for each year's patronage-sourced income, both operating and nonoperating, on a patronage basis. Notwithstanding any other provision of the bylaws, the amount to be allocated as patronage capital for a given year shall not be less than the greater of regular taxable patronage-sourced income or alternative minimum taxable patronage-sourced income.

Derivatives — Management has reviewed the requirements of FASB ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging,* and has determined that all contracts meeting the definition of a derivative also qualify for the normal purchases and sales exception under FASB ASC 815. The Company has elected the Normal Purchase and Normal Sale exception for these contracts and, therefore, the contracts are not required to be recognized at fair value in the financial statements.

Fair value measurements — The Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures,* defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal, or most advantageous, market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Fair Values Measurements Topic establishes a three-Level fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. This hierarchy requires entities to maximize the use of observable inputs when possible. The three levels of inputs used to measure fair value are as follows:

- Level 1 — quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

- Level 2 — observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data; and

- Level 3 — unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair values of the assets or liabilities, including certain pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies and similar techniques that use significant unobservable inputs.

New Accounting Pronouncements — FASB ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging,* issued in March 2008, establishes enhanced disclosure requirements concerning derivative instruments and hedging activities. This enhanced disclosure standard requires that objectives for using derivative instruments be disclosed in terms of underlying risk and accounting designation in order to better convey the purpose of derivative use in terms of the risks that the entity is intending to manage. Entities are required to provide enhanced disclosures about (a) how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, (b) how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under FASB ASC 815 and its related interpretations, and (c) how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. This standard of FASB ASC 815 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. The Company adopted this standard of FASB ASC 815 on January 1, 2009, with no impact to the Company's financial statements.

FASB ASC 855, *Subsequent Events,* establishes a standard for disclosure of events that occur during the period between the balance sheet date and the date on which the financial statements are issued. This standard of FASB ASC 855 is effective for interim or annual financial periods ending after June 15, 2009. The Company has adopted the disclosure requirements for subsequent events as outlined in ASC 855 and management evaluated subsequent events up to and including March 26, 2010, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

FASB ASC 105, *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles,* provides a Codification of accounting standards that supersedes all previously existing non-SEC accounting and reporting standards and becomes the authoritative source of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This standard of FASB ASC 105 is effective for annual financial statements issued after September 15, 2009. The Company has adopted the Accounting Standard Codification (ASC) established by FASB ASC 105.

2. LG&E LEASE AGREEMENT

Big Rivers, E.ON U.S. LLC ("E.ON"), Western Kentucky Energy Corporation ("WKEC"), and LG&E Energy Marketing ("LEM"), closed effective July 17, 2009, a transaction resulting in a mutually acceptable early termination of the 1998 LG&E Lease Agreement (referred herein as the "Unwind Transaction" or "Unwind"). E.ON, WKEC, and LEM are collectively referred to in the Notes as "E.ON Entities." This transaction was approved by the KPSC and the RUS. The Unwind Transaction resulted in Big Rivers recognizing a net gain of $537,978. This transaction resulted in the acquisition of assets, the assumption of liabilities, the forgiveness of liabilities, and the establishment of a regulatory reserve prescribed by the KPSC in their approval of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in the unwind transaction were accounted for at fair value or recorded value, as appropriate. The gain from the Unwind Transaction is summarized as follows:

	Unwind Gain
Assets received:	
Cash	$ 506,675
Coleman scrubber	98,500
Inventory	55,000
Construction in progress	23,074
Utility plant assets	19,679
SO2 allowances	980
Liabilities (assumed) forgiven:	
Economic Reserve	(157,000)
Rural Economic Reserve	(60,856)
Post-retirement benefits liability	(8,768)
Residual value payments obligation	145,251
LEM Settlement Note	15,440
Recognition of (expenses) income:	
Deferred lease income	7,187
Deferred loss from termination of sale/leaseback	(73,829)
Deferred loss from LEM Marketing Payment/Settlement Note	(14,520)
Unwind transaction costs	(18,991)
Other	156
Gain on unwind transaction	$ 537,978

The terms of the LG&E Lease Agreement as originally structured are outlined in the following text.

On July 15, 1998 ("Effective Date"), a lease was consummated ("Lease Agreement"), whereby Big Rivers leased its generating facilities to Western Kentucky Energy Corporation (WKEC), a wholly owned subsidiary of E.ON U.S. Pursuant to the Lease Agreement, WKEC operated the generating facilities and maintained title to all energy produced. Throughout the lease term, in order for Big Rivers to fulfill its obligation to supply power to its members, the Company purchased substantially all of its power requirements from LG&E Energy Marketing Corporation (LEM), a wholly owned subsidiary of E.ON U.S., pursuant to a power purchase agreement.

Big Rivers continued to operate its transmission facilities and charged LEM tariff rates for delivery of the energy produced by WKEC and consumed by LEM's customers. The significant terms of the Lease Agreement were as follows:

a. WKEC was to lease and operate Big Rivers' generation facilities through 2023.

b. Big Rivers retained ownership of the generation facilities both during and at the end of the lease term.

c. WKEC paid Big Rivers an annual lease payment of $30,965 over the lease term, subject to certain adjustments.

d. On the Effective Date, Big Rivers received $69,100 representing certain closing payments and the first two years of the annual lease payments. In accordance with FASB ASC 840, *Leases*, the Company amortized these payments to revenue on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

e. Big Rivers continued to provide power for its members, excluding the member loads serving the Aluminum Smelters, through its power purchase agreements with LEM and the Southeastern Power Administration, based on a pre-determined maximum capacity. When economically feasible, the Company also obtained the power necessary to supply its member loads, excluding the Aluminum Smelters, in the open market. Kenergy Corp.'s retail service for the Aluminum Smelters was served by LEM and other third-party providers that included Big Rivers. To the extent the power purchased from LEM did not reach pre-determined minimums, the Company was required to pay certain penalties. Also, to the extent additional power was available to Big Rivers under the LEM contract, Big Rivers made sales to nonmembers.

f. LEM reimbursed Big Rivers the margins expected from the Aluminum Smelters, defined as the net cash flows that Big Rivers anticipated receiving if the Company had continued to serve the Aluminum Smelters' load, as filed in the Rate Hearing (the "Monthly Margin Payments").

g. WKEC was responsible for the operating costs of the generation facilities; however, Big Rivers was partially responsible for ordinary capital expenditures ("Nonincremental Capital Costs") for the generation facilities over the term of the Lease Agreement, generally up to predetermined annual amounts. At the end of the lease term, Big Rivers was obligated to fund a "Residual Value Payment" to E.ON U.S. for such capital additions during the lease (see Note 1). Adjustments to the Residual Value Payment were made based upon actual capital expenditures. Additionally, WKEC made required capital improvements to the facilities to comply with new laws or a changes to existing laws ("Incremental Capital Costs") over the lease life (the Company was partially responsible for such costs: 20% through 2010) and the Company was required to submit another Residual Value Payment to E.ON U.S. for the undepreciated value of WKEC's 80% share of these costs, at the end of the lease. The Company had title to these assets during the lease and upon lease termination.

h. Big Rivers entered into a note payable with LEM for $19,676 (the "LEM Settlement Note") to be repaid over the term of the Lease Agreement, with an interest rate at 8% per annum, in consideration for LEM's assumption of the risk related to unforeseen costs with respect to power to be supplied to the Aluminum Smelters and the increased responsibility for financing capital improvements. The Company recorded this obligation as a component of deferred charges with the related payable recorded as long-term debt in the accompanying balance sheets. This deferred charge was amortized on a straight-line basis up to the Effective Date of the Unwind Transaction.

i. On the Effective Date, Big Rivers paid a nonrefundable marketing payment of $5,933 to LEM, which was recorded as a component of deferred charges. This amount was amortized on a straight-line basis up to the Effective Date of the Unwind Transaction.

j. During the lease term, Big Rivers was entitled to certain "billing credits" against amounts the Company owed LEM under the power purchase agreement. Each month during the first 55 months of the lease term, Big Rivers received a credit of $89. For the year 2011, Big Rivers was to receive a credit of $2,611 and for the years 2012 through 2023, the Company was to receive a credit of $4,111 annually.

In accordance with the power purchase agreement with LEM, the Company was allowed to purchase power in the open market rather than from LEM, incurring penalties when the power purchased from LEM did not meet certain minimum levels, and to sell excess power (power not needed to supply its jurisdictional load) in the open market (collectively referred to as "Arbitrage"). Pursuant to the New RUS Promissory Note and the RUS ARVP Note, the benefit, net of tax, as defined, derived from Arbitrage had to be divided as follows: one-third, adjusted for capital expenditures, was used to make principal payments on the New RUS Promissory Note; one-third was used to make principal payments on the RUS ARVP Note; and the remaining value was retained by the Company.

3. UTILITY PLANT

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, utility plant is summarized as follows:

	2009	2008
Classified plant in service:		
Production plant	$ 1,675,733	$ -
Electric plant — leased	-	1,535,004
Transmission plant	236,639	230,800
General plant	18,201	17,240
Other	543	543
	1,931,116	1,783,587
Less accumulated depreciation	908,099	879,073
	1,023,017	904,514
Construction in progress	55,257	8,185
Utility plant — net	$ 1,078,274	$ 912,699

Interest capitalized for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, was $133, $492, and $391, respectively.

The Company has not identified any material legal asset retirement obligations, as defined in FASB ASC 410, *Asset Retirement Obligations.* In accordance with regulatory treatment, the Company records an estimated net cost of removal of its utility plant through normal depreciation. As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company had a regulatory liability of approximately $35,835 and $32,696, respectively, related to nonlegal removal costs included in accumulated depreciation.

4. SALE-LEASEBACK

On April 18, 2000, the Company completed a sale-leaseback of two of its utility plants, including the related facilities and equipment. The sale-leaseback provided Big Rivers a $1,089,000 fixed price purchase option, at the end of each lease term (25 and 27 years), which, together with future contractual interest receipts, would be fully funded.

On September 30, 2008, the Company completed an early termination of the sale-leaseback transaction. The termination was precipitated by the June 2008 downgrade of the claims-paying ability of Ambac Assurance Corporation (Ambac). Ambac served as insurer of Big Rivers' payment obligations, thereby providing credit support under the transaction. Ambac's downgrade exposed the Company to adverse consequences under the contractual terms of the transaction and after consideration of alternative options, Big Rivers ultimately settled on termination as the preferred solution. Proceeds from disposition of the restricted investment and payments required under the termination agreements were $222,739 and $329,559, respectively, reflecting a net cash payment of $107,120. To meet its remaining obligations Big Rivers' entered into a $12,380 promissory note (see Note 5) with Philip Morris Capital Corporation (PMCC). A net loss of $77,001 resulting from the early termination of the sale-leaseback was recorded as a regulatory asset and was amortized up to the Effective Date of the Unwind Transaction; with the balance of the regulatory asset reflected as an offset to the gain recognized from the Unwind Transaction.

Prior to termination the sale-leaseback transaction was recorded as a financing for financial reporting purposes and a sale for Federal income tax purposes. In connection therewith, in 2000, Big Rivers received $866,676 of proceeds and incurred $791,626 of related obligations. Pursuant to a payment undertaking agreement with a financial institution, Big Rivers effectively extinguished $656,029 of these obligations with an equivalent portion of the proceeds. The Company also purchased investments with an initial value of $146,647 to fund the remaining $135,597 of the obligations. Interest received and paid was recorded to these accounts up to the date of lease termination. The Company paid 7.57% interest on its obligations related to long-term lease and received 6.89% on its related investments. The Company made a $64,000 principal payment on the New RUS Promissory Note with the remaining proceeds. The $75,050 gain was deferred and was amortized up to the date of lease termination, with the Company recognizing $1,998, and $2,900, in 2008, and 2007, respectively.

The Amount recognized in the statement of financial position related to the sale-leaseback as of December 31, 2008, is as follows:

Deferred loss from termination of sale-leaseback	$ 76,001

The unamortized balance of the deferred loss was recognized in 2009 in conjunction with the unwind transaction described in Note 2 based on agreement with the KPSC.

Amounts recognized in the statement of operations related to the sale-leaseback for the years ended December 31, 2008, and 2007, are as follows:

	2008	2007
Power contracts revenue (revenue discount adjustment — see Note 6)	$ (2,453)	$ (3,680)
Interest on obligations related to long-term lease:		
Interest expense	8,989	12,819
Amortize gain on sale-leaseback	(1,998)	(2,900)
Net interest on obligations related to long-term lease	$ 6,991	$ 9,919
Interest income on restricted investments under long-term lease	$ 8,742	$ 12,481
Interest income and other	$ 779	$ 778

5. DEBT AND OTHER LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

A detail of long-term debt at December 31, 2009 and 2008, is as follows:

	2009	2008
RUS Series A Promissory Note, stated amount of, $599,462, stated interest rate of 5.75%, with an interest rate of 5.84%, maturing July 2021	$ 596,786	$ -
New RUS Promissory Note, stated amount of, $768,391, stated interest rate of 5.75%, with an interest rate of 5.82%, maturing July 2021	-	765,297
RUS Series B Note, stated amount of $245,530, no stated interest rate, with interest imputed at 5.80%, maturing December 2023	109,666	-
RUS ARVP Note, stated amount of $245,899, no stated interest rate, with interest imputed at 5.80%, maturing December 2023	-	103,685
LEM Settlement Note, interest rate of 8.0%, payable in monthly installments	-	15,658
County of Ohio, Kentucky, promissory note, variable interest rate (average interest rate of 10.50% and 8.95% in 2009 and 2008, respectively), maturing in October 2022	83,300	83,300
County of Ohio, Kentucky, promissory note, variable interest rate (average interest rate of 3.22% and 5.14% in 2009 and 2008, respectively), maturing in June 2013	58,800	58,800
PMCC Promissory Note with an interest rate of 8.5%	-	12,380
Total long-term debt	848,552	1,039,120
Current maturities	14,185	51,771
Total long-term debt — net of current maturities	$ 834,367	$ 987,349

The following are scheduled maturities of long-term debt at December 31:

Year	Amount
2010	$ 14,185
2011	14,850
2012	76,081
2013	79,278
2014	21,678
Thereafter	642,480
Total	$ 848,552

RUS Notes — On July 15, 1998, Big Rivers recorded the New RUS Promissory Note and the RUS ARVP Note at fair value using the applicable market rate of 5.82%. On the Unwind Closing Date, the New RUS Note and the ARVP Note were replaced with the RUS 2009 Promissory Note Series A and the RUS 2009 Promissory Note Series B, respectively. After an Unwind Closing Date payment of $140,181, the RUS 2009 Promissory Note Series A is recorded at an interest rate of 5.84%. The RUS 2009 Series B Note is recorded at an imputed interest rate of 5.80%. The RUS Notes are collateralized by substantially all assets of the Company and secured by the Indenture dated July 1, 2009 between the Company and U.S. Bank National Association.

Pollution Control Bonds — The County of Ohio, Kentucky, issued $83,300 of Pollution Control Periodic Auction Rate Securities, Series 2001, the proceeds of which are supported by a promissory note from Big Rivers, which bears the same interest rate. These bonds bear interest at a variable rate and mature in October 2022.

The County of Ohio, Kentucky, issued $58,800 of Pollution Control Variable Rate Demand Bonds, Series 1983, the proceeds of which are supported by a promissory note from Big Rivers, which bears the same interest rate as the bonds. These bonds bear interest at a variable rate and mature in June 2013.

The Series 1983 bonds are supported by a liquidity facility issued by Credit Suisse First Boston, which was assigned to Dexia Credit in 2006. Both Series are supported by municipal bond insurance and surety policies issued by Ambac Assurance Corporation. Big Rivers has agreed to reimburse Ambac Assurance Corporation for any payments under the municipal bond insurance policies or the surety policies. Both Series are secured by the Indenture dated July 1, 2009 between the company and U.S. Bank National Association.

These instruments are subject to maximum interest rates of 13% and 18%, respectively. The December 31, 2009 interest rates on the Series 1983 and Series 2001 Pollution Control Bonds were 3.25% and 4.50%, respectively.

LEM Settlement Note — On July 15,1998 Big Rivers executed the Settlement Note with LEM. The Settlement Note required Big Rivers to pay to LEM $19,676, plus interest at 8% per annum over the lease term. The principal and interest payment was approximately $1,822 annually. On the Unwind Closing Date, in connection with the Unwind Transaction the remaining balance on the Settlement Note in the amount of $15,440 was forgiven.

PMCC Promissory Note — On September 30, 2008 in conjunction with the early termination of the sale-leaseback transaction (see Note 4), Big Rivers executed a promissory note with Phillip Morris Capital Corporation (PMCC). The note required Big Rives to pay PMCC $12,380, plus interest at 8.5% per annum. On the Unwind Closing Date Big Rivers repaid the $12,380 principal amount. At December 31, 2009 the Company had no remaining liability associated with this promissory note.

Notes Payable — Notes payable represent the Company's borrowing on its line of credit with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and CoBank, ACB (CoBank). The maximum borrowing capacity on the lines of credit is $100,000 consisting of $50,000 each for CFC and CoBank. There were no borrowings outstanding on the line of credit at December 31, 2009, however letter of credits issued under an associated Letter of Credit Facility with CFC reduced the borrowing capacity by $5,654. Advances on the CFC line of credit bear interest at a variable rate and outstanding balances are payable in full by the maturity date of July 16, 2014. Advances on the CoBank line of credit bear interest at a variable rate and outstanding balances are payable in full by the maturity date of July 16, 2012.

6. RATE MATTERS

The rates charged to Big Rivers' members consist of a demand charge per kW and an energy charge per kWh consumed as approved by the KPSC. The rates include specific demand and energy charges for its members' two classes of customers, the large industrial customers and the rural customers under its jurisdiction. For the large industrial customers, the demand charge is generally based on each customer's maximum demand during the current month. Each members rural demand charge is based upon the maximum coincident demand of their rural delivery points.

Prior to the Unwind Transaction the demand and energy charges were not subject to adjustments for increases or decreases in fuel or environmental costs. In conjunction with the Unwind Transaction, the KPSC approved the implementation of certain tariff riders; including a fuel adjustment clause and an environmental surcharge, offset by an unwind surcredit (a refund to tariff members of certain charges collected from the Aluminum Smelter in accordance with the contract terms). The net effect of these tariffs is recognized as revenue on a monthly basis with an offset to the regulatory liability – member rate mitigation described below.

The net impact of the tariff riders to members rates is currently mitigated by a Member Rate Stability Mechanism (MRSM) that was funded by certain cash amounts received from the E.ON Entities in connection with the Unwind Transaction (the Economic and Rural Economic Reserves) and held by Big Rivers as restricted investments. An offsetting regulatory liability – member rate mitigation was established with the funding of these accounts. Big Rivers is required to file a rate case with the KPSC within three years of the unwind or July 2012.

Effective since September 1, 2000, and continuing through August 31, 2008, the KPSC approved Big Rivers' request for a $3,680 annual revenue discount adjustment for its members, effectively passing the benefit of the sale-leaseback transaction (see Note 4) to them. On September 1, 2008, Big Rivers' discontinued the revenue discount adjustment to its members in conjunction with the sale-leaseback termination.

7. INCOME TAXES

Big Rivers was formed as a tax-exempt cooperative organization described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(12). To retain tax-exempt status under this section, at least 85% of the Big Rivers' receipts must be generated from transactions with the Company's members. In 1983, sales to

nonmembers resulted in Big Rivers failing to meet the 85% requirement. Until Big Rivers can meet the 85% member income requirement, the Company is a taxable cooperative.

Under the provisions of FASB ASC 740, *Income Taxes*, Big Rivers is required to record deferred tax assets and liabilities for temporary differences between amounts reported for financial reporting purposes and amounts reported for income tax purposes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based upon these temporary differences using enacted tax rates for the year in which these differences are expected to reverse. Deferred income tax expense or benefit is based on the change in assets and liabilities from period to period, subject to an ongoing assessment of realization. Tax benefits associated with income tax positions taken, or expected to be taken, in a tax return are recorded only when the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold is satisfied and measured at the largest amount of benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon settlement.

As a result of the sale-leaseback terminations in 2008 (see Note 4), Big Rivers no longer considers that it is more likely than not that it will recover its net deferred tax assets (which consisted solely of Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) credit carryforwards). An income statement charge of $5,035 relating the AMT amounts carried forward at January 1, 2008 together with a charge of $900 relating to the 2008 AMT obligation were recorded in the Statement of Operations for 2008. An AMT charge of $1,025 was recorded in the Statement of Operations for 2009.

At December 31, 2009, Big Rivers had a nonpatron net operating loss carryforward of approximately $53,138 expiring through 2012, and an alternative minimum tax credit carryforward of approximately $7,052, which carries forward indefinitely.

The Company has not recorded any regular income tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, as the Company has utilized federal net operating losses to offset any regular taxable income during those years. Had the Company not had the benefit of a net operating loss carryforward, the Company would have recorded $19,619, $20,363, and $7,724 in current regular tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The components of the net deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, were as follows:

	2009	**2008**
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforward	$ 20,990	$ 40,609
Alternative minimum tax credit carryforwards	7,052	5,935
Member Rate Mitigation	10,326	-
Fixed asset basis difference	11,420	33,786
Total deferred tax assets	49,788	80,330
Deferred tax liabilities — ARVP Note	(23,793)	(25,384)
Net deferred tax asset (prevaluation allowance)	25,995	54,946
Valuation allowance	(25,995)	(54,946)
Net deferred tax asset	$ -	$ -

A reconciliation of the Company's effective tax rate for 2009, 2008 and 2007, follows:

	2009	2008	2007
Federal rate	35.0 %	35.0 %	35.0 %
State rate — net of federal benefit	4.5	4.5	4.5
Patronage allocation to members	(35.4)	(31.3)	(28.0)
Tax benefit of operating loss carryforwards and other	(4.1)	(8.2)	(11.5)
Alternative minimum tax	0.2	18.0	-
Effective tax rate	0.2 %	18.0 %	- %

The Company files a federal income tax return, as well as several state income tax returns. The years currently open for federal tax examination are 2005 through 2009 and 1990 through 1997, due to unused net operating loss carryforwards. The major state tax jurisdiction currently open for tax examination is Kentucky for years 2002 through 2009 and years 1990 through 1997, also due to unused net operating loss carryforwards. The Company has not recorded any unrecognized tax benefits or liabilities related to federal or state income taxes.

The Company classifies interest and penalties as an operating expense on the income statement and accrued expense in the balance sheet. No interest or penalties have been recorded during 2007, 2008, or 2009.

8. POWER PURCHASED

Prior to the Unwind Transaction and in accordance with the Lease Agreement, Big Rivers supplied all of the members' requirements for power to serve their customers, other than the Aluminum Smelters. Contract limits were established in the Lease Agreement and included minimum and maximum hourly and annual power purchase amounts. Big Rivers could not reduce the contract limits by more than 12 MW in any year or by more than a total of 72 MW over the lease term. In the event Big Rivers failed to take the minimum requirement during any hour or year, Big Rivers was liable to LEM for a certain percentage of the difference between the amount of power actually taken and the applicable minimum requirement.

Although Big Rivers was required by the Lease Agreement to purchase minimum hourly and annual amounts of power from LEM, the lease did not prevent Big Rivers from paying the associated penalty in certain hours to purchase lower cost power, if available, in the open market or reselling a portion of its purchased power to a third party. The power purchases made under this agreement for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, were $51,592, $99,700, and $96,295, respectively, and are included in power purchased and interchanged on the statement of operations.

9. PENSION PLANS

Defined Benefit Plans — Big Rivers has noncontributory defined benefit pension plans covering substantially all employees who meet minimum age and service requirements and who were employed by the Company prior to the plans closure dates cited below. The plans provide benefits based on the participants' years of service and the five highest consecutive years' compensation during the last ten years of employment. Big Rivers' policy is to fund such plans in accordance with the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

The salaried employees defined benefit plan was closed to new entrants effective January 1, 2008, and the bargaining employees defined benefit plan was closed to new hires effective November 1, 2008. The Company simultaneously established base contribution accounts in the defined contribution thrift and 401(k) savings plans, which were renamed as the retirement savings plans. The base contribution account for an eligible employee, which is one who meets the minimum age and service requirements, but for whom membership in the defined benefit plan is closed, is funded by employer contributions based on graduated percentages of the employee's pay, depending on his or her age.

The Company has adopted FASB ASC 715, *Defined Benefit Plans,* including the requirement to recognize the funded status of its pension plans and other postretirement plans (see Note 12 — Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions). FASB ASC 715 defines the funded status of a defined benefit pension plan as the fair value of its assets less its projected benefit obligation, which includes projected salary increases, and defines the funded status of any other postretirement plan as the fair value of its assets less its accumulated postretirement benefit obligation.

FASB ASC 715 also requires an employer to measure the funded status of a plan as of the date of its year-end balance sheet and requires disclosure in the notes to the financial statements certain additional information related to net periodic benefit costs for the next fiscal year. The Company's pension and other postretirement benefit plans are measured as of December 31, 2009 and 2008.

The following provides an overview of the Company's noncontributory defined benefit pension plans.

A reconciliation of the Company's benefit obligations of its noncontributory defined benefit pension plans at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	**2008**
Benefit obligation — beginning of period	$ 24,253	$ 19,889
Service cost — benefits earned during the period	1,241	1,072
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	1,466	1,220
Participant contributions (lump sum repayment)	40	318
Plan settlements	262	-
Benefits paid	(3,945)	(248)
Actuarial loss	2,176	2,002
Benefit obligation — end of period	$ 25,493	$ 24,253

The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans was $18,630 and $18,568 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

A reconciliation of the Company's pension plan assets at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	**2008**
Fair value of plan assets — beginning of period	$ 20,295	$ 21,820
Actual return on plan assets	4,820	(5,095)
Employer contributions	1,060	3,500
Participant contributions (lump sum repayment)	40	318
Benefits paid	(3,945)	(248)
Fair value of plan assets — end of period	$ 22,270	$ 20,295

The funded status of the Company's pension plans at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Benefit obligation — end of period	$ (25,493)	$ (24,253)
Fair value of plan assets — end of period	22,270	20,295
Funded status	$ (3,223)	$ (3,958)

Components of net periodic pension costs for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, were as follows:

	2009	2008	2007
Service cost	$ 1,241	$ 1,072	$ 958
Interest cost	1,466	1,220	1,058
Expected return on plan assets	(1,332)	(1,516)	(1,167)
Amortization of prior service cost	19	19	19
Amortization of actuarial loss	834	247	285
Settlement loss	1,690	-	-
Net periodic benefit cost	$ 3,918	$ 1,042	$ 1,153

A reconciliation of the pension plan amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Prior service cost	$ (59)	$ (78)
Unamortized actuarial (loss)	(9,651)	(13,226)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	$ (9,710)	$ (13,304)

In 2010, $19 of prior service cost and $560 of actuarial loss is expected to be amortized to periodic benefit cost.

The recognized adjustments to other comprehensive income at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Prior service cost	$ 19	$ 19
Unamortized actuarial (loss)	3,575	(8,365)
Other comprehensive income	$ 3,594	$ (8,346)

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, amounts recognized in the statement of financial position were as follows:

	2009	2008
Deferred credits and other	$ (3,223)	$ (3,958)

Assumptions used to develop the projected benefit obligation and determine the net periodic benefit cost were as follows:

	2009	2008	2007
Discount rate — projected benefit obligation	5.59 %	6.38 %	6.25 %
Discount rate — net periodic benefit cost	6.38	6.25	5.75
Rates of increase in compensation levels	4.00	4.00	4.00
Expected long-term rate of return on assets	7.25	7.25	7.25

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets for determining net periodic pension cost for each fiscal year is chosen by the Company from a best estimate range determined by applying anticipated long-term returns and long-term volatility for various asset categories to the target asset allocation of the plans, as well as taking into account historical returns.

Using the asset allocation policy adopted by the Company noted in the paragraph below, we determined the expected rate of return at a 50% probability of achievement Level based on (a) forward-looking rate of return expectations for passively-managed asset categories over a 20-year time horizon and (b) historical rates of return for passively-managed asset categories. Applying an approximately 80%/20% weighting to the rates determined in (a) and (b), respectively, produced an expected rate of return of 7.28%, which was rounded to 7.25%.

Big Rivers utilizes a third party investment manager for the plan assets, and has communicated thereto the Company's Retirement Plan Investment Policy, including a target asset allocation mix of 50% U.S. Equities (an acceptable range of 45-55%), 15% International Equities (an acceptable range of 10-20%), and 35% fixed income (an acceptable range of 30-40%). As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the investment allocation was 55% and 40%, respectively, in U.S. Equities, 11% and 7%, respectively, in International Equities, and 34% and 53%, respectively, in fixed income. The objective of the investment program seeks to (a) maximize return on investment, (b) minimize volatility, (c) minimize company contributions, and (d) provide the employee benefit in accordance with the plans. The portfolio is well diversified and of high quality. The average quality of the fixed income investments must be "A" or better. The Equity portfolio must also be of investment grade quality. The performance of the investment manager is reviewed semi-annually.

At December 31, 2009, the fair value of Big Rivers' defined benefit pension plan assets by asset category are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Cash and Money Market	$ 815	$ -	$ 815
Equity Securities:			
U.S. large-cap stocks	8,580	-	8,580
U.S. mid-cap stock mutual funds	2,064	-	2,064
U,S. small-cap stock mutual funds	1,282	-	1,282
International stock mutual funds	2,328	-	2,328
Preferred stock	404	-	404
Fixed:			
U.S. Government Agency Bonds	-	2,139	2,139
Taxable U.S. Municipal Bonds	-	2,282	2,282
U.S. Corporate Bonds	-	2,376	2,376
	$ 15,473	$ 6,797	$ 22,270

Expected retiree pension benefit payments projected to be required during the years following 2009 are as follows:

Years Ending December 31	Amount
2010	$ 2,033
2011	1,868
2012	2,911
2013	4,043
2014	2,041
2015–2019	13,642
Total	$ 26,538

In 2010, the Company expects to contribute $1,096 to its pension plan trusts.

Defined Contribution Plans — Big Rivers has two defined contribution retirement plans covering substantially all employees who meet minimum age and service requirements. Each plan has a thrift and 401(k) savings section allowing employees to contribute up to 75% of pay on a pre-tax and/or after-tax basis, with employer matching contributions equal to 60% of the first 6% contributed by the employee on a pre-tax basis.

A base contribution retirement section was added and the plan name changed from thrift and 401(k) savings to retirement savings, effective January 1, 2008, for the salaried plan and November 1, 2008, for the bargaining plan. The base contribution account is funded by employer contributions based on graduated percentages of pay, depending on the employee's age.

The Company's expense under these plans was $355 and $308 for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Deferred Compensation Plan — Effective May 1, 2008, Big Rivers established a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for its eligible employees who are members of a select group of management or highly compensated employees. The purpose of the plan is to allow participants to receive contributions or make deferrals that they could not receive or make under the salaried employees qualified defined contribution retirement savings plan (formerly the thrift and 401(k) savings plan) as a result of nondiscrimination rules and other limitations applicable to the qualified plan under the Internal Revenue Code. The nonqualified plan also allows a participant to defer a percentage of his or her pay on a pre-tax basis.

The nonqualified deferred compensation plan is unfunded, but the Company has chosen to finance its obligations under the plan, including any employee deferrals, through a rabbi trust. The trust assets remain a part of the Company's general assets, subject to the claims of its creditors. The 2009 employer contribution was $33 and deferred compensation expense was $67. As of December 31, 2009, the trust asset was $94 and the deferred liability was $101.

10. RESTRICTED INVESTMENTS

The amortized costs and fair values of Big Rivers restricted investments held for member rate mitigation at December 31, 2009 are as follows:

	Amortized Costs	Fair Values
Cash and Money Market	$ 25,186	$ 25,186
Debt Securities:		
U.S. Treasuries	67,895	67,474
U.S. Government Agency	150,144	150,181
Total	$ 243,225	$ 242,841

Gross unrealized gains and losses on restricted investments at December 31, 2009 were as follows:

	Gains	Losses
Cash and Money Market	$ -	$ -
Debt Securities:		
U.S. Treasuries	12	434
U.S. Government Agency	79	41
Total	$ 91	$ 475

Debt securities at December 31, 2009 mature, according to their contractual terms, as follows (actual maturities may differ due to call or prepayment rights):

	Amortized Costs	Fair Values
In one year or less	$ 46,102	$ 46,112
After one year through five years	197,123	196,729
Total	$ 243,225	$ 242,841

Gross unrealized losses on investments and the fair values of the related securities, aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position at December 31, 2009, were:

	Less Than 12 Months	
	Losses	Fair Values
Debt securities:		
U.S. Treasuries	$ 434	$ 59,872
U.S. Government Agency	41	45,026
Total	$ 475	$ 104,898

The unrealized loss positions were primarily caused by interest rate fluctuations. The number of investments in an unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2009 was eight. Since the company does not intend to sell and will more likely than not maintain each debt security until its anticipated recovery, and no significant credit risk is deemed to exist, these investments are not considered other-than-temporarily impaired.

The restricted investments related to cash and money market investments are classified as trading securities under ASC 320 and were recorded at fair value using quoted market prices for identical assets without regard to valuation adjustment or block discount (a Level 1 measure), as follows:

Cash and Money Market	$ 25,186

11. FAIR VALUE OF OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures,* defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measures. It applies under other accounting standards that require or permit fair value measurements and does not require any new fair value measurements. This standard of FASB ASC 820 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The adoption of the standards of FASB ASC 820 had no impact on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

The carrying value of accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximate fair value due to their short maturity. At December 31, the Company's cash and cash equivalents included short-term investments in an institutional money market government portfolio account classified as trading securities under ASC 320 that were recorded at fair value which were determined using quoted market prices for identical assets without regard to valuation adjustment or block discount (a Level 1 measure), as follows:

	2009	2008
Institutional money market government portfolio	$ 59,887	$ 38,424

It was not practical to estimate the fair value of patronage capital included within other deposits and investments due to these being untraded companies.

Big Rivers' long-term debt at December 31, 2009 consists of RUS notes totaling $706,452 and variable rate pollution control bonds in the amount of $142,100 (see Note 5). The RUS debt cannot be traded in the market and, therefore, a value other than its outstanding principal amount cannot be determined. The fair value of the Company's variable rate pollution control debt is par value, as each variable rate reset effectively prices such debt to the current market.

12. POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

Big Rivers provides certain postretirement medical benefits for retired employees and their spouses. Generally, except for generation bargaining retirees, Big Rivers pays 85% of the premium cost for all retirees age 62 to 65. The Company pays 25% of the premium cost for spouses under age 62. For salaried retirees age 55 to age 62, Big Rivers pays 25% of the premium cost. Beginning at age 65, the Company pays 25% of the premium cost if the retiree is enrolled in Medicare Part B. For each generation bargaining retiree, Big Rivers establishes a retiree medical account at retirement equal to $1,200 per year of service up to 30 years ($1,250 per year for those retiring on or after 1/1/12). The account balance is credited with interest based on the 10-year treasury rate subject to a minimum of 4% and a maximum of 7%. The account is to be used for the sole purpose of paying the premium cost for the retiree and spouse.

On December 8, 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the "Medicare Act") was enacted. The Medicare Act created Medicare Part D, a new prescription drug benefit that is available to all Medicare-eligible individuals, effective January 1, 2006. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the provider of Big Rivers' health plan coverage through the NRECA Group Benefits Trust, chose to become a Medicare Part D provider. Effective January 1, 2006, Part D coverage is the only drug coverage available to Big Rivers' Medicare-eligible retirees.

The discount rates used in computing the postretirement benefit obligation and net periodic benefit cost were as follows:

	2009	2008	2007
Discount rate — projected benefit obligation	5.78 %	6.32 %	5.85 %
Discount rate — net periodic benefit cost	6.32	5.85	5.75

The health care cost trend rate assumptions as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, were as follows:

	2009	2008
Initial trend rate	7.70 %	7.90 %
Ultimate trend rate	4.50 %	4.50 %
Year ultimate trend is reached	2028	2028

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

	2009	2008
One-percentage-point decrease:		
Effect on total service and interest cost components	$ (138)	$ (37)
Effect on year end benefit obligation	(989)	(290)
One-percentage-point increase:		
Effect on total service and interest cost components	162	44
Effect on year end benefit obligation	1,134	337

A reconciliation of the Company's benefit obligations of its postretirement plan at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Benefit obligation — beginning of period	$ 2,948	$ 2,862
Service cost — benefits earned during the period	878	129
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	464	167
Transaction benefit obligation assumed in the unwind	8,768	-
Participant contributions	48	61
Plan amendments	175	-
Benefits paid	(203)	(179)
Actuarial (gain) or loss	786	(92)
Benefit obligation — end of period	$ 13,864	$ 2,948

A reconciliation of the Company's postretirement plan assets at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Fair value of plan assets — beginning of period	$ -	$ -
Employer contributions	155	118
Participant contributions	48	61
Benefits paid	(203)	(179)
Fair value of plan assets — end of period	$ -	$ -

The funded status of the Company's postretirement plan at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Benefit obligation — end of period	$ (13,864)	$ (2,948)
Fair value of plan assets — end of period	-	-
Funded status	$ (13,864)	$ (2,948)

The components of net periodic postretirement benefit costs for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, were as follows:

	2009	2008	2007
Service cost	$ 878	$ 129	$ 85
Interest cost	464	167	153
Amortization of prior service cost	17	2	2
Amortization of actuarial (gain)	(17)	(60)	(70)
Amortization of transition obligation	31	31	31
Net periodic benefit cost	$ 1,373	$ 269	$ 201

A reconciliation of the postretirement plan amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Prior service cost	$ (165)	$ (7)
Unamortized actuarial gain	407	1,210
Transition obligation	(92)	(123)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	$ 150	$ 1,080

In 2010, $18 of prior service cost, $0 of actuarial gain, and $31 of the transition obligation is expected to be amortized to periodic benefit cost.

The recognized adjustments to other comprehensive income at December 31, 2009 and 2008, follows:

	2009	2008
Prior service cost	$ (157)	$ 2
Unamortized actuarial gain	(803)	33
Transition obligation	30	30
Other comprehensive income	$ (930)	$ 65

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, amounts recognized in the statement of financial position were as follows:

	2009	2008
Accounts payable	$ (424)	$ (156)
Deferred credits and other	(13,440)	(2,792)
Net amount recognized	$ (13,864)	$ (2,948)

Expected retiree benefit payments projected to be required during the years following 2009 are as follows:

Year	Amount
2010	$ 424
2011	599
2012	827
2013	1,014
2014	1,245
2015–2019	8,342
Total	$ 12,451

In addition to the postretirement plan discussed above, in 1992 Big Rivers began a postretirement benefit plan which vests a portion of accrued sick leave benefits to salaried employees upon retirement or death. To the extent an employee’s sick leave hour balance exceeds 480 hours such excess hours are

paid at 20% of the employee's base hourly rate at the time of retirement or death. The accumulated obligation recorded for the postretirement sick leave benefit is $375 and $408 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The postretirement expense recorded was $45, $63, and $51 for 2009, 2008, and 2007, respectively, and the benefits paid were $78, $0, and $0 for 2009, 2008, and 2007, respectively.

13. RELATED PARTIES

For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, Big Rivers had tariff sales to its members of $125,826, $114,514, and $113,281, respectively. In addition, for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, Big Rivers had certain sales to Kenergy for the Aluminum Smelters and Domtar Paper (formerly Weyerhaeuser) loads of $167,885, $55,124, and $123,094, respectively.

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, Big Rivers had accounts receivable from its members of $35,524 and $16,540, respectively.

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Big Rivers is involved in litigation arising in the normal course of business. While the results of such litigation cannot be predicted with certainty, management, based upon advice of counsel, believes that the final outcome will not have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.

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